

Date: August 26, 2005

From: WHO Collaborating Center for  
Research, Training and Eradication of Dracunculiasis

Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #155

To: Addressees

**FIND, EXPLAIN, CONTAIN EVERY CASE IN 2005**

**EDITORIAL : STOP GUINEA WORM TRANSMISSION NOW!**

With the completion of this year's program Review for the remaining endemic francophone countries (see below), it is clear that all of those countries are close to ending transmission of Guinea worm disease (GWD, dracunculiasis). The only question now is: How long will it take them to reach zero cases? The answer: there should be ZERO indigenous cases in all of those countries after one year from now – September 2006. Benin and Mauritania are about to report zero indigenous cases for an entire calendar year for the first time in 2005, and Burkina Faso and Cote d'Ivoire may also do so in 2006. Burkina Faso,

**Benin** has reported only one case imported from Ghana so far in 2005, and no indigenous cases since

year. The minister of health plans to participate in a training session in an endemic area in late August. *Most important challenge now: establishing and maintaining effective surveillance for cases nationwide, including in non-endemic and formerly endemic areas.*

**Mali** reported 139 cases in January-July, of which 94 (67%) were contained. All 140 cases were indigenous, predominantly in Ansongo, Douentza, and Mopti Districts. This is an increase of 209% over the 45 indigenous cases reported by Mali during the same period of 2004, and makes Mali the third most

Table 1

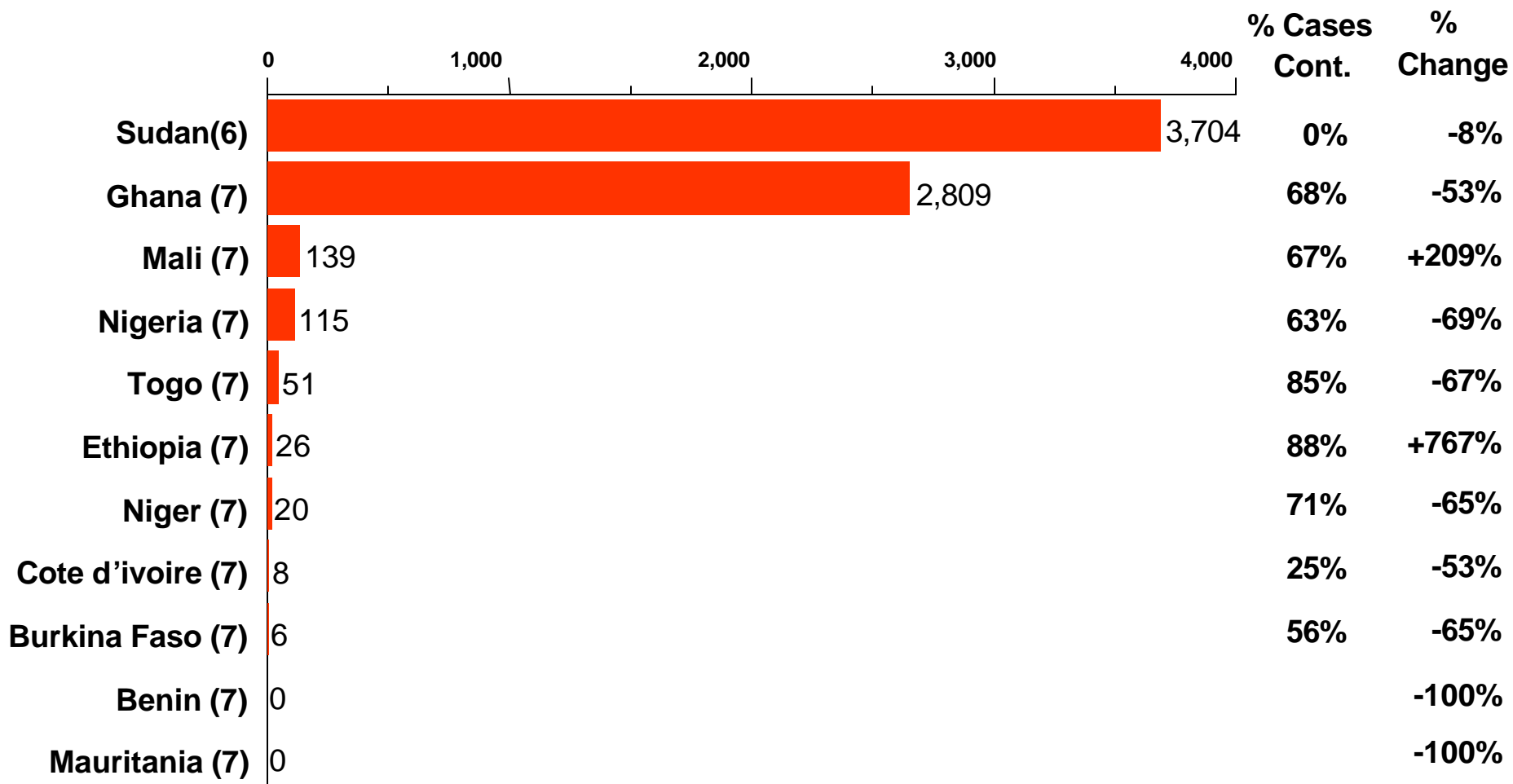
Number of cases contained and number reported by month during 2005\*  
(Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2004)

| COUNTRIES REPORTING CASES | NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED |           |           |            |            |            |           |        |           |         |          |          |             | %     |
|---------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|--------|-----------|---------|----------|----------|-------------|-------|
|                           | JANUARY  | FEBRUARY  | MARCH     | APRIL      | MAY        | JUNE       | JULY      | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER | NOVEMBER | DECEMBER | TOTAL*      | CONT. |
| GHANA                     | 374 / 544  | 343 / 483 | 282 / 393 | 249 / 396  | 332 / 458  | 244 / 386  | 92 / 153  | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 1916 / 2813 | 68    |
| SUDAN                     | 0 / 88   | 1 / 131   | 0 / 375   | 5 / 744    | 7 / 1629   | 0 / 737    | /         | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 13 / 3704   | 0     |
| NIGERIA                   | 25 / 36  | 13 / 17   | 9 / 13    | 11 / 29    | 7 / 9      | 4 / 6      | 4 / 5     | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 73 / 115    | 63    |
| MALI                      | 3 / 4  | 1 / 1     | 1 / 1     | 1 / 1      | 22 / 25    | 25 / 25    | 40 / 82   | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 93 / 139    | 67    |
| NIGER                     | 2 / 2  | 4 / 4     | 1 / 1     | 1 / 4      | 1 / 3      | 3 / 3      | 5 / 7     | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 17 / 24     | 71    |
| TOGO                      | 11 / 11  | 1 / 4     | 2 / 2     | 3 / 3      | 16 / 19    | 7 / 8      | 5 / 6     | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 45 / 53     | 85    |
| BURKINA FASO              | 0 / 0  | 0 / 0     | 0 / 0     | 1 / 1      | 0 / 0      | 3 / 3      | 1 / 5     | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 5 / 9       | 56    |
| COTE D'IVOIRE             | 0 / 0  | 0 / 0     | 1 / 1     | 0 / 0      | 0 / 0      | 0 / 4      | 1 / 3     | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 2 / 8       | 25    |
| BENIN                     | 0 / 0  | 0 / 0     | 1 / 1     | 0 / 0      | 0 / 0      | 0 / 0      | 0 / 0     | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 1 / 1       | 100   |
| ETHIOPIA                  | 2 / 2  | 0 / 0     | 0 / 0     | 3 / 3      | 7 / 7      | 16 / 20    | 2 / 2     | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 30 / 34     | 88    |
| MAURITANIA                | 0 / 0  | 0 / 0     | 0 / 0     | 0 / 0      | 0 / 0      | 0 / 0      | 0 / 0     | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 0 / 0       | 0     |
| UGANDA                    | 0 / 0  | 0 / 0     | 0 / 0     | 0 / 0      | 0 / 0      | 4 / 4      | /         | /      | /         | /       | /        | /        | 4 / 4       | 0     |
| TOTAL*                    | 417 / 687  | 363 / 640 | 297 / 787 | 274 / 1181 | 392 / 2150 | 306 / 1196 | 150 / 263 | 0 / 0  | 0 / 0     | 0 / 0   | 0 / 0    | 0 / 0    | 2199 / 6904 | 32    |
| % CONTAINED               | 61   | 57        | 38        | 23         | 18         | 26         | 57        |        |           |         |          |          | 32          |       |

\* provisional

Shaded cells denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many imported cases were reported and contained that month.

Figure 1 **Distribution by Country of 6,878 Indigenous Cases of Dracunculiasis Reported during 2005\*, Percent of Cases Contained in 2005, and Change in Cases Compared to the Same Reporting Period in 2004**



\* All 2005 data is provisional

Numbers in parentheses indicate how many months the country has provided monthly reports in 2005.

For example: Sudan (6) = Jan-Jun 2005

## **GHANA AIMS FOR GOLDEN INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY**

Ghana's Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. (Mrs.) Gladys N. Ashitey, opened this year's memorable Program Review, which was convened in Accra on August 15-16. The Opening Ceremony was chaired by the Director (Water) in the Ministry of works and Housing, Mr. Mintah A. Abogye. This year's review was marked by several notable events, including the report by Dr. Andrew Seidu-Korkor, the National Program Coordinator, that in January-June 2005, Ghana's Guinea Worm Eradication Program has reduced the number of cases by -56%, from 5,996 to 2,655, and increased the overall rate of case containment to 69% from 58% in 2004. Dr. Seidu-Korkor noted the dramatic reductions in cases over the past year in Nkwanta (-88%) and Nanumba (-79%) Districts as examples of what can be achieved, and

**DR DIEUDONNE SANKARA SELECTED AS A**

start in October, after the rains subside. These 12 endemic villages reported **30%** of Niger's indigenous cases in January – July 2005.

**Togo.** Contractors have been selected for the construction and/or rehabilitation of safe water sources in 26 villages. These 26 endemic villages reported **55%** of Togo's cases in January – July 2005.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

WHO, 2005 Evaluation of the dracunculiasis surveillance system in 4 districts in Ghana. *Wkly Epidemiol Rec* 80:270-276

Wijova, W., Moravec, F., et al. 2005 Phylogenetic position of Dracunculus medinensis and some related nematodes inferred from 18S rRNA. *Parasitol* 135:75-85

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