

Public Health Service
Centers for Disease Control
And Prevention (CDC)

Memorandum

Date: March 26, 2024

From: WHO Collaborating Center for Dracunculiasis Eradication, CDC

Subject:

for Guinea worm infection since the worms were un-emerged, the Ethiopia Dracunculiasis Eradication Program (EDEP) conducted all the usual responses as for emerged Guinea worms, including active case and infection searches, community notification, filter checking and distribution, Abate and vector control, mapping water sources, and health education-focused community meetings in four communities and thirty commercial farms in nearby areas. The EDEP also plans to establish baboon troop spotting and trapping sites in the area this year.

Ethiopia has reported confirmed *D. medinensis* worms in a total of 13 humans, 12 baboons, 11 cats (including a leopard and a serval, both of which had only un-emerged Guinea worms), and 9 dogs over the past five years (2019-2023):

- **2019 (9):** 0 human, 6 baboons, 1 leopard (un-emerged worm), 2 dogs
- **2020 (26):** 11 humans, 4 baboons, 8 cats, 3 dogs
- **2021 (4):** 1 human, 0 baboon, 1 cat, 2 dogs
- **2022 (4):** 1 human, 2 baboons, 0 cat, 1 dog
- **2023 (2):** 0 human, 0 baboon, 1 serval cat (un-emerged worms), 1 dog

Figure 1 shows the locations of these 45 infected humans and animals in Gog and Abobo districts of Gambella Region in 2019-2023. Figure 2 shows the monthly distribution of Guinea worm cases and infections in 2019-2023. In 2023 and 2022, the Guinea worms in the human and in both dogs were all reportedly contained; the presumed sources were identified for the infected human and dog in 2022, but not for the 2 baboons in 2022 nor the dog or serval cat in 2023. Carter Center GWEP Veterinarian Epidemiologist Dr. Lexi Sack arrived in Ethiopia in early March 2024 to help supervise the first of three planned rounds of baboon trapping among at-risk baboon troops in Gog and Abobo districts this year. In addition to trapping, sedating, and examining baboons for signs of GW infection, the teams will place GPS collars on a subset of male and female baboons to help study patterns of troop movements.



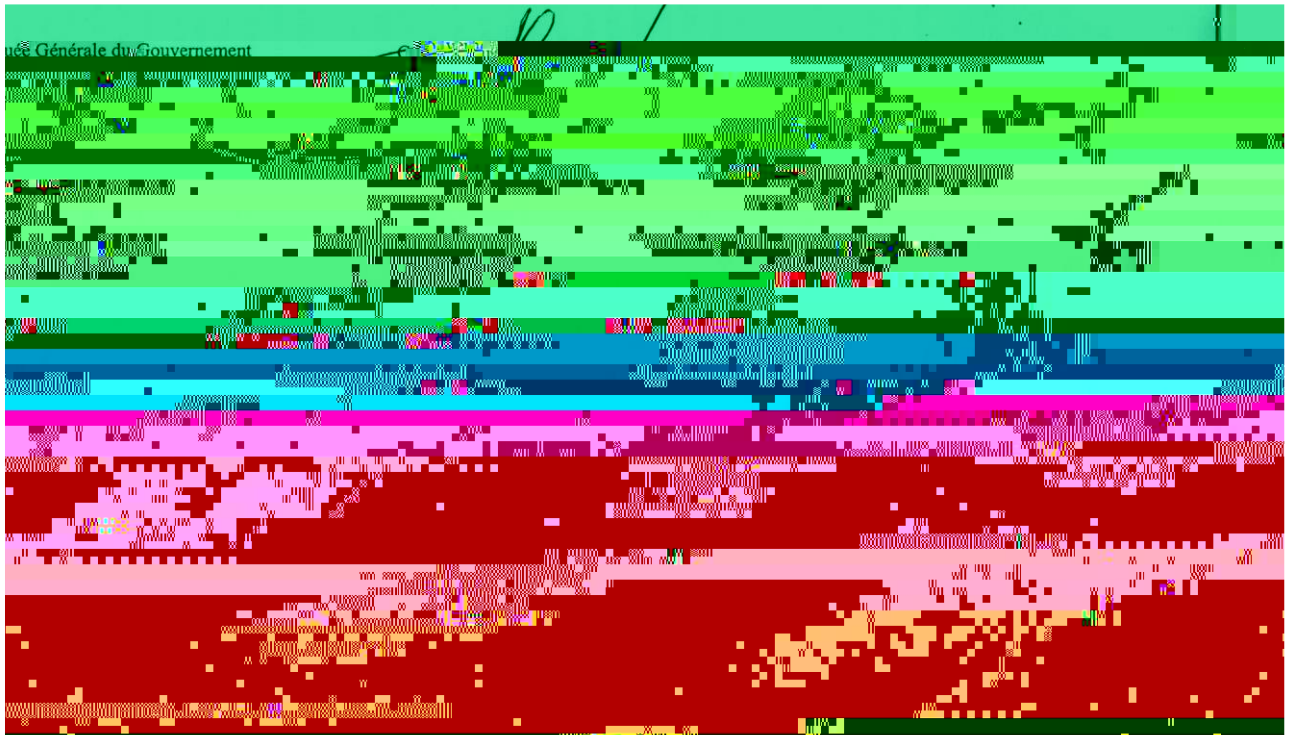
Noting the low availability of drinking water in areas under surveillance;

Reiterating our expressed desire to be associated with all phases of interventions aimed at eradicating Guinea worm disease;

We, the Governors of the Provinces of N'Djamena, Mayo-Kebbi-Est, Mayo-Kebbi-Ouest, Chari-Baguirmi, Moyen-Chari, Mandoul, Guera, Salamat, Logone Oriental, Logone Occidental and the Tandjile, the only provinces endemic to Guinea worm disease, meeting on February 23, 2024, at the Amitié Hôtel in Ndjamenas under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health and Prevention, we hereby commit to personally involve ourselves in concrete actions on the ground to enable the effective implementation of all ongoing interventions aimed at the eradication of Guinea worm disease throughout the national territory and more particularly in endemic areas, by ensuring:

1. The emotional involvement of administrative authorities (Governors, Prefects, Sub-Prefects) and traditional authorities and religious leaders in order to:
 - a) Monitor the proper implementation of activities (including the prolonged tethering of dogs and cats) relating to the eradication of Guinea worm disease;
 - b) Conduct targeted outreach missions to affected communities, involving local leaders (concerned sectors) and health personnel to strengthen prevention activities to accelerate the interruption of transmission.
2. Increased surveillance of Guinea worm disease in endemic and non-endemic areas;
3. Improving the quality of surveillance of Guinea worm disease in endemic and non-endemic areas;
4. Rigorous implementation of all appropriate interventions such as communication for behavior change, prolonged tethering of dogs and cats, case containment, treatment of water sources with Abate, appropriate management of aquatic animal waste and cash reward awareness creation;
5. Allocate the necessary financial resources to endemic provinces to strengthen the acceleration of the eradication of Guinea worm disease;
6. From the urgent supply of drinking water by 2026 to all endemic villages without access to drinking water and the promotion of the increased supply of healthy drinking water, prioritizing populations at risk of dracunculiasis transmission and strengthening local healthcare systems;
7. Informed decision-making by the administrative authorities (Governors, Prefects, Sub-Prefect) for the management of stray dogs and cats that are partly responsible for the spread of Guinea worm disease;

Adopted in N'Djamena, on February 23, 2024



IN BRIEF:

Cameroon. Robyn Carter, former Carter Center Technical Advisor in Chad and Cameroon and recruitment consultant, is in Cameroon for six weeks to train three new Technical Advisors, Nadia Hitimana, Cynthia Mboundja, and Issa Zongo, for the Cameroonian GWEP and provide supervisory support for the field teams. All are based at Nouldaina in Guere district of Far North Province, with the current Technical Advisor, Wilfred Ngwa.

Chad. Seven (64%) of the 11 villages with human Guinea worm cases in 2022-2023 do not have a safe source of drinking water.

South Sudan. Carter Center Associate Director Giovanna Steel, MPH is providing technical support to the SSGWEP in South Sudan March 12-24, 2024. This month The Carter Center also begins a pilot peace-health project (similar to the project that began in Mali in September 2020) in cooperation with authorities in Uror County of Jonglei State, which is a focal area for Guinea worm and trachoma activities and high rates of communal violence.

WHY WE DISTINGUISH HUMAN GW CASES AND ANIMAL GW INFECTIONS

The query sometimes arises as to why we make a distinction between Guinea worm *cases* in humans and Guinea Worm *infections* in animals in the *Guinea Worm Wrap-Up* memoranda. It is true that:

- *Dracunculus medinensis* causes GW infections in both humans and some animals,
- GW contamination of water caused by humans and animals are equally important,
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MODIFICATION

