



Table 2

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

This is a reduction of 50% in infected humans and an increase of 158% in the number of infected dogs. A line-listing of the cases is in Table 1. According to the most recent surveys, 81% of 676 fish vendors and 93% of 528 households in priority villages surveyed were reportedly practicing safe disposal of fish entrails. In areas under active surveillance 59% of 230 residents surveyed knew of the cash reward for reporting a case of Guinea worm disease and 89% of 64 residents knew of the reward for reporting/containing an infected dog.

The two cases reported in Chad are the only cases of Guinea worm disease reported worldwide in January-April 2016. Zero cases were reported worldwide in December 2015, January 2016 and March 2016 (Table 2).

ETHIOPIA GUINEA WORM PROGRAM HOLDS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE



The Ethiopian Dracunculiasis Eradication Program (EDEP) held its first national press conference on April 18, 2016 at the Federal Ministry of Health in Addis Ababa for one hour. Panelists were Guinea Worm Ambassador Honorable Dr. Tebebe Yemane Berhane, Ethiopia Public Health Institute Director-General Dr. Amha Kebede, Carter Center Country Representative Dr. Zerihun Tadesse, EDEP National Program Coordinator Mr. Amanu Shifara, and WHO National Program Officer Dr. Zeyede Kebede. The panelists briefed 18 journalists from government and private media on the current status of Guinea worm eradication in Ethiopia and in the world. Drs. Amha and Zerihun also conducted interviews with members of the media after the press conference. News from the press conference was covered widely in Ethiopian newspapers and other mass media, including national television, in English and Amharic. Some of the news coverage may be viewed at <http://allafrica.com/stories/201604201091.html>

With support from The Carter Center, the new building for the Secretariat of the EDEP on the premises of the Ethiopia Public Health Institute in Addis Ababa was officially inaugurated by the State Minister for Health Honorable Dr. Kebede Worku, on May 4, 2016.

Ethiopia has reported no cases of Guinea worm disease in humans and no infected animals in January-April 2016. Intermittent insecurity in parts of Gambella Region has constrained some activities of the EDEP there in March and April. According to reward awareness surveys conducted in February 2016, 91% of 159 persons surveyed in (endemic) Gog district of Gambella Region and 70% of 348 persons surveyed in (non-endemic) Surma, Jikaw, and Makuey districts of Gambella Region were aware of the cash reward for reporting a case of Guinea worm disease. Surveys conducted in March 2016 found that 70% of 410 persons interviewed in (formerly endemic) Nyangatom district of SNNPR, and 51% of 5,372 persons interviewed in (non-endemic) Jikaw, Makuey and Dimma districts of Gambella Region knew of the cash reward.

Led by Mr. Amanu Shifara, National Program Coordinator, the EDEP conducted its 3rd Regional Quarterly Review meeting on March 28-29, 2016 in Metu Town to assess progress made and activities performed since the national annual review meeting in Gambella during December 2015.

During April 10-16, 2016 a joint supportive supervisory team, which included the national EDEP coordinator, Mr. Amanu Shifara, the Gambella Regional Health Bureau Head, Dr. Luo Ubop, the Gambella Regional Health Bureau Public Health Emergency Management (PHEM) core process owner, Mr. Nena Okello, WHO National Program Officer, Dr. Zeyede Kebede, Carter Center Technical Advisor, Ms. Alpha Gebrie, and others, including WHO-Gambella Region field officers, conducted a visit to the endemic districts of Gog and Abobo, to other to non-endemic districts, i.e. Lare, Gambella Zuria, and Itang, and to the Terkidi Refugee camps.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Sankara, DP., Korkor, AS., Agua-Agua, J., and Biswas, G.. Dracunculiasis (Guinea Worm Disease) in Gyapong, J. and Boatman, B. (eds). Neglected Tropical Diseases – Sub Saharan Africa. Switzerland; Springer International Publishing; 2016: 46-59.

World Health Organization, 2016. Monthly report on dracunculiasis cases, January-November 2015. Wkly Epidemiol Rec 91:31-32.

World Health Organization, 2016. Monthly report on dracunculiasis cases, January 2016. Wkly Epidemiol Rec 91:143-144.

World Health Organization, 2016. Monthly report on dracunculiasis cases, January-February 2016. Wkly Epidemiol Rec 91:190-191.

World Health Organization, 2016. Dracunculiasis eradication: global surveillance summary, 2015. Wkly Epidemiol Rec 91:219-234.

World Health Organization, 2016. 11th Meeting of the International Commission for the Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication and scientific meeting to address Guinea worm disease infection in dogs. Wkly Epidemiol Rec 91:234-236.

GUINEA WORM DISEASE IN THE NEWS AND CYBERSPACES