

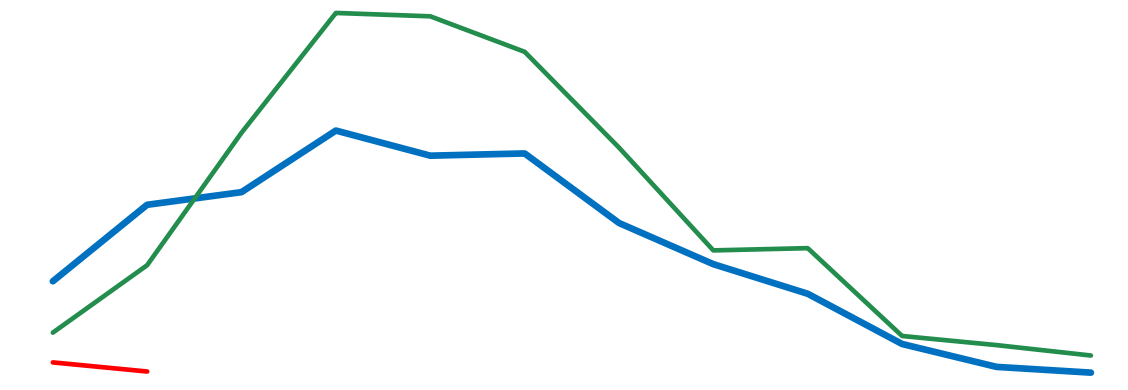
Memorandum

**Date:** March 10, 2021  
**From:** WHO Collaborating Center for Dracunculiasis Eradication, CDC  
**Subject:** GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #275  
**To:** Addressees

*History has its eyes on you.*  
Lin-Manuel Miranda

### CHAD: 83% FEWER DOG INFECTIONS IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021

Figure 1



\*provisional

The Chad Guinea Worm Eradication Program's (CGWEP) increasingly strict application of interventions known to be effective--educating people in areas at risk, tethering dogs with emerging worms, and targeted Abate applications in areas at highest risk at the most important times--appears to be paying off. The CGWEP improved dog **case containment** rates from 74% in 2018 to 84% in 2020 and raised **Abate coverage** of high-risk villages from 19% in 2018 to 59% in 2020. In early March 2020, than Chad's Minister of Health, the Honorable Prof. Mahamoud Khayal, launched a new strategy of **proactive tethering** of dogs in villages at high risk of Guinea worm infections, beginning with 118 villages that reported 5 or more infected dogs in 2019. The proactive tethering strategy reduced exposure of all dogs in those villages to risk of infection and ensured tethering of some dogs whose emerging worms might otherwise have been missed during the peak transmission season (see *Guinea Worm Wrap-Up #267*).

Chad has reported 44 dogs, no confirmed humans (there is one provisional human case; specimen sent to M q r

**HONORABLE WORLD LAUREATE DR. TEBEBE YEMANE BERHAN (1948-2021)  
GOODWILL AMBASSADOR FOR GUINEA WORM ERADICATION  
INDOMITABLE GUINEA WORM WARRIOR**

We are deeply saddened to report the passing of The Honorable World Laureate Dr. Tebebe Yemane Berhan in Addis Ababa on February 20, 2021. Dr. Tebebe earned his Doctorate of Medicine from Lvov State Medical Institute in the Soviet Union in 1974, a diploma in Dermatology and Venereology with Honors in 1976, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Medicine in 1978. In November 2014, the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin personally awarded Dr. Tebebe the Pushkin Medal in a ceremony at the Kremlin in Moscow.

Long active in the Lions Clubs of Ethiopia, Dr. Tebebe was a Past District Governor of Multiple District 411, a Past Member of the Lions Clubs International Executive Committee as a representative for Africa, and served as a member of the Lions Clubs International Foundation Board of Trustees from 2015 to 2018. He was a tireless advocate for the fight against Neglected Tropical Diseases in Ethiopia with national and regional political and medical leaders, as well as with Lions leadership since 2007 in support of activities assisted by The Carter Center to eliminate blinding trachoma and river blindness (onchocerciasis) in Ethiopia. Dr. Tebebe participated in annual Program Reviews for Trachoma and River Blindness in Atlanta at The Carter Center from

## MALI REPORTS A CONFIRMED DOG INFECTION



Mali's Guinea Worm Eradication Program (MGWEP) has reported an infection in a three-year-old locally born guard dog that was discovered with an open wound on its left front leg on January 13, 2021 in Nemabougou district of Macina town (Segou Region) in Mali's Inland Delta of the Niger River. The dog was tethered on January 14 when controlled immersion caused the worm to emerge. The neighborhood of this dog has a functioning borehole well. The dog's owner, is the Imam of the neighborhood. According to the owner's wife, the dog's diet consists of food shared by the family, including cooked fish, but not raw fish. Further investigation and control measures are on-going. Abate was applied to local bodies of water on January 15. Macina district reported one dog and one cat with Guinea worm infections in August-September 2019 and four infected dogs in August-September 2020, one of which had its worm emerge in Nemabougou district on September 2, 2020.

When Mali began its Guinea Worm Eradication Program in 1991, it found 16,060 cases in humans in 34 districts of 5 regions. In 2020, Mali reported 9 Guinea worm infections (8 dogs and 1 human) in 4 districts of 2 regions in the Inland Delta of the Niger River (Figure 2).

During the week of February 8 this year, the MGWEP held workshops with health authorities and veterinarians from endemic areas in Segou and Mopti Regions, where they discussed ways to stop GW transmission in dogs, including proactive tethering among other strategies. During the week of February 22, the MGWEP held its annual review meeting with health authorities and veterinarians from endemic areas in Segou and Mopti Regions. Among other issues, they discussed proactive tethering of dogs like the Guinea worm programs in Ethiopia and Chad are doing. The review meeting recommended discussions be held soon with community members and local authorities, including dog traders, in the areas at-risk. The peak transmission season begins in June.

**Angola:** To reinforce Guinea worm surveillance, data collection and analysis, WHO appointed a data manager, Mr David Mbagui Da Costa, to support the National GWEP. Mr David Mbagui Da Costa is based in Cunene province, and will work closely with the national programme as well as the WHO-NPO-GWE, Dr Mavitidi Sebastiao, to strengthen the operationalization of Community Based Surveillance and including the implementation of all required interventions. Mr. David joins the program with long experience in NTD data management in Angola. In addition, he has an international experience in data management for preventive-chemotherapy for the control of NTDs, including ESPEN mission in two Lusophone countries in Africa (Guinea Bissau and Cabo Verde). He is fluent in Portuguese with very good working knowledge of French.

No human cases or infected animal reported in Angola during January- February 2021.



## **SOUTH SUDAN HOLDS ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW**

The South Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Program (SSGWEP) held its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Review Meeting at the Palm Africa Hotel in Juba on January 28, 2021. Key in-person participants and representatives at the meeting, which was led by SSGWEP Director Mr. MAKOY Samuel Yibi, included the chair of the South Sudan National Committee for the Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication Dr. Margaret Itto, as well as Associate Director, Guinea Worm Eradication Program of The Carter Center Ms. Giovanna Steel and Carter Center Country Representative Mr. Jake Wheeler. Carter Center Vice Presidents Dr. Kashef Ijaz and Mr. Craig Withers, Guinea Worm Eradication Program Director Mr. Adam Weiss, and Special Advisor Dr. Donald Hopkins participated virtually. Mr. Makoy and his colleagues presented results showing the SSGWEP's progression from 10 confirmed cases of GWD in 2018, to 4 cases in 2019, and only 1 case, which was contained, in 2020. They also described measures taken to strengthen Guinea worm surveillance, increase awareness of the cash reward for reporting a case of GWD, and to begin preparing documentation for the process of eventual certification of elimination of Guinea worm transmission from South Sudan.

In January 2021, the SSGWEP reported 3,357 rumors of GWD. All rumors were investigated, and 99.9% were investigated within 24 hours. One-third of rumors (n=1134, 34%) were determined to be suspected GWD, of which none have been confirmed. In February 2021, the SSGWEP also began working with the Accelerating the Sustainable Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ASCEND) program through the Christian Blind Mission (CBM) on its upcoming mass drug administration (MDA) for onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis, which will target 47 counties, to conduct more screenings. So far, the MDA teams have screened 84,900 people in Jur River, Wau, and Torit Counties, which has resulted in 57 human rumors (8 of which were suspected GWD), and 2 animal rumors. None of the rumors were confirmed to be GWD.

## **NEW DONATION**

At a virtual event held on January 27, 2021 to a, or2 %ar 8, \$

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