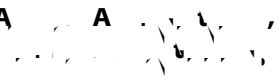


Yaws Eradication: Facing Old Problems, Raising New Hopes

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The history of disease eradication coincides to a great deal with that of yaws. Soon after the World Health Organization (WHO) was established in 1948, yaws was the first disease to be slated for global eradication in the postwar era. Banking on a previous attempt to eliminate yaws in Haiti, where it was ravaging at that time—an initiative strongly sponsored by Fred Lowe Soper, the powerful director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)—the Global Yaws Control Programme ran from 1952 to 1964, treating some 300 million people in 46 countries and reducing the global levels of the disease by 95%. “Different sources give different figures,” 82c63(cy)-5.1(in) f4[ta63es give

ducted every 3–6 months and either total or selective community treatments as required plus active case finding, until zero case prevalence is reached. “It is critical that mass treatment campaigns for yaws are supported by ongoing surveillance, active case finding and treatment,

carefully the current situation and the