

Memorandum

Date: January 26, 2022
From: WHO Collaborating Center for Dracunculiasis Eradication, CDC
Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #284
To: Addressees

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Figure 1

**Provisional*

FEWEST HUMAN CASES EVER!



After reducing Guinea worm infections by 51% and 20% in humans and animals respectively in 2020, endemic countries reduced human cases and animal infections by another 48% and 45% in 2021 (Figure 1). This sustained progress brought Guinea worm in humans (14) to the lowest level since the eradication program began and reduced the number of known animal infections (885) to

the second-lowest level reported since Chad, the most endemic country, extended active surveillance to all endemic areas in 2016.

- Guinea Worm Eradication Program led 2021 reductions with 42% less human (7) and 48% less dog (790) infections reported; the first year it reduced human *and* animal infections by so much.
- **Ethiopia** reported 1 human, 2 dogs, 1 cat, and 0 infected baboons in 2021 (vs. 11 humans, 3 dogs, 8 cats, 4 baboons in 2020).
- **South Sudan** reported 4 human cases and no animal infections.
- **Mali** reported 2 human cases, 16 dogs, and 1 infected cat.
- **Angola** reported no infected human or animal.
- **Cameroon** reported 10 infected dogs in border villages that were probably infected in Chad.

In 2021 the number of months with zero human cases reported globally increased to five (January, May, June, November, December), from three months in 2020 (June, November, December), two months in 2019 (October December), and one month in 2018 (November). Table 1 summarizes the status of containment and presumed sources of human infections in 2021.

Table 1

Looking forward & backward: human Guinea worm cases in 2021		
<u>Date/place detected</u>	<u>Contained?*</u>	<u>Probable source*</u>
MALI		
03 Aug/Markala-Segou	No	Unknown
15 Sep/Markala-Segou	Yes	Unknown
SOUTH SUDAN		
23 Jul/Uror-Jonglei	No	

The National Minister of Health, Honorable Elizabeth Acuei Yol national program review which was held at the Palm Africa Hotel in Juba on December 9-10 under the leadership of SSGWEP Director Mr. MAKOY Samuel Yibi. Minister Yol challenged the

Irrigation, the Honorable Manawa Peter Gatkuoth and Carter Center Vice President Mr. P. Craig Withers Jr. to sign a declaration to pursue water, sanitation, health, and hygiene as part of Guinea worm eradication and trachoma control in endemic areas of the country. Other key participants at the review included the State Ministers and Director Generals from all ten states, WHO Country Representative Dr. Fabian Ndenzako, and UNICEF Country Representative Mrs. Hamida R. Lasseko. SSGWEP Director Makoy stated a clear take home message at the end of the meeting:

Dr. Margaret Itto, vice-chairperson and former State Commissioner for Health of Eastern Equatoria, led a meeting of the South Sudan National Committee for Documentation of Dracunculiasis Elimination at the same hotel on December 8.

MALI: 19 GW INFECTIONS; 12 KNOWN SOURCES, 11 CONTAINED



The Mali Guinea Worm Eradication Program (MGWEP) reported Guinea worm infections in 2 humans, 16 dogs, and 1 cat in 2021, compared to 1 human and 9 dogs in 2020 (Table 1). Eleven (58%) of the infections in 2021 were contained and presumed sources of 12 (63%) infections were identified. A line list of the 2021 infections was included in *Guinea Worm Wrap-Up #283*, except the latest infected dog, which had an indigenous, contained infection in Kolongo Bozo village on December 25, 2021.

Dr. Drissa Toure visited Sansanding village in Markala district where both human Guinea worm cases in 2021 occurred. In follow-up to the infections, the MGWEP held workshops on December 9 and 11 with village chiefs, mayors, deputy *prefets*, veterinarians, *relais*, and dog traders at Fangasso and Yasso health zones in Segou Region.

transmission of Guinea worm infections, and the system of rewards for reporting and proactive tethering of animals at risk. The meetings recommended presenting all imported dogs to the *relais* and village chief, burying fish guts, and sustaining the involvement of dog traders. Technical advisors and/or Guinea worm focal points met with dog traders and inspected dogs in Macina, Tominian, and San districts of Segou Region in October. Mali began proactive tethering of dogs in endemic villages in November. The MGWEP plans to hold its annual national program review meeting on February 8-9, 2022, in Bamako.

CHAD: 7 HUMAN CASES, 855 INFECTED ANIMALS

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DONATION

John and Kathleen Schreiber, who partner with The Carter Center personally and through their family foundation, recently donated \$2 million toward Guinea worm eradication. That donation was matched by the Carter Center Board of Trustees Challenge Fund. The fund matches, dollar for dollar, donations of \$100,000 or more. The Challenge Fund marks a historic and unique opportunity for supporters to multiply the impact of their contributions through August 2022.

