

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

Date: May 30, 2022

From: WHO Collaborating Center for Dracunculiasis Eradication, CDC

Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #288

To: Addressees

*There are always results in Guinea W*

**CHAD: 2 HUMAN CASES; DOG INFECTIONS -47%**

Chad has reported 2 confirmed human cases (1 contained) in January-April 2022. This is a reduction of 50% from the 4 human cases reported in January-April

The delegation visited unsafe water sources made safe through environmental management, a dog park where dogs are brought for exercise and relaxation, a potentially safe water source which is non-functioning because of failure of timely maintenance, and an Abate treatment team preparing Demuy pond in Dimuy Farms non village area (NVA) for Abate application. The officials appreciated the effort made by frontline health workers and community members to increase access to safe sources of drinking water through environmental management and Abate treatment. They underlined access to safe water as the key challenge that stakeholders need to address collectively to eliminate Guinea worm and other diseases.

During the visit, The Carter Center expressed commitment to build two shallow boreholes in endemic Duli farm and Abawiri villages in memory of the late Most Honorable World Laureate Dr. Tebebe Berhan and UNICEF expressed commitment to maintain the non-functional water scheme in endemic Ablen village and bring it back to service. On May 5, Minister Lia and the delegation she led went to Jawi refugee camp near Gambella town and observed GW surveillance at the camp.

Dr. Mesay Hailu was appointed Director General of the Ethiopia Public Health Institute effective April 6, 2022. He replaced former Director General Dr. Ebba Abate. Prior to this appointment Dr. Mesay was serving as Vice President of Hawassa University. He is an Associate Professor of Public Health and Epidemiology.

Ethiopia has reported no Guinea worm infection in a human or animal so far in 2022, compared to one human case and no animal infection reported in January-May 2021.

### **INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION TEAM TO VISIT DRC**

The International Commission for the Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication (ICCDE) will send an International Certification Team (ICT) to visit the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for about three weeks, beginning July 4, 2022. The ICT will be led by Dr. Robert Guiguemde of Burkina Faso, who is a member of the ICCDE. The DRC submitted its dossier on Guinea worm

## **DEFINITION OF A PRESUMED SOURCE OF GUINEA WORM INFECTION**

A presumed source/location of a human dracunculiasis case is considered identified if:

The patient drank unsafe water from the same source/location (specify) as other human case(s) or an infected domestic animal 10-14 months before infection, or

The patient lived in or visited the (specify) household, farm, village, or non-village area of (specify) a Guinea worm patient or infected domestic/peri-domestic animal 10-14 months before infection, or

The patient drank unsafe water from (specify) a known contaminated pond, lake, lagoon or cut stream 10-14 months before infection.

If none of the above is true, the presumed source/location of the infection is unknown. Whether should also be stated in order to distinguish indigenous transmission from an imported case.

## **DEFINITION OF A CONTAINED CASE\***

A case of Guinea worm disease is contained if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The patient is detected before or within 24 hours of worm emergence; and
2. The patient has not entered any water source since the worm emerged; and
3. A village volunteer or other health care provider has properly managed the case, by cleaning and bandaging until the worm is fully removed and by giving health education to discourage the patient from contaminating any water source (if two or more emerging worms are present, the case is not contained until the last worm is pulled out); and
4. The containment process, including verification that it is a case of Guinea worm disease, is validated by a supervisor within 7 days of the emergence of the worm and
5. ABATE is used if there is any uncertainty about contamination of sources of drinking water, or if a source of drinking water is known to have been contaminated.



## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

World Health Organization, 2022. Dracunculiasis eradication: global surveillance summary, 2021. Wkly Epidemiol Rec 97:173-199.