




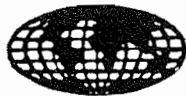
Memorandum

Date December 15, 1987

From  WHO Collaborating Center for
Research, Training, and Control of Dracunculiasis

Subject GUINEAWORM WRAP-UP #18

To Addressees



INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

WATER DECADE STEERING COMMITTEE CALLS FOR INCREASED EFFORTS



After reviewing the status of efforts conducted to date at its 15th meeting held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on November 5 and 6, the UN Interagency Steering Committee for the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade stressed its strong support for increased efforts to eradicate dracunculiasis during the remainder of the Decade. The Steering Committee established elimination of guineaworm disease as an official subgoal of the Water and Sanitation Decade in 1981.

Mr. G. Arthur Brown, associate administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), who chaired the meeting, noted that while much had been accomplished, much more emphasis and resources need to be given to attacking dracunculiasis during the remainder of the Decade. "No one country or agency acting alone can conquer this terrible disease, but together we can prevail." Mr. Brown observed. "This is one of the most easily preventable diseases. By eventually eradicating guineaworm, this historic struggle will be one of the most enduring and important legacies of the Water and Sanitation Decade." In addition to UNDP, the Steering Committee includes representatives of World Bank, WHO, UNICEF, ILO, and UNEP, among others.

AMERICAN CYANAMID DONATES ABATE TO ANAMBRA/NIGERIA

The Agricultural Division of Cyanamid International has donated 2,000 liters of Abate (temephos) larvicide, including shipment, to Anambra State, Nigeria. The timely, generous donation will help Nigeria initiate the vector control component of their eradication program during the current transmission season, which began in November. Prof. A.B.C. Nwosu, Anambra State Commissioner of Health, expressed his profound gratitude to the American Cyanamid Company on behalf of the government and people of Anambra.

SECOND AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Plans are proceeding for this conference which, as reported in the previous issue, will be held in Accra, Ghana on 14-18 March, 1988. USAID will co-sponsor this important meeting with WHO and the Government of Ghana.

TRAINING MATERIALS



The WHO Division of Vector Biology Control has prepared a color slide set designed to help illustrate lectures about guineaworm disease. The set of 61 color slides may be purchased for US \$60.00. Inquiries and requests should be made to: Division of Vector Biology and Control, World Health Organization, CH-1211, Geneva 27, Switzerland.

A new color film of about 25 minutes duration on the impact and control of dracunculiasis is being prepared, for a premier showing at the Second African Regional Meeting in Accra next March. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), UNDP, Global 2000 Inc. of the Carter Presidential Center, and VBC/USAID are collaborating on this project.

The CDC and Global 2000, Inc. are also collaborating on developing written materials designed to facilitate the training of national, mid-level, and peripheral workers in anti-dracunculiasis programs. Six modules will address community mobilization, health education, vector control, surveillance, water supply, and treatment, as well as other important aspects such as planning, evaluation, and training of trainers. These materials are expected to be completed by November 1988. Examples of training materials already being used in anti-dracunculiasis programs would be welcomed to assist in this effort. For further information about this project, contact: Cathy Shoemaker, Training & Laboratory Program Office, G-27, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA 30333, U.S.A. Telephone: (404) 639-3841.

NATIONAL ACTIVITIES



CAMEROON

A national coordinator for guineaworm disease eradication has been appointed. Health authorities prepared a list of confirmed endemic villages in Mayo Sawa area and provided that information to water supply authorities. A hydrologic evaluation of these priority villages was undertaken in September, and funding has been provided for three wells next year. Authorities have also completed an evaluation of the efficacy of temephos (Abate), confirming again large decreases in transmission in intervention villages as compared to control villages.

GHANA

GLOBAL 2000



This national eradication program began operations on December 7, 1987, with the assistance of an advisor provided by Global 2000, Inc. and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI). The program will undertake active searches for cases and control measures in three regions of Ghana during the first year, with the objective of eradicating guineaworm from Ghana by 1993.

MALI

Researchers from the Ecole Nationale de Medecine et de Pharmacie du Mali have undertaken two guineaworm control surveys (May/June and August/September, 1987) in nine villages in the Diema circle (Lakamane district) of Mali. In the total population surveyed (1,582), the team found 435 infected persons, for an average prevalence rate of 27.5%. Of the 435 cases, only 23, or 5.2% had been reported. Follow-up control measures, mainly health education and vector control, are planned. This initiative is supported by IMPACT and UNDP.

NIGERIA

Preliminary results of an assessment of the impact of guineaworm disability on rice production in heavily endemic areas of Anambra, Cross River, and Benue States suggest that the annual losses in rice production alone in that area amount to about 5 million U.S. dollars. More details on this important study will be reported in a later issue. This assessment is supported by UNICEF and the three state governments.



In Kwara State, the UNICEF-assisted rural water supply program reduced the average prevalence of guineaworm in 20 communities (total population: about 9,000) from 59.6% during the 1983-84 guineaworm season to 11.3% during the 1986-87 season. Three of the communities' prevalence rates were reduced to zero, from 62.0%, 52.7%, and 44.8%. The change in prevalence in five control villages over the same period was only from 52.1% to 51.1%. The rate of absenteeism due to guineaworm during the season of peak prevalence fell from 33.3% in 1983 to 2.7% in 1987 in 10 primary schools located in some of the villages where wells were installed. Moreover, total school enrollment increased from about 1,900 pupils in 1983 to over 2,300 in 1987, partly because parents in nearby cities were more willing to send their children to school in their home villages, at less cost, once the fear of contracting dracunculiasis there was removed (see publication by Edungbola, et al).

The November 16 issue of Newswatch, a Nigerian-published Pan African weekly news magazine, featured a one-page article, entitled "Worm from the Gods," about the dracunculiasis problem in Nigeria.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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CDC is the WHO Collaborating Center for Research, Training, and Control of Dracunculiasis.