

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

Memorandum

**Date:** July 30, 2021

**From:** WHO Collaborating Center for Dracunculiasis Eradication, CDC

**Subject:** GUINEA WORM

## MALI: TWO INITIATIVES AIM TO FINISH THE WORM

(MGWEP) detected no human cases of Guinea worm disease for 4 consecutive years, 2016–2019, but still found 46 domestic dogs and 4 domestic cats with Guinea worm infections during that period, before reporting one human case and 9 infected dogs in 2020. Since a [redacted] in 2012 the MGWEP has had only incomplete access to several endemic areas because of ongoing insecurity, and that has been a major challenge to stopping transmission. To help prevent exposure of dogs and cats in at-risk areas and improve containment of known infected animals, the MGWEP is promoting proactive tethering of all dogs and cats in communities in Tominian, Macina, and Markala districts of Segou Region and Djenne district of Mopti Region that had an infected dog, cat, or human in 2020 or 2021, i [redacted] November). The concept of proactively tethering *all* domestic animals at risk originated with Ethiopian villagers in 2018 and was successfully introduced in Chad in March 2020. A team from the MGWEP conducted a supervisory mission to the four districts June 15–25, 2021, to discuss the new idea, which was accepted in most of the localities visited except Djenne town and Gomakoro village in Markala district. The receptive communities and health administrations are discussing details of how to implement the proactive tethering. Instead of proactive tethering, community members and authorities in Djenne and Gomakoro decided to inspect all [redacted]. The program has also strengthened surveillance in Markala, Macina, Tominian, and Djenne districts by recruiting and training 21 local supervisors (*agents renforts*) who supervise *relais*, oversee inspection of dogs, and promote the cash reward for reporting cases or infections, as well as detecting, investigating, and notifying rumors of case or infections.

in Tenenkou district/Mopti Region, which is one of the insecure districts where dogs are bred and likely become infected, have led an effort to discuss local peace, conflict, and health issues. According to a recent assessment, the initiative on violence and health is well-received and appreciated by the communities, especially its emphasis on dialogue and inclusion. Youth and other under-represented groups expressed their satisfaction with the methodology and results so far. The report raised concerns over unequal access to healthcare by the rural villagers as well as distribution and efficacy of health agents in the district. The Non-Governmental Organization HELP will assess water, hygiene, and sanitation needs throughout the district to address one of the priorities expressed by the communities. About 5,000 persons were screened for cataracts and provided health education about Guinea worm disease, and 300 cataract surgeries were performed as a part of this initiative.

Both infected dogs detected in 2021 were contained. Technical assistants and Guinea worm focal points in San, Tominian, and Macina districts of Segou Region and Djenne district of Mopti Region met with dog traders to inspect dogs and conduct health education in May. In Macina they also discussed management of fish guts. Surveys of 8,793 persons about cash reward awareness related to reporting of suspected infections of humans and dogs in a sample of active surveillance areas (Levels 1 & 2) have found 95% awareness to date in 2021.

**CHAD: INTENSIVE**



previous study sites in Gog district have been assessed and evaluated one of which (Uncle) was replaced

### **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.







## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Guagliardo S.A.J., Ruiz-Tiben E., Hopkins D.R., Weiss A.J, et.al. 2021. Surveillance of human Guinea worm in Chad, 2010-2018. Am J Trop Med Hyg 105:188-195. i:10.4269/ajtmh.20 -1525

proaches needed for Guinea worm eradication. Am J Trop Med Hyg 105:1-2. (i:)-3(10.)-9(4269/ajtm)-3(h)20(.)-9(21)] TJETQ.00000912 0 612

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Epidemiol ec 96:279-280.

Note to cono