



Date: June 29, 2026

From: Guinea Worm Eradication Program, The Carter Center

Subject: GUINEA WORM WRAP-UP #332

To: Addressees

The worm will be the judge of the quality of our work last year.
MAKOY Samuel Yibi

PROVISIONALLY 47% FEWER GW IN ANIMALS IN JANUARY-MAY 2026

The global number of Guinea worm infections in animals has declined by 47%, provisionally, from 462 (69% contained) in January-May 2025, to 247 (57% contained) in January-May 2026. The overall reduction is led by **Cameroon**, which reported 178 provisional animal infections (153 dogs, 25 cats; 67% contained) in January-May 2026, and 334 animal infections (312 dogs, 22 cats; 73% contained) in January-May 2025. Cameroon's peak transmission season in 2025 was February-July. **Angola**, which reported 70 dogs with GW infections (44% contained) in January-May 2025, has so far reported only 14 confirmed dog infections in January-May 2026 but is projected to report several more confirmed animal infections in January-May this year than in January-May 2025 after other specimens are processed. In 2025, Angola only detected GW infections in January-April (see *Guinea Worm Wrap-Up* #330, Table 2). **Chad**, which has GW transmission year-round, with peak transmission in April-August, has provisionally reported 55 animal GW infections (52 dogs, 3 cats; 18% contained) in January-May 2026, compared to 56 animal infections (49 dogs, 7 cats; 73% contained) in January-May 2025. Chad's diminished reduction in animal GW infections between 2025 and 2026 so far, and the lower containment rate of animal infections in 2026 compared to 2025, follow removal of incentives for proactive tethering and deficiencies in supervision in 2025; issues which the program is seeking to address.

Ethiopia, Mali, and South Sudan have reported no animal GW infections in January-May 2026 (see below). Ethiopia reported one contained human GW case in January-May 2026 (see *Guinea Worm Wrap-Up* #331), compared to one uncontained human case reported in Chad in January-May 2025. Chad has reported no human GW cases in January-May 2026.

IN BRIEF

Ethiopia resumed trapping, sedating, and examining wild baboons in its endemic area on June 10, 2026, after conducting no trapping in 2025, and three trapping rounds in 2024. The Ethiopia Dracunculiasis Eradication Program reported 2 baboons with emerging GWs in 2024, then 4 human GW cases and 1 infected domestic cat in 2025. Ethiopia has not detected an infected dog since 2023.

Mali. Mali has detected no confirmed animal GW infections in January-May 2026, compared to 2 dog infections detected in the same period of 2025. It has not detected a human GW case since 2023. In January-March 2026, the program found proper fish gut management in 84% of 462 households and 81% of 263

fish sellers surveyed in three of the four Level 1 districts: Macina, Tominian, and Djenne. The fourth district, Markala, was not surveyed due to insecurity. During the same period, awareness of the cash reward for reporting GW in humans and dogs was measured at 96% of 1,560 persons queried in Level 1 areas and 93% of 2,137 persons in level 2 areas. Rumors of GW in humans declined from 16 in January-March 2025 to 9 in January-March 2026, while animal GW rumors reported were 113 and 61 in the same two periods. *Insecurity is the main impediment to completing GW elimination in Mali, but stronger political will is also needed.*

South Sudan has reported no confirmed GW in humans or animals in January-May 2026; the same as in January-May 2025. Specimens from a few small wild carnivores are pending. The peak transmission season is June-September.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

O'Connor S, Hopkins D, Cama VA, 2026. Jimmy Carter and Eradication of Guinea worm disease. Emerg Inf Dis 32:32-34.

Are the right people receiving the Guinea Worm Wrap-Up?

We remind leaders of National Guinea Worm Eradication Programs to make sure all appropriate persons are receiving the Guinea Worm Wrap-Up directly, by email. With frequent turnover of government officials, representatives of partner organizations, and recruitment of new Guinea worm program staff, keeping desired recipients up to date is challenging. Frequent review of who is receiving the newsletter directly is advised. To add an addressee, please send their name, title, email address, and preferred language (English, French, or Portuguese) to Adam Weiss at The Carter Center (adam.weiss@cartercenter.org).

Note to contributors: Submit your contributions via email to Adam Weiss (adam.weiss@cartercenter.org), by the end of the month for publication in the following month's issue. Contributors to this issue were: the national Guinea Worm Eradication Programs, Dr. Donald Hopkins and Adam Weiss of The Carter Center, and Dr. Anthony Solomon of the World Health Organization. Formatted by Diana Yu.

Back issues are also available on the Carter Center web site in English, French, and Portuguese and are located at:

www.cartercenter.org/GuineaWormWrap-Up

Table 1.

Number of Laboratory-Confirmed Human Cases of Guinea Worm Disease, and Number Reported Contained by Month during 2026*														
(Countries arranged in descending order of cases in 2025)														
COUNTRIES WITH TRANSMISSION OF GUINEA WORMS	NUMBER OF CASES CONTAINED / NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED													% CONT.
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL	
CHAD	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0							0/0	N/A
ETHIOPIA	1/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0							1/1	100%
SOUTH SUDAN	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0							0/0	N/A
CAMEROON	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0							0/0	N/A
MALI	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0							0/0	N/A
TOTAL*	1/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0							1/1	100%
% CONTAINED	100%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A							100%	
<i>*Provisional</i>														
	Cells shaded in black denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many cases were contained and reported that month.													
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CHAD	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/2	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/4	0%
SOUTH SUDAN	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/2	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/2	50%
CAMEROON	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	N/A
MALI	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	N/A
ETHIOPIA	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	2/2	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	3/4	75%
TOTAL*	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	3/4	0/3	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	4/10	40%
% CONTAINED	50%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%	75%	0%	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	40%	
<i>*Provisional</i>														
	Cells shaded in black denote months when zero indigenous cases were reported. Numbers indicate how many cases were contained and reported that month.													
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