AFR/RC44/R8: Eradication of dracunculiasis

The Regional Committee,

Mindful of Resolution WHA44.5 of the Forty-fourth World Health Assembly in 1991 and resolution AFR/RC41/R2 adopted in 1993 by the Regional Committee;

Noting that some of the recommendations in resolution AFR/RC38/R13 adopted by the thirty-eighth Regional Committee in 1988 are yet to be fully implemented by a number of Member States;

Noting that as a result of the nation-wide active case searches conducted in several countries since 1988, the distribution of dracunculiasis in affected communities has been determined;

Encouraged by the progress made in many countries towards dracunculiasis eradication;

Considering that the urgent mobilization of communities, their leaders and the resources needed to organize interventions and strengthen surveillance require priority attention;

Convinced that the regional dracunculiasis eradication strategy is still an effective strategy;

Having studied the Regional Director's report on progress made towards dracunculiasis eradication in the African Region of WHO;

1. ENDORSES the report of the Regional Director;

2. ENDORSES a continuation of the strategy of providing safe sources for drinking water, active surveillance, health education, vector control and personal prophylaxis for the eradication of the infection;

3. URGES all affected Member States:

   (i) give high priority to endemic areas in providing safe sources of drinking water and intensify national surveillance of dracunculiasis and report on a quarterly basis to WHO;

   (ii) strengthen village-based active surveillance within the context of primary health care and intensify health education and prevention activities aimed at dracunculiasis eradication by 1995;

4. INVITES bilateral and international development agencies, private voluntary organizations, foundations, agencies and other appropriate international and regional organizations to:

   (i) support the countries by introducing, within the context of primary health care, a dracunculiasis eradication component into water supply development schemes in rural areas and into agricultural and health education programmes in endemic areas;

   (ii) provide extrabudgetary funds for this support;
5. REQUESTS the Regional Director to:

   (i) reinforce the leading technical role of WHO in dracunculiasis eradication;

   (ii) intensify coordination with other international organizations and bilateral agencies for the mobilization of the necessary resources in support of dracunculiasis eradication activities in affected countries;

   (iii) intensify regional surveillance so as to monitor trends in the prevalence and incidence of the disease and encourage cooperation and coordination between neighbouring endemic countries through TCDC mechanisms;

   (iv) submit to the Regional Committee at its forty-fifth meeting a progress report on the activities in the affected countries.

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