

WHA57.9 Eradication of dracunculiasis

The Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on eradication of dracunculiasis;¹

Noting with satisfaction the excellent results achieved by the endemic countries in decreasing the number of dracunculiasis cases from an estimated 3.5 million in 1986 to 32 000 reported cases in 2003;

Noting also that only 12 countries are endemic, all in sub-Saharan Africa,

1. CONGRATULATES Member States, the Organization and partner bodies, particularly UNICEF and The Carter Center, for increasing the availability of safe and potable water, improving surveillance for case detection, strengthening interventions and expanding public awareness of the disease;
2. CONGRATULATES the 168 countries and territories that have been certified free of dracunculiasis transmission since the International Commission for the Certification of Dracunculiasis Eradication was established in 1995;
3. RECALLS that ministers of health from the remaining endemic countries signed, at the time of the Fifty-seventh World Health Assembly, the Geneva Declaration for the Eradication of Dracunculiasis by 2009;
4. URGES the remaining endemic countries to intensify their eradication efforts, including active surveillance and prevention measures;
5. URGES Member States, the Organization, UNICEF, The Carter Center and other appropriate entities to capitalize on current successes and opportunities by continuing their commitment, collaboration and cooperation, to ensure political support at the highest level and to assure that the much-needed resources are mobilized for the completion of eradication by 2009;
6. RECOMMENDS the Director-General to provide support for mobilization of adequate resources required for the eradication of dracunculiasis through the last steps of the programme and for its verification and certification activities for a world free of dracunculiasis.

(Eighth plenary meeting, 22 May 2004 –
Committee B, fourth report)

¹ Document A57/33.