

AFR/RC45/R8: Eradication of dracunculiasis

The Regional Committee,

Noting that the strategy adopted to attain the objective of eradication has, since its inception, led to a spectacular reduction in the incidence of dracunculiasis;

Realizing that, as the incidence of the disease falls, it will be increasingly difficult to maintain the level of commitment of the communities, leaders and other national and international partners;

Having considered the report of the Regional Director contained in document AFR/RC45/13;

1. ADOPTS the report of the Regional Director:
2. ENDORSES the continuation and stepping up of the implementation of a combined strategy involving the supply of safe drinking water, active surveillance, health education, vector control and individual prophylaxis in order to completely eradicate dracunculiasis;
3. URGES all the affected Member States:
 - (i) to take appropriate measures to maintain the commitment of communities and other partners until the disease is eradicated;
 - (ii) to strengthen community-based active surveillance, while integrating it into primary health care activities;
4. THANKS sincerely once again the bilateral development agencies, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations and private foundations for their immense contributions, and invites them to maintain their support to endemic countries in their efforts to eradicate dracunculiasis;
5. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (i) to adapt the regional strategy to the present epidemiological context of dracunculiasis;
 - (ii) to strengthen the technical support provided to countries in order to speed up the process of eradication of dracunculiasis;
 - (iii) to submit a progress report on dracunculiasis eradication in the Region to the forty-sixth session of the Regional Committee.

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