

motivation of volunteers through the Carter Center. They also supported a water project in Tingoli, Tolon District.

WHO provided: 5 motor cycles, 200 bicycles (plus accessories), 1,670 T-shirts

Barclays Bank donated \$22,476 to the programme through the Carter center for the procurement of 100,000 pipe filters;

An integrated water and sanitation project by GOG/EU/UNICEF for the top 9 most endemic districts in the Northern Region was initiated.

Government has commissioned a 45 million euro water expansion project for the Tamale Township and surrounding districts.

A proposal to further improve water supply (in addition to the ongoing Tamale Water Expansion Project) was finalized and submitted jointly by DCE's of Savelugu, Tamale and Tolon on October 19 to the Millennium Development Authority, MiDA, for support. The total project cost is 9.5 million dollar,

### PLANS FOR 2008

The programme will continue the processes initiated during 2006/2007 transmission season, which have no doubt resulted in the remarkable reductions achieved during 2007. These include:

**MICRO PLANNING** with each district, and instructing paid employees to focus on: 1) seeing every active case, every day the worm is emerging; and 2) consistent application of abate. Case bandaging had previously been left to volunteers, and it was determined that the level of consistency required to contain cases was not being realized.

**OPERATING THE EXISTING CASE CONTAINMENT CENTERS** in endemic areas and encourage as many patients as is practical to report and stay at the centers. This is done by providing new beds, giving patients sheets and mosquito nets, etc. Dispensary tents would be used in locations, when necessary and where there are no health facilities.

**ACCELERATE WATER DELIVERY** efforts in key communities, and especially in the key endemic districts in the Northern Region.

**CONTINUE THE MARKETING CAMPAIGN** for the purpose of insuring ongoing commitment from as many third parties as possible, including other government ministries, the media (TV and print), and informing guinea worm patients on what to do; call a hotline or report immediately to a case containment center near you (radio and billboards).

Use of students and National Service Persons for surprise **CASE SEARCHES** in large towns.

Continue to work with the District Assemblies and other agencies to **ENFORCE DISCIPLINE**

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REPUBLIC OF GHANA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

# JOIN US ERADICATE GUINEA WORM



Policy Briefing Paper 011  
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## INTRODUCTION

Guinea Worm disease in Ghana is now a focal problem, limited mostly to the Northern Region. Over 96% of all cases are from Northern Region with only five of Ghana's ten regions reporting indigenous cases of guinea worm disease during 2007; four of these namely, Ashanti, Upper West, Volta and Brong-Ahafo Regions are set to break transmission during 2008. Four regions namely, Greater Accra, Western, Eastern and Upper East have broken transmission but continue to report only imported cases, originating mostly from the Northern Region. Central Regional has not reported a single case over the past 4 years!

## ACTIVITIES/INTERVENTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE PROGRAMME

The programme developed micro-plans to improve surveillance, case containment and effective abating. Changes/rotations in field supervisors were made to make them more effective, including replacement of non-performing volunteers and field staff.

Media campaigns and social mobilization also were organized; these included visits from; MOH and GHS officials, Miss Ghana 2005, and traditional Chiefs. Musical concerts were also held by local musicians.

Case containment centers facilitated admission & treatment of cases. Field staff were retrained in all interventions, especially vector control.

Field staff from Environmental Health Division, NADMO, Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Community Development, National Commission for Civic Education, Information Services Department, among others, from the top endemic districts were also trained.

Various water projects have been initiated and are either complete or in various stages of completion;

## ACHIEVEMENTS/CURRENT STATUS

An encouraging positive trend has been recorded since the second quarter of 2007 and has continued into the first quarter of 2008. Data for January – March shows an overall reduction of 91% from 2,215 during January – March 2006 to 196 cases during the same months this year.

**CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GOG, DONORS AND NGOS IN 2007** (for a comprehensive list please contact guinea worm eradication programme, GHS):  
2007 contributions included:

GOG declared Guinea Worm disease a medical emergency requiring:

- immediate reporting,
- prompt action to contain cases,
- provision of free medical care to all patients preferably in a public clinic or Case Containment Center. GHC50,000 has been released to support free treatment of cases.

In 2007/2008 GOG doubled its total commitment to GHC1,000,000 for the 2007/2008.

UNICEF provided 5,000 tubes of Bacitracin ointment during 2006 and another 5,000 during 2007.

JICA provided three vehicles, 20 motor cycles, 15,000 T-shirts and funds for capacity building and

