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GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO ELIMINATE LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS

World Health Organization

Annual Report on Lymphatic Filariasis

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Annual Report on Lymphatic Filariasis

World Health Organization
Geneva, 2002

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This publication can be viewed and downloaded from the website of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis at: **http://www.filariasis.org**

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Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GPELF)

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

2001 – The Programme gains momentum

In the countries

- A total of 26 million people in 22 countries were administered a 2-drug, once-yearly treatment in the second year of mass drug administration (MDA) in 2001, almost a ten-fold increase from the year 2000.
- Eleven countries, whose national plans and requests for donated drugs were reviewed and approved, will implement their national programmes in 2002.
- A total of 44 million albendazole tablets were shipped by GlaxoSmithKline to 26 countries for either the first or a subsequent round of mass drug administration.
- A total of 22 million ivermectin tablets (Mectizan®) were shipped by Merck & Co., Inc. to 8 countries covered by the African and Eastern Mediterranean Programme Review Groups; 15.5 million were for MDA in areas with only lymphatic filariasis (LF) while 6.5 million were for areas where lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis are co-endemic.
- Surveys continued in all the regions to map implementation units with LF transmission.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

In the regions

- Four of the six regional programme review groups met for the first time in 2001, and two had their first meeting in January 2002. In these meetings, roles and effective working mechanisms were discussed and new plans and re-applications for drugs were reviewed.
- Four workshops on mapping were conducted — three in Africa and one for the countries of the Mekong-Plus programme review group.
- Ten participants from India and 12 from other countries in the South-East Asian Region were trained on disability prevention and alleviation in Pondicherry, India.
- Twenty-two programme managers were trained in an interregional workshop for countries in the South-East Asian and Western Pacific Regions in programme planning, implementation, management and monitoring held, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- The 3rd PacELF Annual Meeting took place in Nadi, Fiji on 24-29 September 2001 with twenty-eight participants from 17 countries.

At the global level

- The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met for the second time to discuss the issues of monitoring the safety of mass drug co-administration regimens, verifying the absence of infection and interruption of transmission, preventing and alleviating disability caused by lymphatic filariasis, and the supply and dosage forms of diethylcarbamazine citrate (DEC). On the recommendation of the TAG, the Chairman continued working in close collaboration with the Programme from the second half of 2001. In association with the Secretariat, the current priorities were examined and the topics for discussion by the next TAG identified.
- The process of regionalization of the Programme Review Group was completed. Six regional programme review groups were created, where necessary, based on epidemiological requirements rather than the WHO regional organization.
- As a follow-up to the recommendation of the TAG, the data accumulated from the active surveillance were reviewed with the pharmacovigilance specialist of the TAG. The results indicated that the co-administered regimens were safe for wide-scale use. The reactions were qualitatively and quantitatively similar