

# ***Guinea Worm Disease***

# Tutor's Guide

***For the Training of Village Volunteers  
in Southern Sudan***



**World Health Organization**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

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*Dracunculiasis* (guinea worm disease) is a crippling disease which not only affects the patient dramatically but also imposes a major psychological and financial burden on the family and the community. This disease was targeted for eradication by the World Health Assembly in 1991.

As a result of major efforts on the part of present and previous endemic countries and national and international partners, in 1999 around 96,000 cases were reported from the 13 still endemic countries, all in Africa. This amounted to a reduction of over 95% in the number of cases reported world-wide over the previous ten years.

In 1999, some 66,000 cases were reported by the Sudan Guinea Worm Eradication Programme (SGWEP). Thus, Sudan still has more than 70% of the world's cases. Most of Sudan's cases (99.6%) are located in the southern part of the country where the Ministry of health and Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS)/Southern Sector operate together with a huge community of local and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Despite the very difficult circumstances in which the NGOs and the local partners are operating, with almost 6,500 known endemic villages, many more than 3,000 village volunteers have been trained and are supervised and provided with the necessary material to work effectively in their communities against the disease.

The work done by village volunteers is the fundamental element of any GWEP and proper training and supervision are absolutely essential. Village volunteers need to be trained in newly endemic villages, well supervised, and retrained as necessary.

This guide is addressed to the tutors in charge of the training of the guinea worm village volunteers, to help them in this difficult and crucial task. The tutor's guide has been developed as a tool for harmonizing and standardizing the training of the village volunteers in Sudan, according to the norms and principles of the Guinea Worm Global Eradication Programme and the specific ones of the Sudan Eradication Programme. It is the result of close collaboration by various workers, including field workers, who made an important contribution during a field test.

However, the document is still being developed; comments and suggestions for improving it will be most welcome.

## **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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This tutor's guide has been designed for guinea worm tutors who train village volunteers in preventing guinea worm disease, and interrupting its transmission.

## **THE GUIDE IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS**

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### **PART 1 includes:**

#### ***Description of the training course***

Here the tutor will find information about the organization of the course and its structure.

#### ***Teaching methods***

Teaching methods are described in detail to help the tutor teach the information in PART 2. All the teaching methods mentioned will be used during the course according to the subject.

#### ***Field practice***

#### ***The tutor's tasks***

The tutor will find a detailed description of his/her role and tasks to carry out before and during the course.

#### ***Timetable***

### **PART 2 consists of six units.**

At the beginning of each unit, the tutor will find a '**Learning Objective**' box.

For each learning objective, the tutor will find a detailed description of the teaching method used and the materials needed for teaching that specific learning objective.

# *Part 1*

**DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAINING COURSE**

**TEACHING METHODS**

**FIELD PRACTICE**

**THE TUTOR'S TASKS**

**TIMETABLE**

## DESCRIPTION OF THE TRAINING COURSE

This training course has been designed for training village volunteers on guinea worm disease in southern Sudan.

### Course objectives

The general objective of this course is to train people chosen from and by the community in the detection, management, control and prevention of guinea worm disease, with a view to elimination.

### At the end of the course village volunteers will be able to:

1. Describe guinea worm disease;
2. Describe the stages of transmission of guinea worm disease;
3. Recognize the signs and symptoms of guinea worm disease;
4. Describe the problems caused by guinea worm disease;
5. Describe the interventions to stop transmission of guinea worm disease;
6. Record and report cases of guinea worm disease;
7. Perform case management, including taking care of the wound;
8. Take the patients' history;
9. Counsel patients with guinea worm, and their families;
10. Describe and perform active case search through home visits;
11. Use the guinea worm filter cloth and demonstrate how to clean and care for it;
12. Implement basic health education (community mobilization initiatives);
13. Organize and conduct a health education session for the community using the guinea worm flip chart;
14. Distribute filter cloth and/or filter pipes to the community;
15. Relate to the supervisor;
16. Explain the basic duties of the village volunteer to the village and promote community mobilization initiatives.

### Course structure

- The course lasts three days, with both morning and afternoon sessions;
- The course is carried out by one tutor, or more if possible and according to the situation;
- Each session lasts 45 minutes, and there is a ten-minute break between sessions;
- Lunch time lasts two hours (12.30 to 14.30).
- At the beginning and at the end of a day, 10-15 minutes are devoted to reviewing the topics taught.

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