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. C ab a a a <sup>1</sup> See [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004\\_08\\_13/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_08_13/en/) and [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004\\_08\\_12/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_08_12/en/)

<sup>1</sup> Voir [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004\\_08\\_13/fr/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_08_13/fr/index.html) et [http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004\\_08\\_12/fr/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_08_12/fr/index.html)

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**Onchocerciasis (river blindness)**  
**Report from the thirteenth**  
**InterAmerican Conference on**  
**Onchocerciasis, Cartagena de Indias,**  
**Colombia**

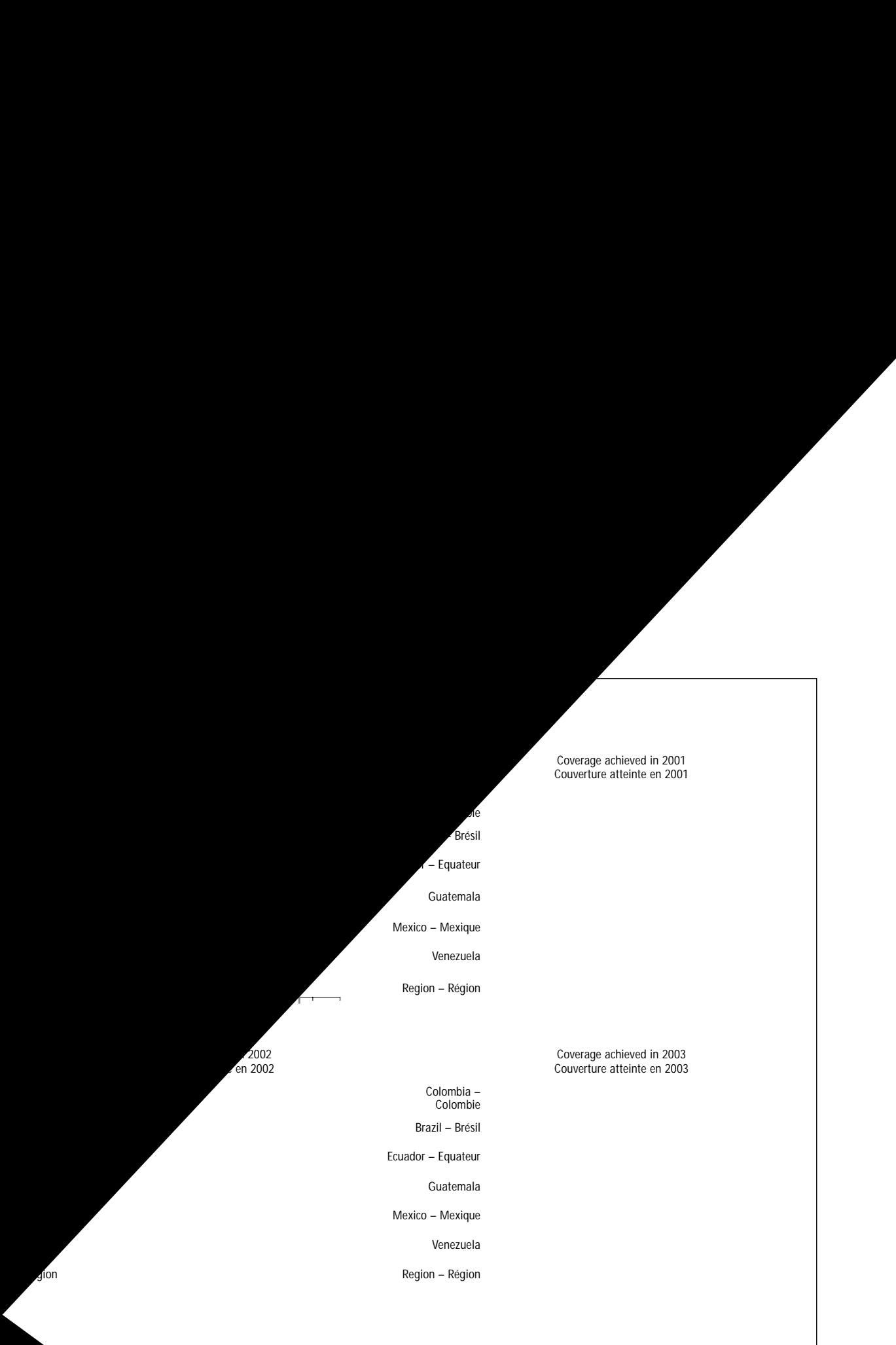
Onchocerciasis, a blinding disease, is caused by the parasite *O. volvulus*. It is transmitted by the bite of infected black fly (Simulium) larvae. The disease is endemic in parts of South America, including Colombia. The InterAmerican Conference on Onchocerciasis (IACO) is the main international forum for the region. The thirteenth IACO was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 November 2003. The meeting was organized by the Colombian Ministry of Health and the InterAmerican Commission on Parasitology and Entomology (IACE). The IACE is a regional organization of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). The IACE is composed of 19 member states and the United States of America. The IACE is co-chaired by the United States of America and Colombia. The IACE is also supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Bank.

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**Treatment activities in 2003**

Treatment activities in 2003 were reported by each country. The following table shows the number of people treated in each country.



Coverage achieved in 2001  
Couverture atteinte en 2001

- Colombia – Colombie
- Brazil – Brésil
- Ecuador – Equateur
- Guatemala
- Mexico – Mexique
- Venezuela
- Region – Région

Coverage achieved in 2002  
Couverture atteinte en 2002

- Colombia – Colombie
- Brazil – Brésil
- Ecuador – Equateur
- Guatemala
- Mexico – Mexique
- Venezuela
- Region – Région

Coverage achieved in 2003  
Couverture atteinte en 2003

