The 2022 Guinea Worm Summit is a timely opportunity to build on the momentum of the recent announcement of the lowest annual human case total ever recorded, and to elevate the global urgency of eradicating Guinea worm disease. In 2021, only 15 human cases were reported in four countries. The priority of the Summit is to spotlight country leadership and secure recommitments from the final Guinea worm-endemic countries (Angola, Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, South Sudan) and pre-certification countries (DRC, Sudan), as well as Cameroon, a country affected by cross-border infection, to expedite the eradication endgame. The three-day event will consist of a programmatic cross-country meeting among Ministers of Health from affected countries, private bilateral meetings with country delegations, and a public signing ceremony to officially launch the

which aims to mobilize political will and secure commitments to achieve the SDG3 and WHO targets on ending all 20 NTDs.

The 2022 Guinea Worm Summit is being held in Abu Dhabi reflects the unwavering commitment of the UAE and its leadership to ending Guinea worm disease, a commitment that began more than 30 years ago with a partnership between the UAE's founder, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan and former US President Jmmy Carter, and continues today with ongoing support from His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi.

The Guinea Worm Summit will celebrate the achievement of the lowest case total in history, which has been made possible by community-driven programs, which have remained 90% operational throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The achievement reflects the success of long term partnerships and a steadfast commitment to the last mile of eradication, which is the longest and most difficult.

The theme for the Guinea Worm Summit is "Mission to Zero," reflecting the dedicated efforts and shared commitment of all who will convene in Abu Dhabi for the event to seeing the end of Guinea worm disease.

The Carter Center is a not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization which has helped to improve life for people in over 80 countries by resolving conflicts; advancing democracy, human rights, and economic opportunity; preventing diseases; and improving mental health care. The Carter Center was founded in 1982 by former U.S. President Jmmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, in partnership with Emory University, to advance peace and health worldwide.

reporting new cases to public health authorities. They do this to protect their neighbors and communities from this painful, parasitic disease.

Article: Regina Lotubai Lomare Lochilangole is a natural born motivator. She created an original song and dance to teach her South Sudan community about Guinea worm disease symptoms and prevention and rewards available for reporting suspected cases. The song er within the

Guinea Worm Eradication Program, titled social mobilizer. Lotubai now travels to different parts of the country to train other volunteers to become social mobilizers.

For more, please visit:

Guinea worm disease could become the second human disease in history, after smallpox, to be eradicated. It would be the first parasitic disease to be eradicated and the first disease to be eradicated without the use of a vaccine or medicine.

In 2021, only 15 cases of Guinea worm disease were reported across 4 remaining countries Ethiopia, Chad, Mali and South Sudan. This represents the lowest case total in history and a decrease from 27 cases in 2020.

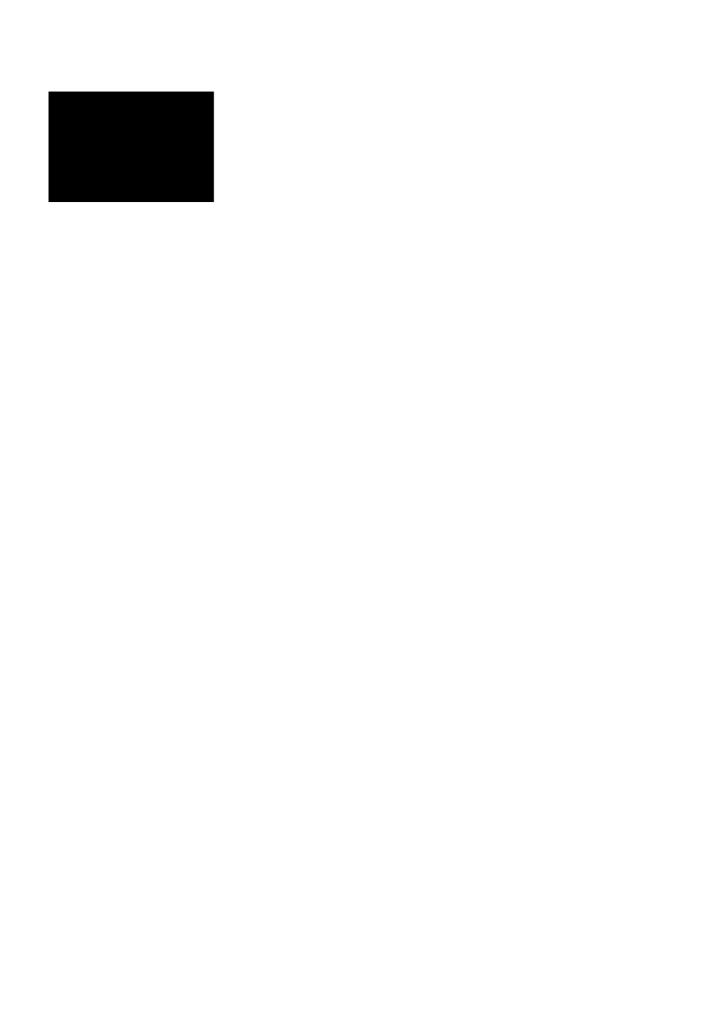
The UAE and its leadership have been committed to fighting NTDs for over 30 years. In er Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan made a personal commitment worm disease. Sheikh Zaye

disease elimination. For more information on the beginning of the partnership between the UAE and The Carter Center, please <u>click here</u>.

In 2020, marking the 30 year anniversary of the partnership between The Carter Center and the leadership of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, Orown Prince of Abu Dhabi, donated \$10 mi

Program, following a \$5 million USD commitment in 2016. Since 2010, His Highness has donated more than \$400 million USD towards efforts to eliminate preventable infectious diseases, including polio, malaria and NTDs.

In 2017, the Reaching the Last Mile Forum in Abu Dhabi featured recognition of the global health champions that have been critical to the effort to eradicate Guinea worm disease. His Highness honoured President Jmmy Carter with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his leadership and commitment and presented four health workers from





For a disease to be eradicated, every country must be certified, even if transmission has never taken place there. After certification, intense surveillance should be maintained until global eradication is declared.