Guinea worm (Dracunculus) is caused by the nematode Dracunculus medinensis. This disease has been found in several African and Asian countries. An individual becomes infected by drinking water containing intermediate hosts as tiny water fleas which harbor infective larvae.

Guinea worm larvae (oncospheres) move to the abdominal tissues where they grow and mature. The fertilized female migrates to various body regions and the males die after mating. After about 12 months of the infection, the oncospheres begin to emerge slowly through the skin of human host. During emergence each worm secretes a toxin that causes a burning blisters appear on the skin, accompanied with pain. Filaments grow and cause in addition to abscesses and ulcers in some cases tetanus which can be fatal. If the infected person steps into a water pond the blisters will rupture and releasing hundreds of thousands of new larvae that continue the cycle of infection. There is no cure for the disease but it is preventable through educating people about simple filtration of their drinking water sources. The disease once present in many parts of the world but it reached the target population in all countries through the provision of the disease additional not put of the agricultural activities is gained as the primary benefit of the programme by increasing the supply of production inputs especially that the occurrence of the problem often coincides with the period of peak agricultural labor demand such as harvest seasons. Thanks to the efforts of many donors, volunteers and partners.

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