

THE END OF THE GUINEA WORM?

Cause Map

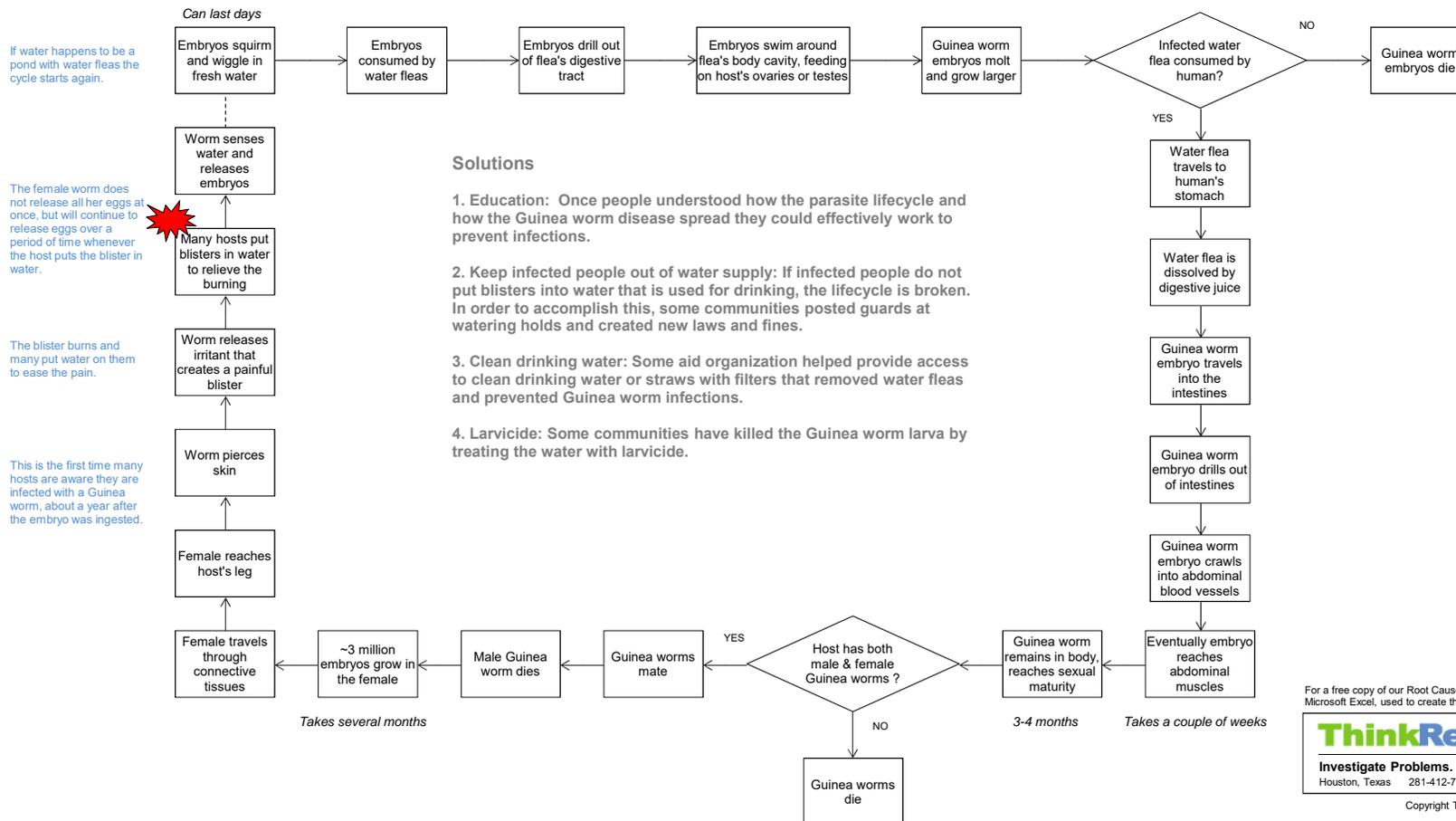
Only 2 confirmed cases of Guinea worm disease in 2016

Guinea worm disease is poised to become the second human disease to be eradicated (after smallpox). In the 1980s, there were millions of cases of Guinea worm disease each year and the number has plummeted to only two confirmed cases so far in 2016, both believed to have been contained before the disease had a chance to spread. This accomplishment is particularly impressive considering that there is no cure or vaccine for Guinea worm disease. In fact, the most effective "cure" for the disease used today is the same one that has been used for thousands of years - to wrap the worm around a stick and slowly pull it.

"Guinea worm has no cure. So everything was about getting people to change their behavior. Getting people to do the right things."

- David Agyemang, who has worked with Ghana's national Guinea worm eradication program

Process Map of the Guinea Worm Lifecycle



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