Trachoma:

#1 is the world’s leading infectious cause of blindness.

SDGs

- elimination directly contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 3.3 calling for an end to NTDs.
- 10.4 million people are at risk of trachoma in the region.
- is being reduced through coordinated actions from partners in the global health and development communities.

Progress to date:

- Three countries in the region have been validated by WHO for achieving elimination (Oman 2012, Morocco 2016, Islamic Republic of Iran 2018).
- 11 million doses of antibiotics have been distributed since 2001 to clear infection and reduce transmission rates.
- WASH: The Islamic Republic of Iran’s elimination of trachoma demonstrates the effectiveness of F&E interventions.
- Collaboration: Between the Yemen Ministry of Health, WHO and implementing partners resulted in the country’s first MDA for trachoma in 2018.

Challenges remain:

- Not enough funding
- Hard-to-reach populations
- Political instability
- Environmental threats
- Insecurity

Key priorities:

- Mapping: Of the 22 countries in the region, three are classified as status uncertain (Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia) and require mapping to identify trachoma burden.
- Barriers to implementation: 123 districts across six countries (Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen) have security challenges affecting implementation of the SAFE strategy.
- Validation dossiers: The regional plan for trachoma elimination includes 12 countries that require support to prepare elimination dossiers.

The elimination of trachoma will also contribute to other SDGs:

- Goal 1: No poverty
- Goal 4: Quality education
- Goal 5: Gender equality
- Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

For more information visit www.trachomacoalition.org