

#EndTrachoma in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region: The time is now

Sources: GET2020 database as of 17 April 2018, WHO Weekly Epidemiological Record, 29 June 2018, vol.93, 26

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