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

Sources: GET2020 database as of 11 March 2019

**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 known to be 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).
- 17 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 without a national trachoma program demonstrates the effectiveness of F&E interventions.
- Collaboration: between endemic countries, implementing partners, WHO and donors through the EMR Trachoma Alliance is supporting interventions in six countries.

**Key priorities:**

- Mapping: 34 million people live in areas that may require interventions, further investigation is needed.
- Barriers to implementation: 199 districts across eight countries (Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen) have hard to reach populations affecting implementation of the SAFE strategy.
- Validation dossiers: The regional plan for trachoma elimination includes 13 countries that require support to prepare elimination dossiers.

**Challenges remain:**

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

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