

Statement on the legacy of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The International Coalition for Trachoma Control (ICTC) is grateful to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for her enduring commitment to citizens of the Commonwealth, and in particular, her championing of the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem.

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust Trachoma Initiative was established to leave a lasting legacy, owned by the whole Commonwealth, in honour of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. From 2014 to 2019, the Trachoma Initiative advanced elimination efforts in 12 Commonwealth countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific through the comprehensive implementation of the WHO-endorsed SAFE strategy.

ICTC is proud to have contributed to the legacy of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which will have a profound and long-lasting impact across the Commonwealth.

“The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust Trachoma Initiative demonstrated what can be achieved when partners work together towards a common goal. It highlighted the power of comprehensive, cross-sectoral investments and coordination between health ministries, donors and implementing partners. ICTC is thankful to Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for her personal championing of the Trachoma Initiative and the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem.”

– Dr Angelia Sanders, Chair, International Coalition for Trachoma Control (2021-2023)

“We are so proud to be part of Her Late Majesty’s legacy through The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust. Sightsavers recently celebrated with Malawi, the first country supported by the initiative to eliminate the painful and blinding disease, trachoma. The Countess of Wessex joined us and spoke movingly that The Queen had known she was returning to Malawi and had heard of their achievement: “[The Queen] was so pleased this was made possible by the fund. We hope this encourages other commonwealth countries to redouble efforts and reach elimination.”

- Dr Caroline Harper, Chief Executive Officer, Sightsavers

“The Fred Hollows Foundation was proud to partner with The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, health ministries, ICTC members, and others across the Commonwealth to accelerate progress towards the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem. A notable achievement was in Vanuatu where trachoma has now been eliminated as a public health problem. This is just one of the Trust’s many achievements. The Fred Hollows Foundation is grateful for the support of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her commitment to ending avoidable blindness.”

– Ian Wishart, Chief Executive Officer, The Fred Hollows Foundation

"Eliminating a disease that has plagued humankind for millennia is not something that any single organization or entity can take on alone. With financial support from The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, ICTC brought together a strong and vibrant partnership that matched country leadership, technical knowledge, and medicine donated by Pfizer Inc. with the needs of those at risk of blindness from trachoma. International Trachoma Initiative is proud to have been part of that partnership and to have contributed to the legacy of Her Late Majesty The Queen."

– Dr Paul Emerson, Director, International Trachoma Initiative

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust, Trachoma Initiative, was a partnership initiative of the International Coalition for Trachoma Control (ICTC), supported by a consortium of ICTC members and many other local NGOs. ICTC members implementing the Trachoma Initiative included AMREF, CBM, Helen Keller International, Johns Hopkins University, Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology, Light for The World, Operation Eyesight, RTI International, Sightsavers, The Carter Center, The Fred Hollows Foundation, WaterAid and World Vision. The International Trachoma Initiative served as the drug donation manager for Zithromax® and ICTC members nominated Sightsavers as the Grant Manager of the Trachoma Initiative.

About The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust was a time-limited charitable foundation, which was established in 2012 to mark and celebrate The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. In January 2020, the Trust successfully completed its programmes and ceased operating as a grant-making organization.