

#EndTrachoma in the WHO Africa Region: The time is now.

Sources: Weekly Epidemiological Record (published 14 July 2023); GET2020 database (as of April 2023)

Trachoma:

#1

is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.



22 countries are known to require interventions for trachoma and 99.6 million are at risk in the region.

SDGs

elimination contributes to Sustainable Development Goal target 3.3 calling for an end to neglected tropical diseases.



is being reduced through coordinated actions from partners in the global health and development communities.

Progress to date:



Six countries

have been validated by WHO for eliminating trachoma as a public health problem (Benin, Ghana, The Gambia, Malawi, Mali, Togo).



Antibiotics

676 million people have received antibiotics to clear infection and reduce transmission since 2011.



Surgery

1.6 million surgeries have been performed to treat trachomatous trichiasis (TT) since 2011.



Collaboration

across sectors is being coordinated to accelerate and sustain progress towards trachoma elimination.

Key priorities:



Mapping

11.5 million people live in areas where trachoma is suspected to be a public health problem.



Surgery

Increased access to TT surgery is needed to treat remaining cases and achieve the elimination threshold for TT.



Research

is needed to better understand persistent and recrudescing trachoma and develop tailored end game strategies.

Challenges remain:



Not enough resources



Hard-to-reach populations



Inequity



Environmental threats



Humanitarian crises

The elimination of trachoma will contribute to multiple Sustainable Development Goals:



**Goal 1:
No poverty**



**Goal 4:
Quality education**



**Goal 5:
Gender equality**



**Goal 6:
Clean water and**



**Goal 17:
Partnerships for the goals**

ICTC International Coalition for Trachoma Control

For more information visit www.trachomacoalition.org