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.
- 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.

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

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 recrudescent 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

For more information visit www.trachomacoalition.org