#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 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 sanitation

**Goal 17:** Partnerships for the goals

For more information visit www.trachomacoalition.org