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

Sources: GET2020 database as of 1 May 2020

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.

10.5 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).

15 million doses
of antibiotics have been distributed since 2011 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
21 million people live in districts where trachoma is suspected to be a public health problem.

Barriers to implementation
103 districts across six countries (Egypt, 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