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

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

Trachoma:

#1
is the world’s leading infectious cause of blindness.

11.4 million people are at risk in five countries known to require interventions 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:

Five countries have been validated by WHO for eliminating trachoma as a public health problem (Oman, Morocco, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Saudi Arabia).

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

WASH
The Islamic Republic of Iran’s elimination of trachoma without a national trachoma program demonstrates the effectiveness of WASH interventions.

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

Generating evidence:

Mapping
21.7 million people live in 96 districts where trachoma is suspected to be a public health problem.

Validation dossiers
The Trachoma EMR Alliance is supporting EMR countries to ensure elimination as a public health problem is prioritised in the region.

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