#EndTrachoma in the WHO Region of the Americas:
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.
- 5.2 million people live in areas that are known to be at risk of trachoma and require interventions.
- Is being addressed through coordinated actions from partners in the global health and development communities.

Progress to date:

- One country in the region has been validated by WHO for achieving elimination (Mexico 2017).
- 1.37 million people received antibiotics to clear infection and reduce transmission rates between 2005 and 2019.
- 6,663 surgeries were performed to treat trachomatous trichiasis (the blinding stage of trachoma) between 2014-2019.

Collaboration between endemic countries, implementing partners, donors & the Pan American Health Organization is supporting interventions in Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru.

Key priorities:

- Integration
  The PAHO Disease Elimination Initiative targets more than 30 diseases, including trachoma, through coordinated multi-sector and multi-stakeholder actions.

- Mapping
  Additional surveys will complete mapping of trachoma in the region and identify vulnerable populations that require interventions.

- Health systems strengthening
  Increased capacity is needed to identify and manage trachomatous trichiasis.

Challenges remain:

- Not enough funding
- Hard-to-reach populations
- Inequalities
- 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