

#EndTrachoma in the WHO Region of the Americas: The time is now.

Sources:
Trachoma Elimination Monitoring Forms reported by countries to PAHO/WHO. 2022.
Regional Program of Neglected Infectious Diseases of PAHO. 2022.
Trachoma elimination in Latin America: prioritization of municipalities for surveillance activities. 2019.

Trachoma:

#1

is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.



5.5 million people are at risk in 4 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:



One country

has been validated by WHO for eliminating trachoma as a public health problem (Mexico).



Antibiotics

1.38 million people received antibiotics to clear infection and reduce transmission between 2005 and 2020.



Surgery

6,683 surgeries have been performed to treat trichomatous trichiasis (the blinding stage of trachoma) between 2014 and 2021.



Collaboration

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

Key priorities:



Mapping

Trachoma surveillance in 183 municipalities in seven countries is required to identify if trachoma is a public health problem.



Health system strengthening

Increased capacity is needed to identify and manage trichomatous trichiasis and integrate health services for NTDs and eye health.



Equity and health

Increased access to SAFE interventions for populations living in hard-to-reach areas including indigenous populations.

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