

#EndTrachoma in the WHO South-East Asia 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.



One country is known to require interventions in the region (India).

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:



Two countries

have been validated by WHO as having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem (Nepal 2018, Myanmar 2020).



Antibiotics

3.3 million people received antibiotics to clear infection and reduce transmission since 2011.



Surgery

17,500 surgeries have been performed to treat trichomatous trichiasis since 2011.



Collaboration

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

Key priorities:



Validation

Pre-validation surveys are needed to verify whether trachoma remains a public health problem.



Trachomatous trichiasis

53,500 cases of trachomatous trichiasis are estimated to be unknown to the health system in the region.

Challenges remain:



Hard-to-reach populations



Inequity



Environmental threats

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