

#EndTrachoma in the WHO Western Pacific 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.



3.6 million people are known to be at risk of trachoma in 7 countries 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:



Four countries

have been validated by WHO for eliminating trachoma as a public health problem (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Vanuatu).



Antibiotics

Nearly three million people have received antibiotics to clear infection and reduce transmission since 2011.



Collaboration

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

Generating evidence:



Facial cleanliness

and environmental improvement, including behaviour change interventions, are needed to reduce transmission and sustain progress.



Research

conducted in Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, and Solomon Islands is improving understanding about the epidemiology of unique presentations of trachoma in the region.



Mapping

66,320 people live in three districts where trachoma is suspected to be a public health problem in Papua New Guinea.

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**

ICTC International Coalition for Trachoma Control

For more information visit www.trachomacoalition.org