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:

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.

Progress to date:

Facial cleanliness and environmental improvements, 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.

Generating evidence:

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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

For more information visit www.trachomacoalition.org