

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

Sources: World Health Organization (July 2025)

Trachoma:

#1

is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.



is known to be a public health problem in 20 countries, affecting more than 96 million people.

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:



9 countries

have been validated by WHO as having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem.*



Antibiotics

Over 750 million people have received antibiotics to clear infection and reduce transmission since 2011.



Surgery

Over 1.8 million surgeries have been performed to treat trachomatous trichiasis (TT) since 2011 .

*Countries include: Benin, Burundi, Gambia, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo.

Key priorities:



Mapping

Three million people live in areas where trachoma is suspected to be a public health problem.



Research

is needed to better understand persistent and recrudescing trachoma and develop tailored end game strategies.



TT surgery

Increased access to TT surgery is needed to treat remaining cases and achieve the elimination threshold for TT.

Challenges remain:



Not enough resources



Hard-to-reach populations



Persistent and recrudescing trachoma



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