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

Sources: Weekly Epidemiological Record (data as of 15 April 2024)

Trachoma:

#1
is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness.

is known to be a public health problem in six countries, affecting 3.2 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:

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

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
67,646 people live in 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**