

# TRACHOMA



## + Impact goal

**Elimination** of trachoma as a public health problem

## + Elimination targets

• **<5%** prevalence of trachomatous inflammation–follicular (TF) among children aged 1–9 years

• **<0.2%** prevalence of trachomatous trichiasis (TT) unknown to the health system in adults ≥15 years, and providing evidence that health systems can continue to identify and manage incident cases of TT

## + Programmatic targets

• **≥80%** coverage of mass drug administration (MDA) with azithromycin in endemic areas

• **≥80%** of confirmed TT cases managed (epilation, surgery)

## Action steps to achieve elimination

## Best buys

### 1 Sustained implementation of the “SAFE” strategy:

–Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness, and Environmental improvement.

### 2 Surgery :

–Offer TT surgery to prevent blindness and improve quality of life.

### 3 Antibiotics:

–Mass administration of azithromycin in at-risk populations; monitor coverage and impact.

### 4 Facial cleanliness:

–Educate communities on face cleanliness, especially in children.

### 5 Improved water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH):

–Coverage to reduce transmission.

### 6 Robust surveillance:

–Map endemic areas, monitor clinical indicators, and verify elimination targets.

## More information

• Pan American Health Organization. Trachoma. Washington, D.C.: PAHO; 2025 [cited 10 April 2025]. Available from: <https://www.paho.org/en/topics/trachoma>.

• International Trachoma Initiative. The SAFE strategy for trachoma control: poised for rapid scale-up. Decatur: ITI; 2014. Available from: <https://www.trachoma.org/blog/safe-strategy-trachoma-control-poised-rapid-scale>.

• World Health Organization. WHO Alliance for the Global Elimination of Trachoma: progress report on elimination of trachoma, 2023. Wkly Epidemiol Rec. 2024;99(28):363–380. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-wer9928-363-380>.



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