

MEXICO

Initiative for the Elimination of Trachoma in the Americas

A platform to bring comprehensive health care to the most vulnerable communities

Mexico maintains trachoma elimination and shares the experiences and lessons learned to advance toward regional goals

Mexico was the first country in the Region to eliminate trachoma as a public health problem in 2017. Since then, it has continued surveillance efforts and sustained promotion and prevention activities to maintain its achievement and prevent resurgence of the disease. In recent years, the country has taken steps to improve access to safe water in priority areas and address chronic forms of the disease.

Ocular trachoma is the leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide. In the Americas, Mexico eliminated the disease as a public health problem in 2017, followed by El Salvador in July 2026. Guatemala and Paraguay

are the countries closest to validating elimination of the disease, which remains a public health problem in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. Other countries, such as Bolivia and Venezuela, have communities that may require interventions. Meanwhile, the disease is suspected to be present in Ecuador, Guyana, and Panama. It is important to implement surveillance measures in these countries to confirm whether or not the condition is a public health problem.

A partnership between the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Government of Canada aims not only to eliminate trachoma but also, through the integration of activities, to strengthen primary healthcare services in the most vulnerable communities, build the capacity of Ministry of Health workers in the 12 participating countries, and demonstrate the value of international cooperation in achieving more resilient health systems and a better future for all.

What actions has Mexico implemented to maintain trachoma elimination?

As part of the Initiative for the Elimination of Trachoma in the Americas, with technical cooperation from PAHO and funding from the Government of Canada, the Chiapas State Health Secretariat has sustained post-elimination surveillance efforts, implementing measures to manage cases of trichomatous trichiasis – the chronic form of the disease – as well as health promotion initiatives and the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) strategy in the five previously endemic municipalities.

In addition, more than 700 people have completed the online course “Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and health: Working together.”

With the design and implementation of a post-validation trachoma “plus” surveillance survey, the country has positioned itself as a global pioneer in conducting this type of study, strengthening the evidence supporting the resulting outcomes.



For more information, scan the QR code to watch the video on the actions implemented.

[Mexico continues efforts to maintain trachoma elimination](#)

For more information, see:
<https://www.paho.org/en/topics/trachoma>

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What key actions will Mexico take to maintain trachoma elimination?

In 2026, Mexico reaffirmed its commitment to conducting post-elimination surveillance to preserve the progress made:

- **Post-elimination surveillance:** Maintain activities that support the continued identification and management of TT cases.
- **Training for health workers:** Build the capacities of health workers to maintain trachoma surveillance and promptly identify other visual problems.
- **Strengthening other public health measures:** Leveraging the trachoma platform to implement other interventions in priority communities, with a gender-focused and intercultural approach.
- **Progress toward the regional and global goal:** Sustain the elimination of trachoma as a public health problem in Mexico and continue sharing experiences, lessons learned, and best practices to contribute to the attainment of regional and global goals on the elimination of the disease.

The Initiative for the Elimination of Trachoma in the Americas is aligned with PAHO's efforts to eliminate more than 30 diseases and related conditions by 2030, through an integrated and sustainable approach that promotes collaboration across sectors and within health systems.

