



The International Trachoma Initiative (ITI) was founded in 1998 in response to the World Health Organization's (WHO) call to achieve global elimination of trachoma. ITI's founding partners, Pfizer Inc. and the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, saw the need for an international non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated solely to the elimination of trachoma as a public health threat. The ITI is currently administered by the Task Force for Global Health, an independent not for profit. ITI collaborates with governmental and NGO agencies as well as donors at the local, national and international levels to implement the WHO-recommended "SAFE" strategy for trachoma control and management of Pfizer-donated antibiotics.

TRACHOMA IS THE LEADING INFECTIOUS CAUSE OF BLINDNESS

Trachoma is an infectious eye disease caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*, which causes eyelids to turn in and lashes to scrape the eyeball, causing great pain, corneal ulcers and irreversible blindness unless treated with antibiotics or a simple surgical procedure. Trachoma can destroy the economic well-being of entire communities by keeping families in a cycle of poverty.

137M

in 51 countries at risk of Trachoma

85%

of global burden is in Africa

1.9M

people have been visually impaired

USD \$2.9-5B

lost in productivity per year due to Trachoma

IMPLEMENTING THE "SAFE" STRATEGY TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH

The "SAFE" strategy implemented by elimination partners is a WHO-recommended public health approach that combines interventions of:

S



Surgery to treat the blinding stage of the disease

A



Antibiotics to treat and prevent active infection

F



Facial cleanliness to prevent disease transmission

E



Environmental improvement, particularly to increase access to water and sanitation

ITI and Pfizer deliver on the "A" component of the "SAFE" strategy by supplying the Pfizer-donated antibiotics. ITI is based in Decatur, Georgia, with a regional office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. ITI specifically assists with:

- Developing supply chain capacity where needed and providing logistical assistance to ensure delivery of antibiotics to where it is most needed
- Conducting trachoma control research and monitoring and evaluation of trachoma control programs
- Mobilizing resources for trachoma control programs
- Encouraging the adoption and implementation of all components of the "SAFE" strategy for a comprehensive, sustainable approach

MAKING REAL PROGRESS, TOGETHER WITH PARTNERS

To date, ITI has coordinated the donation of more than 900 million doses of Pfizer-donated antibiotics to help treat more than 100 million people across 40 countries globally. This watershed milestone signifies the tremendous progress made since 1998 by global partners toward global trachoma elimination.

ITI is one of many partners working across the globe to implement the "SAFE" strategy in areas with greatest need. Members carry out activities essential for trachoma elimination, including epidemiological assessment, project implementation, disease surveillance, project evaluation and resource mobilization with oversight from the WHO and endemic countries' governments.

Commitments and funding for these activities are provided by the United States Agency for International Development, the United Kingdom Department for International Development, and members of the International Coalition for Trachoma Control, a strong and collaborative NGO community that provides critical technical and programmatic support to countries with greatest need. Alliance members include The Carter Center, The Fred Hollows Foundation, Helen Keller International, ITI, Light for the World, Lions Clubs International Foundation, Orbis International, RTI International, Sightsavers, and many others.



184M+ people treated for trachoma with antibiotics in 2018 and 2019



100+ partners working together to eliminate trachoma globally

WORKING TOWARDS ELIMINATION, ONE COUNTRY AT A TIME

As a result of these global efforts, since 2012, **Cambodia, China, Iran, Ghana, Laos, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal and Oman** have received validation from the WHO as having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem.*

However, it is estimated that **trachoma is responsible for the blindness or visual impairment of 1.9 million people**. While each country may face different barriers and challenges, continued and focused support is needed to ensure that all components of the "SAFE" strategy are implemented and sustained by multiple partners to eliminate trachoma as a public health threat.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO GET INVOLVED, PLEASE VISIT WWW.TRACHOMA.ORG

*Not all countries listed receive Pfizer-donated antibiotics through the International Trachoma Initiative