



REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

World Health
Organization
South-East Asia

Terminating **TRACHOMA**

How Myanmar eliminated blinding trachoma

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Acronyms and abbreviations

MoHS	Ministry of Health and Sports
MDA	mass drug administration
MVEHE	model village eye health examination
PEC	primary eye care
SEC	secondary eye care
TC&PBL	Trachoma Control and Prevention of Blindness
TEO	tetracycline eye ointment
TF	trachomatous inflammation – follicular
TT	trachomatous trichiasis
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
VEHE	village eye health examination
SAFE	surgery, antibiotics, facial cleanliness, environmental improvement
SEHE	school eye health examination
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

Foreword



Eliminating diseases on the verge of elimination is one of the South-East Asia Region's eight Flagship Priorities. In 2005, trachoma – an easily preventable disease – was responsible for 4% of all cases of blindness in Myanmar. By 2018 the population prevalence of trachoma was down to a mere 0.008%. Across Myanmar, trachoma is no longer a public health problem.

To eliminate trachoma, Myanmar adopted a multi-pronged approach that promoted access to good hygiene infrastructure and clean water, and which strengthened the country's multi-tiered eye care system to enhance prevention and treatment. These interventions, coupled with behavioural change campaigns that achieved widespread buy-in, rapidly reduced the impact of the disease, ensuring that people of all ages could look towards a trachoma-free future with less poverty and enhanced development and well-being.

Myanmar's three-phase approach to eliminating trachoma has been a great success, which I am certain will continue. The country's visionary National Eye Health Plan 2017-2021, which is closely aligned with international policies for prevention of blindness, makes me confident that Myanmar will maintain its elimination status and will continue its winning trajectory in other areas of health.

It is with great joy that I extend my sincerest greetings and congratulations to the people and leadership of Myanmar on this momentous milestone.

Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh
Regional Director
WHO, SEARO



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