



World Health Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR  
South-East Asia



# Terminating **TRACHOMA**

How Myanmar eliminated blinding trachoma



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# Acronyms and abbreviations

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Poonam Khetrapal".

**Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh**  
Regional Director  
WHO, SEARO

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