
REPORT OF THE 18TH MEETING
OF THE WHO ALLIANCE FOR
THE GLOBAL ELIMINATION OF

TRACHOMA BY 2020

ADDIS ABABA, 28–29 APRIL 2014



**World Health
Organization**



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Abbreviations and acronyms

DFID	United Kingdom Department for International Development
GTMP	Global Trachoma Mapping Project
ICTC	International Coalition for Trachoma Control
ITI	International Trachoma Initiative
MDA	mass drug administration
NGO	nongovernmental organization
NTD	neglected tropical disease
SAFE	Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness, Environmental improvement
TAP	Trachoma Action Plan
TEMF	Trachoma Elimination Monitoring Form
TF	trachomatous inflammation – follicular
TT	trachomatous trichiasis
UIG	Ultimate Intervention Goal
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	water, sanitation and hygiene

Introduction, opening ceremony and purpose

The 18th meeting of the WHO Alliance for the Global Elimination of Trachoma by 2020 (GET2020) was held at the United Nations Conference Centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 28–29 April 2014. Its purpose was to assess progress on the elimination of trachoma, distil learning and establish priorities in order for all countries to meet the 2020 target.

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Dr Teshome Gebre, Regional Director for Africa of the International Trachoma Initiative (ITI) and head of the local organizing committee, welcomed participants to the meeting and introduced the officiates of the opening ceremony: Dr Pierre Kilebou M’Pelé, WHO Representative, Ethiopia; Dr Dirk Engels, Director, Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), WHO/Geneva; and His Excellency Dr Keseteberhan Admasu, Minister, Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia. The officiates shared words of welcome and wishes for success during the course of the meeting.

Dr Pierre Kilebou M’Pelé noted that trachoma control is achievable through strong partnerships for implementation of the “SAFE” (Surgery, Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness, Environmental improvement) strategy, confirmed WHO’s commitment to those partnerships and promised vigorous support to trachoma elimination efforts. Dr Dirk Engels recalled the recent transition of responsibility for trachoma within WHO to the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases. He gave the Department’s full backing to the goals of GET2020. Dr Keseteberhan Admasu reminded participants that Ethiopia has the highest burden of trachoma in the world, and thanked the Alliance for choosing Addis Ababa as the venue for the 18th meeting. He committed Ethiopia’s network of more than 35 000 health extension workers and countless health development army personnel to participate in the fight against trachoma.

The two-day meeting was conducted in open sessions for which Chairs and Co-chairs were appointed as follows: Abdissa Kurikie and Boubacar Sarr (session 1); Georges Yaya and Sheila West (session 2); Lucienne Bella and Yael Velleman (session 3); and Serge Resnikoff and Dirk Engels (session 4).

The agenda is contained in *Annex 1* and the list of participants in *Annex 2*.

SESSION 1

SHOWCASE: ETHIOPIA

Mr Oumer Shafi, NTD Coordinator, Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia

2 Ethiopia has made important progress in the elimination of trachoma. The annual number of azithromycin treatments administered has increased from 400 000 in 2006 to 22 497 883 in 2013. Region-specific trachoma action plans (TAPs) have been developed in some regions. Mapping is almost completed in all suspected endemic districts. The SAFE strategy is being implemented in full in many endemic areas.

Surgery: By 2013, a cumulative total of 855 491 trichiasis surgeries had been done; an additional 133 940 surgeries were done in 2013

Facial cleanliness: Of the population living in known endemic areas, 75% have received hygiene and sanitation education by 38 000 health educators trained for this purpose.

Environmental improvement: Some 7 915 949 latrines have been built; an estimated 6 million remain to be constructed. However, current latrine utilization is low (20%). Access to potable water has increased.

The success of the programme results from a number of factors, including the development of trachoma action plans in three of the most heavily endemic regions. These regions are now preparing comprehensive NTD plans that will include the TAPs. Also credited with the success of the programme are the various reference documents and guides that

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