**INTRODUCTION**

- Trachoma is an eye infection through the bacteria, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, and is easily washed away with clean water.
- Trachoma is still responsible for visual impairment or blindness of 1.9 million people globally.
- Trachoma begins with irritation and inflammation of eyelash follicles, leading to an inward distortion of the eyelid causing the eyelashes to scar the cornea.
- Many cases of infection do not cause damage immediately, but in cases where the bacteria is contracted repeatedly, the damage is likely to occur.
- Blindness can be prevented with prompt administration of antibiotics or surgery.
- The bacteria responds well to antibiotics.
- If the infection causes too much distortion of the eyelid, surgery would then be required.

**HOW IT SPREADS**

- Trachoma is often transmitted through ocular secretions in linens and overcrowded areas.
- This leaves young children at risk of infection due to sharing of blankets and other utilities.
- With adequate sanitation and water access, Trachoma infections can be reduced.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**Impact of Trachoma**

- Infection affects 22 million people with 1.9 million blind or severely visually impaired.
- Highest infected countries:
  - Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan
  - Young children and mothers affected by infection; screening for trichiasis begins at age 15

**SAFE STRATEGY & GET 2020**

- World Health Organization (WHO) started the SAFE initiative in 1993 with the goal of eliminating Trachoma by 2020.
  - Surgery to reverse eyelid distortion and prevent further damage to the cornea.
  - Antibiotics to stop the infection and prevent the distortion of the eyelid.
  - Facial cleanliness for preventative actions against contraction.
  - Environmental improvement to supply of water and cleanliness in homes.

- In 2017, about 2.31 thousand individuals had corrective surgery and 83.5 million had been administered antibiotics.

**RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER**

- The Right to Sight is universal and is essential for a sufficient life, everyone has the right to Clean Water and Clear Vision.
- It is devastating that a preventable disease is causing blindness in millions of people.
- When Trachoma can be easily prevented with clean water and a clean environment, there is no debate that clean water is both necessary for life, health and a human right.

**REFERENCES & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

- [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/trachoma](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/trachoma)
- [https://phil.cdc.gov/](https://phil.cdc.gov/)
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