

# ERADICATING TRACHOMA, ONCE AND FOR ALL

*Trachoma was once the leading cause of blindness worldwide*

*Experts now foresee trachoma eradication ...*

*But not before 2060—we believe that's not soon enough*

University of California, San Francisco  
F.I. Proctor Foundation  
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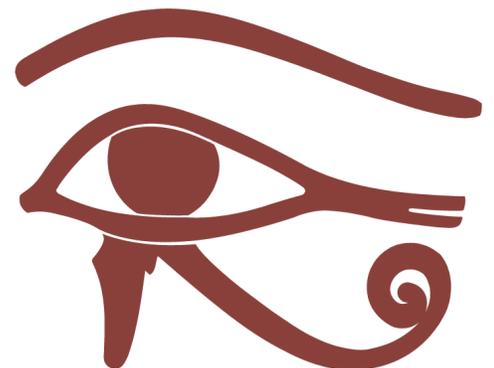
*Photos by Dominique Catton*

The WHO strategy has controlled trachoma over much of the world. But in some of the poorest, most difficult to reach areas, a decade of treatments have barely made a dent. People are still going blind. **We know from scientific trials how to supplement the WHO strategy and completely eradicate this blinding disease.**

Policy can take years if not decades to change, even in the presence of clear scientific evidence. Fortunately projects initiated by academics, approved by international ethical boards, and implemented by Ministries of Health can be rolled out immediately, cutting through red tape.

## WHAT IS TRACHOMA?

Trachoma is a debilitating eye disease leading to irreversible blindness. Nearly 2 million of the world's most impoverished people are affected by this neglected tropical disease. Trachoma is caused by a bacteria. Fortunately cases can be treated with antibiotics. With your help, it could be the second human disease to ever be *eradicated from the planet.*



## ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

**Control** . The WHO, Ministries of Health, NGOs, and University partners have successfully controlled trachoma in many affected areas worldwide, but not all. *Control is defined as the reduction of infection to a locally acceptable level.*

**Elimination**. We and others have shown elimination in areas that used to have terrible disease. These regions include Nepal, the Gambia, portions of Niger, and Ghana. *Elimination is the reduction of infection to zero in a defined area.*

**Eradication**. We have proven that infection can be completely eradicated in the most severely affected communities, but that will require supplementing the WHO strategy. *Eradication is defined as the permanent reduction of infection to zero worldwide.*



## CONTACT US

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## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Ethiopia has the worst trachoma in the world and will be the last place on Earth to eliminate infection. If we can eliminate trachoma in Ethiopia, global eradication is a mere formality.

Your donation contributes toward:

- Distributing treatments
- Building local laboratories
- Implementating cellscope technology
- Establishing regional photo grading centers
- Creating locally trained Trachoma Corps



**Eradicate trachoma in 2 full districts (\$1 million).** *We and academic partners are currently implementing intensive efforts above and beyond the WHO strategy under research protocols in 4 districts of the Weghemra zone in the Amhara Region of Ethiopia. We can extend to the 2 remaining districts in Weghemra, AND document elimination.*

**Eradicate in the zone next door (\$5 million).** *We can extend our supplemental treatments to the 8 remaining rural districts in North Wollo zone to cover the entirety of these two zones that have some of the worst trachoma we have ever seen. If we can eliminate infection in Weghemra and North Wollo, we can eliminate it anywhere.*

**Above and beyond (\$10 million).** *In conjunction with the Fred Hollows Foundation, the Oromia Regional Health Bureau has already initiated the WHO trachoma control program in Amhara Region's next-door neighbor, Oromia. We have identified 30 districts in Oromia as problematic, requiring more intensive supplementary treatments.*

