



HOW THE INTERNATIONAL TRACHOMA INITIATIVE WORKS

Mission

The International Trachoma Initiative (ITI) is dedicated to eliminating blinding trachoma, the world's leading cause of preventable blindness.

What ITI Does

ITI helps implement the SAFE strategy—a public health model developed by the World Health Organization (WHO)—which has been proven to eliminate blinding trachoma, a neglected tropical disease (NTD).

ITI is part of the WHO's Alliance for the Global Elimination of Trachoma by 2020 (GET 2020).

Building on trachoma elimination success in Morocco, ITI currently works in 15 of the 56 countries around the world where trachoma is endemic.

How ITI Works

ITI accomplishes its work by:

- **Collaborating** with partner organizations, governmental and nongovernmental agencies, and national ministries to support implementation of the “S” and “A” components of SAFE:
 - **Surgery**: ITI supports surgery for trichiasis, the advanced stage of trachoma, which causes blindness
 - **Antibiotics**: ITI provides Pfizer-donated Zithromax® and supports its administration
- **Promoting** the “Facial cleanliness” and “Environmental improvement” components of SAFE
- **Providing** technical assistance to countries and partner organizations, including logistical assistance, trachoma control research, and monitoring and evaluation of trachoma control programs
- **Fundraising** and **mobilizing** local and international resources for trachoma control programs
- **Integrating** trachoma control into approaches to eliminate other NTDs
- **Advocating** for trachoma to be included in wider health and development agendas, including those which target the improvement of a community's water supply, sanitation, access to education, and which seek to improve the lives of women and children