

**35th WEDC International Conference,
Loughborough, UK, 2011
6-8th July 2011**

**The Elimination of Blinding Trachoma in
Ghana through Improving Access to
Water and Latrines**

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Sightsavers

Presentation Structure

- Introduction and Background Information
- Risk Factors and How Trachoma Causes Blindness
- Treatment and Control- The SAFE Strategy
- Epidemiology of Trachoma in Ghana
- Key Activities and Achievements: the SAFE Strategy
- Impact
- Discussion
- Conclusion and Recommendation

Introduction and Background Information

- Trachoma -leading cause of preventable blindness
- 40.6m people estimated suffering from active trachoma
- 8.2m estimated to have trichiasis- the advanced stage
- 57 countries endemic world wide; 28 of them in Africa
- WHO Criteria for elimination:
 - Prevalence of active trachoma (TF) less than 5% in children 1-9 years and
 - Prevalence of trachoma trichiasis (TT) is less than 1 case per 1000 population

Risk Factors for Trachoma and How Trachoma Causes Blindness

- Dusty Environment
- Dirty Environment
- Dry Environment



- Flies
- Fingers
- Fomites (shared towels, sponges, hand towels, cosmetics tools, etc)



Trachomatous scarring (TS)



Trachomatous trichiasis (TT)



Corneal opacity (CO)

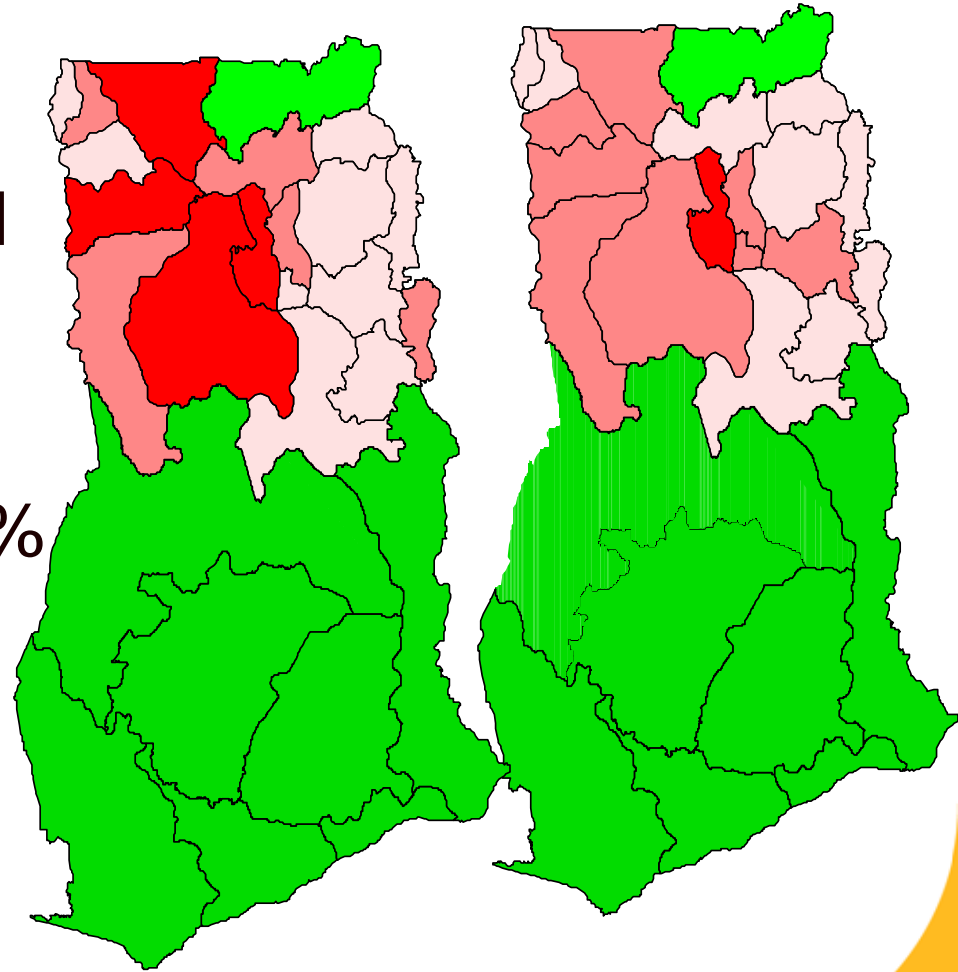
How Trachoma is Treated and Controlled: The SAFE Strategy

- **Surgery**
- **Antibiotics**
- **Facial Cleanliness**
- **Environmental Improvement**



Epidemiology of Trachoma at Baseline in Ghana-2000-2003

- Active Trachoma: 2.8-16%
 - 2.8 Million people at risk
 - 1.0 million people needed treatment with antibiotics
- Trichiasis (TT) : 0.4 to 8.4 %
 - Backlog at inception: 13,234
- Water coverage: 50%
Sanitation coverage:0-1%



Key Activities & Achievements: Implementing the SAFE Strategy

- **Surgery:** Over 5,000 people benefited from lid surgery
- **Antibiotics:** 3.3 million doses of Azithromycin used to treat about 1.0 million people
- **Facial Cleanliness:** Communities and school children reached with health education messages
- **Environmental Improvement:**
 - Over 5,354 safe water sources
 - ≈12,000 Household latrines provided



"I used to have pain all day but now no more pain. I am happy"

Impact Assessment Results in 2007-2008



- Water coverage: Improved from 50% to 80%
- Latrine coverage improved from 0-1% to 2-38%
- Backlog of people with trichiasis reduced to <5,000.
- Active trachoma reduced from 16.1% to 2.8%
- % of children with clean faces rose from 70% to 93%

- Risk factors for trachoma- 3Ds mitigated by water
- Eliminating blinding trachoma leads to poverty reduction
- Lives of individuals and communities improved
- The F&E components helps to maintain the gains of A
- Development in countries led to Trachoma elimination
- Trachoma Control: an issue of development
- SAFE strategy contributes towards the MDGs- 4,5,6,7&8

Conclusion and Recommendation Sightsavers

- Conclusions:
 - Implementing the full SAFE strategy brought Ghana close to the elimination of trachoma blindness
 - Strong partnership of both medical and socio-development agencies and organizations contributed greatly
- Recommendation:
 - Agencies in water and sanitation to be partners of trachoma blindness elimination programmes in endemic countries.

