

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS AND DEAFNESS

Guidelines for
RAPID ASSESSMENT
for
blinding trachoma

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Trachoma Rapid Assessment

Acknowledgements

This document was developed and printed with the support of:

The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation
Pfizer Corporate Philanthropy
The Task Force of the International Agency for the Prevention of
Blindness

Technical assistance provided for the development and/or field testing
of these guidelines is gratefully acknowledged from the following:

Dr Y. Chami-Khazraji
Ministry of Health, Morocco

Dr H. Fall
Ministry of Health, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs, Banjul, The
Gambia

Dr H. Limburg
Bovenkarspel, The Netherlands

Professor D. Mabey
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, England

Dr S. P. Mariotti
Prevention of Blindness and Deafness, World Health Organization,
Geneva, Switzerland

Dr R. Pararajasegaram
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Dr D. Sacko
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Dr J.-F. Schémann
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Trachoma Rapid Assessment

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Foreword

Purposes of the document

This document introduces the concept and methodology of Rapid Assessment (RA) for those seeking to control and eliminate trachoma-related problems through cost-effective interventions.

The purposes of the document are:

- “ To enable eye-health managers to collect data in order to develop a plan of action based on community needs;
- “ To make rational use of scarce resources for data collection with a view to optimizing the benefits of trachoma control activities.

The document provides both a checklist of information needed and an approach for obtaining data that will enable planners to identify the existence of trachoma-related problems and plan action to provide solutions.

Using all the data obtained, eye-health managers will be in a position to rank the endemic zones in order of priority and need for control measures. They should also be in a position to predict the number of communities and the size of the population that will require coverage by an active trachoma control or elimination campaign (such as surgery for trichiasis, distribution of topical or systemic antibiotics, or other community-based interventions) for a given level of endemicity.

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