

## Trachoma initiative

### CELEBRATING SUCCESS ON THE ROAD TO NATIONAL TRACHOMA ELIMINATION IN UGANDA

Today, a celebration takes place in Dokolo, Uganda, where, due to the Trachoma Initiative Expansion (TIE) into 6 (DLI) new districts in the East, West and North of Uganda with the support of Lions Clubs International Foundation.

The celebration event will be attended by senior country officials including representatives from the Ministry of Health and other key partners involved in the delivery of the Trust's Trachoma Initiative in Uganda.

Uganda is a trachoma-endemic country in East Africa where an estimated 10 million\* people are at risk of developing the disease. The Trust's Trachoma Initiative was launched in Uganda in November 2014 to tackle the disease. It is anticipated that this expansion in the Trachoma Initiative, matching work funded by USAID, will enable Uganda to achieve national elimination of trachoma across the country by early 2019.

Trachoma is caused by a bacterium called chlamydia trachomatis and it affects both children and adults. If not treated, trachoma can lead to irreversible blindness. The careful distribution of azithromycin helps reduce the prevalence of trachoma by interrupting the life cycle of trachoma causing microorganisms. The mass antibiotic distribution is funded and delivered by USAID / RTI through their 'Envision' programme. All antibiotic drugs for the programme have been donated by Pfizer.

The Trust's Trachoma Initiative supports both the surgery required to help those who already have trachoma trichiasis and investments in facial cleanliness and environmental improvement activities. All people with the advanced stage of the disease are offered free surgery under this programme. This simple operation corrects their in-turned eyelashes and

*and our remarkable partners towards the elimination of the disease across the country by 2019."*

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust ('the Trust') is a charitable foundation established

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**About the ICTC Implementing partners in Uganda**

The Trachoma Initiative in Uganda is being coordinated by