



The Download June 2019 – Special issue!

The Tropical Data team has been busy updating its [protocol writing guide](#), [training materials](#), and data collection and management processes, reflecting (1) your responses to our feedback survey, (2) the latest WHO recommendations made as a result of the [4th Global Scientific Meeting on Trachoma](#) held in Geneva in November 2018, and (3) the latest WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene ([JMP](#)) core questions for households.

Here is a summary of key Tropical Data changes:



Photo credit: RTI International



At the 4th Global Scientific Meeting on Trachoma, the definition of Trichomatous Trichiasis (TT) was changed to: "at least one eyelash from the upper eyelid touches the eyeball, or evidence of recent epilation of in-turned eyelashes from the upper eyelid."

- ▲ Presence or absence of trichiasis, and questions on previous healthcare management if trichiasis is present, will now be collected for upper and lower eyelid separately.

WASH:

- ▲ Options and definitions have been modified in-line with JMP questions and descriptions, for:
 - Water source
 - Time to collect water
 - Where adults defecate
 - Handwashing facility (now asked for all households, regardless of latrine/ toilet presence)

In addition to the above, the training materials have been modified, including:

- Recorder training starting on day 1.
- A formal recorder reliability test.
- Routine use of follicle size guides for TF diagnosis in training and in surveys.
- Use of 3D images for training in diagnosis of trichiasis.
- Greater emphasis on training for trichiasis and TS grading.
- More team training, particularly of trachoma survey methodology.
- Greater emphasis on supervision.

Data management, analysis and reporting have also been updated in-line with these changes. If you have any questions on data, please contact support@tropicaldata.org



➔ Share your survey stories with us, including photos! #TropicalData

If you have a survey planned and your protocol has already been approved as conforming to WHO recommendations, WHO has confirmed the protocol does not need modifying to take these changes into account.

Any protocols submitted after WHO publication of the 4th Global Scientific Meeting on Trachoma report will be reviewed according to these new recommendations.

To allow time for training to be rolled out and to maintain quality standards, training and surveys using the new methodology will be able to start from Monday 15th July 2019 onwards. This is in-line with our usual requirement to have 6 weeks' notice to support a project and follows the Tropical Data refresher Training for Trainers taking place in Tanzania 8-12th July, which will focus on these changes.

Please [get in touch](#) if you have any questions.

Feedback survey!

Thanks to everyone who completed our feedback survey earlier this year. It was an incredibly useful exercise, giving us a chance to listen to you, the users of the Tropical Data service. Thanks also to those who left your details so we could follow up with you on your responses.

Here are some of the key highlights and results:

61 people responded

92% said they would use Tropical Data again

RESPONDENTS BY WHO REGION



RESPONDENTS BY POSITION



You asked, we respond...

The key message we want to share is: if you have a question, please ask!

Some of your questions and comments (and our responses!):

- Having a standardised budgeting template (available on our [resources page](#))
- [Protocol guidance](#) for routine programmatic surveys, including reference to WHO recommendations (see our [resources page](#))
- Scope for operational research (please [get in touch](#) if this is something of interest)
- Using the website (we have been busy updating some of our pages, automated emails and website signposting)
- Data cleaning, and how countries can be more involved (more resources are being planned, in the meantime please [get in touch](#) if you have any questions)

"I strongly appreciate the technical assistance to countries and the availability of the services. It is a quality that should be maintained."

You scored us:

- **4.21 out of 5 overall for Survey Planning support**, taking into account start-up planning, the application process, protocol development, national trainings and communication
- **4.30 out of 5 overall for our Data Management service**, taking into account our app, routine data updates, support for the cleaning, approval and analysis of data, access, and communication
- **4.46 out of 5 for the Tropical Data service overall**

"In all of my interactions with the Tropical Data team the engagement has been timely and professional and always focused on best support for the national program."

- Data analysis code (now available on [GitHub](#))
- Sharing data with partners (for partner access to data, the trachoma coordinator from the health ministry is able to: [log in](#) and grant access; [log in](#) to download results and forward them directly via email; or they can email support@tropicaldata.org to authorise sharing of results with nominated individuals.)

"More guidance", in the form of webinars, videos and website resources, will also be developed, to address the above points and other comments.

Training materials have been updated taking into account your requests for:

- A focus on how to train, including using the manuals fully
- More emphasis on trichiasis diagnosis
- A focus on supervision
- New IGA test sets (in development)

"Please keep doing what you are doing. It is very much appreciated."

Implementing partner engagement:

- Increased opportunities to engage between NGOs, partners and Tropical Data was requested – [get in contact](#) and give us your suggestions of how to do this!