



Helping you to achieve more with your data

What is Tropical Data?

Tropical Data is a global initiative helping countries to collect high-quality, standardised prevalence data on neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) by supporting health ministries from the start to the end of the survey process.

Using the same standardised approach and technology as the Global Trachoma Mapping Project (GTMP), Tropical Data supports work in some of the world's most remote and difficult environments, helping countries on their path to eliminate these diseases. Tropical Data currently supports countries to carry out baseline, impact, surveillance and TT-only surveys for trachoma, with work under way to support surveys for other NTDs.

How does the process work?

It's important to contact Tropical Data with a minimum of six weeks' notice to ensure everything is in place before the surveys begin. WHO recommends that the following prevalence surveys take place for trachoma (your current in-country work can help you decide when they should start).

Baseline surveys to determine the need for trachoma elimination interventions. Countries will need to undertake five years of antibiotic, facial cleanliness and environmental improvement (AFE) interventions where trachomatous inflammation-follicular (TF) prevalence is 30% or more in children aged 1-9; three years of AFE where TF is 10-29.9%; and one year of AFE where TF is 5-9.9%.

Impact surveys to determine if interventions have achieved the elimination threshold (TF prevalence less than 5%) or if further AFE interventions are needed. These should be conducted six to 12 months after the final planned round of mass drug administration (MDA).

The community must move fast to end the suffering of people with neglected tropical diseases



Tropical Data offers support through each step of the survey process, but country programmes are responsible for delivering and funding in-country implementation. Tropical Data provides:

- epidemiological support for the protocol development and sampling
- planning and budgeting support if required
- qualified trainers and bespoke training support
- support with data collection, storage, cleaning, approvals and analysis

We ensure that surveys are conducted using WHO-approved methodologies, that outputs are of the highest quality, and that health ministries have full ownership of their data.

Surveillance surveys to show that reductions in TF prevalence have been sustained. These should be conducted at least 24 months after the last impact survey has shown a TF prevalence less than 5% in children aged 1-9.

Trachomatous trichiasis (TT)-only surveys are standardised surveys that are rarely required, but are recommended in certain epidemiological contexts. For example, they are recommended where further evidence is needed to confirm an unexpectedly high TT prevalence, or where there is evidence of TT but less than 5% TF.





Where are data stored?

As with the GTMP, data are owned by the country and accessed through a secure web portal. The data are stored, in encrypted form, on a section of a cloud-based server dedicated to the project.

If you wish, trachoma data can be automatically transferred to the joint WHO/ITI GET2020 database so that WHO and International Trachoma Initiative staff can help with applications for donated drugs and the completion of dossiers for validation. District-level prevalence category data are also used to update the open-access Global Atlas of Trachoma and the ESPEN portal.



What are the advantages of the service?

Save money: Having current and accurate data can save substantial programme costs. With data cleaned and analysed in near-real time, you'll have the information you need to properly allocate resources in-country in a timely manner. The service is also free to use and provides significant support at every step of the survey process.

Quality: Our proven approach to supporting globally standardised, epidemiologically robust prevalence surveys, with quality assurance and quality control from the start to the end of the process, ensures quality data for programmatic decision-making and supporting disease control, elimination or eradication claims.

Go with the global standard: Because of its globally standardised training and certification systems, survey protocols that conform to WHO recommendations, field methodologies, and data cleaning process, you and your partners will have confidence in the data generated through Tropical Data.

Who's behind it?

The team behind the service includes the International Trachoma Initiative, RTI International, Sightsavers and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, collaborating closely with WHO, governments, donors, academic institutions, NGOs and other implementing partners to achieve high-quality outcomes.

For information, to register for a survey, to view our resources on planning and delivering surveys, or to access your data, visit **www.tropicaldata.org**

Alternatively, get in touch with the team to discuss your requirements or any questions you have: **admin@tropicaldata.org**



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