



The Download June 2024

We enjoyed seeing so many of you at GET2020 in Tunisia. It was wonderful to celebrate and learn of the progress made in so many countries working to eliminate trachoma. We hope to see you all again soon!

In this issue we have some important updates and resources to share with you. Please do get in touch if you have any questions or feedback: admin@tropicaldata.org. Also get in touch if you would like to share your work or have ideas for future issues of the newsletter.



Tropical Data team members at GET2020 in Tunisia

System and server updates

As part of our efforts to keep our systems up to date, and to meet the challenges we face as we approach elimination, we have been working on our technology. This started with an **update to our app** last year and more recently the **revision and relaunch of our project application portal** (<https://application.tropicaldata.org/>) in March this year.

We are now working on our **data site**, which will give more flexibility to programmes, improve our 'downloads' and reporting functions, and improve usability. Once this is launched, anyone who needs access to both the application and data sites will only need one login (rather than the current system of two separate logins). Rest assured that access to collected data will still be controlled by the appropriate health ministry representative. Stay tuned for more details later this year.

Finally, in May, we **transitioned to a new data collection server** called ODK Central. Like our previous data collection server (Standard Data), ODK Central allows data collectors around the world to download blank survey forms and submit completed survey forms. While this change will not impact your data collection experience, it does mean **we will need additional time to support you and your teams to prepare your Android devices for data collection**. You are now no longer able to submit completed survey forms to Standard Data. Rest assured that the data you have collected will not be lost – you will be able to submit them to our new ODK Central server once we work with you to update the credentials in the Tropical Data app on your Android devices.

We hope you are just as excited for all of these updates as we are! If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to support@tropicaldata.org.



Training & Methodology updates

Following our 2023 methods and training materials updates, both our standard and TT-only materials are now finalised in all relevant languages. The manuals can be found on our [resources page](#). If you are planning a training and would like the complete training package, please contact admin@tropicaldata.org.

The methodology updates have been explained in the most recent edition of *International Health*, which also includes a paper outlining [Nigeria's progress](#) towards trachoma elimination.

Geostatistics project update

Our grant with Lancaster University is coming to an end in May. Our work has identified a number of ways that geostatistical methods can help national programmes reach elimination. In March, we supported Lancaster to host a technical consultation that brought together members of the global trachoma community to discuss next steps. We will be publishing more on this at a later date. In the meantime, our [resources page](#) has some more general information on geostatistics.

However, please note that a number of research questions remain, as well as a funding gap, which means we are currently unable to support countries to use this method.



Team training in Namibia



Team training in Namibia



Participants at the Geostatistics Technical Consultation, Lancaster University



Training in Namibia

Adding the collection of *Chlamydia trachomatis* serology and infection data to the Tropical Data service

Over the last year, Tropical Data has been preparing to introduce a broader package of support for countries wishing to conduct serology and/or infection testing as part of routine trachoma prevalence surveys. This work aims to prepare Tropical Data to support 'plus' surveys through an end-to-end process, starting with an established survey methodology, through planning, training, field support, data cleaning, and the provision of results. This would involve Tropical Data working more closely with CDC, for sample processing and data analysis.

While Tropical Data is excited to be on course to offer this new package of support to countries, we will now seek funding and the outcome of WHO's Guideline Development Group on serology (planned for 2024) to be able to implement this support.

Resources

On our [resources page](#) you can find many useful resources, such as our updated protocol writing guide, to support planning and fieldwork. If you have feedback for us on the site, please get in touch.

