

Have you seen this in your village?



This is blindness caused by Trachoma

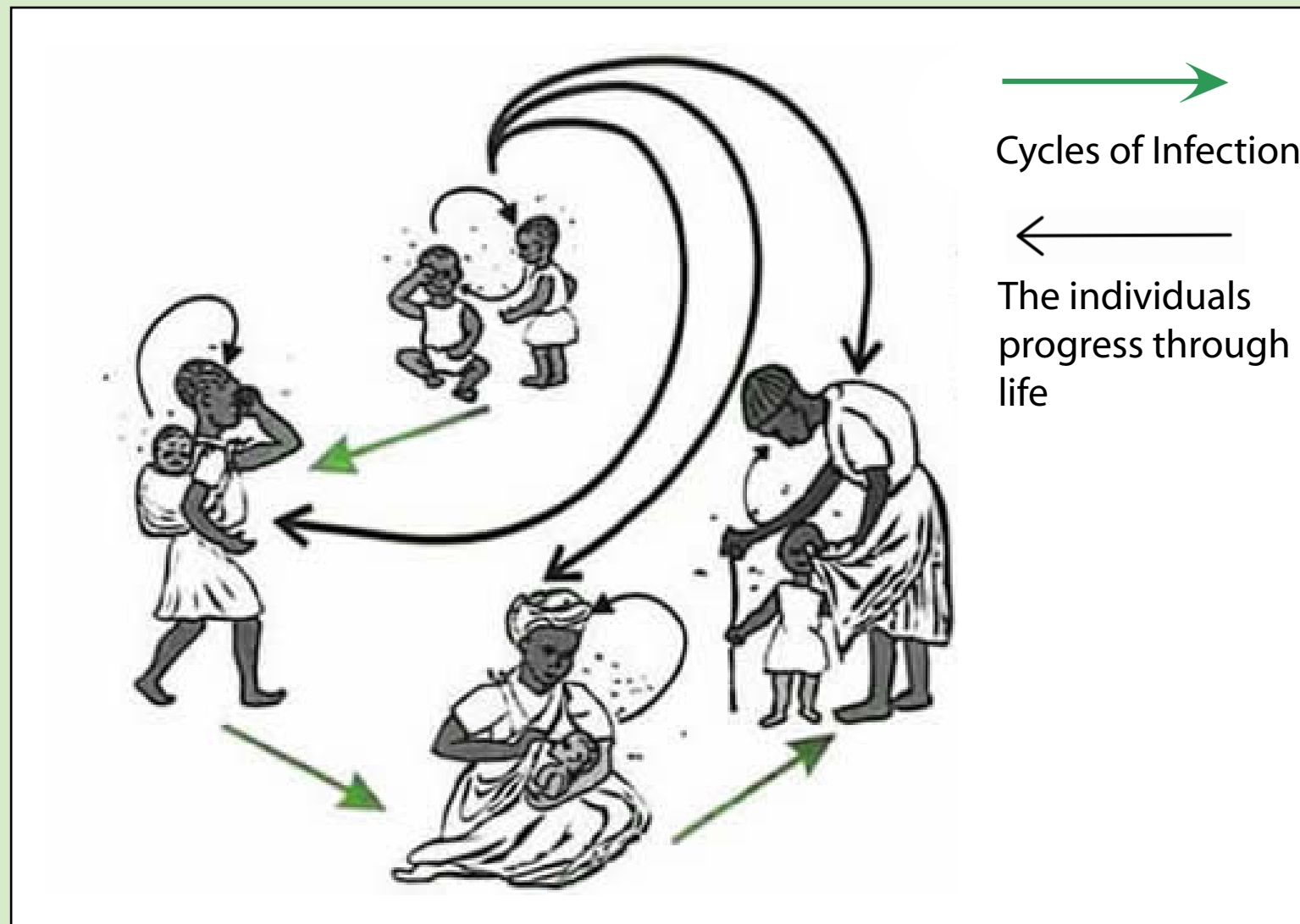


TRACHOMA

is a infectious disease of the eye caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. Repeated infections cause the eyelashes to turn inward, scratch the cornea and cause blindness.

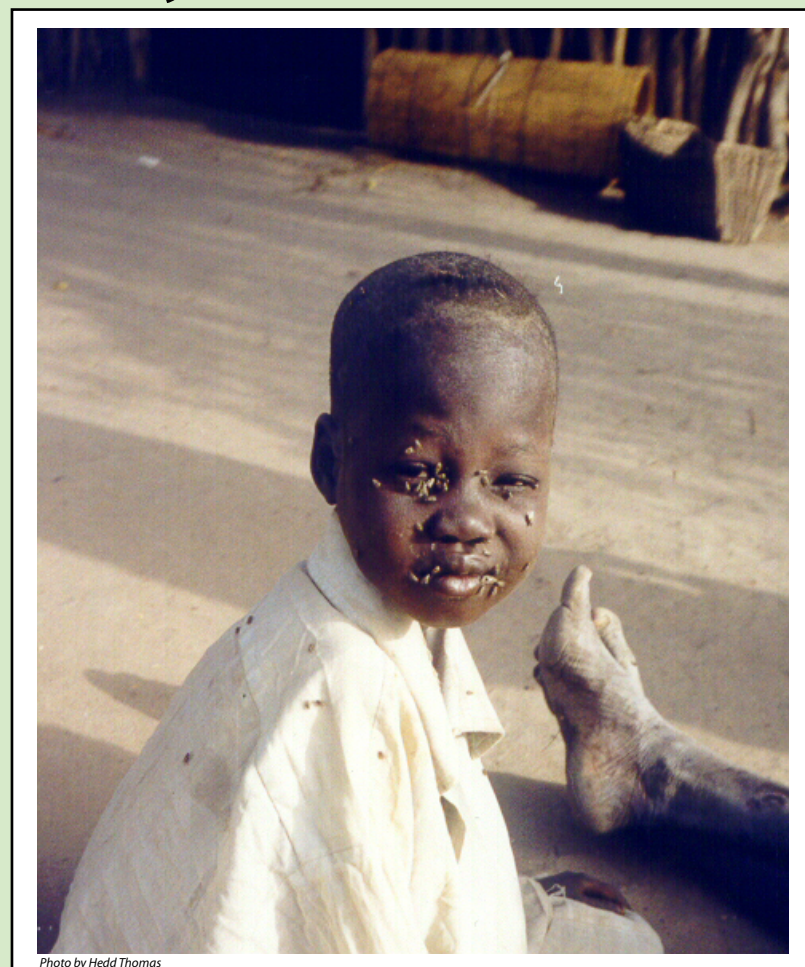
Blindness caused
by Trachoma is
PREVENTABLE.

Transmission Cycle of Trachoma

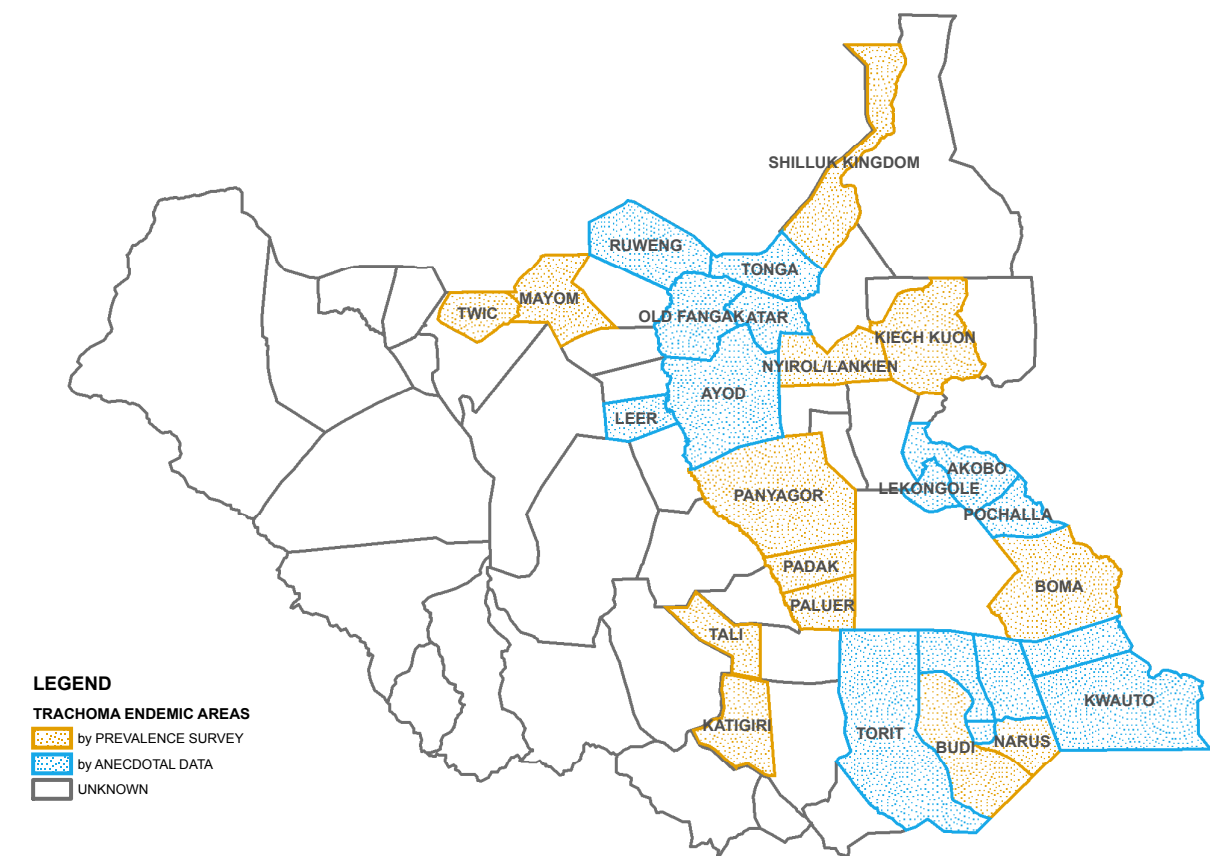


Trachoma is transmitted from one person to the other by:

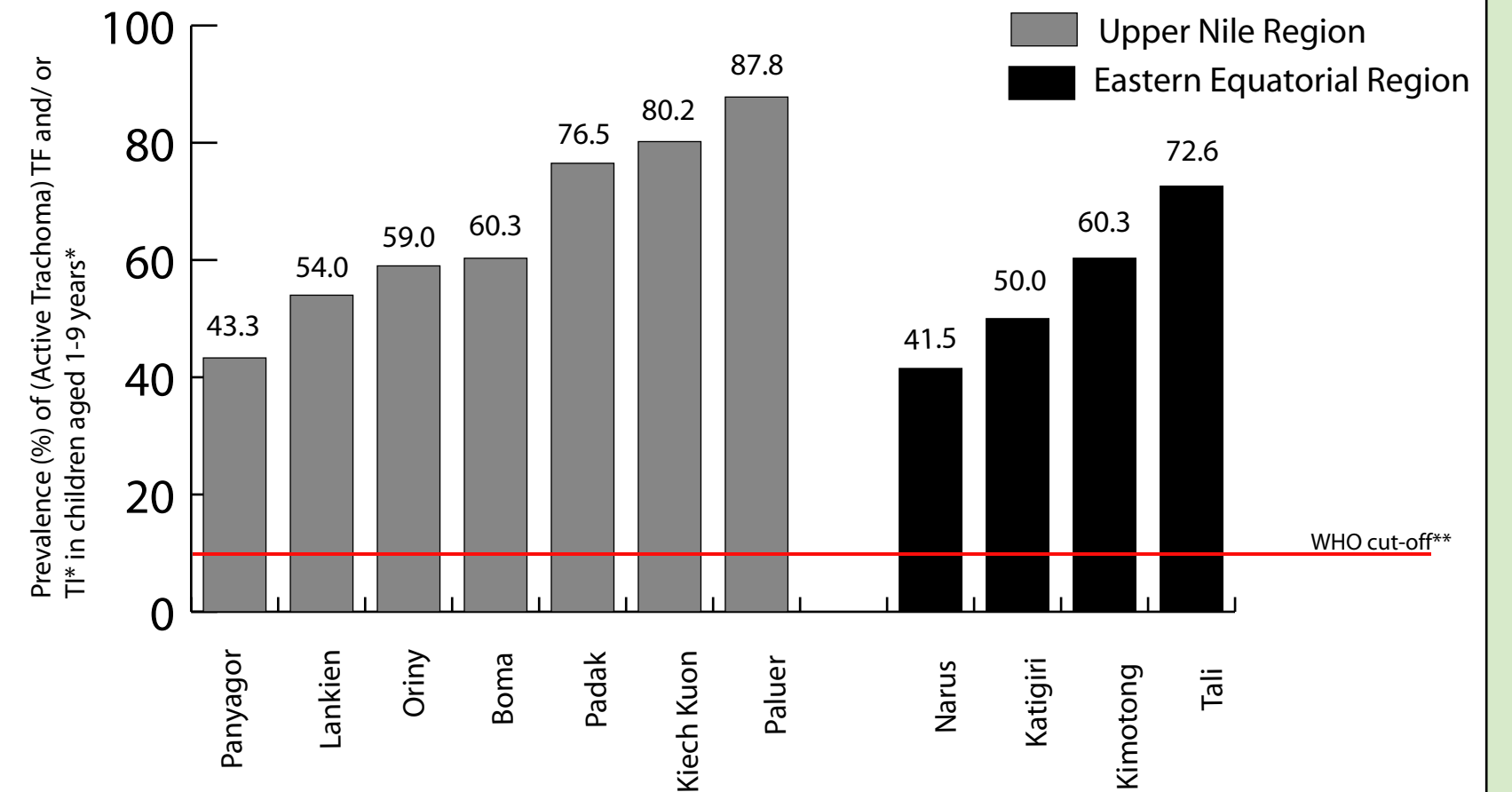
1. Flies
(as illustrated in the picture)
2. Formites
(Eg. handkerchiefs, bedsheets, *laos / kangas*)
3. Fingers



Prevalence of Trachoma in South Sudan



Prevalence of Active Trachoma (TF and/ or TI) in surveyed areas of southern Sudan



* Active Trachoma (TF and/ or TI) represents prevalence of signs of infection with trachoma: Trachomatous Inflammation Follicular (TF) and Trachomatous Inflammation Intense (TI)

**WHO cut-off: Trachoma is considered a Public Health problem if prevalence of TF and/ or TI in children aged 1-9 years exceeds 10% .

The S.A.F.E Strategy

BLINDNESS FROM TRACHOMA CAN BE STOPPED AT FOUR DIFFERENT POINTS:

S - Surgical correction for Trichiasis is a simple operation that can turn out lashes, which are scratching the cornea

A - Antibiotic treatment of people with active trachoma infection. Regular detection and treatment of people with active trachoma is important. The recommended treatment is:

1. Tetracycline eye ointment
2. Azithromycin as a single doze per year

F - Facial Cleanliness
Families and individuals can do something to protect themselves from infection by increasing the number of times a child washes his/her face. Regular face washing removes discharge so that flies are not attracted to faces. It does not require great quantities of water: one liter of water can wash up to 30 faces.

E - Environmental Improvement
CHANGES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL
Improved water supply and sanitation can prevent trachoma altogether.
CHANGES AT THE HOUSEHOLD LEVEL
Construct and use latrines and proper dispose of rubbish. These actions will reduce the number of flies and therefore the transmission of infection.

