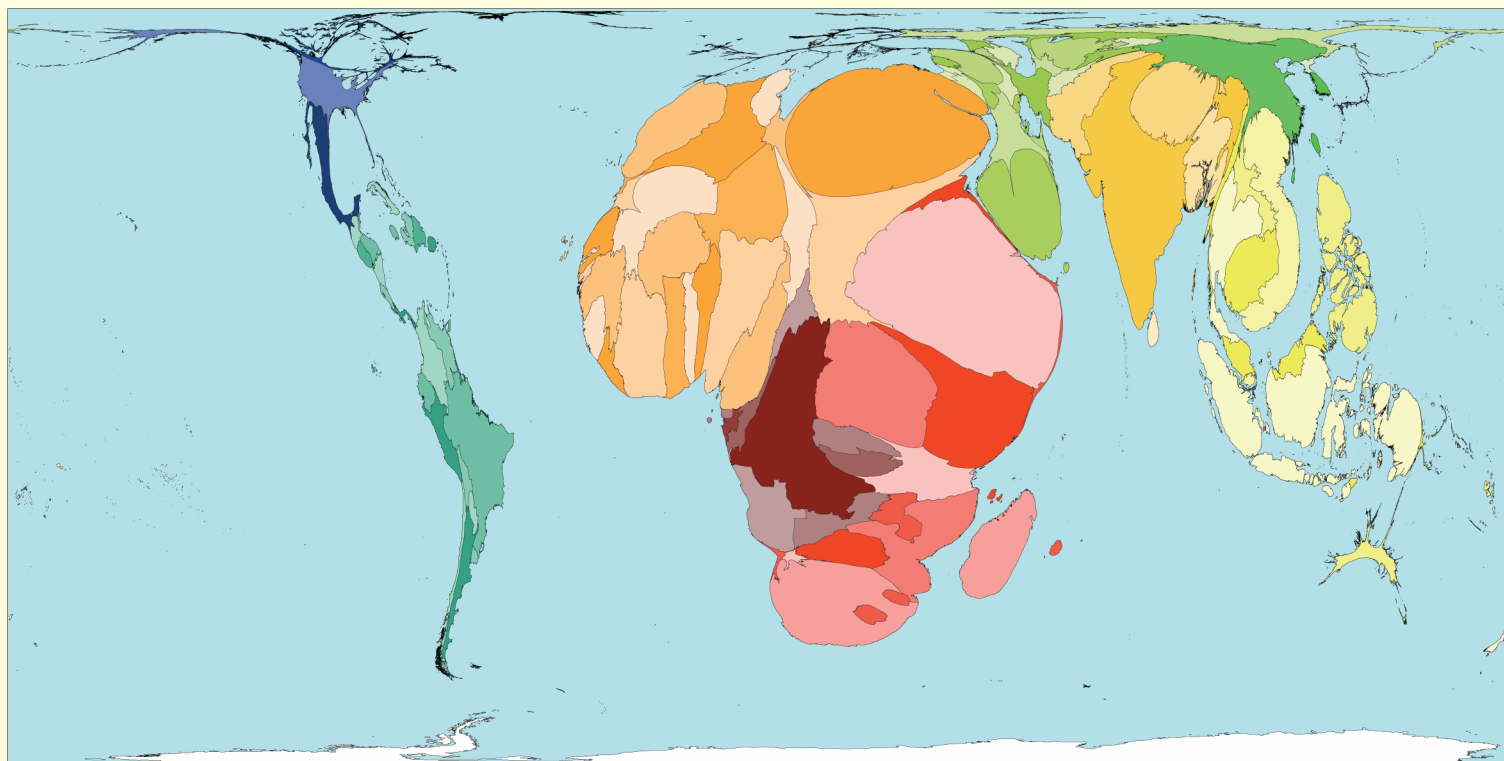


# Blinding Disease

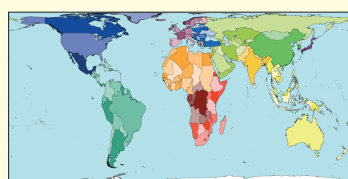


Trachoma affects 128 million children and over twice as many adults. Infection of the inside of the eye causes scarring. This can eventually turn the eyelids inwards so that the eyelashes start to rub against the eye. This can cause blindness.

The trachoma microbe is transmitted between people's eyes by flies or through contact with fluids from the eye. It is cheap to treat trachoma in its early stages, in later stages eyelid or corneal surgery may be required.

The World Health Organisation notes that trachoma is associated with poor socioeconomic conditions, such as overcrowding, limited access to water and poor sanitation.

Territory size shows the proportion of all children worldwide with evidence of trachoma, that live there.



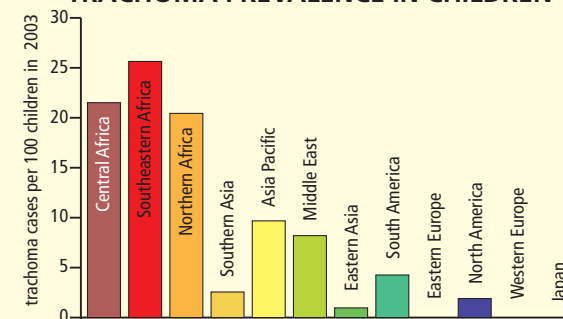
Land area

## HIGHEST RATES OF TRACHOMA IN CHILDREN

Rank	Territory	Value	Rank	Territory	Value
1	Vanuatu	74	9	Yemen	30
2	Niger	41	12	Chad	30
3	Uganda	38	13	Guinea	28
4	Mali	36	14	Cameroon	28
5	Egypt	36	15	Sudan	28
6	Ethiopia	35	16	Burkina Faso	27
7	Central African Republic	33	16	Benin	27
8	Cote d'Ivoire	33	16	Togo	27
9	Mozambique	30	26	Nepal	23
9	Kenya	30	27	Lao P Dem Republic	23

percentage of children affected by trachoma in 2003\*

## TRACHOMA PREVALENCE IN CHILDREN



### Technical notes

- Data are from World Health Organization's 2004, Human Resources for Health.
- \*Data estimated from regional averages have not been included in the chart.
- Rates include evidence of probable previous trachoma, as well as active infection.
- See website for further information.

*“Repeated infections over the years cause ever-greater scarring, which finally results in the eyelids turning inwards. And then the real torment starts.”*

Sightsavers International, 2006