LONDON, April 22 (Agencies): In some of the world’s poorest corners, health workers armed with smartphones, digital maps and medications are making steady progress in eliminating trachoma, the world’s leading infectious cause of blindness, leading expert said.

"We know where the disease is, we know what to do about it and where do it," Emerson said the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "That sound simple but we can only reach out goal of eliminating trachoma through a combination of joint-efforts.

"The lack of this is the challenge by uncontrolled by the use of smartphones and digital maps, which can be treated with simple surgery. Anteriorبه to collect data in the field that are then streamed to doctors to conduct surgeries to correct the effects of trachoma.

"The right action against trachoma has also get/treatment on the number of people at risk dropped by 50 percent in the last six years, while those requiring treatment now stands at 132 million, down from 325 million, according to the ITI.

Emerson said thanks to the Global Trachoma Mapping Project (GTMP), the efforts to map the world where the disease is endemic, health workers can now say for sure where treatment is needed.

S Africa and Latin America.

"Better living conditions have wiped out trachoma in many countries but some 200 million people are still at risk of continuing the disease, according to the International Trachoma Initiative (ITI).

Trachoma is categorized by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a neglected tropical disease (NTD) with a high burden that is disabling and sometimes fatal. Trachoma affects 1.5 billion people, mainly in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Efforts to fight trachoma include improving access to clean water and decreasing the number of infected people by treating them with antibiotics.

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