

IT has been determined that trachoma is the leading infectious cause of blindness not only in the central Tanzania regions of Dodoma, Singida and Tabora but worldwide. Most Tanzania inflammatory cases are prevalent mainly in pre-school children.

Lesser cases are prevalent in other regions in the country, especially in Mtwara and Lindi, where 67,500 patients needed surgical intervention last year. The real problem with trichiasis surgery is having patients who must overcome challenges in getting the surgery.

They often have to wait for months for a surgical camp to come to their district or travel long distances to get to the camp. A recent research report shows that females of all ages have more trachoma than males, with a fourfold increased risk of trichiasis.

Women who take care of children have more active disease than non-caretakers. In Tanzania, nearly one third of the population is at risk of contracting trachoma.

In Dodoma Region women make up the majority of trachoma patients, but many of them choose not to go for surgery because they are concerned that they will be unable to perform their household duties and care for their dependants.

