



## Global status report on eye care and vision impairment (2027)

### Concept note

#### Context

Globally, at least 2.2 billion people have a near or distance vision impairment. In at least 1 billion of these cases, vision impairment could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed. And of those with unaddressed vision impairment or blindness, 90% live in low- and middle-income countries. To confound this, the number of people with noncommunicable eye conditions is expected to surge in the coming years due to demographic, behavioural and lifestyle trends.

#### Background

The strategic recommendations outlined in WHO's first-ever World report on vision (2019) (1) were successful in providing the foundation for a 'new' eye care agenda that focusses on: (i) Reorienting the model of care to strengthen eye care within primary health care; (ii) Improving coordination of services within and across sectors and related health programmes; (iii) Integrating eye care into wider health plans and policies, and (iv) Presenting refractive error as an important public health agenda.

Significant progress has been made in the last 5 years to facilitate more effective integration of these recommendations, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Firstly, WHO has developed a comprehensive set of WHO global public health goods (2–8) and new global initiatives (9–11) to support governments to effectively and sustainably address the huge unmet need for eye care. Secondly, there has been a series of political commitments, including the adoption of World Health Assembly (WHA) and United Nations (UN) resolutions, such as WHA73.4 in 2020 (12), WHA74(12) in 2021 (13), WHA78.7 in 2025 (14) and UNGA A/75/L.108 in 2021 (15). The generation of high-quality evidence and data including the assessment of country-level actions and capacity, coupled with regional and global trends, is critical to monitor progress towards achieving the recommendations set in these political commitments.

#### Objectives of the Report

The first Global status report on eye care and vision impairment (2025-2027) will:

- Summarize data on the burden of eye disease, vision impairment and intervention coverage, including time trends.
- Assess relevant eye care policies, legislation, service delivery and workforce capacity at country-level.
- Identify gaps and opportunities in eye care systems.

- Highlight case studies of innovative practices.
- Support Member States in tracking progress towards the 2030 global targets on effective coverage of eye care.

## **Process and milestones**

National level data will be collected through the administration of a questionnaire. In addition, supplementary data will be collected through alternative national sources. The report will be developed through a stepwise approach:

Step	
Literature review and synthesis of existing tools.	Q4 2025
Establishment of Advisory Group and development of questionnaire.	Q4 2025
Implementation of questionnaire and Member State data collection.	Q1 2026
Validation of Member State data.	Q1 2027
Analysis of population-based indicators and policy review.	Q2 2027
Drafting of report and Member State consultation.	Q2 2027
Final publication of Global Status Report and dissemination outputs.	Q3 2027

The process to generate the report will operate under a web-based platform securing safe access to all those involved; training and meetings will take place online. Regional summaries and other products may be crafted into the project management since inception.

## **Outputs and dissemination**

- Global status report on eye care and vision impairment.
- Other products, such as fact sheets, policy briefs or regional summaries.
- Mobile application and online data .
- Member state profiles; regional profiles.
- Policy briefs and academic publications.
- Dissemination plan developed with stakeholders.

## **Anticipated impact**

The report will establish a baseline and benchmark for monitoring progress against the global targets for eye care to 2030, stimulate political and financial commitment, strengthen collaboration across sectors, and provide evidence to mobilize resources towards universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## References

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