

Ref.: C.L.4.2024

The World Health Organization (WHO) presents its compliments to Member States and has the honour to inform them of the planned publication of the second report of the 2030 targets on effective coverage of eye care in 2024 thanks to an online consultation. This report is in reference to decision WHA74(12),¹ where Member States endorsed two new global eye care targets for 2030: a 30 percentage point increase in effective cataract surgery coverage (eCSC), and a 40 percentage point increase in effective refractive error coverage (eREC).

In 2022, WHO published the first regional and global estimates of both eCSC and eREC to serve as a reference point to monitor progress towards the 2030 global targets.² WHO's planned second report of the 2030 targets on effective coverage of eye care will draw on a much richer dataset and provide the latest available estimates on eCSC and eREC globally, by region and country, and by age, sex and income-level. In addition, service quality gaps and temporal trends in effective coverage will be investigated.

It is envisaged that the updated estimates will provide key insights on trends in the access and quality of the two most cost-effective eye care interventions (i.e., cataract surgery and spectacles) to support informed decision-making on health policy and resource allocation.

Member States are requested to nominate their focal point(s) and provide their contact details (full name, title, affiliation and email address) as soon as possible and possibly by 15 February 2024 to the WHO Secretariat at the following email address: vision@who.int. Designated focal point(s) will then receive instructions on how to access the country portal.

Publication of these estimates is scheduled for October 2024. In an effort to simplify and streamline country consultation processes, the online consultation will be held via WHO's country portal in the World Health Data Hub.³ This will allow active technical exchanges between Member States and WHO Secretariat for review of:

- (i) primary data sources;
- (ii) methodology; and

¹ Decision WHA74(12). Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness. In: Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly, Geneva, 24–31 May 2021 ([https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA74/A74\(12\)-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA74/A74(12)-en.pdf)).

² Report of the 2030 targets on effective coverage of eye care. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2022 (<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/363158>).

³ Country Portal (who.int).

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- (iii) preliminary individual country estimates derived from the statistical model applied to primary data.

The consultation for WHO's second report of the 2030 targets on effective coverage of eye care in 2024 will commence in mid-February 2024 and close on 29 March 2024. The Secretariat will not be able to accommodate late submissions received after the closing of country consultations.

The World Health Organization takes this opportunity to renew to Member States the assurance of its highest consideration.

GENEVA, 30 January 2024