

**ENDING AVOIDABLE  
SIGHT LOSS**

**2030  
IN SIGHT**



**A Strategic Initiative**

**Version Sept. 2021**



## 2030 IN SIGHT

### Ending avoidable sight loss

The challenge is more complex than ever before, the numbers are greater and the inequalities are only increasing. Therefore our ambition has to match this scale.

#### By 2030, we want to see a world where:

- No-one experiences unnecessary or preventable sight loss and everyone can achieve their full potential.
- Eye care and rehabilitation services are accessible, inclusive and affordable to everyone, everywhere, whenever they are needed.
- People understand the importance of caring for their own eye health and demand access to services, free from the weight of any social stigma.

# VISION 2020

## Building on success



VISION 2020: The Right to Sight was launched in 1999 as an ambitious and integrated twenty-year strategy with one simple but far reaching goal – to eliminate the main causes of preventable and treatable blindness by 2020.

VISION 2020 was more than just a strategy. It provided a clear direction and a unifying cause after decades of important but individual programmes. It created a movement, galvanised the sector, and successfully focussed the collective power and funding of governments, NGOs, professional bodies and the pharmaceutical and eye care industry.

In recognition of its importance and impact, the World Health Organization partnered with the IAPB to launch the strategy and worked with the sector to drive it forward with leaders and partners around the world.

### Impact

- Prevalence of blindness has dropped from **4.8% to 3.1%** over thirty years.
- **Trachoma and Onchocerciasis**, the two biggest infectious diseases which cause blindness, could be eliminated within the next ten years if the emphasis and funding remains at the same level as the last decade of targeted interventions.
- **90 million people** around the world have had their vision impairment treated or prevented since 1990.

The Lancet Global Health Commission on Global Eye Health included an in-depth look at the relationship between eye health and the 2030 Goals. Through analysis and separate reviews, the authors concluded that there is enough compelling evidence to prove that improving access to eye health services will contribute to achieving many of the Sustainable Development Goals including:

## 1 NO POVERTY



90% of sight loss occurs in low and middle-income countries.

## 2 ZERO HUNGER



Unaddressed vision impairment traps people in poverty and leads to hunger and malnutrition.

## 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Poor eye health is inextricably linked to increased mortality, lower levels of well-being and higher rates of depression.

## 4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Children with vision impairment have poorer educational outcomes and are more likely to be excluded from schools.

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



Women have worse access to eye health services and are 12% more likely to suffer sight loss than men.

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Vision impairment and related discrimination stop people accessing quality work and results in lost economic productivity locally, nationally, and globally.

## 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Women, people with disabilities, indigenous people, refugees and migrants are those most affected by poor eye health.

## 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Poor vision increases the risk of road traffic deaths and injuries, affecting millions around the world.

## 13 CLIMATE ACTION



Like every sector, the health sector (including eye care) contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and has other impacts on the environment which it needs to understand and manage.

## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The Goals cannot be delivered without partnership with a broad range of coalitions and work with leading organisations including the eye health sector.



The direct link between eye health and over half of the Goals needs to be more widely recognised and embraced, both inside and outside our sector, and we need to use it as a policy lever to achieve better eye health access and services

Our ambition for 2030 cannot be achieved without the realisation of these Goals by the same date. And as a sector, we must understand that the advancement of eye health is also dependent on the realisation of the wider goals, for example the ambition to deliver clean water and sanitation for all is key to ensuring the sustainable elimination of diseases such as trachoma.

The ambition and the cross-sectoral and holistic approach of the Sustainable Development Goals needs to be embraced and adopted within our sector if we are to meet the challenges ahead.





# THE 1.1BN

## Fulfilling Human Potential

There are 1.1 billion people around the world living with the consequences of sight loss because they do not have access to eye care services. These are some of the poorest and most marginalised in society. Without change, this will rise to 1.8 billion people by 2050.

A shocking number but one that doesn't do justice to the tragic wider impacts. Over one billion individuals cannot read, access fulfilling work, and will likely suffer depression, exclusion and die earlier than they should. Over one billion people who may not be able to fulfil their individual potential.

With access to existing and highly cost effective interventions and the creation of more inclusive environments, we can help those 1.1 billion and many more.

### 2-3bn

People globally have a vision impairment

### 1.1bn

People live with slight loss in 2020 which could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed

### 1.8bn

People who will have sight loss by 2050 without action

### 33%

Increased risk of depression associated with sight loss



Vision loss disproportionately affects the poorest and most marginalised in society

### 2.6x

Poor eye health increases the risk of early mortality by 2.6 times

### 90%

Of sight loss is preventable or treatable



Almost every human on earth will need access to eye care services in their lifetime



Eye health interventions are highly cost effective

### \$411bn

Of lost global productivity could be regained with action



A pair of glasses reduced the odds of a child failing a class in school by 44%



Productivity can be improved by 20-30%