

The Overarching Principles for the below policies are outlined in the summary document which can be accessed [here](#).

They are: Integration, Sustainable Financing, Robust Monitoring, Regulation, Workforce, Partnership, Inclusion.

“Eye care” is used throughout this document to refer to the full spectrum of care as outlined in the World Health Organisation’s World Report on Vision i.e. promotive, preventive, treatment and rehabilitative interventions.

Ministry / sector	Whole of life	Infancy & Pre School	Childhood & Adolescence	Working Age Adults	Older Adults
Health	<p>Integrate eye care into national health strategic plans and budgets and ensure adequate resourcing.</p> <p>Integrate eye care training into professional and continuing education for primary care providers and community health workers.</p> <p>Improve the distribution of eye health professionals and services nationally with an emphasis in improving access in rural areas.</p> <p>Increase resources to primary and community health care to support the provision of eye care services close to the community.</p> <p>Develop effective referral pathways to secondary and specialist care as needed.</p> <p>Include eye health within relevant health training courses with an emphasis on the management of common eye health conditions.</p> <p>Create policies and incentives to increase the number of women in eye health leadership positions – leadership training grants, medical schools scholarships and mentorship opportunities.</p> <p>Ensure eye care promotion activities are available to all communities, use simple, user-friendly language and are in a format that is accessible to all.</p> <p>Integrate eye care education / messaging across all relevant health programmes areas such as maternal and newborn health, alcohol &amp; tobacco cessation, nutrition etc.</p> <p>Collect eye care data at health facility level that can be disaggregated along gender, age and other key characteristics to assess inequity in accessing services.</p> <p>Implement evidence-based strategies to address any gender, geography, age or other inequities in accessing eye care services.</p> <p>Ensure equitable, sustainable and affordable access to quality-assured eye care medicines.</p> <p>Develop strong and resilient eye care procurement and supply chains including ensuring appropriate availability and accessibility of health technologies and medicines.</p>	<p>Implement newborn and neonatal eye health assessments, including preventative and immediate treatment for retinopathy of prematurity.</p> <p>Integrate vaccination programs to prevent infections that can cause blindness within national vaccination programmes.</p> <p>Integrate pre-school screening to identify and treat strabismus and other ocular imbalances.</p> <p>Include eye health information messages into new parent health information.</p>	<p>Develop and implement a screening programme for all school aged children.</p> <p>Implement a referral and follow up mechanism for students identified as having a vision impairment on school screenings.</p> <p>Incorporate eye health questions and health promotion messaging into routine childhood health programmes e.g. at childhood vaccination appointments.</p> <p>Develop a mechanism for children to access eyecare outside of the school system.</p> <p>Incorporate eye health and vision into public health education campaigns and into health education aimed at teenagers with an emphasis on digital eye care and reducing stigma around spectacle use.</p> <p>Ensure primary care providers are trained to provide eye health information to adolescents including around digital devices, the importance of vision correction and the need for comprehensive eye exams.</p>	<p>Incorporate eye care messaging within health promotion campaigns aimed at adults.</p> <p>Develop eye health screening guidelines for the most common health conditions.</p> <p>Develop training for health workers on the eye care associations of common systemic conditions and how to educate their patients on the importance of regular eye health checks.</p> <p>Develop targeted health promotion on eye safety that includes safety at work as well as high risk activities for eye health.</p> <p>Support the development of occupational screening guidelines that companies and employers can utilise to screen their workforce.</p>	<p>Train the primary care and health workforce on the timely detection and management of the decline in vision.</p> <p>Increased funding for ophthalmic services to restore and preserve vision including cataract surgery, diabetic retinopathy, and age-related macular degeneration management.</p> <p>Develop and roll out robust health promotion messaging aimed at the importance of the preservation of vision and eye health.</p>

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Social / welfare	<p>Implement financial support mechanisms for people who cannot afford eye care services.</p> <p>Ensure eye care related services Incorporate are included within into wider community outreach services.</p> <p>Ensure people with vision impairments are included within overall social protection and welfare systems.</p>	<p>Incorporate training and resources for community and outreach workers on the importance of eye health for children.</p> <p>Develop clear pathways for referrals and further support.</p>	<p>Develop a programme to provide glasses to all school children who require vision correction free of charge.</p> <p>Implement support services for children who are visually impaired.</p>	<p>Ensure support and advice is in place and available for those who are currently out of work specifically because of a vision impairment.</p>	<p>Ensure social protection mechanisms for older people include access to eye care services.</p> <p>Ensure public health insurance schemes incorporate eye care provision including cataract surgery, management of glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy and AMD treatment.</p>
Treasury / finance	<p>Implement VAT and customs duty exemptions for affordable spectacles and assistive devices.</p> <p>Ensure that eye care, including vision correction/assistive technology as required, is provided for in national insurance schemes and other support schemes and funds.</p> <p>Ensure funding is earmarked and there is an appropriate budget line for eye care within wider / health budgets.</p> <p>Ensure the regulatory environment enables eye health public private partnerships (PPPs).</p>			<p>Ensure measures to support employment or other sources of income are inclusive and accessible to people who are visually impaired.</p>	

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Education	Develop and implement policies that ensure blindness or vision impairment are not barriers to full participation as part of a wider disability inclusive education system	Develop and implement training programmes for early year educators to gain an understanding of the signs of unaddressed refractive errors (URE) and how to refer those suspected of URE.	<p>Integrate eye health into school health policies and plans ensuring adequate training and resources are allocated.</p> <p>Develop myopia prevention and control strategies based on best practice guidance.</p> <p>Develop and implement training programmes for teachers to gain an understanding of the signs of unaddressed refractive errors and how to refer those suspected of URE.</p> <p>Provide training and educational resources for teachers, support staff and parents on the importance of wearing prescription glasses for teenagers to improve compliance levels.</p> <p>Roll out information and material in school settings to remove any stigma related to wearing glasses.</p> <p>Incorporate school vision screenings at entry and exit of primary school, with appropriate referral pathways.</p> <p>Implement resources, training and support for teachers to support students who are visually impaired in mainstream schools.</p>		

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Labour / employment				<p>Develop, incorporate and monitor workplace eye safety standards for all employers especially for industrial, agricultural and other high-risk industries.</p> <p>Prioritise employee eye health and incorporate workplace screenings for vision impairments including near vision impairment.</p> <p>Support employers to provide near and computer vision correction to those who require correction.</p> <p>Include eye care education within public education campaigns related to occupational health.</p> <p>Develop guidance on managing screen time and lighting in offices.</p> <p>Develop and pass an occupational health and safety policy that incorporates eye health and vision considerations.</p> <p>Implement policies that prohibit discrimination and remove barriers to equal participation</p>	
Transport			<p>Include eye screenings and vision tests as a requirement for driving regulations and to receive a driving licence.</p>	<p>Ensure mandatory testing for professional drivers and provide subsidies for corrective prescription glasses for people who drive for work.</p> <p>Develop road safety awareness messaging that includes the importance of good vision and the need for regular eye health checks.</p>	<p>Implement annual eye tests for those over 70 to maintain a driving license.</p>
Planning / infrastructure	<p>Ensure sufficient and appropriate space for eye health within public health buildings and other infrastructure.</p> <p>Ensure visual impairment and accessibility guidance is included within planning and infrastructure standards.</p>				