

The Value of Vision

Eye Health is a critical enabler of inclusive development and economic growth.

Ministry / sector	Whole of life	Infancy & Pre School	Childhood & Adolescence	Working Age Adults	Older Adults
Health	<p>Integrate eye care training into professional and continuing education for primary care providers and community health workers.</p> <p>Increase resources to primary and community health care to support the provision of eye care services close to the community.</p> <p>Incorporate and integrate eye care education across other health programmes areas such as maternity health, alcohol & tobacco cessation, nutrition and immunisation.</p> <p>Develop effective referral pathways to secondary and specialist care as needed.</p> <p>Integrate vision rehabilitation services, including assistive products, into primary and community healthcare.</p> <p>Collect data at health facility level that can be disaggregated along gender, age and other key characteristics to assess inequity in accessing services.</p> <p>Develop strategies to address any gender, geography, age or other inequities in accessing eye care services.</p> <p>Develop and pass legislation to support the integration of technology in eye care including around data protection</p>	<p>Implement newborn and neonatal eye health assessments.</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>Eye health and vision is incorporated into public health education campaigns aimed at teenagers 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, outdoors activities, the importance of vision correction and the need for comprehensive eye exams.</p>	<p>Eye care messaging incorporated 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 on 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 can utilise to screen their employees.</p>	<p>Training the primary care and health workforce on the timely detection and management of the declines 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 preservation of vision and eye health.</p>

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Social / welfare	<p>Increase support services so people living with permanent vision loss can participate fully and equally in society.</p> <p>Implement financial support mechanisms for people who cannot afford eye care services, treatment and rehabilitation.</p> <p>Incorporate assistive technology provision into publicly provided health insurance schemes.</p> <p>Incorporate rehabilitation services and assistive technologies into wider community welfare schemes and outreach services.</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 into community workers.</p>	<p>Develop a programme to provide glasses to all school aged children who require vision correction free of charge.</p> <p>Implement support services for children with permanent vision impairments.</p>	<p>Ensure supports are in place and available for those who are currently out of work due to a vision impairment.</p>	<p>Ensure public health insurance schemes incorporate eye care provision including cataract surgery, management of diabetic retinopathy, 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.</p> <p>Ensure funding is earmarked for eye care.</p>				

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Education			<p>Integrate eye health into school health policies and plans ensuring adequate training and resources are allocated.</p> <p>Develop myopia prevention 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>Training and educational resources for teachers, educational support staff and parents on the importance of wearing prescription glasses for teenagers to improve compliance levels.</p> <p>Roll out awareness 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 and students to support blind and visually impaired students in mainstream schools.</p> <p>Develop and implement inclusive education policies for visually impaired students.</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>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 a zero discrimination policy for all workplaces to ensure that those with vision impairment can gain and maintain meaningful employment.</p>	
Transport			<p>Eye screenings and vision tests are included as a requirement for driving regulations and to receive a driving licence.</p>	<p>Mandatory testing for professional drivers and subsidies for corrective prescription glasses for people who drive for work.</p> <p>Develop road safety awareness messaging that includes the importance of good eye sight 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>Develop national guidance on designing and building accessible infrastructure and public spaces to ensure that people with vision loss can maintain a high level of function.</p>