Global Estimates: 285 million people are affected by visual impairment*.  

80% of Visual Impairment is avoidable  
(can be prevented or cured)

- Cataract  
- Uncorrected Refractive errors  
are the leading causes of  
Avoidable Visual Impairment.

- Unoperated Cataract and  
- Glaucoma  
are the leading causes of  
Avoidable Blindness.

Global Estimates: 285 million people are affected by visual impairment. The geographical distribution of Visual Impairment is uneven in the world.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Prevalence of Vision Loss (all ages)</th>
<th>Prevalence of blindness (all ages)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFR</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMR</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMR</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EUR</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEAR-(India)</td>
<td>4.1%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPR-(China)</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prevalence of people all ages with visual impairment per 100
- 2.91% - 2.17%
- 3.18% - 3.33%
- 3.34% - 6.61%
- Not applicable
- Data not available

*The WHO region SEARO was divided into two: SEARO-(India) and India, as well as WPRO in WPRO-(China) and China.

Population Growth and Ageing

It is estimated that in the next 9 years the number of blind people aged 50+ will grow in all WHO Regions; particularly in:

• China
• India
• South-East Asia
• Eastern-Mediterranean

unless action is taken to prevent and cure main causes of visual impairments

*2019 projections assume constant ratio between population and VI prevalence rates

Socio-economic development, Investment in health and visual impairments

In the Low and Middle Income countries group the prevalence of VI prevalence is higher

Higher countries/regions investments in health correspond to lower prevalence of visual impairment.

Indicators Sources


- **Total per capita expenditure on health -PPP int. $- (WHO 2008 estimates):** data available at [http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main](http://apps.who.int/gho/data/view.main).


- **Visual Impairment, Vision Loss and Blindness 2010 projections:** calculated from VI global 2010 Estimates taking into account population growth, and ageing (UNDP 2011 estimates), and with constant prevalence over the period 2010-2019.

Maps Sources and Considerations

- **Map 1:** Prevalence of people (all ages) with VI per 100 population.

- **Map 2:** Population of blind people 50 or more years old in thousands (‘000).

Data Source: WHO Visual Impairment and Blindness global estimates.

Map Production: Prevention of Blindness and Deafness unit

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Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted and dashed lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.