



Facts:

- An estimated 45 million people worldwide are blind.
- Every year, an additional 1-2 million persons go blind.
- More than two-thirds of blindness is treatable and preventable.
- A majority of the blind live in the poorest section of the developing world.
- Without proper interventions the number of blind will increase to 75 million by 2020.
- Restoration of sight is one of the most cost-effective interventions in health care.

*every 5 seconds
one person in our
world goes blind -
every minute a
child goes blind*

VISION 2020—The Right to Sight

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



What is Vision 2020?

Vision 2020 — The Right to Sight is an initiative to help eliminate needless blindness by the year 2020, jointly launched by the World Health Organization together with more than 20 international nongovernmental organizations involved in eye care and prevention and management of blindness.

Over the next two decades, **Vision 2020** will take steps to prevent an estimated 100 million people from becoming blind.

Vision 2020 focuses on creating adequate eye-care facilities, a foundation of well-trained eye-care workers, implementing programmes to control the major causes of blindness, and integrating eye-care into general health care services.

Strength in partnership

“Vision 2020 is about partnership. This is one of the most important aspects for WHO in the future. We must be able to reach out and form new partnerships to broaden the range of collaborators also from fields not directly involved in health care.” Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, Director-General, WHO.

The key actors are eye-care personnel, international and national nongovernmental develop-

Needs of Vision 2020

The dedication and expertise of the partner organizations and involved individuals must be supported by financial inputs. Providing sustainable eye-care services to 1 million people will cost US\$ 1 million in personnel, equipment, facilities and disease-control programmes over a 5-year period.

During the next years **Vision 2020** aims to target 1 billion of the poorest people of the world. In addition to existing governmental contributions, an estimated US\$ 200 million is needed each year.

Key Contacts



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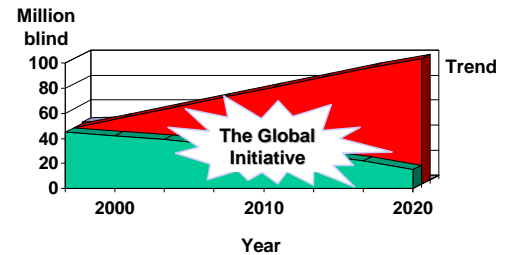
Task Force Members:

International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, Al Noor Foundation, Christoffel-Blindenmission, Helen Keller Worldwide, International Federation of Ophthalmological Societies, Lions Club International Foundation, Organisation pour la Prévention de la Cécité, Operation Eyesight Universal, ORBIS International, Sight Savers International, The Carter Center, The Fred Hollows Foundation, Agenzia Internazionale per la Prevenzione della Cecità, International Centre for Eyecare Education, International Trachoma Initiative, IMPACT-EMR

Supporting Members:

Dark & Light, Seva Foundation, The American Academy of Ophthalmology, The Asian Foundation for the Prevention of Blindness, The Canadian National Institute for the Blind, The Lighthouse International, International Eye Foundation, Nadi Al Basar, Perkins School for the Blind, Swiss Red Cross

The Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness



Specific Activities

- Surgical intervention for cataract which at present accounts for half of all blindness.
- Provision of spectacles, especially for school children.
- Prevention and treatment of blinding eye infections.
- Prevention and treatment of nutritional deficiencies that lead to blindness in children.

ment organizations, ministries of health and corporate eye-care service providers.

Half of this is contributed by the coalition of NGOs and the other half depends on the availability of other contributions to the initiative.

Most of humanity takes the gift of sight for granted. Yet no one values vision more than one who has lost it. No one cherishes sight more than one who has lost it and regained it. Would you like to be a partner in our efforts to achieve the fundamental human right to the gift of sight for all?