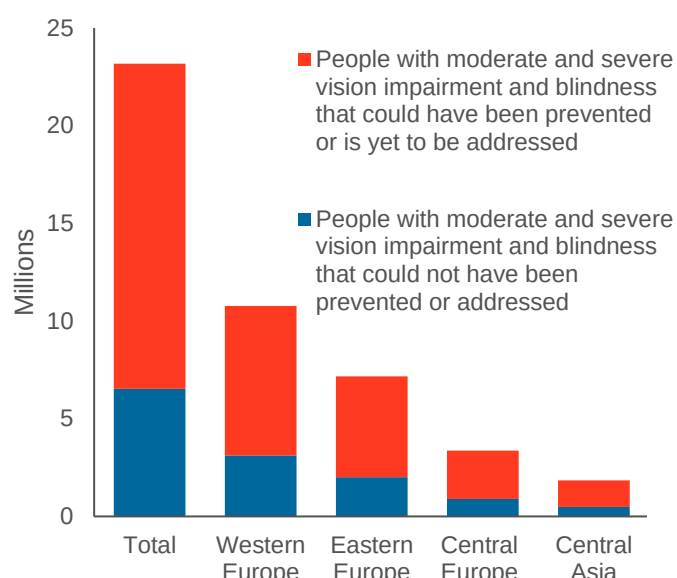


Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness

30 > **MILLION**
people in the **European Region** with **vision impairment or blindness**

2.8 MIL People are **blind** (defined as a lack of vision) in the **European Region**

Approximately **27.2 MIL** People have **vision impairment** in the **European Region**



> 70 MIL People have **eye diseases** that are in the **early stages**. If these conditions are **left untreated** they will cause **disabling impairment**

Many causes of **vision impairment** can be **prevented or addressed** via **early detection** and **timely management**

- **Effective interventions** are **available** for both **cataract** and **uncorrected refractive error**, the **leading causes** of **blindness** and **vision impairment**
- **Treatment** of an **eye condition** that typically **does not cause vision impairment** can often still **lead to personal and financial hardships**

Demographic and lifestyle trends including **globally ageing populations** are expected to **cause global eye care needs to increase substantially** in coming decades



The **European Region** has the **highest median age** in the **world**

In **2050** the **number** of **people** aged **65 and older** is forecast to **increase** to **25%** from **14%** in **2010**



80%

of **distance vision** impairment (objects far away are blurry) and **blindness** in both eyes **occur in adults 50+**

2/3

of **near vision** impairment (affects vision at a close distance) **occur in adults 50+**

Vision impairments can **affect** and have **consequences** for **individuals**, their **families** and **careers**

Intervention access should be available to **everyone, everywhere**: This can be achieved through **cost-effective interventions** for **promotion, prevention, treatment** and **rehabilitation** available at the **primary health care level** to address the **needs accompanying eye conditions** and **vision impairments**



Rehabilitation, including access to assistive technology such as **spectacles**, is **critical** for many major **eye conditions** that cause **vision impairment** and **blindness**



Availability and accessibility of **eye care services** especially for individuals in **rural areas**



Shortages of **trained health personnel** and **insufficient cross-sectoral collaboration**



Costs of **services**, **socioeconomic** and **cultural factors**, and **inequities**

By **maximizing residual vision** and providing **practical adaptations** tailored to **individual needs** and **priorities**, **rehabilitation** aims to **optimize everyday functioning**



Steps towards **achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** can be taken by **establishing integrated people-centred eye care** and **preventing vision impairment and blindness**

SDG 3 Good Health and Well-Being
SDG 1 No Poverty
SDG 4 Quality Education
SDG 5 Gender Equality
SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
SDG 10 Reduce Inequalities



Vision impairments affect **individual development**, **educational achievement**, **quality of life**, **social well-being** and **economic independence**. In addition, **disproportionate burdens** on **underserved** and **vulnerable populations** means that **vision impairments** affect **society** as a **whole**

TAKE ACTION:



Eye care should be an **integral part** of **universal health coverage**



Implement integrated people-centred eye care in **health systems**



Promote high-quality implementation and **health systems research** for **effective eye care interventions**



Monitor trends and **evaluate progress**



Raise awareness and **engage people** and **communities**

Sources: 1. WHO World report on vision: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/world-report-on-vision>; 2. WHO Executive Board Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness: https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB146/B146_R8-en.pdf; 3. WHO European Region Healthy ageing website: <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Life-stages/healthy-ageing>; 4. The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness: <https://www.iapb.org/iapb-regions/europe/european-coalition-for-vision/>; 5. Flaxman SR, Bourne RRA, Resnikoff S, Ackland P, Braithwaite T, Cicinelli MV, et al. Global causes of blindness and distance vision impairment 1990–2020: a systematic review and meta-analysis. The Lancet Global Health. 2017;5(12):e1221–e34; 6. WHO Universal eye health: a global action plan 2014–2019: <https://www.who.int/blindness/actionplan/en/>; 7. Frick KD, Joy SM, Wilson DA, Naidoo KS, Holden BA. The global burden of potential productivity loss from uncorrected presbyopia. Ophthalmology. 2015;122(8):1706–10.; 8. Vision Rehabilitation for Elderly Individuals with Low Vision or Blindness: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coverage/InfoExchange/downloads/rvcvisionrehab.pdf>; 9. Medline Plus (NIH US National Library of Medicine): Blindness and vision loss: <https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003040.htm>; 10. American Academy of Ophthalmology: <https://www.aao.org/>; 11. Classification of Diseases ICD–11: <https://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/>