

Launch of the Report of the 2030 targets on effective coverage of eye care

Concept Note

Background:

Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) - ensuring all people can receive the quality health services they need, without experiencing financial hardship - is a World Health Organization (WHO) strategic priority. The eye care sector is well-positioned to contribute to the advancement of UHC within countries given (i) there is a large unmet need for eye health services (~1 billion people have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed) and (ii) effective interventions are available to address the needs associated with eye conditions and vision impairment; some are among the most feasible and cost-effective of all health care interventions to implement.

To understand how actions and investments in the field of eye care are delivering on the goal of improving eye health outcomes, and contributing to the advancement of UHC, it is essential to identify tracer indicators. Given the large unmet need for care associated with unoperated cataract and uncorrected refractive error, coupled with the fact that highly cost-effective interventions exist, **effective cataract surgical coverage (eCSC)** and **effective refractive error coverage (eREC)** serve as ideal proxy indicators to not only track changes in the uptake and quality of eye care services at the global level, but also contribute to monitoring progress towards UHC in general. Importantly, these indicators not only capture the extent of coverage, but also the concept of "effective" coverage, to ensure that people who need health services receive them with sufficient quality to produce the expected health outcome.

Member States recognize the importance of eCSC and eREC and request global 2030 targets

In November 2020, the resolution titled 'Integrated people-centered eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness' was adopted by Member States at the 73rd World Health Assembly (WHA). This resolution requested WHO to prepare, in consultation with Member States, recommendations on feasible global targets for 2030 focusing on eCSC and eREC. To this end, WHO undertook a consultative process with Member States, and experts from the field, to develop global targets for eCSC and eREC that were endorsed by the 74th World Health Assembly in May, 2021. The two new ambitious global eye care targets for 2030 are - a 40 per cent increase in eREC and a 30 per cent increase in eCSC. The essential purpose of these indicators and related targets is to drive eye health coverage while delivering care of quality.

In July 2021, the first United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on vision was adopted by Member States in recognition of the growing evidence that improving eye

health and preventing vision impairment can directly contribute to the achievement of many other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This resolution requests for the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators to review and consider these two indicators in the global indicator framework for the SDGs at the fifty-sixth session of the UN Statistical Commission to be held in 2025.

The Report of the 2030 targets on effective coverage of eye care

The primary purpose of this report is to present estimates of eCSC and eREC to serve as a reference point to commence monitoring progress towards the 2030 global targets that were endorsed by Member States at the WHA 74. The report draws on key results from a comprehensive analysis of population-based eye health surveys and includes estimates of eCSC and eREC at the global level, by WHO region, sex and World Bank income level, and the relative quality gap (i.e. % difference between 'effective coverage' and 'coverage'). This report also serves to highlight key gaps in current data and presents suggestions for additional efforts required to advance surveillance, policies and programmes for increasing the coverage of eye care interventions.

EVENT TYPE: In person with virtual event streaming

DATES and VENUE

The launch will be held on the 12th of October 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, United States of America.

OVERVIEW: This will be a high-level launch event, featuring keynote addresses from government officials; a technical briefing from the WHO on its first Report for the 2030 targets on effective coverage of eye care; and a panel discussion showcasing country progress.