

Planning guide for integrated vision rehabilitation

Information sheet

Overview

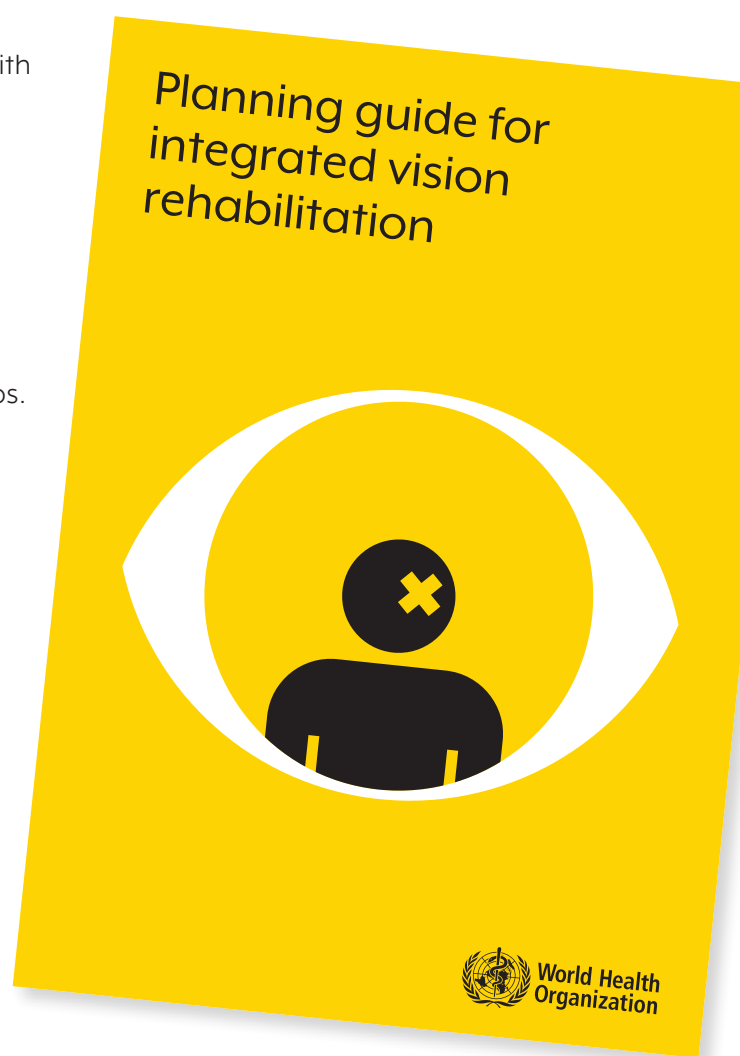
The Planning guide for integrated vision rehabilitation provides a practical framework to support World Health Organization (WHO) Member States in establishing or strengthening vision rehabilitation services. It moves beyond stand-alone projects, offering a roadmap to integrate these services into national health and eye care systems to ensure sustainability and integrated people-centred eye care.

Why is this guide necessary?

- **Global need:** An estimated **60 million adults** would benefit from vision rehabilitation, yet the majority lack access to those services, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.
- **Impact:** Vision rehabilitation is essential for independence, quality of life, and workforce participation.
- **Rights and development:** Access to vision rehabilitation services is a human rights imperative aligned with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Target audience

- Health planners and policy-makers.
- Eye care and rehabilitation personnel.
- Nongovernmental organizations and advocacy groups.



The three-step process for planning and integrating vision rehabilitation



The guide outlines a cyclic process to embed vision rehabilitation into national strategies.

1

Assess the situation

- Engage stakeholders and conduct a situation analysis to identify gaps in leadership, workforce, and service delivery.

2

Identify and implement priority interventions

Choose a pathway based on the country context:

Pathway A.

Establish services:

For countries with no services. Focus on pilot programmes, basic equipment, and workforce training.

Pathway B.

Strengthen and expand services:

For countries with limited services. Focus on expanding device availability, enhancing quality, and increasing geographic reach.

3

Integrate into national plans

- **Policy:** Amend national strategic plans and essential assistive product lists.
- **Practice:** Update clinical guidelines to standardize referrals.
- **Monitoring:** Incorporate rehabilitation indicators into national health information systems.

Service delivery levels

The guide defines a set of recommended interventions across the levels of care:

- **Primary care:** Screening, functional assessment, and simple non-optical devices (e.g., bold pens).
- **Secondary care:** Comprehensive assessment, prescription of optical devices, and mobility training.
- **Tertiary care:** Specialised diagnostics, complex rehabilitation (e.g., for children), research, and national advocacy.

Key resources included

- **Procurement:** Sample lists of optical and non-optical assistive products.
- **Training:** Curricula for workforce development.
- **Clinical tools:** Sample screening card, recording card and equipment list.

For further information, please contact:

Vision and eye care Programme,
World Health Organization, Geneva

Or visit the website: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/blindness-and-vision-loss>

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