

Progress on integrated people centred eye care in SEA region

WHO World Report on Vision 2019 highlighted Vision impairment as a major public health problem set to grow globally. At least 2.2 billion people have a near or distance vision impairment. In almost half these cases, vision impairment could have been prevented.

Integrated People-centred Eye Care (IPEC) and IAPB 2030 In Sight are the sectoral strategy adopted by member states at national eye health plan and strive towards achieving the global and regional eye health targets by 2030.

Seventy third WHA endorsed Integrated People Centred Eye Care as eye health sectoral strategy and subsequently WHO SEARO regional committee adopted these target with addition of DR screening and Trachoma elimination and urged all members states of SEA region to adopt same.

The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) is the peak body for the global eye health sector, with more than 250 members. The key priorities of IAPB are: global advocacy, connecting knowledge, leading global campaigns on eye health and strengthening the eye health sector.

A multi sectoral approach has been highlighted as crucial on translating global WHA resolutions and UN resolutions, the IAPB is committed to accelerate action towards achieving global targets on cataract, refractive error, Diabetic Retinopathy and Trachoma .

Progress is noted in 2024 in SEA region:

- Nepal adopted effective Cataract Surgery (eCSC) targets in its national strategic health plan.
- India generated the base line evidence of eCSC required to determine target for 2030.
- Nepal and Indonesia completed Eye Care Situation Analysis using WHO ECSAT II tool.
- Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Indonesia are completing their national eye health plan incorporating WHA targets.

Our collaborative efforts continue so that all countries in the region will achieve the WHA endorsed eye health targets by 2030.