The Facts

Everyone, if they live long enough, will experience at least one eye condition in their lifetime.

**US$14.3 billion**

(is the investment) needed globally to treat existing unaddressed cases of refractive error and cataract.

Cataract surgery
US$ 6.9 billion

Refractive error
US$ 7.4 billion

**US$7.4 billion**

Cataract surgery

**US$6.9 billion**

Refractive error

Projected number of people estimated to have age related macular degeneration and glaucoma, 2020–2030.

195.6 million

Eye related macular degeneration (any)

243.4 million

Glaucoma

2020

2030

76 million

95.4 million

Eye conditions are projected to increase due to a variety of factors, including ageing population, lifestyle and NCDs.

Unaddressed distance vision
impairment in many low- and middle-income regions is **4x higher** than in high-income regions.

At least **2.2 billion** people live with a vision impairment

low- and middle-income regions

high-income regions

In at least **1 billion** of these cases, vision impairment could have been prevented or has yet to be addressed

Unaddressed refractive error (123.7 million)

Cataract (65.2 million)

Glaucoma (6.9 million)

Corneal opacities (4.2 million)

Diabetic Retinopathy (3 million)

Trachoma (2 million)

Unaddressed presbyopia (826 million)
**Eye conditions**

Some eye conditions do not typically cause vision impairment, but others can.

**Common eye conditions that do not typically cause vision impairment**

- Blepharitus
- Conjunctivitis
- Dry eye
- Chalazion and hordeolum (stye)
- Pterygium and pinguecula
- Subconjunctival haemorrhage

**Common eye conditions that can cause vision impairment**

- Cataract
- Corneal opacity
- Glaucoma
- Refractive error
- Age-related macular degeneration
- Diabetic retinopathy

**The problem**

Eye care services are poorly integrated into health systems. The availability, accessibility and acceptability of eye care services have an influence on eye conditions and vision impairment. For example, in many countries, eye care needs are greater in rural areas but services are often provided in hospitals in urban areas.

**Risk factors**

Many eye conditions depend on a variety of factors.

**Non-Modifiable**

- Ageing
- Genetics
- Ethnicity

**Modifiable**

- Lifestyle related (e.g.: smoking, nutrition, occupational and recreational activities)
- Environment related (e.g.: hygiene, sanitation, access to water)

**Recommendations**

- Make eye care an integral part of universal health coverage
- Implement integrated people-centred eye care in health systems
- Promote high-quality research
- Monitor trends and evaluate progress
- Raise awareness and engage and empower people and communities

www.who.int/publications-detail/world-report-on-vision
WHO/NMH/NVI/19.12
© World Health Organization 2019. Some rights reserved.
This work is available under the CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO licence.