

Global eye health - key data and the Sustainable Development Goals

Data from Vision Loss Expert Group 2017 - Lancet Report

Key information - Global

- Number of people who are blind: 36 million
- Number of people with severe or moderate (distance) visual impairment: 217 million
- Number of people who are visually impaired (in 2015): 253 million
- Number of people with near-vision impairment: 1.1 billion people
- The prevalence of visual impairment has dropped from 4.58% in 1990 to 3.38% in 2015.
- 89% of visually impaired people live in low and middle-income countries
- 55% of visually impaired people are women

Key information - Indo-Pacific

- There are currently an estimated 160 million people across the Indo-Pacific with moderate to severe vision impairment.
- This is currently forecast to increase to approximately 170 million by 2020, and an estimated 440 million by 2050.
- It is estimated that over 80% of the world's vision impairment is avoidable, which equates to roughly 130 million people in the Indo-Pacific who are needlessly vision impaired.
- Studies have highlighted that for every \$1 invested in eye health a further \$4 is generated in economic growth.

Source:

Bourne, R, Flaxman, S, Braithwaite, T et al. *Magnitude, Temporal Trends, and Projections of the Global Prevalence of Blindness and Distance and Near Vision Impairment: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*, [The Lancet Global Health](#) 2017, 5(9): 888-897

Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015 the UN countries adopted a set of 17 goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda:

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states are expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

Figure 1 Sustainable Development Goals

