IAPB Vision Atlas

Eye Health: Why it matters

Eye health is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Good vision and eye health unlocks people's potential to:

Get an education

Earn a living

Maintain Well-being

Image credits: 1. Neil Oakshott (Operation Eyesight); 2. Mansour Mohsen; 3. Ellen Crystal (Seva Canada)

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Eye Health: Why it matters

1.1 billion people

are living with vision loss because they **do not have access** to basic eye care services

55%

of people with vision loss **are women and girls**

90 million children

have vision loss as they **don't have access to eye care services**

Vision loss

costs the global economy

$411 billion

per annum in productivity losses

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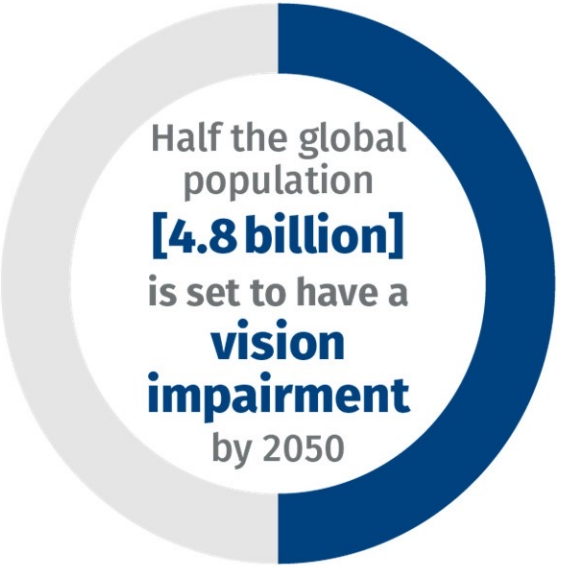
Did you know?



Almost **everyone will need access to eyecare services** during their lifetime

90%
of all vision loss is preventable or treatable

Unless there is a significant investment, eye care services are **unlikely to cope with future needs.**

Eye health is essential for achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals**

1 NO POVERTY

Poverty is both a cause and a consequence of poor eye health

90% **of vision loss is in low- and middle-income countries**

with the poor and extreme poor among the furthest left behind

2 ZERO HUNGER

Improved eye health can increase household income which in turn reduces hunger

Free high quality cataract surgery can increase household income:

46% **of household incomes moved up an income bracket**

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Eye health is key to ensuring good health, mental health and wellbeing.

Poor eye health increases the risk of mortality up to 2.6 times

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Eye health has positive impact on school enrolment, educational attainment and learning

Glasses can reduce the odds of failing a class **by 44%**

Children with vision loss are 2-5 times less likely to be in formal education in low- and middle-income countries

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Women and girls more likely to have vision loss and experience additional barriers to eye care services

Overall, women are **12% more likely** to have vision loss than men

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Good eye health and vision promotes inclusive economic growth, employment and improved living standards

Providing glasses can increase workplace productivity by **22%**

Cataract surgery can increase household per capita expenditure by **88%**

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Poor eye health is driven by inequality

Women, older people, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants **are among those most affected**

73% of people with vision loss **are over the age of 50**

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Eye health is critical to reducing road traffic deaths and injuries

Unoperated cataract can increase the chance of a motor vehicle accident by **2.5 times**

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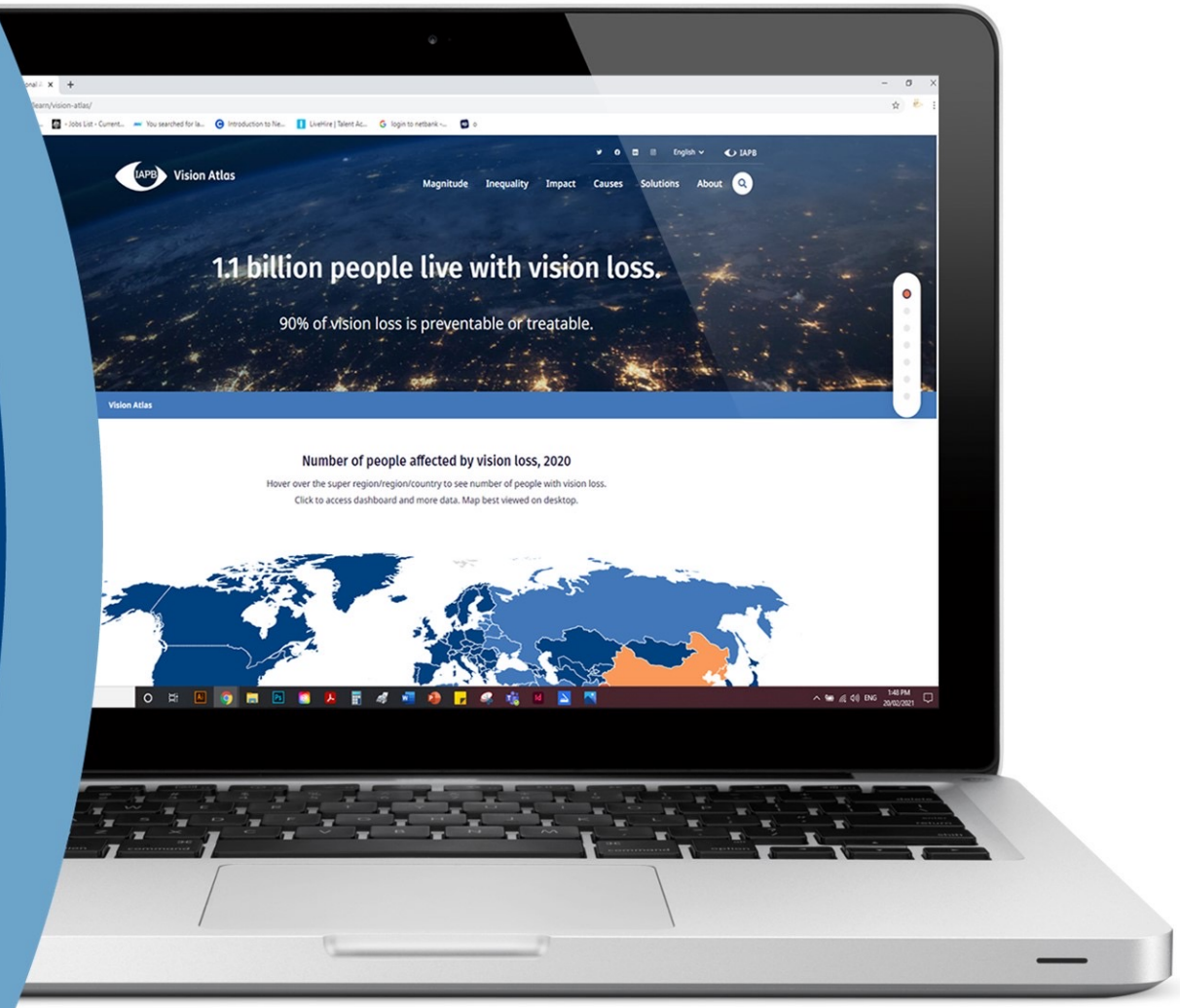
IAPB Vision Atlas
for more data visualisation



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