

# SESSION 3: 2024 Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence in Vision and Public Health – *Mission for Vision: A Quarter Century of Person-Centered Eye Care*



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Member, Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on the SPECS 2030 initiative,

World Health Organisation

# SESSION 3: 2024 Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence in Vision and Public Health



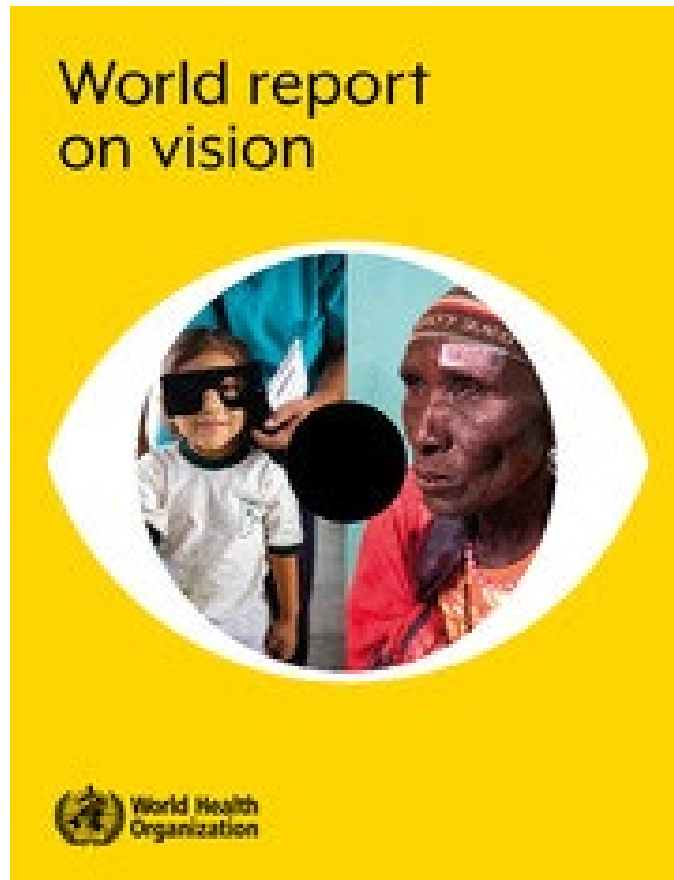
## ***Mission for Vision: A Quarter Century of Person-Centered Eye Care***

### **Elizabeth Kurian**

Chief Executive Officer, Mission for Vision

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# The situation



At least **2.2 billion**  
people live with a  
vision impairment  
(including visual  
impairment that has  
been addressed)

At least **1 billion**  
living with vision  
impairment that  
could have been  
prevented or has yet  
to be addressed

# Context



**90%**

of vision loss is in low- and middle-income countries, with the poor and the extreme poor the furthest left behind



**55%**

of people with vision loss are women and girls



**73%**

of people with vision loss are over the age of 50



**USD 410.7 Bn**

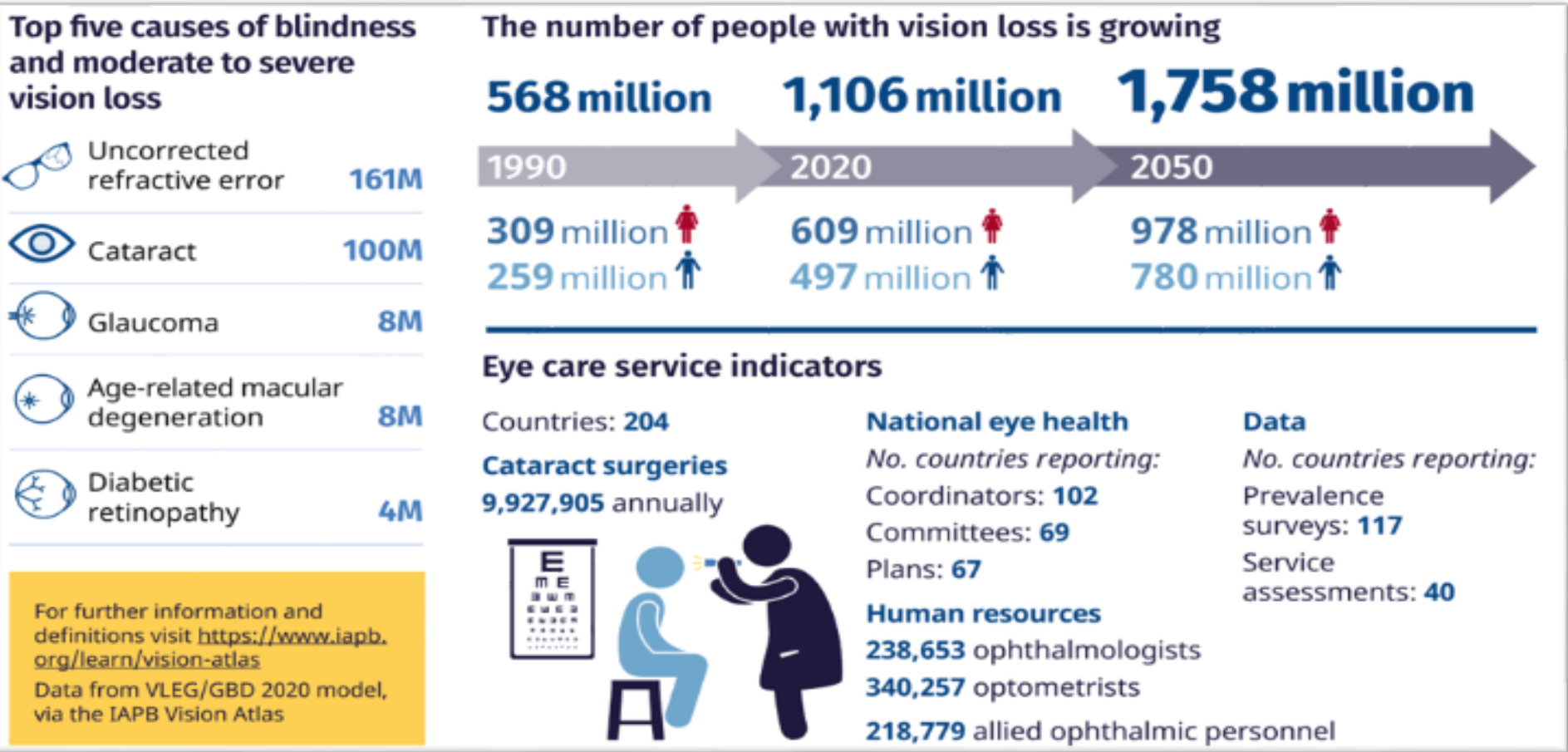
in lost productivity annually due to vision loss



Blindness is closely interlinked with poverty, disproportionately impacts indigenous people, rural communities and migrant populations

*Source: World Report on Vision 2019*

# Trends



# Challenges



**Educational Achievement**

**Work Force Participation**

**Limited Mobility**

**Higher rates of Violence & Abuse**

**Mental Health**

**Quality of Life**

**Visual Impairment Severely Impacts**

### Barriers to Eye Care

-  **Availability of Services**
-  **Accessibility**
-  **Affordability**
-  **Acceptability**

# Eye Health and Universal Health Coverage

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means that all people have access to the health services they need, when and where they need them, without financial hardship.

Affordable, accessible and high-quality comprehensive eye health care is essential to UHC.



# Comprehensive eye health systems



Promotion



Prevention



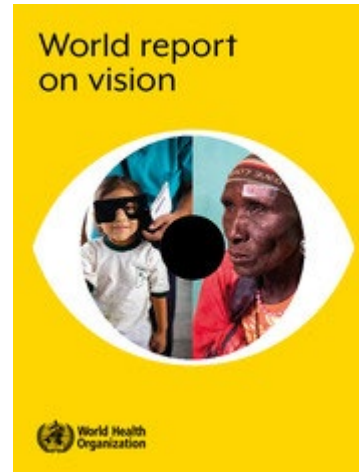
Treatment



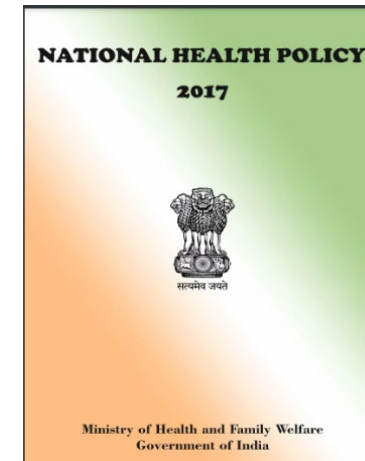
Rehabilitation



# The Policy Environment

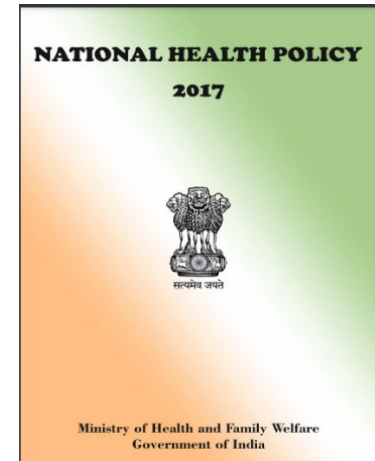


**Eye care targets to be achieved by 2030: 74<sup>th</sup> WHA, 2021**



# India: Commitments to Eye Health and UHC

- Population: 1.38 bn; Square Miles: 1.26 mn
- 28 states, 8 Union Territories
- Human Development Index: 134
- Right to Health
- The National Health Mission (NHM)
- National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (1976)
- Signatory to UNCRPD and The Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.



# India and eye health



- Blind: 8.8 mn      Moderate and severe VI: 47.7 mn
- Refractive error: most common cause of visual impairment under age 49
- Cataract: leading cause of blindness among those aged 50 and above
  - 9,000,000 cataract surgeries in 2023-24
  - Cataract Surgical Rate: 6500 per million population
- Increasing prevalence of other eye conditions
- Increasing engagement of the private sector



# Mission for Vision

[www.missionforvision.org.in](http://www.missionforvision.org.in)

Being Seen and Heard | 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Focus on Eye Health Summit | July 10–11, 2024

# Mission for Vision

**Mission for Vision (MFV)** is a leading not-for-profit organisation working since 2000 for the eradication of avoidable blindness.

Endeavour to serve the most marginalised communities challenged by weak eye health systems.

India and Nigeria.

Founded by the **Chanrai Summit Group**.



ELDERLY



WORKPLACES



RURAL



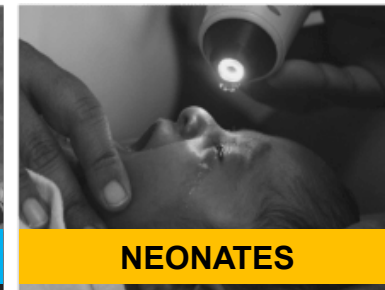
SCHOOL CHILDREN



WOMEN



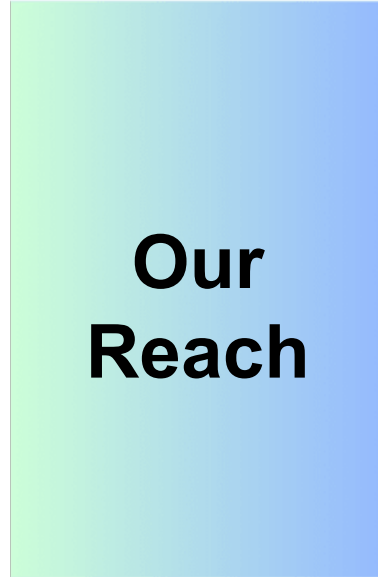
URBAN SLUMS



NEONATES



TRIBALS



# Presence and Coverage

**26** Partners and **42** Eye Hospitals

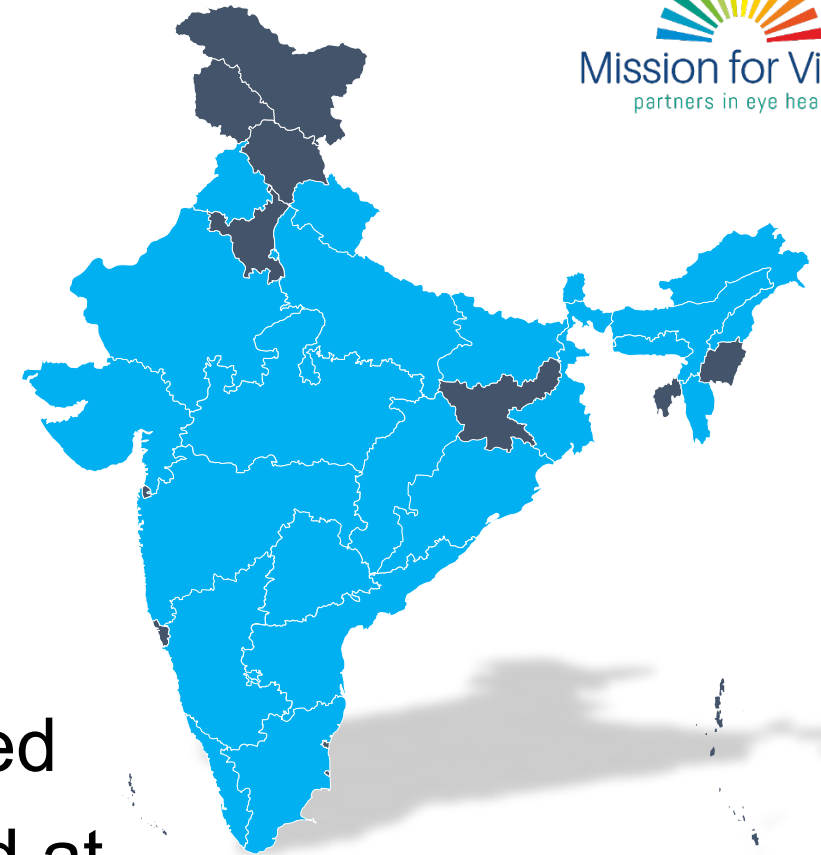
**190** Districts


**22** States and **2** Union Territories

**19.86+ million** People intervened

**3.08+ million** Surgeries enabled at no cost to the client

**50%** Women and Girls



LEGEND	
	MFV Coverage

# Our Capabilities

- Strong, passionate and diverse team cutting across various identities.
- Comprises of domain and functional experts from the eye health, social development and corporate sector.
- Collective experience of 700+ years



# Endeavours towards People-Centred Eye Care

1. Engaging and empowering people and communities
2. Rooted in primary eye care
3. Coordinate services within and across sectors
4. Creating an enabling environment, specifically the inclusion of eye care in national health strategic plans, the integration of relevant eye care data within health information systems, and the planning of the eye care workforce according to population needs





# What do we do?



# Eye Facilities

Establishing secondary and tertiary level centres

# 23

Eye Hospitals established/  
strengthened



# Mission Saksham

Training of Allied Ophthalmic  
Personnel (AOP).

# 737+

Allied Ophthalmic Personnel  
Trained/In Training



# Mission Netra

Addressing cataract blindness by  
enabling high quality cataract  
surgeries

**3 million+**

Surgeries enabled

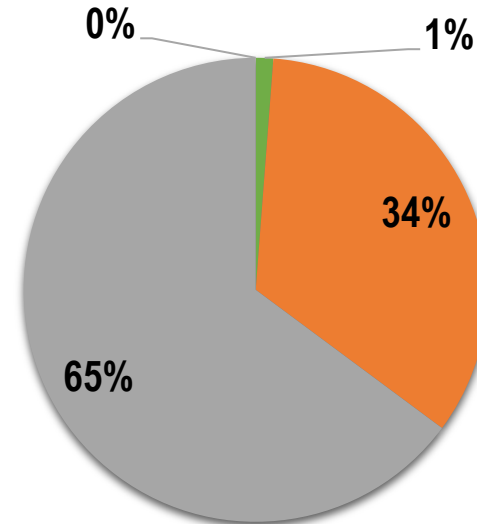


# Visual outcomes post cataract surgery (N=7636)

71% of the respondents were found to have visual acuity in the category defined as “Very Good” & 20% as “Good”, indicating alignment with WHO recommendations after cataract surgery.

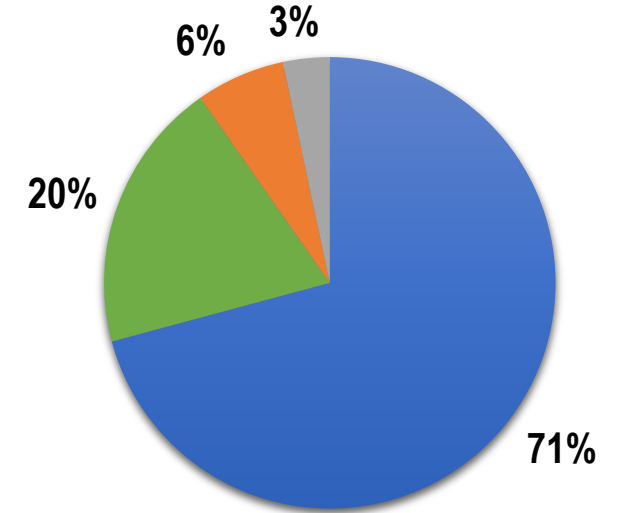
Before surgery, 99% had suboptimal/ poor vision.

Visual Acuity before Surgery



- Very good 6/6-6/12
- Good < 6/12-6/18
- Borderline <6/18-6/60
- Poor <6/60

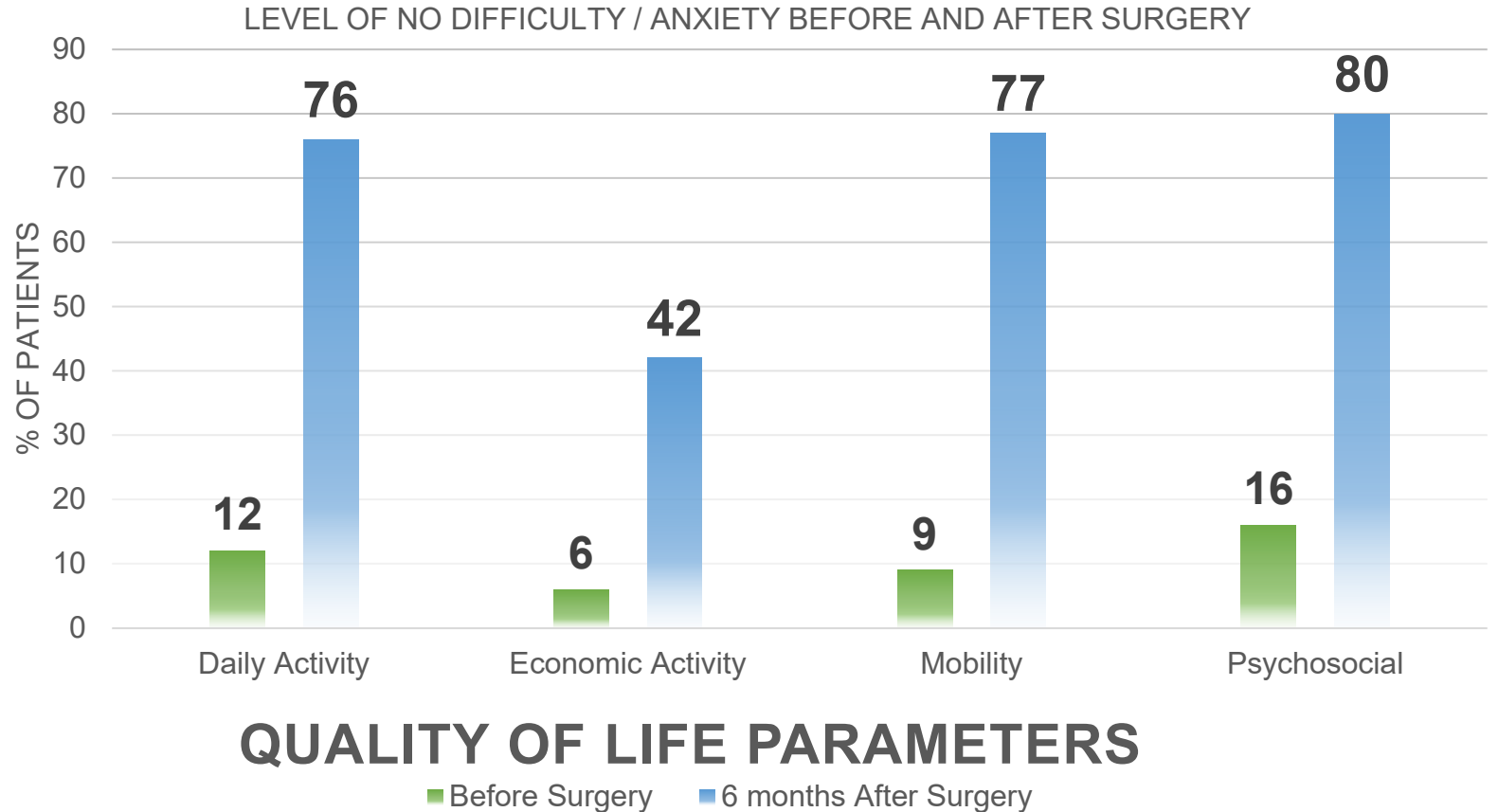
Visual Acuity after Surgery



- Very good 6/6-6/12
- Good < 6/12-6/18
- Borderline <6/18-6/60
- Poor <6/60

# Quality of Life (N=7636)

The large majority of the beneficiaries reported less difficulty in carrying out daily activities, economic activities, in mobility and psycho-social parameters after cataract surgery than before the intervention.



# Mission Jyot

Establishing Vision Centres in  
remote areas

# 161

Vision Centres established  
*(including 5 Mobile Vision Clinics)*



# Mission Disha

Promoting good eye health at workplaces, particularly at-risk workers, heavy vehicle drivers and other skilled workforce.

**23,979+**

Heavy Vehicle Drivers & Skilled Workers





# Mission Roshni

Eye health interventions for children studying in government and government-aided schools.

**834,520+**  
Children intervened

# Mission Nayan

Addressing Retinopathy of Prematurity among pre-term babies.

**7,761+**

Neonates intervened



# Mission Jeevan

Addressing Retinoblastoma, a form of paediatric eye cancer impacting 0- to 6-year-old children.

**24**

Children intervened



# Evidence: Publications



Quality of Life changes post Cataract Surgery



Visual Impairment and Mental Health Outcomes



Barriers to Uptake of Cataract Surgery among elderly population: Evidence from Mizoram



Knowledge among patients about postoperative home self-care following cataract surgery in Northern and Western India

# Policy and Advocacy: Board & advisory functions



Board of  
Trustees,  
IAPB



Board of  
Trustees,  
VISION 2020:  
The Right to  
Sight - India



Board of Directors,  
Optometry Council of India



World Health  
Organization

Member of  
Strategic and  
Technical Advisory  
Group on the WHO  
SPECS 2030  
initiative

# Sustainability



Behaviour change by addressing eye care knowledge, awareness and practice among the community



Network of highly credible community eye hospitals across 22 States delivering quality eye care



Primary Eye Health workforce hired from local communities



Developing a cadre of eye care personnel in the country and contributing to human capital

# Sustainability (contd.)



Cross subsidy approach where revenue generated from paying patients is used to treat non-paying patients



Vision Centres are sustained through revenue generation via affordable registration fee and sale of spectacles at a nominal price



Choice of spectacle frames left to children and a strong compliance follow up



High quality of services  
Respect

# Fit for Life Award (2022)

For reintegrating elders into an active and independent life by restoring vision and mobility.

Among four laureates from 500+ applications from over 80 countries.





# Way forward

- Continue to position eye care as an integral part of universal health coverage
- Promote health systems research
- Widen partnerships, especially with private sector
- Foster innovation
- Leverage technology
- Raise awareness and engage and empower people and communities about eye care needs
- Being seen and heard!



“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.”

- Mahatma Gandhi



Being Seen and Heard | 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Focus on Eye Health Summit | July 10–11, 2024

