



Universal Eye Health in China: Priorities from the Global Action Plan

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IAPB Council of Members Meeting, Beijing
13 October 2015

Universal Eye Health: A Global Action Plan 2014-19



- Adopted in May 2013 by the **World Health Assembly**
- China has been closely involved and a **strong supporter** of the original resolution at the World Health Assembly
- A **Regional Action Plan** for the Western Pacific Region was developed in Manila in 2013



Universal Eye Health: A Global Action Plan 2014-19



- 3 **objectives** for countries and partners
- 3 **national indicators** for reporting
- **Goal** to reduce avoidable visual impairment as a global health problem and secure access to rehabilitation for the visually impaired
- **Target** of at least a **25% reduction** in avoidable blindness and visual impairment by 2019



Objective 1

Evidence generated and used to advocate for increased political and financial commitment of Member States for eye health



Objective 1: Evidence



- **9-Province Survey** on prevalence of blindness and its causes, with support from many stakeholders including ORBIS and Bayer
- Share and use this data for **planning**
- Identify **gaps in service provision** – including availability, accessibility, cost-effectiveness, quality, sustainability, affordability and equity
- WHO tools
- Share **good practice** – COS, IAPB, Community Eye Health Journal
- China is a prolific contributor to eye health research

Objective 2

National eye health policies, plans and programmes for enhancing universal eye health developed and/or strengthened and implemented in line with WHO's framework for action for strengthening health systems in order to improve health outcomes



Objective 2: Planning and policies



- National plan an excellent first step
- Subnational plans: **provinces** will require support and encouragement
- **Policies** and **standards** to improve practice and ensure quality
- Improve **referral** pathways
- Solutions for **refractive error**



Objective 2: Financing



- China already has a comprehensive **health insurance** system in place
- Explore other ways to limit **out-of-pocket expenditure** for the poor
- Increase resources for services at the primary level to **reach out to communities**, conduct screenings



Objective 2: Human resources for eye health



- Improvements to **training** and professional development for sub-specialists
- Integration with **primary health care**
- Distribution of ophthalmologists and eye health workers in **rural areas** and county hospitals



Objective 2: National Indicators



1. Prevalence of blindness and visual impairment

2. National numbers of ophthalmologists, optometrists and eye care professionals

3. Cataract surgical rate and coverage

- China is already improving systems to improve the collection of cataract data
- Workforce numbers to be assessed as part of surveys in 2015

Objective 3

Multisectoral engagement and effective partnerships for improved eye health strengthened



Objective 3: Partnerships

- Engage **other sectors** – education in addressing refractive error
- Integrate eye health into poverty reduction strategies and the **Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Private hospitals** and **non-government organisations** are important players too
- Regional and **international** alliances



Universal Eye Health: Some key points for China



- Planning and broad collaboration – **stronger together**
- Expand high-quality, low cost surgery outside urban centres to **eliminate cataract blindness**
- Refractive error in children
 - Glasses should be **affordable** or **free** for all who need them
- New strategies for **diabetes**
 - Screening and treatment **before** vision declines, and **ongoing care** to prevent vision loss