



# Package of eye care interventions

## Information sheet

### What is the package of eye care interventions?

The Package of Eye Care Interventions (PECI) will be a WHO resource containing evidence-based eye care interventions that can be used by countries to plan (i.e. decide on which interventions to prioritize), budget and integrate eye care interventions at all service delivery platforms. The PEGI will support countries to determine the a) workforce competencies, equipment, medicines and consumables necessary, b) assistive technologies needed, and c) costs associated with the implementation of eye care interventions.

### Why do we need a package of eye care interventions?

The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) define targets for priority areas of action that all 191 UN Member States agreed to achieve by 2030. Eye care is particularly relevant to SDG3 which addresses health and well-being, and also to SDG target 3.8 on Universal Health Coverage (UHC). UHC means that all people have access to the promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services they need, when and where they need them, without being exposed to financial hardship.

While a range of effective eye care interventions are available to reduce the risk of acquiring an eye condition or vision impairment and to mitigate the impact, persistent inequities in access to these interventions exist. These inequities are often far greater in low- and middle-income countries and underserved populations, such as people living in rural areas, those with low incomes, women, older people, people with certain kinds of disability, indigenous populations and ethnic minorities.

A key recommendation of WHO's *World report on vision* was to make eye care an integral part of UHC in order to address the inequities in access to eye care services across the population. The PEGI will equip Member States with technical guidance to establish and strengthen eye care service delivery in line with population needs, thus enabling more people to benefit from eye care interventions. This means identifying the eye care interventions that should be prioritized for integration into the health system, and the resources required to deliver them safely and effectively.

### Who are the intended end-users of the package?

The primary audience for the PEGI will be Ministries of Health and other ministries involved in eye care service delivery. Ministries of Health can use the PEGI to strategically plan the integration of eye care interventions in their national health services. Government service providers can also use the PEGI to plan and implement specific eye care interventions in their service programs. Researchers can identify research gaps from the PEGI and thus, define their research strategies to address these gaps. Academics can use the PEGI to develop their curricula for the training of health workers involved in eye care.

## How will the package of eye care interventions be developed?

The development of the PECl will be conducted in 5 steps (see below figure): (1) selection of eye conditions (for which interventions will be included in the PECl) based on data on the causes vision impairment and blindness, prevalence estimates of eye conditions, health facility data and expert consensus; (2) identification of interventions and related evidence for the selected eye conditions from high quality clinical practice guidelines and systematic reviews; (3) expert agreement on the inclusion of eye care interventions in the PECl and the description of resources (workforce competencies, assistive technologies, equipment and consumables) required for the provision of the selected interventions; (4) peer review process, and (5) production of an Alpha Version of the PECl for pilot testing in selected countries followed by refinement of the package.



Once finalized, the PECl will be integrated into WHO financing mechanisms for UHC, including the OneHealth tool<sup>1</sup>, and linked with interventions across all of WHO's programmatic health areas. The enhanced access to evidence and recommendations, and the accompanying country level tools, will support Member States in integrating eye care interventions into their national health services packages and policies.

## Who will be involved in the development of the package?

The project will be led by the WHO Vision Programme in collaboration with Cochrane Eyes and Vision. A WHO steering committee will oversee the project and an Technical Advisory Group, comprised of public health and clinical leaders in the field of eye care from all 6 WHO regions, will provide technical input. Clinical and academic eye care experts will also collaborate in the development of the PECl throughout steps 2 to 4.

## When will the package of eye care interventions be available for use?

It is anticipated that the PECl will be finalized and available for use in early 2021.

<sup>1</sup> The OneHealth Tool is a software tool designed to inform national strategic health planning and costing in low- and middle-income countries.