



International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

**IAPB COUNCIL OF MEMBERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011**

REGIONAL REPORTS ON VISION 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS - EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

General perspective

EMR to review progress of action plan and regional recommendations

The IAPB EMR will review the progress of countries in the implementation of the Action plan for the prevention of avoidable blindness (WHA 62.7) and regional recommendations for control of major causes of blindness and visual impairment like Glaucoma, Diabetic retinopathy and Refractive error. The workshop will assess the successes, challenges and solutions to the problems in implementation of the action plans and regional strategies. It will be held in Dubai from 21-23 November in collaboration with WHO EMR and support of Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

Towards integration of PEC into PHC in the EMR

The WHO EMRO in collaboration with the IAPB EMR had commenced implementation of the recommendations of the regional PEC workshop held earlier in the year in Dubai. Towards this task forces have been established to develop training resource for the training of PHC workers in eye health and also develop monitoring tools and data collection forms for eye health. The taskforces are expected to complete their tasks in the last quarter of this year.

Human Resource Development

Egypt Institute for Community Ophthalmology

Al Noor foundation, Egypt in collaboration with CBM is establishing the Egypt Institute for Community ophthalmology in Cairo. The Institute will provide short and long academic courses in Community Ophthalmology, Management for eye care and Training for Ophthalmic Technicians. A new facility has been prepared within Alnoor complex in Cairo to harbor the Institute. Studying is expected to start in 2011 with candidates from Egypt and Middle East Region.

Institute for Rehabilitation sciences established in Pakistan

The CHEF international had established the Pakistani Institute of rehabilitation Sciences in Islamabad, Pakistan. The institute which will commence operation in the last quarter of this year will provide short courses and degree programs in all fields of disabilities including vision.

Some Countries reports

AFGHANISTAN

Four eye camps were conducted in four provinces (Bamyan, Daikundi, Baghlan & Jozjan), in these four camps 506 cataract surgeries were done, 1200 reading glasses distributed and 8812 eye patients treated free of charge through government financial support.

Also a Professor of Ophthalmology from King Edward Medical University, Pakistan had started training new Afghan eye doctor in Kabul Noor Eye Hospital.

LEBANON

Lebanon has developed a work plan for PEC in PHC

Lebanon had developed a work plan for the strengthening of primary eye care within the Primary health care in Lebanon. The plan includes aspects of advocacy, workforce development, infrastructural development, health promotion and education and organizational management. It also includes the involvement with the school health programme. The implementation of the plan is at its preparatory stage

SAUDI ARABIA

A. Diabetic Retinopathy control committee set up in Saudi Arabia

The National Prevention of Blindness Committee (NPBC) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had established a Diabetic Retinopathy Control committee. The Chairman of the NPBC Prince Abdulaziz Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Saud set up the committee to develop an action plan for the control of diabetic retinopathy in the Kingdom. The committee is headed by Prof Ahmed Abu Al Asrar, a renowned vitreoretinal surgeon with King Saud University Riyadh, membership of the committee includes representation from NPBC, MOH, other major tertiary and private institutions.

B. Second RAAB +DR survey to be conducted in Saudi Arabia

A second survey on Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness and diabetic retinopathy (RAAB+DR) will be conducted in a district of the Eastern province of Saudi Arabia in last quarter of this year. Last year a similar study was successfully conducted in a district of the Western province. The survey is being organized by the National Prevention of Blindness Committee (NPBC) of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in collaboration with Saudi Ministry of Health and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

SUDAN

A. National Trachoma Control Program

A total of 728 lid TT surgeries have been done by the government, Cateret center, and other NGOs. During MDA (Mass Drug Administration) 175,855 doses of azithromycine distributed in Galabat East Locality, 81,887 doses of azithromycine distributed in Geissan Locality, 139,039 in Elkurmouk Locality. A total of 95 radio messages were broadcasted in Galabat East Locality (Gedarif State), Geissan and Elkurmouk Localities ((Blue Nile State), 640 posters distributed in Galabat East (Gedarif State), 1800 trachoma T-shirt and Jamal bags distributed in Geissan and Elkurmouk localities. There was advocacy through TV during MDA IN Galabat East locality. Health education sessions were also implemented in 15 villages in Galabat East locality.

B. National Onchocerciasis Control Program

The following annual and bi-annual treatment with Ivermectin were carried out

- Abu Hamad focus: 79,725* treated out of 100,329 persons in the first round
- Radom Focus: 21,558** treated out of 19,723 persons
- Galabat focus: Data not yet arrived

Annual Training program for CDDS and supervisors

- Abu Hamad focus: 505 out of 1200 CDDs
- Galabat focus: Data not yet arrived
- Abu Hamad focus: 144 out of 120 Supervisors
- Galabat focus: Data not yet arrived

C. RAAB (Rapid Assessment Of Avoidable Blindness):

RAAB Survey Conducted in River Nile State (data under process).

Major challenges to eye care and PB activities

The current major obstacles to eye care and prevention of blindness activities in the EMR is the incessant political strife and unrest in many countries of the region.
