



International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
APRIL 8-9, 2013**

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 1.8: IAPB REGIONAL UPDATES – EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN PROGRESS REPORT OCT 2012 - MAR 2013

Significant achievements

1. A regional workshop on improving low vision and rehabilitation services in EMR was held in Doha from 10-12 December 2012. Effective recommendations were made towards strengthening low vision and rehabilitation services in EMR. A taskforce has been constituted to follow through the recommendations.
2. The EMR had formed an EMR Trachoma alliance taskforce to advocate and support mapping and effective control of the disease towards eliminating trachoma as a public health problem in the whole of EMR.
3. Diabetic retinopathy (DR) control in the EMR countries:
Considering the pandemic spread of Diabetes in the EMR region the IAPB-EMR is encouraging and supporting countries in the region to establish or re-organize their DR control programs. So far Saudi Arabia and Northern Jordan have developed plans and commencing implementation. Other countries are following suit.

Key ongoing issues

- Advocacy and technical support to countries on implementation of the new WHO action plan, 'Universal Eye Health: a Global Action Plan, 2014-2019' -
 - The EMR advocated strongly for the regional adoption of the new WHO action plan 'Universal Eye Health: a Global Action Plan, 2014-2019' during the WHO EMR meeting in October 2012. It also encouraged the EMR countries in the Executive Board (EB) of WHO to support the action plan at the last WHO EB meeting in Geneva in January 2013;
 - Now efforts will continue towards ensuring adoption of the action plan at the WHA in May 2013 and implementation at country levels with effective technical support to the countries.