

Addressing the sensory  
functions coverage gap:  
**reaching the people  
in need of spectacles  
and hearing care**

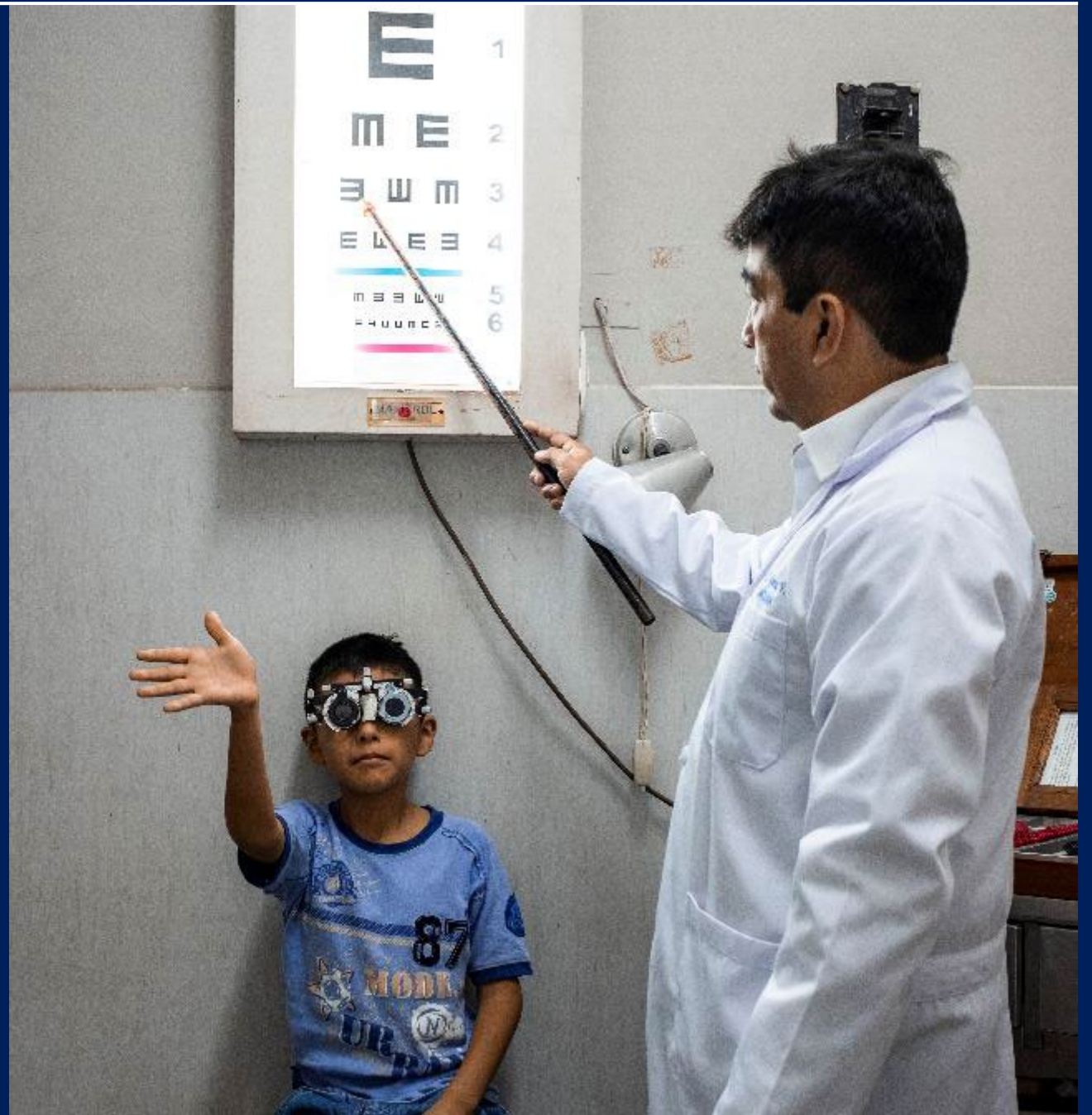


# Agenda

**Moderator:** Dr Alarcos Cieza, Unit Head SDR

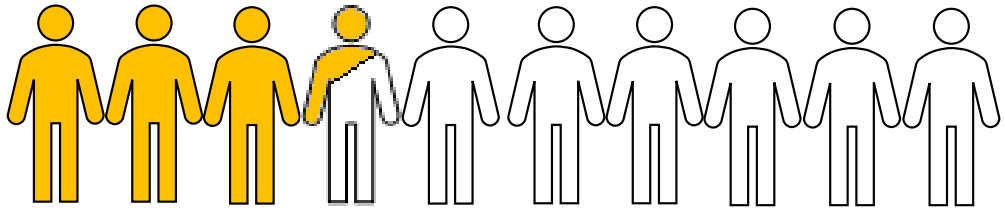
<b>Opening remarks</b>	Prof Jérôme Salomon, Assistant Director-General UCN	5 mins
<b>Introduction: global challenges in eye, ear and hearing care</b>	Dr Stuart Keel, Technical Officer (Vision and eye care) Dr Shelly Chadha, Technical Lead (Hearing)	10 mins
<b>Hearing care in Panama: status and actions</b>	Dr Ana Rivière Cinnamond, PWR Panama	8 mins
<b>Eye care in Malaysia: status and actions</b>	Dr Mohamad Aziz b Salowi, Ministry of Health, Malaysia	8 mins
<b>Eye and ear and hearing care in the African region</b>	Dr Prebo Barango, Medical Officer (NCD), AFRO	10 mins
<b>Introducing WHO SPECS</b>	Dr Stuart Keel, Technical Officer (Vision and eye care)	12 mins
<b>Reaching those in need of hearing care</b>	Dr Shelly Chadha, Technical Lead (Hearing)	12 mins
	<b>Questions and answers</b>	15 mins
<b>Closing</b>	Dr Bente Mikkelsen, Director NCD ( <i>tbc</i> )	5 mins

# Introduction: global challenges in refractive error care

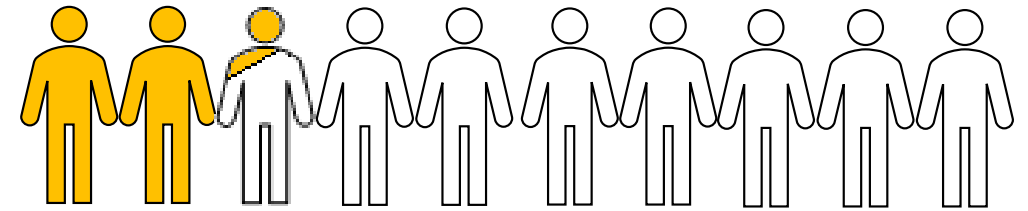


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# Huge need



**2.6 billion** cases of **myopia**

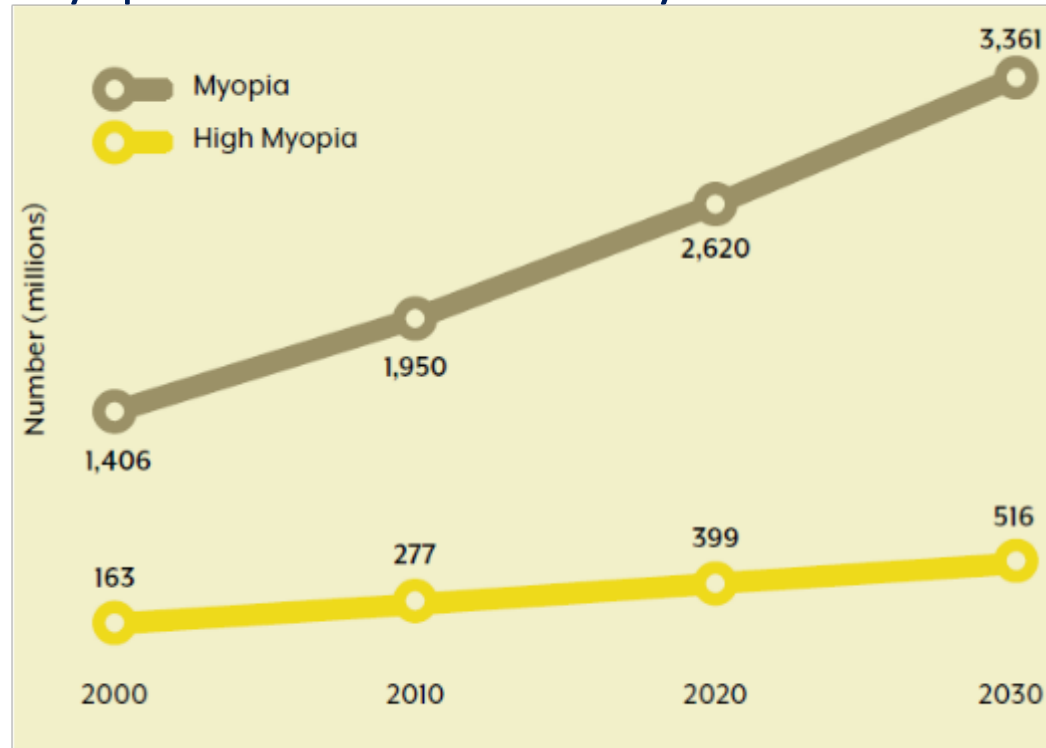


**1.8 billion** cases of **presbyopia**

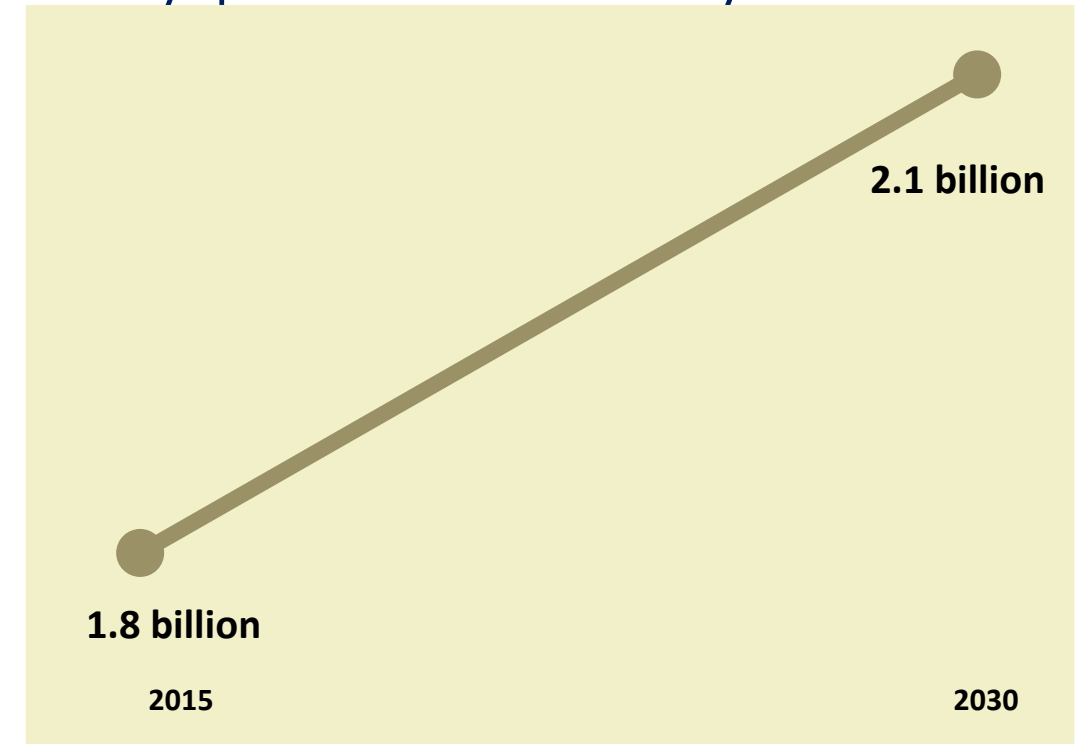
**Individuals with refractive errors have an ongoing need for eye care services**

# Growing

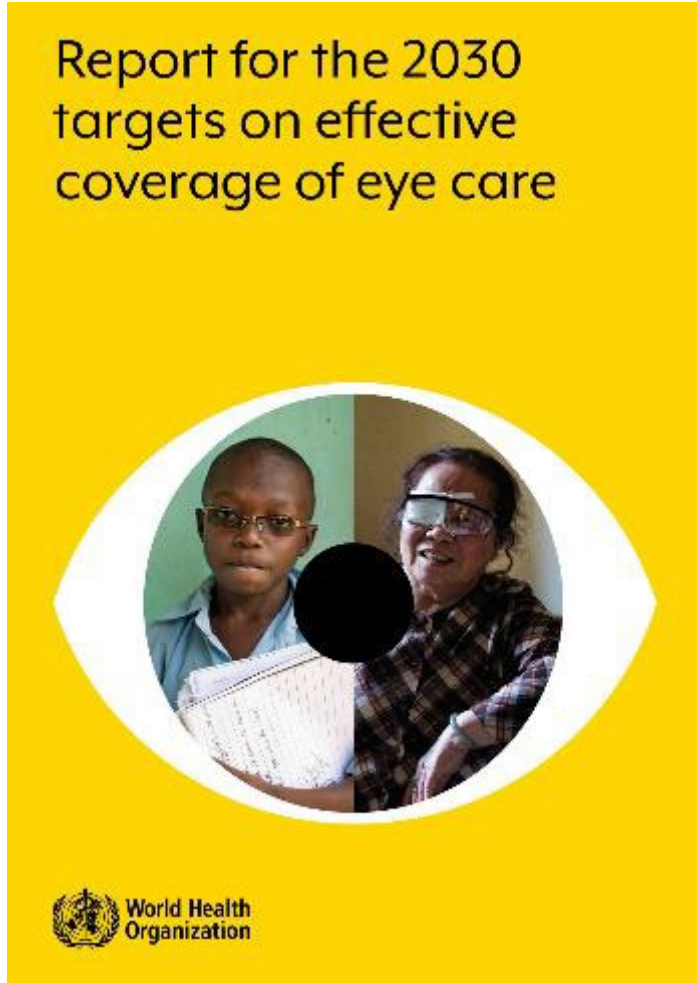
Myopia 3.36 billion cases by 2030



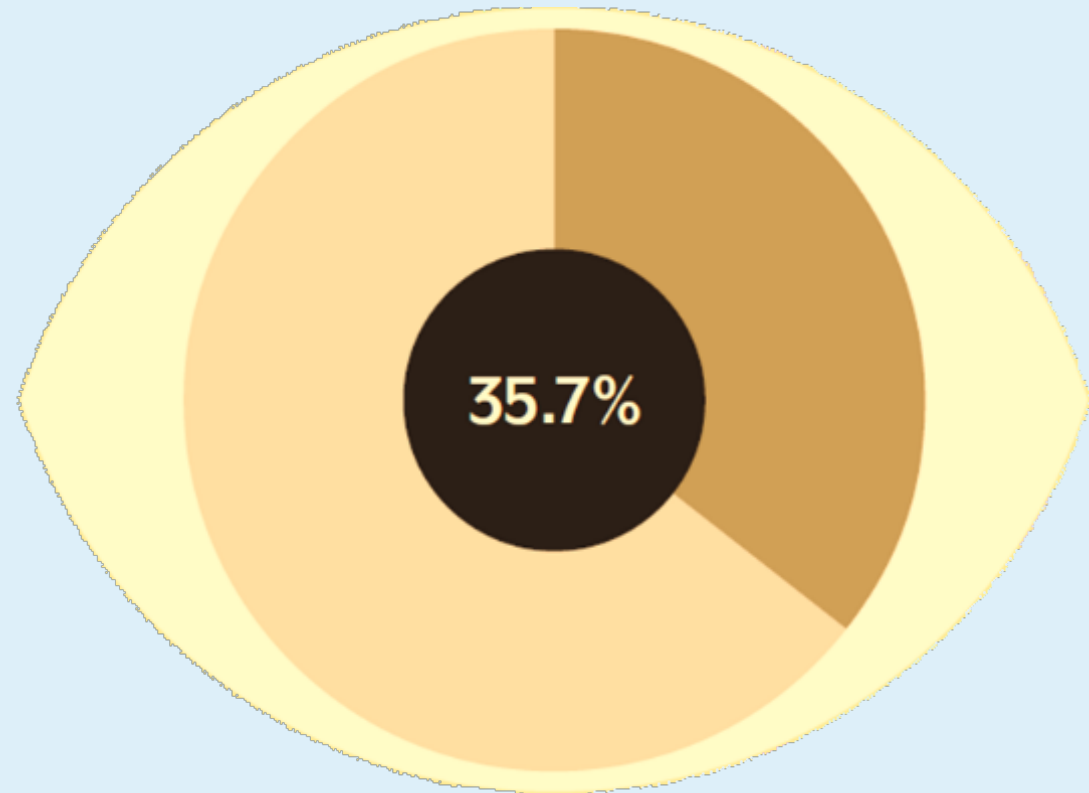
Presbyopia 2.1 billion cases by 2030



## 2030 global targets on eye care



## Effective coverage of refractive error Global Findings



Range = 3.5% to 89.9%

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## Key challenges to scaling up coverage of refractive error care



**Limited governmental sector provision.**



**Scarce services points** for screening, refraction and provision of spectacles.



**Insufficient availability of qualified human resources.**



**Limited government oversight** and **unregulated private sector.**



**Lack of awareness and commonly poor demand.**



**Spectacles not integrated into the health service packages** and insurance schemes.



**Lack of data systems for eye care, including refractive error.**

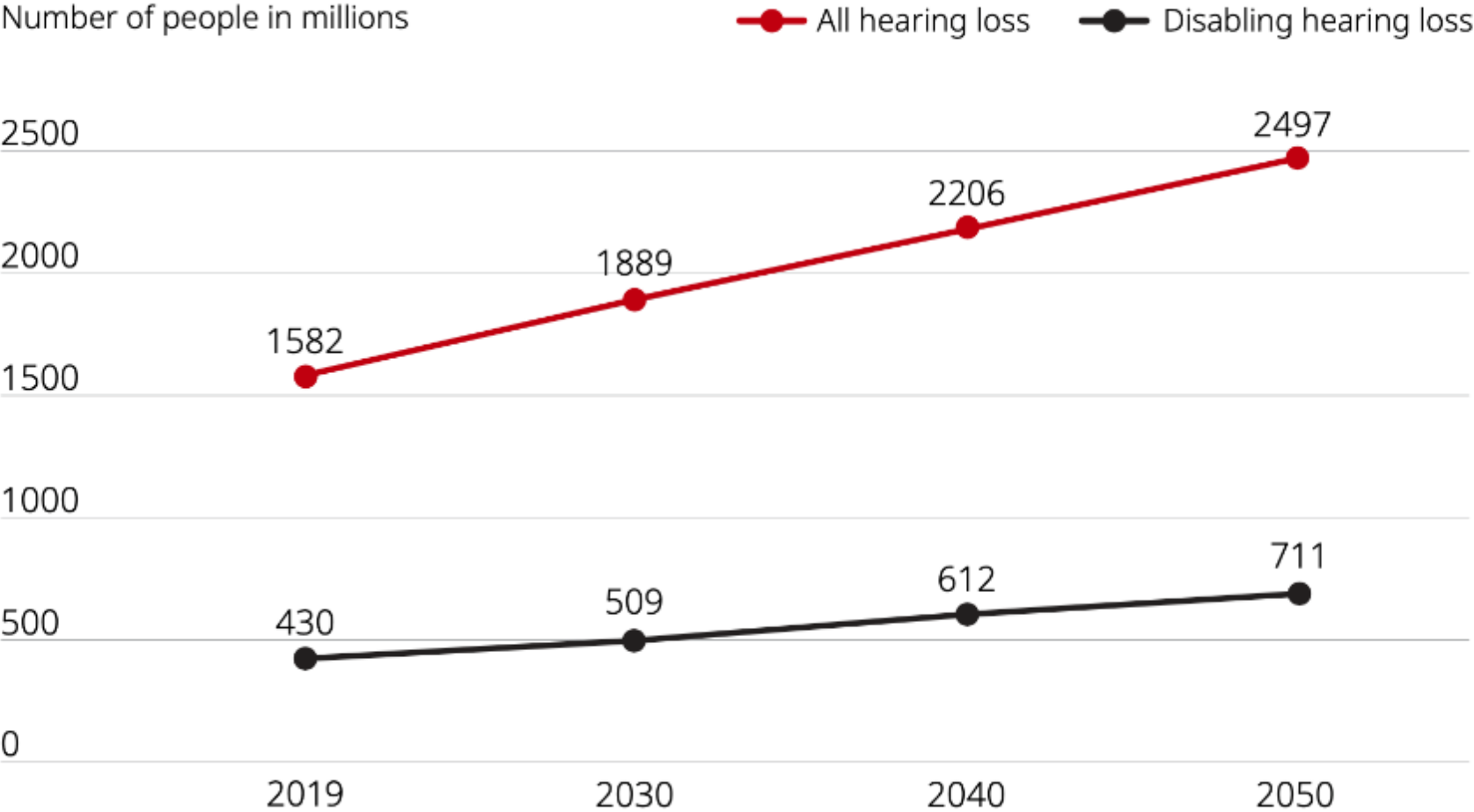
# Introduction: global challenges in ear and hearing care

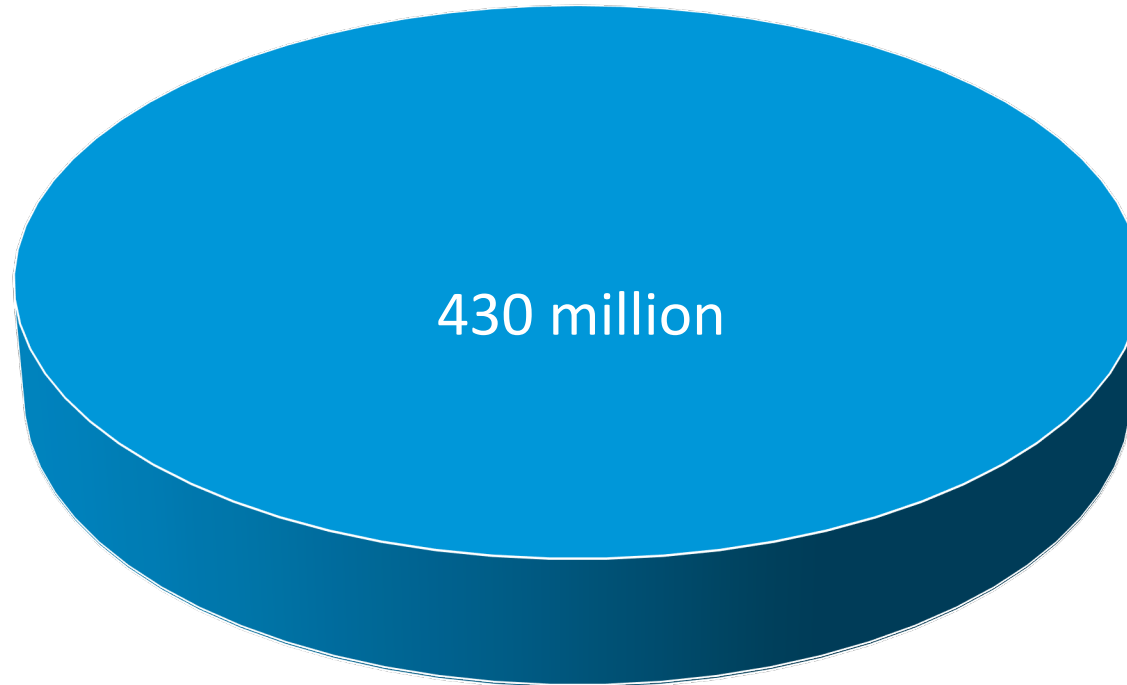


World Health  
Organization



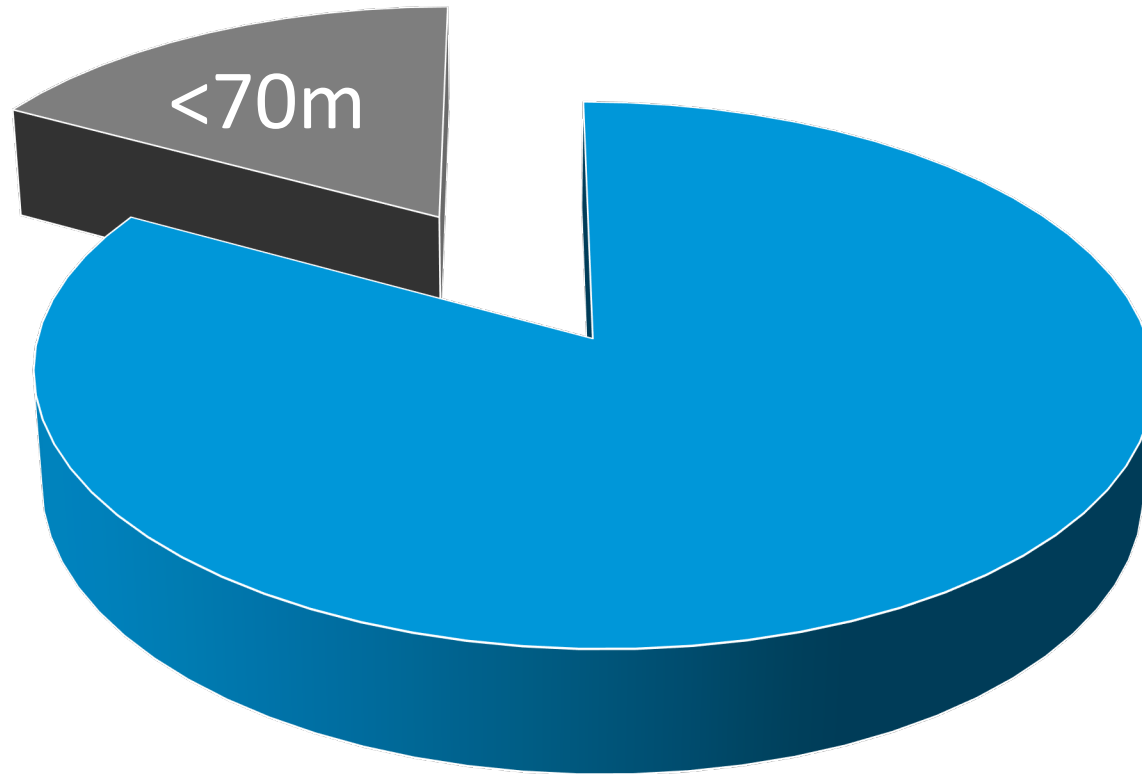
# Hearing loss is on the rise



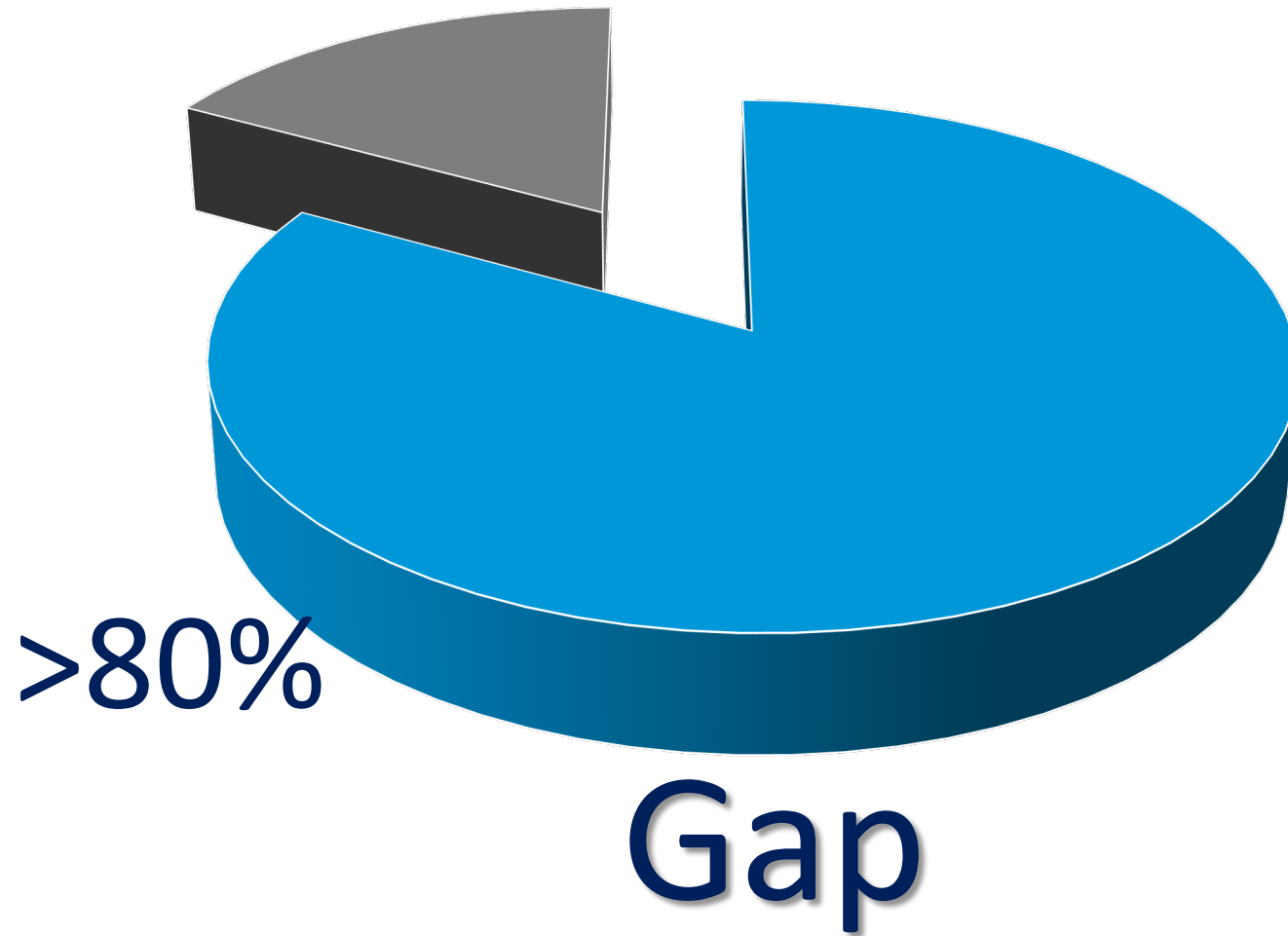


430 million

**could benefit from ear and hearing care**



receive the care they need





When unaddressed,  
hearing loss impacts  
many aspects of life:



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# Cost of unaddressed hearing loss

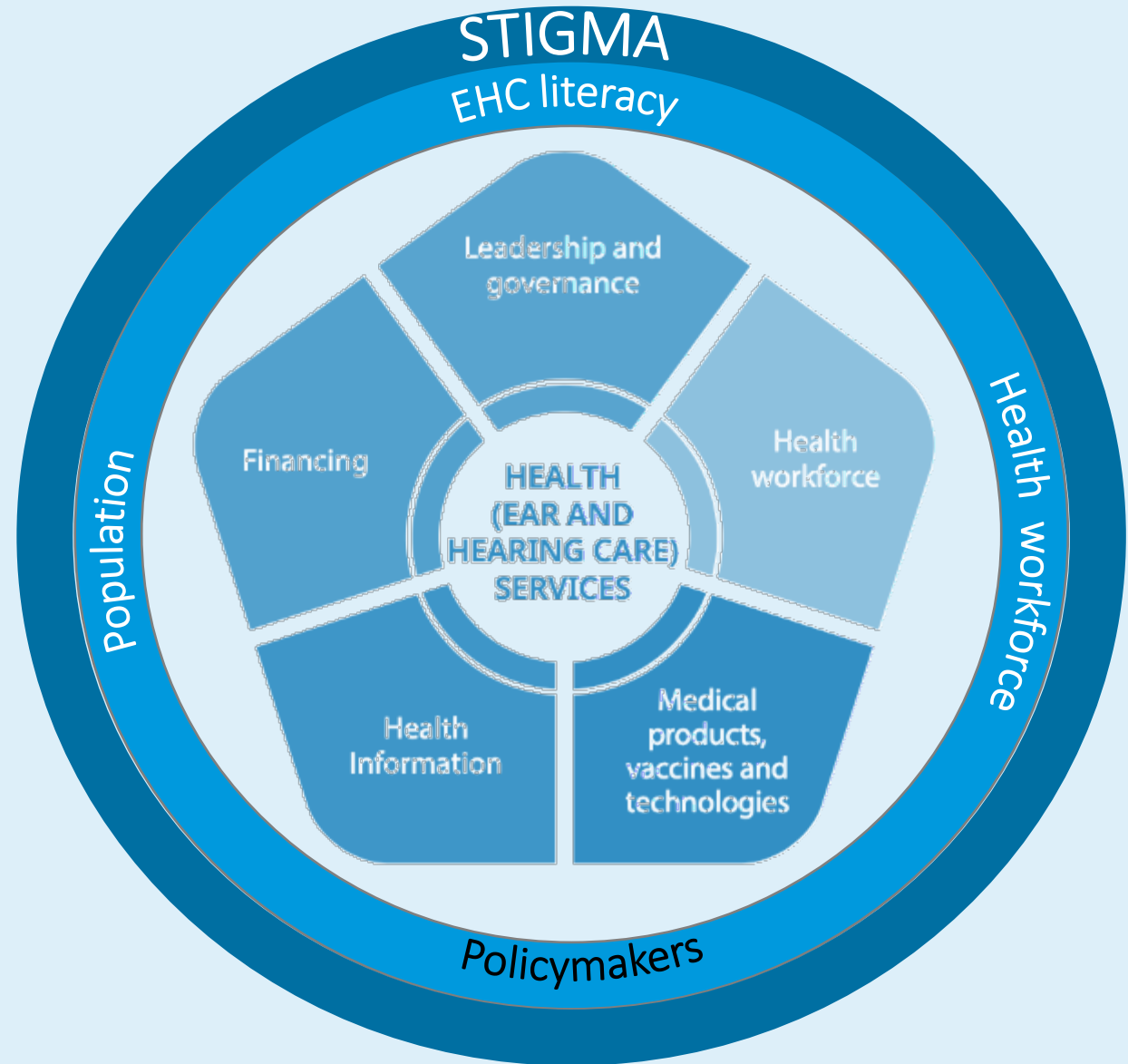


US\$  
980 billion

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We face challenges

*“Challenges in the field of ear and hearing care can be addressed!”*



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Country presentations:

## **Hearing care in Panama: status and actions**

Dr Ana Rivière Cinnamond, PWR Panama

## **Eye care in Malaysia: status and actions**

Dr Mohamad Aziz b Salowi, Ministry of Health, Malaysia



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Regional presentation:

## **Eye and ear and hearing care in the African region**

Dr Prebo Barango, Medical Officer (NCD), AFRO

# Introducing **WHO SPECS**



World Health  
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# Resolution WHA73.4

SEVENTY-THIRD WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

WHA73.4

Agenda item 11.7

3 August 2020

## Integrated people-centred eye care, including preventable vision impairment and blindness

The Seventy-third World Health Assembly,

Having adopted the written silence procedure through decision WHA73(7) (2020);<sup>1</sup>

Recalling resolutions WHA51.11 (1998) on global elimination of blinding trachoma, WHA56.26 (2003) on the elimination of avoidable blindness, WHA59.25 (2006) and WHA62.1 (2009) on the prevention of avoidable blindness and visual impairment, WHA66.12 (2013) on neglected tropical diseases, and WHA66.4 (2013) entitled "Towards universal eye health: a global action plan 2014–2019";

Mindful of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), and recognizing the important intersections between eye health and other Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 1 (End poverty in all its forms everywhere), Goal 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), Goal 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) and Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries);

Recalling the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage,<sup>2</sup> including the commitment therein to strengthen efforts to address eye health conditions as part of universal health coverage;

Recognizing that at least 2.2 billion people are living with vision impairment or blindness, of whom at least 1 billion have vision impairment that could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed;<sup>3</sup>

Acknowledging that the vast majority of people with vision impairment live in low- and middle-income countries, which often have limited resources and may lack strategies to prevent or correct vision impairment, and bearing in mind the higher prevalence of vision impairment in rural and remote areas;

## Eye care in health systems Guide for action



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# Why WHO SPECS 2030?



**SEVENTY-FOURTH WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY**  
**Provisional agenda item 13.9**

**A74/9 Add.3**  
**19 April 2021**

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**Integrated people-centred eye care, including  
preventable vision impairment and blindness**

**40% increase effective coverage of refractive error by 2030**

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# Vision and mission of the WHO SPECS 2030 initiative



## Vision

WHO SPECS 2030 envisions **a world in which everyone who needs spectacles has access to quality, affordable and people-centred refractive error services.**



## Mission

To **support the achievement of the World Health Assembly endorsed 2030 target on effective refractive error coverage.**

# Five strategic pillars

Improve access to

**S**ervices



Build capacity of

**P**ersonnel to  
provide spectacles



Improve population

**E**ducation



Reduce the

**C**ost of spectacles



Strengthen  
research and

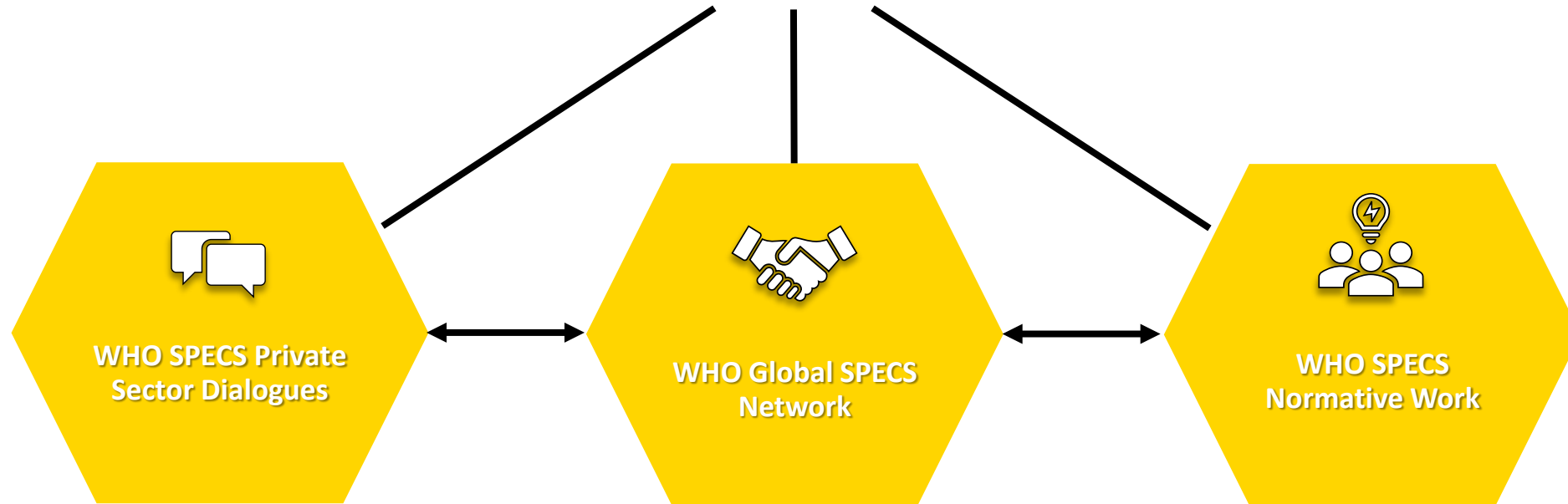
**S**urveillance



# Engagement structure

## WHO SPECS 2030

A global WHO Initiative



**WHO private sector engagement** to promote effective and meaningful contributions to scaling up the coverage of refractive services to support the achievement of the 2030 eREC target.

**WHO network** of stakeholders with a common vision to promote collective and coordinated advocacy towards the achievement of 2030 eREC target.

**WHO Norms and Standards** to support Member States to achieve the 2030 eREC target.

# Improve access to **Services**

## Desired outcomes

Implement policies for spectacle provision in public sector

Adopt minimum quality standards for spectacles

Integrate procurement, inventory management

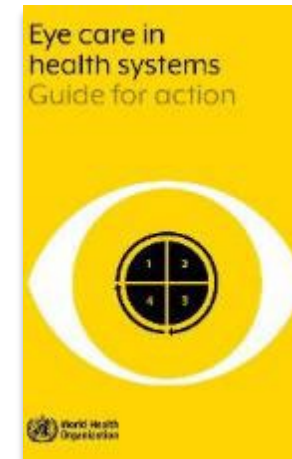
Integration of RE care in PHC

## WHO-led normative work

Guidance paper on legislative issues

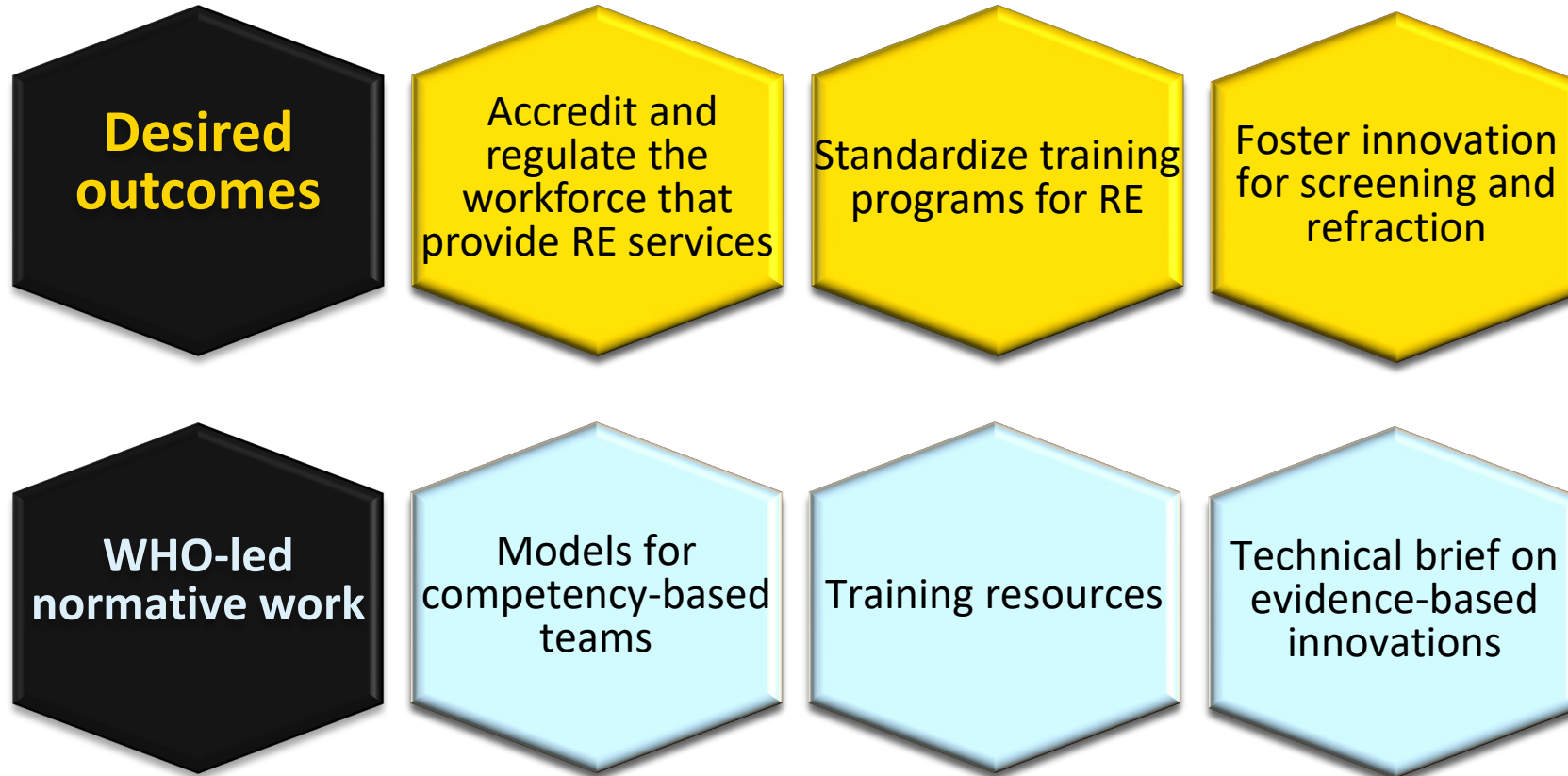
International quality standards summary guide

Models of service delivery in PHC





# Build capacity of **Personnel** to provide spectacles



# Improve population **Education**

## Desired outcomes

Implement public health campaigns for RE

Include eye health in wider health promotion

Implement policies for myopia prevention in schools

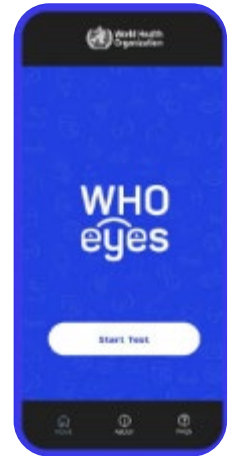
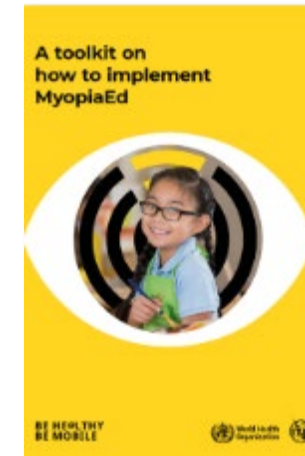
Increase population demand for spectacles

## WHO-led normative work

WHO-ITU MyopiaEd Programme

WHO self testing vision APP and promotion materials

Education materials for teachers and health workers



# Reduce the **Cost** of spectacles

**Desired outcomes**

Include spectacles in health services packages and insurance

Address trade barriers

Establish sustainable funding mechanisms

**WHO-led normative work**

WHO PECI for costing of integrated services

Investment and cost-benefit case

Inclusion in WHO priority medical devices list



# Strengthen research and **Surveillance**

**Desired outcomes**

Integrate RE indicators in HIS

Periodically collect and report on eREC

Implement quality assurance programmes

**WHO-led normative work**

DHIS2 sensory functions module

Global coverage monitoring of 2030 target

Review of methods and systems for quality assurance

Health system and policy research agenda



# Timeline



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# Thank you

For more information, please contact:

**Stuart Keel**

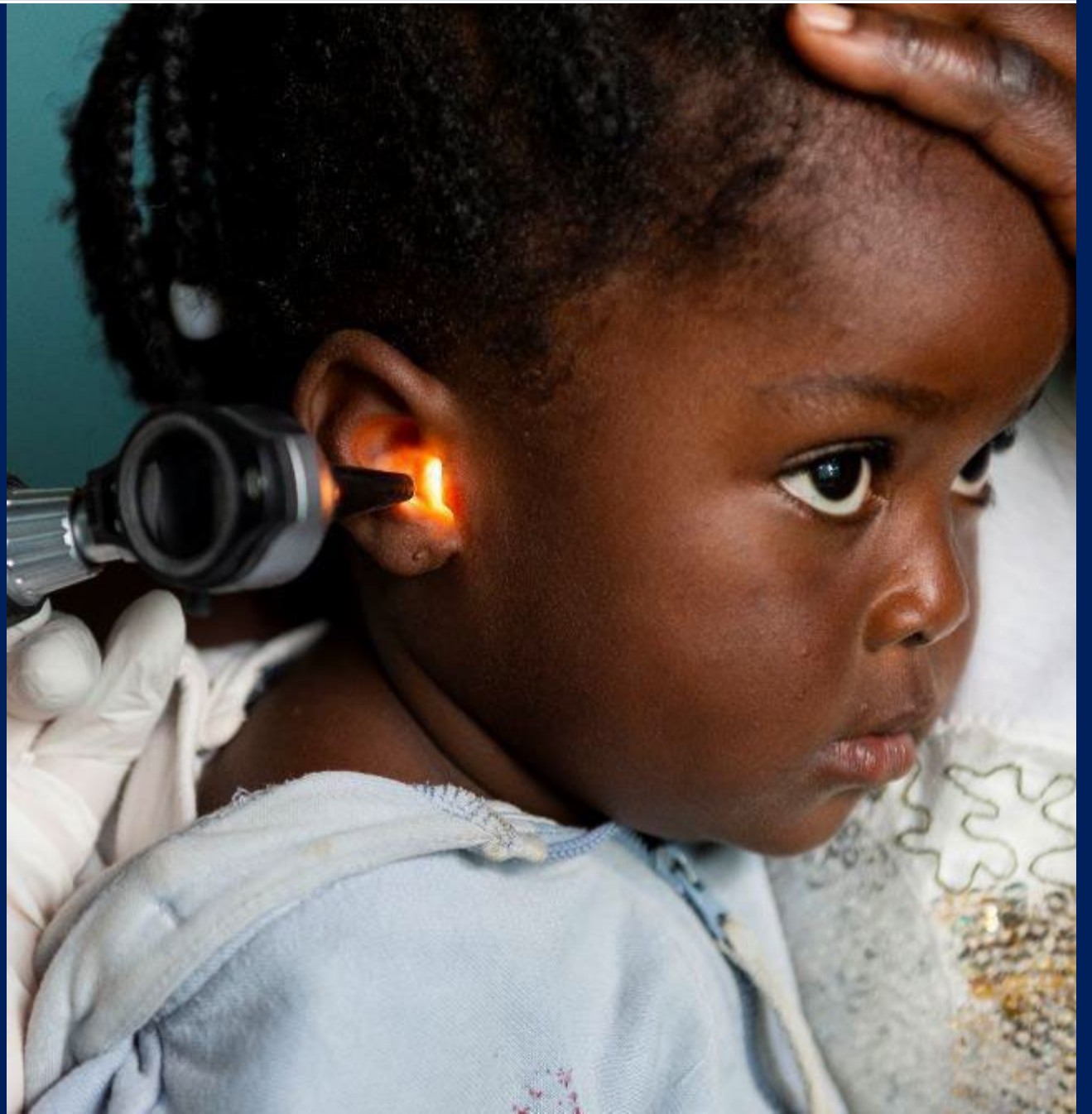
Technical Officer (Vision and eye care)

[keels@who.int](mailto:keels@who.int)



World Health  
Organization

# Reaching those in need of hearing care



World Health  
Organization

## Prevention of deafness and hearing loss

The Seventieth World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on prevention of deafness and hearing loss;<sup>1</sup>

Recognizing that 360 million people across the world live with disabling hearing loss, a total that includes 32 million children and nearly 180 million older adults;

Acknowledging that nearly 90% of the people with hearing loss live in low- and middle-income countries, which often lack resources and strategies to address hearing loss;

Concerned by the persistent high prevalence of chronic ear diseases, such as chronic suppurative otitis media, which lead to hearing loss and may cause life-threatening complications;

Acknowledging the significance of work-related, noise-induced hearing loss, in addition to issues related to recreational and environmental noise-induced hearing loss;

Aware that unaddressed hearing loss is linked with cognitive decline and contributes to the burden of depression and dementia, especially in older adults;

Noting the significant impact of ear diseases and hearing loss on the development, ability to communicate, education, livelihood, social well-being and economic independence of individuals, as well as on communities and countries;

Aware that most of the causes of hearing loss are avoidable with preventive strategies; that the interventions available are both successful and cost-effective; but that, despite this, most people with ear diseases and hearing loss do not have access to suitable services;

Recalling resolution WHA48.9 (1995) on prevention of hearing impairment, and resolution WHA58.23 (2005) on disability, including prevention, management and rehabilitation;

Recalling also the *World report on disability 2011*, which recommends investment in improved access to health services, rehabilitation and assistive technologies and the WHO global disability action plan 2014–2021,<sup>2</sup> based on that report's recommendations;

Mindful of the Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically Goal 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) with

<sup>1</sup> Document A70/54.

<sup>2</sup> See document WHA67/2014/REC/1, Annex 3.

## WORLD REPORT ON HEARING



**20% relative increase effective coverage of hearing aids in countries over 10 years**

World Health Assembly resolution 70.13 [https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA70/A70\\_R13-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70_R13-en.pdf)

World report on hearing <https://www.who.int/publications-detail-redirect/9789240020481>



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# AUDIRe (to hear)

**A WHO initiative to increase the effective coverage of hearing aids in low- and middle-income countries.**

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# Vision, aim and target



## Vision

All people in need of hearing aids can access high quality products and services without financial hardship.



## Aim

To increase the effective coverage of hearing aids in low- and middle-income countries.



## Target

Over a ten-year implementation period, achieve a 20% increase in effective coverage of hearing aids among adults in areas targeted.

## Components:

<b>A</b>	<b>Assessment of hearing function</b>
<b>UD</b>	User-centered provision of devices
<b>I</b>	Information and education
<b>Re</b>	Resources for fitting and maintenance

# Hearing Assessment

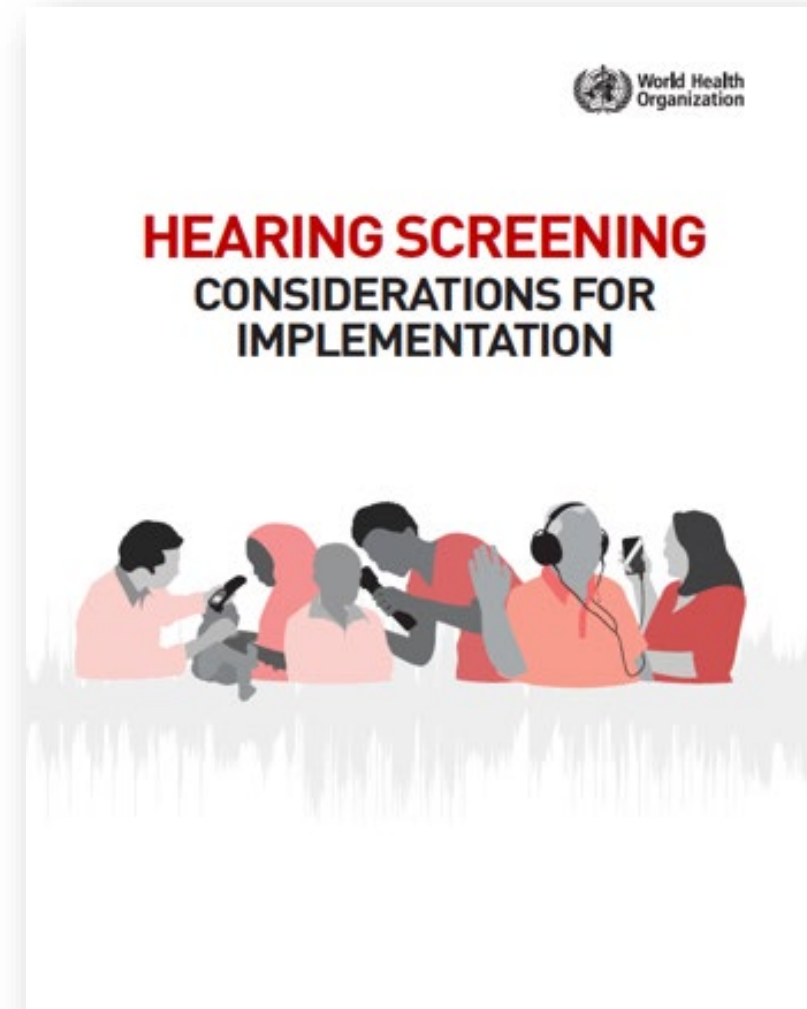
## Normative

- Implement the WHO guidance on hearing screening in different age groups
- Inclusion of equipment for assessment of hearing function and hearing aid provision in WHO essential medical devices list.

## Activities in countries

Advocate to Member States for

- A. Integration of hearing screening and rehabilitation into national health plans for UHC.
- B. Inclusion of hearing aids in national list of priority assistive devices
- C. Inclusion of equipment for assessment of hearing function and hearing aid provision in essential medical devices list



# Hearing Assessment

## Normative

- Revise the Preferred profile and technical specifications of hearing aids suitable for low- and middle-income countries.
- Identify user-centered approaches for delivery of hearing aids and services (ongoing).

## Activities in countries

Advocate to Member States to:

- A. Identify/Pre-qualify high-quality hearing aids that match the specifications.
- B. Fix prices for procurement through a call for expression of interest.
- C. Facilitate inclusion of WHO identified/pre-qualified hearing aids into related lists (e.g., UNICEF catalogue).
- D. Advocate for inclusion of hearing aids in national health insurance schemes.



# Information and education

## Normative

Develop a Compendium of information materials for :

- Raising awareness in community on hearing loss, and to accompany hearing aid fitting.
- List indicators for monitoring the initiative and its impact.

## Activities in countries

Advocate for **inclusion of ear and hearing care** specific information in health promotion programmes at primary care.



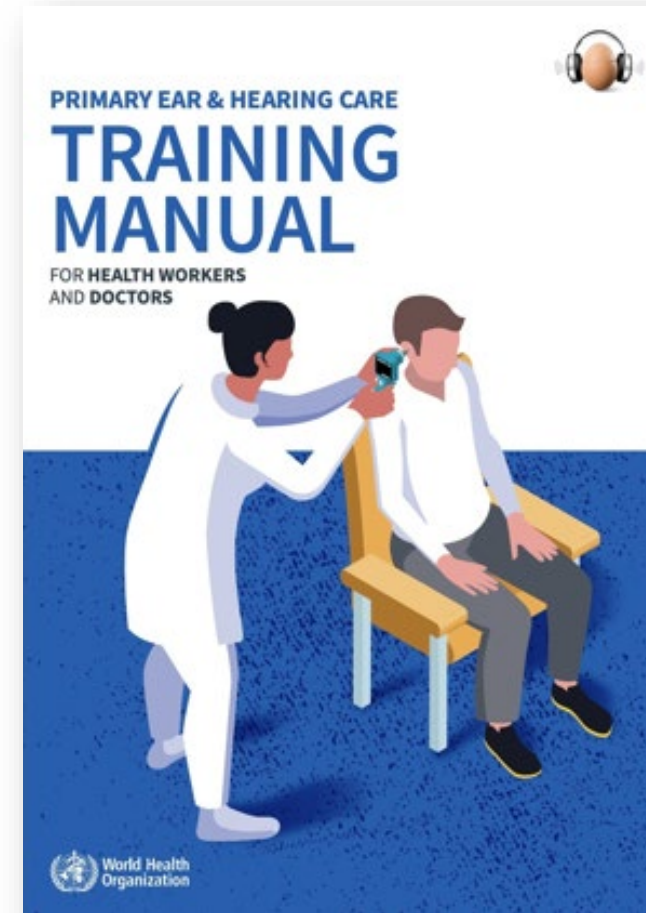
# Resources

## Normative

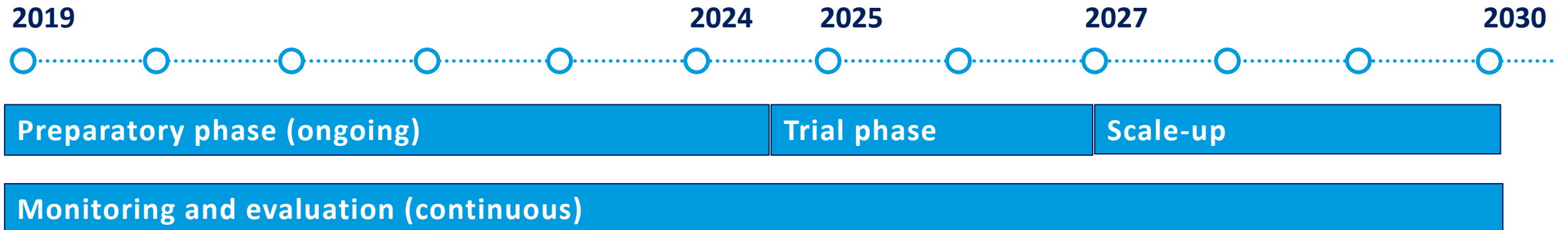
- Develop guidance on minimum competencies and training standards to prescribe, fit and maintain hearing aids.
- Develop training resources for hearing assessment, hearing aid fitting and service provision.

## Activities in countries

- A. Advocate to Member States for the **development of standardized training programmes** for hearing assessment and hearing aid fitting and maintenance.
- B. Foster innovative technologies to simplify and de-skill hearing aid fitting.



# Timeline





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# Thank you

For more information, please contact:

**Shelly Chadha**

Technical Lead (Hearing)

[chadhas@who.int](mailto:chadhas@who.int)



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Organization

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Addressing the sensory functions coverage gap:  
**reaching the people in need of spectacles and hearing care**

Q&A