

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

Report by the Director-General

1. This report is submitted pursuant to resolution WHA73.4 (2020), in which the Seventy-third World Health Assembly requested the Director-General, inter alia, to prepare, in consultation with Member States, recommendations on feasible global targets for 2030 on integrated people-centred eye care, focusing on effective coverage of refractive error and effective coverage of cataract surgery, for consideration by the Seventy-fourth World Health Assembly in 2021, through the Executive Board at its 148th session.

2. On 15 October 2020, the Secretariat sent an email to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva informing Member States of the process that the Secretariat would follow to develop the feasible global targets for 2030. The process included the following steps:

- **discussion paper:** on 13 October 2020 the Secretariat published a discussion paper on the WHO website with preliminary recommendations on feasible global targets for 2030 on integrated people-centred eye care, focusing on effective coverage of refractive error and effective coverage of cataract surgery;¹
- **web-based consultation:** from 13 October to 3 November 2020 the Secretariat convened a web-based consultation on the discussion paper, which was open to Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations and non-State actors; all relevant feedback received was published on the WHO website;²
- **informal consultation:** on 2 November 2020 the Secretariat convened a virtual informal consultation for Member States on the discussion paper and on the feedback received through the web-based consultation.

3. The recommendations on feasible global targets for 2030 are contained in the annex to this document together with more information on the consultative process.

¹ Governance: Development of feasible global targets for 2030 on integrated people-centred eye care. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (<https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2020/10/05/default-calendar/governance-development-of-feasible-global-targets-for-2030-on-integrated-people-centred-eye-care>, accessed 18 November 2020).

² Web-based consultation on the development of feasible global targets for 2030 on integrated people-centred eye care. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (<https://www.who.int/news-room/articles-detail/web-based-consultation-on-the-development-of-feasible-global-targets-for-2030-on-integrated-people-centred-eye-care>, accessed 18 November 2020).

ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

4. The Board is invited to note the report and to provide further guidance.

ANNEX

FOLLOW-UP TO RESOLUTION WHA73.4 (2020): PROPOSED FEASIBLE GLOBAL TARGETS FOR 2030 ON INTEGRATED PEOPLE-CENTRED EYE CARE

1. This annex describes the consultative process and the recommended feasible global targets on effective coverage of refractive error and effective coverage of cataract surgery to be achieved by 2030, requested by the Health Assembly in resolution WHA73.4 (2020).

CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

2. The Secretariat held two technical consultations, from 1 to 3 July 2020 and on 16 September 2020, with experts in the field of eye care, specifically in the areas of epidemiology, public health and health economics to provide technical input throughout the process of setting feasible global targets for the two indicators, namely effective coverage of refractive error and effective coverage of cataract surgery.

3. On the basis of the available evidence together with the outcomes of these consultations, the Secretariat drafted a discussion paper with preliminary recommendations on feasible global targets for the two indicators. This draft paper was the subject of a broader consultative process held between 13 October and 4 November 2020, including a web-based consultation and a virtual informal consultation with Member States.¹

4. During the web-based consultation, the Secretariat received five submissions, three from Member States² and two from non-State actors.³ The main points raised during both consultations included the importance of: (a) the Secretariat developing a monitoring framework that is practical to implement and financially viable, including a feasible tool to facilitate the collection of data on the two indicators by Member States that can be implemented as a stand-alone measure or be integrated into existing surveys; (b) considering equity in the narrative of the feasible global targets; and (c) ensuring the provision by the Secretariat, upon request, of technical support to enable Member States to progress towards the achievement of the proposed global targets.

5. On the basis of the outcomes of this consultative process, the Secretariat published an updated discussion paper on 11 November 2020 on the WHO website⁴ addressing the key points raised during the consultative process. The discussion paper also contains information on: (a) the definitions and specifications of the two indicators; (b) the status of current evidence on effective coverage of refractive

¹ See paragraph 2 of the main document.

² Member State submissions on the draft discussion paper – “Proposed global targets for 2030 on integrated people-centred eye care” [website]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/blindness-and-visual-impairment/member-state-submissions-clean1.pdf>, accessed 27 November 2020).

³ Non-State actor submissions on the draft discussion paper – “Proposed global targets for 2030 on integrated people-centred eye care” [website]. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/blindness-and-visual-impairment/non-state-actor-submissions-clean1.pdf>, accessed 27 November 2020).

⁴ WHO. Discussion paper: proposed global targets for 2030 on integrated people-centred eye care. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (<https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/blindness-and-visual-impairment/discussion-paper-eye-care-indicators-and-proposed-targets-11-11-20.pdf>, accessed 25 November 2020).

error and effective coverage of cataract surgery; and (iii) next steps and actions to be taken by the Secretariat, including an outline for the development of a monitoring framework for the two indicators.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON FEASIBLE GLOBAL TARGETS FOR EFFECTIVE COVERAGE OF REFRACTIVE ERROR AND EFFECTIVE COVERAGE OF CATARACT SURGERY TO BE ACHIEVED BY 2030

6. The recommended feasible global target for effective coverage of refractive error is:
 - a 40 percentage point increase in effective coverage of refractive error by 2030:
 - countries with a baseline effective coverage rate of 60% or higher should strive for universal coverage
 - countries should aim to achieve an equal increase in effective coverage of near and distance refractive error in all relevant population subgroups, independent of baseline estimates.

7. The recommended feasible global target for effective coverage of cataract surgery is:
 - a 30 percentage point increase in effective coverage of cataract surgery by 2030:
 - countries with a baseline effective coverage rate of 70% or higher should strive for universal coverage
 - countries should aim to achieve an equal increase in effective coverage of cataract surgery in all relevant population subgroups, independent of baseline estimates.

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