



# EYE CARE BEYOND 2020

OCTOBER 01 - 02, 2018 | LAICO - MADURAI



 ARAVIND EYE CARE SYSTEM

## Background

The global initiative ‘VISION 2020 – The Right to Sight’ aims to eliminate avoidable blindness by year 2020. Avoidable blindness by definition is a combination of those blinding conditions that can be prevented or treated to restore sight. Thus the challenge to realize this goal has been largely around designing and effective implementation of service delivery systems that are specific to local contexts, with required resources and monitoring.

Through the concerted effort over the last two decades, the prevalence of blindness has come down from 45 million in 2000 to 36 million in 2017 as per WHO estimates. We are still far behind from the original goal of eliminating avoidable blindness by the year 2020. WHO’s “Universal eye health: a global action plan 2014–2019” aimed at a reduction in prevalence of avoidable visual impairment by 25% by 2019 from the 2010 levels. The timeframe for this action plan ends next year. Thus, there is a need to review the current efforts by Member States and international partners and come up with a new plan that recognizes the changes in demographic trends and the newer opportunities arising out of emerging technologies and government policies towards financial inclusion and an increasing focus on health.

## Changing Trends

There is an ongoing reduction in the age-standardized prevalence of blindness and visual impairment, yet the growth and ageing of the world’s population is resulting in a substantial increase in number of visually impaired. These observations, plus a very large contribution from uncorrected presbyopia, highlight the need to scale up vision impairment alleviation efforts at all levels.

Government sponsored health insurance coverage is reducing the financial barriers in accessing health care. There has been radical advancement in technology in eye care and many new players are entering the field deploying newer technologies like machine learning and artificial intelligence in the screening and management of eye diseases. Changing policy regulations and the increasing focus on quality standards are other areas to be addressed. Above all, the services have to match the growing patient expectations brought about by increasing access to information through social media and internet.

Even though we have enhanced the eye care capacity over the years in terms of HR and Infrastructure, the underutilization is sub-optimal due to various reasons. Moreover, the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases, mandates that we go beyond cataract and develop capabilities and processes to manage chronic conditions like DR and Glaucoma. Though we have islands of excellence and working models of universal eye health, we need to build evidence for such best practices to influence policy and thus rapidly scale across the region. This consultation is designed to critically take stock of what works and what does not and develop context specific plans to enhance eye health in the region.

## Scope of the workshop:

Objectives:

- To understand the current status of achievement of Vision 2020 goals
- To discuss strategies that worked and those did not
- Recognize the gaps in infrastructure and services to arrive at an actionable plan to enhance eye care delivery in the region

**Expected outcome:**

- An assessment report of the current status of the Vision 2020 initiatives
- A documented plan of action to enhance eye care delivery

**Workshop format /Methodology:**

- Country level presentations on various aspects of eye care
- Identifying barriers and challenges with reference to the targets through consultative discussions
- Coming up with broad areas to work on towards the goal of eliminating needless blindness
- Developing an actionable plan with time line and stakeholders responsible

**Target group:**

Representatives from:

- WHO SEARO
- IAPB SEARO
- Vision 2020 programmes of India and other SEARO countries
- Leadership of leading eye care organizations in SEARO
- Ministry of Health
- INGOs and NGOs working in eye care

**Funding Support:**

LAICO is in a position to support the cost of your stay for three nights at "Inspiration" – International guest house and food during the workshop. We request the participants to support their travel cost on their own.

**Registration:**

Kindly click the [Registration Form](#) to confirm your participation in this workshop.

**Contact:**

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We look forward to having you with us and also request you to circulate this to your eye care partners and encourage the participation of those who will benefit from this.

Thank you

With warm regards, *Thulasi*

**Thulasiraj Ravilla**

Executive Director - LAICO: Aravind Eye Care System

Director – Operations: Aravind Eye Care System

*"Imperfect is the joy, not shared by all" – Dr. V*