

Definitions



6/60

Blind: cannot see top letter at 3 meters in better eye

6/36

Impaired: cannot see these letters at 6 meters in better eye

6/24

6/18

6/12

6/9

6/6

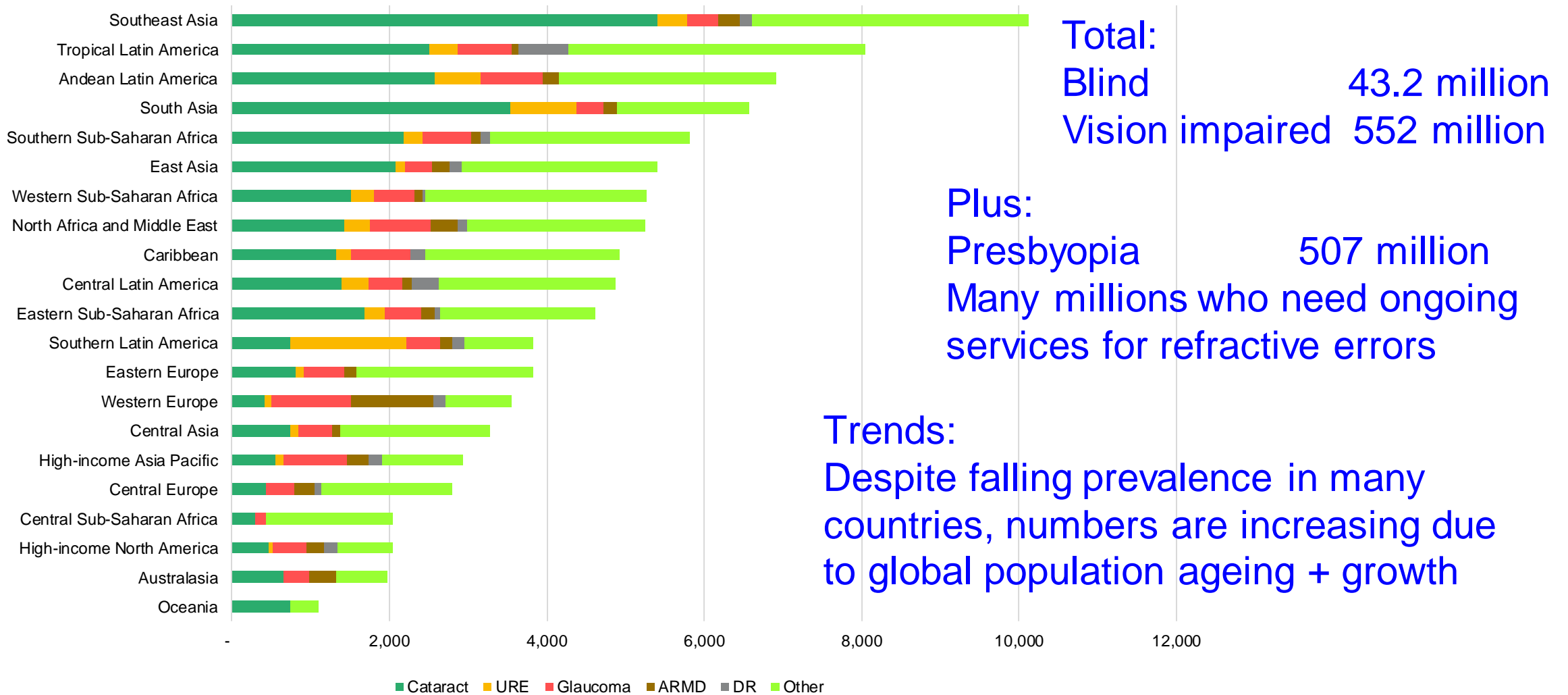
6/5

Not impaired: can see these letters at 6 meters in at least one eye

Blinding eye conditions

Cataract	Opacity of the lens of the eye	Sight restoring surgery; 10-15 minutes under local anaesthesia; highly cost effective
Refractive errors	Out of focus distance vision	Corrective spectacles restore vision; highly cost effective
Presbyopia	Out of focus near vision	
Glaucoma	Progressive loss of visual field	Early treatment reduces risk of progression to loss of vision
Diabetic retinopathy	Vascular changes in the retina	Good control of diabetes: early treatment reduces risk of progression to loss of vision
Age related macular degeneration	Damage to central vision	“Wet” form can be treated to reduce risk of progression to loss of vision/can restore vision

Number blind by cause per million total population (2020 data, Global Burden of Diseases Vision Loss Group)



Marginalized groups occur in all populations

More likely to become and remain blind

- Women
- Poor
- Rural
- Ethnic minorities
- Disabled



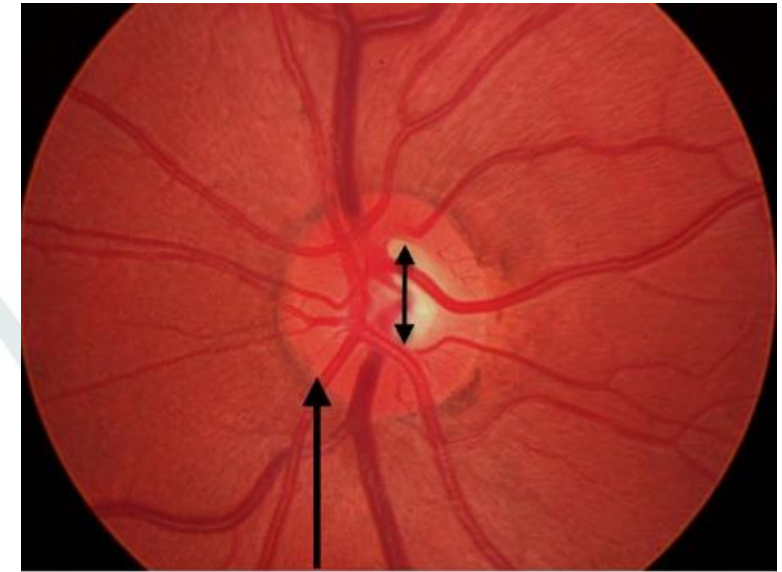
Direct effect on SDGs of eye health and good vision



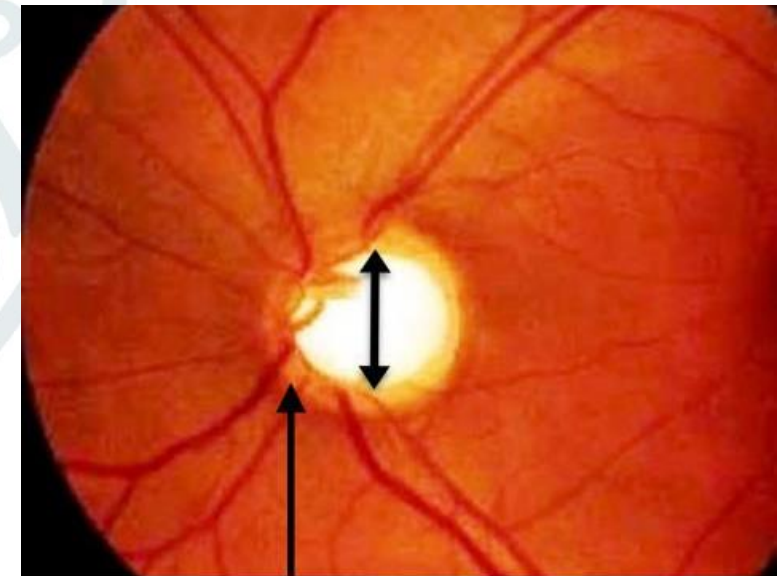
The way ahead

Main challenges

- Growing need
- More conditions can now be managed (e.g., ARMD)
- Chronic eye conditions are increasing e.g., glaucoma, which need ongoing care
- Many countries do not include eye care in their national strategic health plans - resources not allocated to eye care
- Need evidence on how to increase access by marginalized groups



Normal optic nerve head



Glaucomatous cupping

The way ahead

Business as usual is not enough

Different approaches to delivery needed

- Innovation: task sharing, new technologies
- Interventions which increase access by marginalized groups
- Public-private partnerships

Integrated policies, planning and delivery are essential

- Eye care must be an integral component of Universal Health Coverage in all countries and included in National Strategic Health Plans
- WHO are developing Essential Packages of Care
- Advocacy with Ministries of Health