

## Magnitude & projections of vision loss (Soft launch for World Sight Day 2020)

On [World Sight Day 2020](#) (8 October 2020), the IAPB Vision Atlas will be updated with the estimates on the magnitude and projections of vision loss from The Vision Loss Expert Group (VLEG)<sup>i</sup>.

The key messages from the VLEG paper on magnitude are:

- **1.1 billion have vision loss primarily because they do not have access to eye care services**
  - Over 90% of those with vision loss live in low- and middle-income countries.
  - 73% of people with vision loss are over 50 years old.
  - 55% of people with vision loss are women.
- The number of people with vision loss will rise from 1.1 billion to 1.7 billion people, mainly due to population growth and population ageing.

The updated Vision Atlas will also include key messages on the unmet need from the World Report on Vision:

- An additional 1 billion people live with eye health conditions that need on-going access to services to optimise their vision and maintain their ability to function in society.
- By 2050 more than half the global population are going to need ongoing, regular access to eye care services to maintain their eye health.

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The Vision Atlas is a compilation of the latest data and evidence in global eye health, drawing on data from the VLEG publications, the World Report on Vision<sup>ii</sup> and other relevant sources.

**This datasheet is for use during World Sight Day 2020 (8 October 2020).**

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**Further data, interactive maps and charts will be available on the updated Vision Atlas <https://www.iapb.org/vision-atlas> on World Sight Day 2020.**

*Note: In early 2021, the Vision Atlas will be further updated as the VLEG and the Lancet Global Commission on Eye Health publish new data and evidence in the coming months.*

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<sup>i</sup> Bourne, Rupert, Jaimie Adelson, Seth Flaxman, Paul S. Briant, Hugh R. Taylor, Robert J. Casson, et al. Trends in Prevalence of Blindness and Distance and Near Vision Impairment Over 30 Years and Contribution to the Global Burden of Disease in 2020. The Lancet Global Health, 2020. Advanced online publication doi:10.2139/ssrn.3582742

<sup>ii</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). (2019). *World report on vision*. Geneva.