

Sri Lankan perspective on What the overarching issues in Eye Care are for Sri Lanka



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Sri Lanka "The pearl of the Indian ocean"



Demography

- Population 20 million
- Prevalence of blindness 0.75 % ?
- Number blind 150,000
- Number with low vision 450,000
- Number blind of cataract 90,000 ?

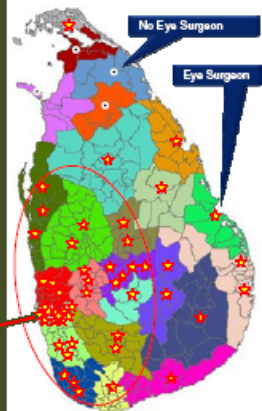


Eye Care Professionals in Sri Lanka

- 65 consultant ophthalmologists
 - 200 diploma holders and doctors with experience in ophthalmology
 - 5 community ophthalmologists
 - 117 Ophthalmic technologists govt. sector
 - Many in the private sector
- Generally an "Eye Doctor" per 75,000 people
One MLOP per 165,000 people
But the distribution of them is unequal

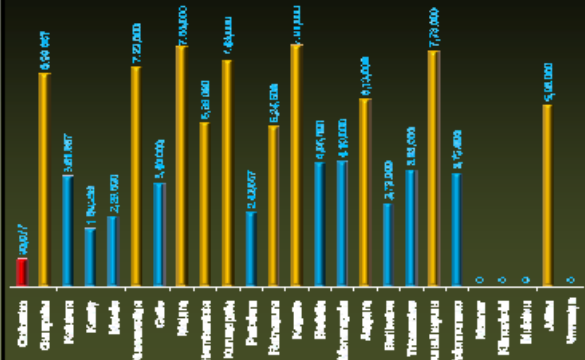
Legend

- Ubussirya
- Trencomale
- Ratnapura
- Puttalam
- Pōlōnaruwa
- Nuwara - Elyā
- Mullatiya
- Motuwāgala
- Matale
- Māmar
- Kurunegala
- Mīlīwachchi
- Hegalle
- Kandy
- Palānaya
- Jaffna
- Hambantota
- Gampaha
- Galle
- Colombo
- Settlement
- Sisilāya
- Anurādhapura
- Anapara



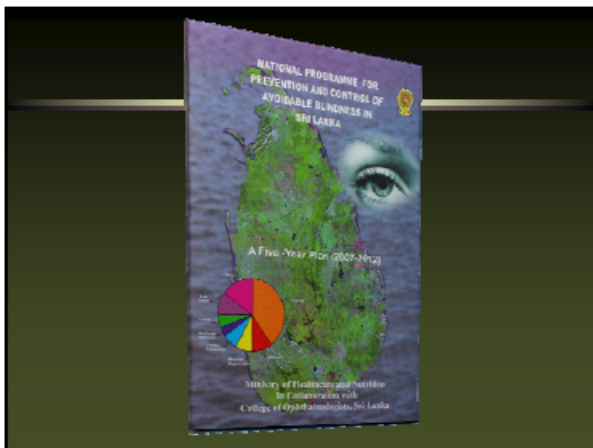
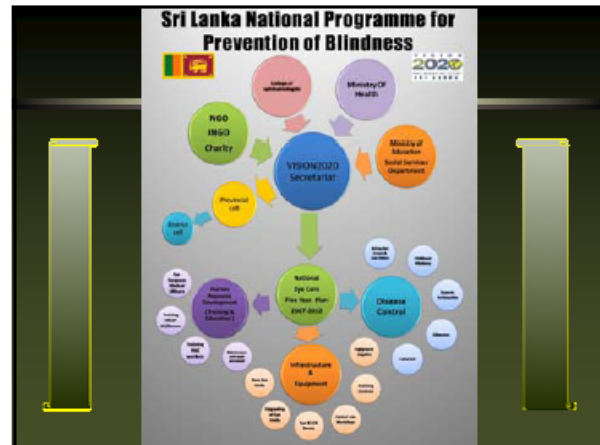
Distribution
of
Eye Care
Services
in
Sri Lanka

Number of Individuals per one Eye Surgeon



Commitments of the Ministry

- Minister of Health offers his fullest support
- VISION2020 Secretariat is housed within the ministry premises
- Deputy Director General of Public Health Services acts as the National Focal person for V2020 programme



Coordination of disease control

- **Cataract** – Dr Champa Banagala
- **Glaucoma** – Dr Muditha Kulatunga
- **Diabetic retinopathy** – Dr Tissa Sanarathna
- **Childhood blindness & Primary Eye Care** – Dr Mangala Gamage
- **Refractive errors and low vision** – Dr Saman Senanayaka

Five senior ophthalmologists are volunteered to take responsibility of each..



Eye Care Delivery systems



Quality in eye care

- Almost all the surgical services provided by qualified ophthalmologists / trained doctors
- Refractive, orthoptic & low vision services are performed by qualified personnel
- Nurses are trained for inward and operation theatre management in eye care
- Primary health workers are trained to detect and refer eye conditions

Quality...drawbacks

- **Insufficient monitoring**
 - Selection of patients for cataract surgery
 - Visual outcome of cataract surgeries
 - Private sector surgeries and eye camps
 - Refractions in the private sector
 - Spectacle distribution programmes
- **Insufficient screening for Glaucoma / DR**
- **Need to strengthen training of nurses and PHC workers**

Infrastructure, Equipment & instrument

Achievements

- Eye units present in most of the districts
- Basic equipment are available
- Basic surgical instrument are available
- Low vision & orthoptic clinics are functioning

Problems

- **Dedicated eye operation theatres are scarce (operating time)**
- **Number of equipment & instrument are insufficient for an optimum service (slit lamps/ cataract sets)**
- **Advanced treatment options are unavailable (Laser) in the periphery**

Drugs & consumables

- Most of the eye drops are dispensed free at the govt. hospitals
 - Antibiotics / steroids / glaucoma drugs
 - Expensive glaucoma, steroids, anti-allergics are unavailable
- IOLs and some consumables for cataract surgeries
 - Not provided by the govt. hospitals
 - Supported by donors/NGO small proportion

Supporting agencies

- Provision of equipment / instrument
- Supporting eye care programmes
 - PEC, Low vision etc..
- Provision of cataract surgical services
- Supporting advocacy, awareness
- Taking part in planning and implementation

Supporting agencies

Local

- Sri Lanka Eye Foundation
- Eye Care Foundation
- Lions Club International
- HelpAge Sri Lanka
- Council for Blind
- Rotary Club
- MJF Foundation
- Orange Electric
- Standard Chartered Bank

International

- Sight Savers International
- IRIS Asia
- CBM Sri Lanka
- ICEE Australia

Our goal...

**To reduce avoidable blindness
in Sri Lanka through
the development of a
sustainable and equitable
national programme for
prevention and control of
blindness as a part of
National Health System**

