Using the Washington Group Short Set for monitoring access to eye health services by people with disabilities
Inclusive Eye Health in Sightsavers

Our vision is a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes, where people with disabilities participate equally in society.

We know people with disabilities face more barriers to accessing quality and affordable eye health services than people without disabilities.

We are contributing to the achievement of universal health coverage and the SDGs, ensuring that we ‘leave no one behind’.

We have a commitment to strengthen disability and gender equity in inclusive eye health programmes, and ensuring services are accessible to all.
Disability data collection in monitoring

- Pilot study Bhopal, India 2017
- Inclusive Eye Health project Nampula, Mozambique 2018
- Inclusive Eye Health programme, Bangladesh and Pakistan 2018
Approach

• Disability data was collected in 2018 to inform baselines for new Inclusive Eye Health Projects in:
  – Bangladesh
  – Mozambique
  – Pakistan

• Data was collected amongst a sample of patients in a set period of time and before the start of any inclusive activities (first six months of project).

• The Washington Group Short Set was administered to patients coming in either for eye screenings and/or for cataract surgery at health facilities and outreach camps.
## Methodology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bangladesh</th>
<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Mozambique</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>When?</strong></td>
<td>September to December 2018</td>
<td>June to August 2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Where?</strong></td>
<td>District health facilities and outreach screening camps</td>
<td>Provincial hospital and outreach surgical camps</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>By whom?</strong></td>
<td>Hired data collectors</td>
<td>Record officers</td>
<td>Health staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sample population</strong></td>
<td>Sample of patients at point of eye screening</td>
<td></td>
<td>All cataract patients before surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Sample size</strong></td>
<td>7079</td>
<td>2795</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cataract sample size</strong></td>
<td>429</td>
<td>334</td>
<td>651</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data collection process

- Training provided on the WGSS and ethical data collection
- Data collected using smart phone devices
- Questions asked to patients before eye screenings or cataract surgery
- Unique ID number captured, and patients crossed checked with cataract surgery list.
- Data exported into excel and PowerBI for cleaning, analysis and visualization
## Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disability</strong></td>
<td>Patients’ response of having ‘a lot of difficulty’ or ‘cannot do at all’ in at least one of the six functional domains.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-visual disability</strong></td>
<td>Patients’ response as having ‘a lot of difficulty’ or ‘cannot do at all’ in at least one of the five functional domains (excluding the sight domain).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cataract patient</strong></td>
<td>Refers to those who were diagnosed with a cataract (either in one eye or both eyes) and received surgery.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Eye screening - Bangladesh

Patients with a disability

- 50% Disability
- 50% No disability

Patients with a non-visual disability

- 73% Non-visual disability
- 27% No non-visual disability

Patients with a disability by sex

- Male: 47% Disability, 22% Non-visual disability
- Female: 53% Disability, 32% Non-visual disability
Eye screening - Bangladesh

Disability by age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-30</td>
<td></td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>31-40</td>
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<td>40%</td>
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<td>41-50</td>
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<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>51-60</td>
<td></td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>61-70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>71-80</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81+</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Non-visual disability by age

<table>
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<tr>
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Eye screening - Bangladesh

Disability and non-visual disability at health facilities and outreach camps

- Disability: 46% at health facility, 63% at outreach camp
- Non-visual disability: 25% at health facility, 33% at outreach camp
Cataract patients- Mozambique

Cataract patients with a disability

- 80% Disability
- 20% No disability

Cataract patients with a non-visual disability

- 55% Non-visual disability
- 45% No non-visual disability

Cataract patients with a disability by sex

- Male: 42% Disability, 58% No disability
- Female: 49% Disability, 51% No disability

Results
Summary of findings

Disability and non-visual disability was higher among women than men.

Disability and non-visual disability increased with age and was highest in older age groups.

Multiple disabilities were more frequent in older age groups. The most common being; visual, lower body (walking) and, remembering and concentrating.

Disability and non-visual disability higher at rural district facilities and outreach camps compared with secondary health facilities within urban areas.
Lesson learning

What we know

• Many people accessing eye health services have a disability
• Data is helpful to understand the magnitude and type of disability of those accessing services
• Contextual data is essential to make sense of the findings

Further questions

• Who within communities are not able to access eye health services?
• Why certain people with disabilities face more barriers to services than others?
• How do people with and without disabilities perceive the quality of services they receive?
Next steps

- Prioritize areas for accessibility improvements within health facilities
- Ensure services are sensitive to the needs of female patients and encourage uptake
- Second round of data collection scheduled in 2019 as part of monitoring
- Similar assessments scheduled in Malawi, Nigeria and Tanzania in 2019/2020
Thank you

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