
Contents

Preface	vii
Introduction	I
1. Prevalence and epidemiology of childhood blindness	2
Definition	2
Prevalence	2
Causes	3
2. Causes of childhood blindness and current control measures	6
Causes of blindness in the prenatal period	6
Causes of blindness in the neonatal period	11
Causes of blindness in childhood	15
3. Strategies for prevention	25
4. Major areas of action	35
Information, education and communication	35
Behavioural changes	35
Human resource development	35
Strengthening of the infrastructure	36
Appropriate technology	36
Legislation	36
Evaluation	36
Research	37
5. Intersectoral collaboration and the role of nongovernmental organizations	38
6. Priority areas for future action	41
Data compilation	41
Blinding malnutrition	41

Measles-related blindness	41
Blinding corneal lesions	42
Traditional eye care	42
Ophthalmia neonatorum	42
Congenital rubella syndrome	42
Congenital cataract and glaucoma	42
Genetically determined blinding conditions	43
Ocular trauma	43
Retinopathy of prematurity	43
Visual rehabilitation	43
NGO collaboration in preventing childhood blindness	43
Epidemiological research	44
References	45
Glossary	46
Annex 1. WHO Meeting on the Prevention of Childhood Blindness	47
Annex 2. Screening for severe retinopathy of prematurity	50