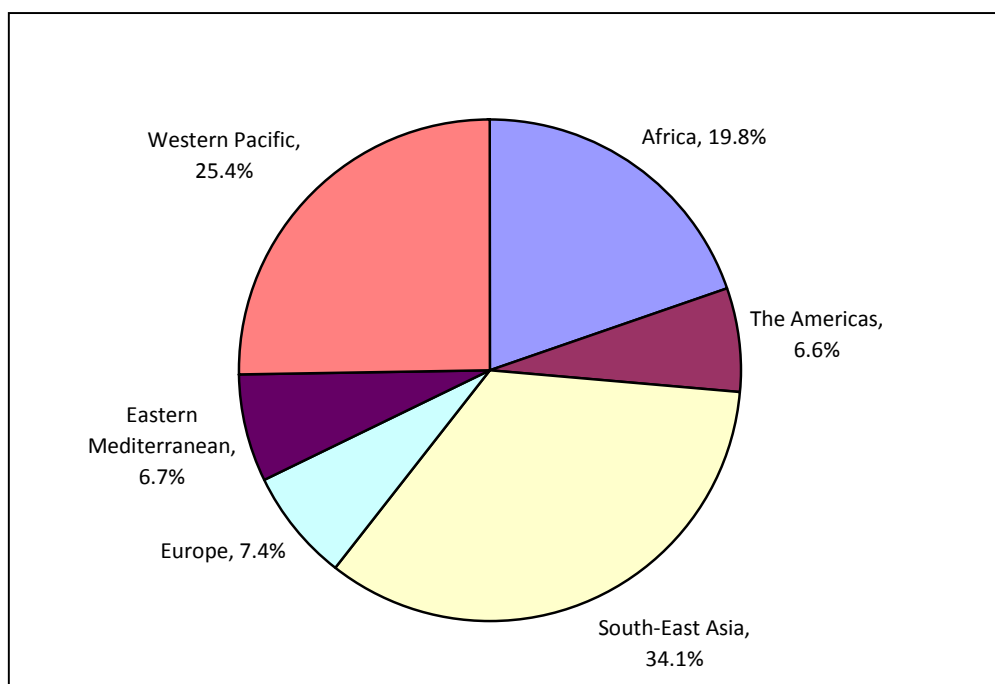


MODULE 5

GLOBAL BLINDNESS STATISTICS

It is a shocking fact that three out of every four people who are blind do not need to be. Over 90% of the world's blind people live in developing countries where there is little or no access to even basic eye care.

Global distribution of blindness



- 45 million people in the world are blind, 40 million live in developing countries.
- 36 million people (that's equivalent to the population of Canada) are blind simply because they cannot access basic eye care.
- Count to five – every five seconds, one more person in the world will lose their sight
- Count to 60 – every minute one more child will go blind
- In some developing countries, up to 60% of children who go blind will die within a year, either from the condition that caused the blindness (such as measles and vitamin A deficiency) or from inadequate care, as families affected by poverty struggle to look after a disabled child.
- 145 million people (that's equivalent to the population of Russia) struggle with day to day activities because they cannot get access to glasses which would help them see normally
- It is estimated that the annual global economic cost of blindness was US\$42 billion in 2000.