

Close the Gap for Vision by 2020: successes in regional implementation

Schubert NS, Anjou MD, Gilden R, Roberts PI, Taylor HR
Indigenous Eye Health, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Background

- 2016 National Eye Health Survey showed rates of blindness between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians has halved from six times to three times compared to the last survey in 2008
- The rate of vision loss, though, was unchanged and remains three times greater
- 53% of Indigenous adults with diabetes had their annual eye examination, compared with 20% in 2008
- Progress is being made but there is still more work to do!

The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision, 2012

Evidence-based solutions to the inequities in eye health

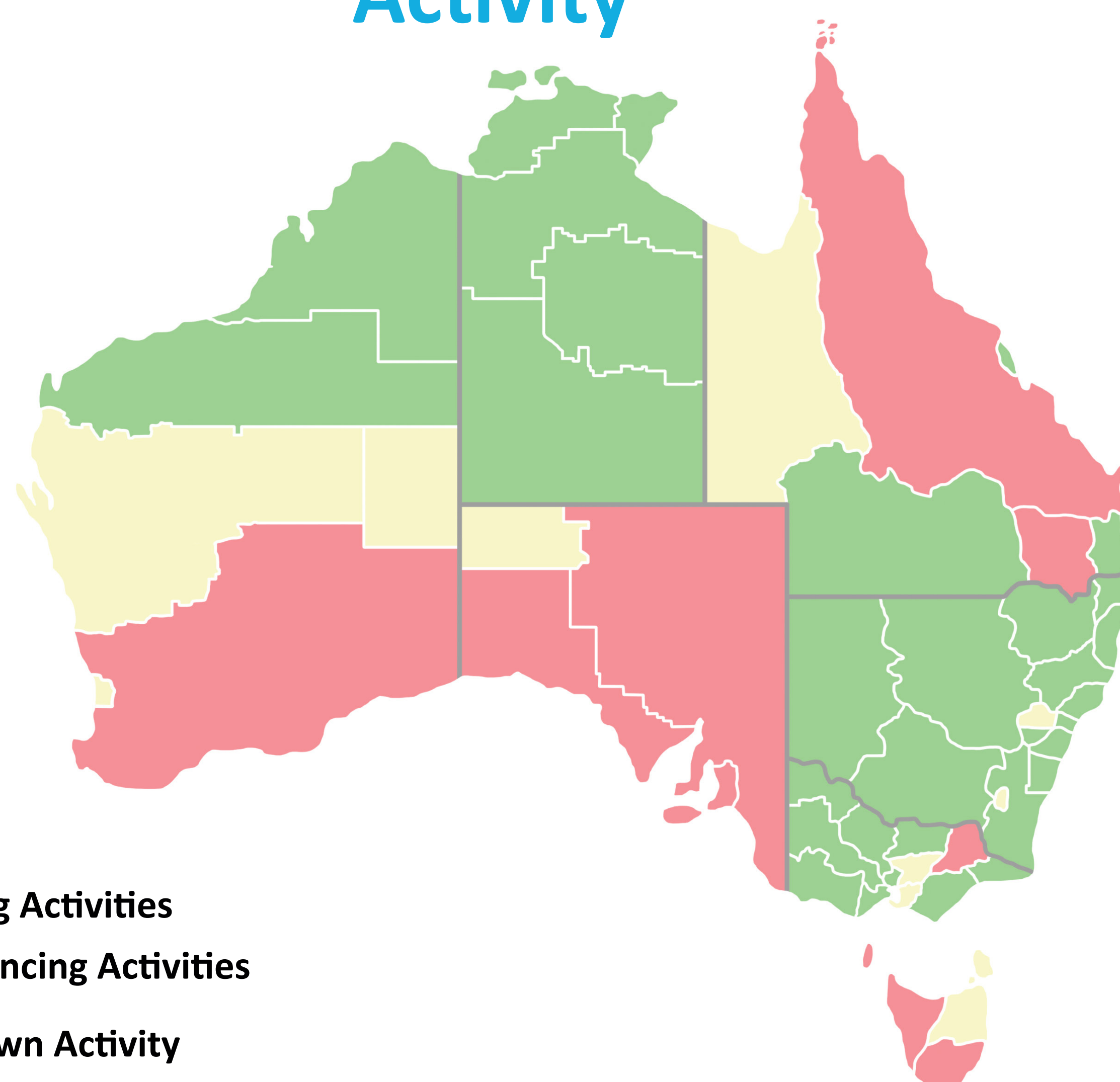
42 recommendations across 9 domains

Endorsed by national stakeholders

Implementation requires a multi-layered approach at national, state and regional/local levels



Roadmap Regional Implementation: Activity



Regional stakeholder forums identify local population-based needs in eye care

They reform service levels and approaches to address gaps and barriers

Collaborative regional activity in 37 regions across Australia

Representing over 60% of the Indigenous population

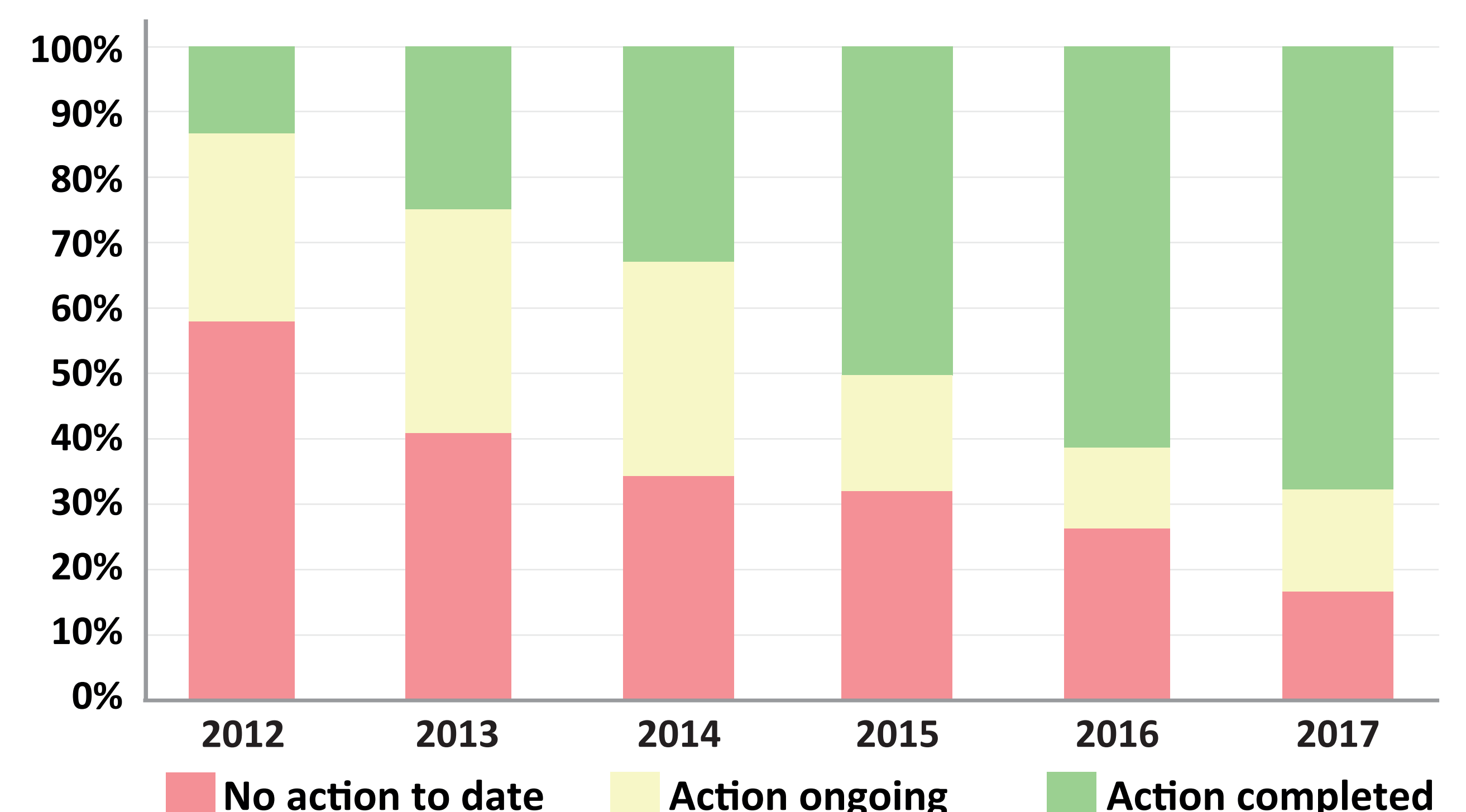
In Victoria there are currently 9 active regions with stakeholders that include:

Local ACCHOs	Australian College of Optometry
Local Hospitals	Primary Health Networks (PHNs)
VACCHO	Primary Care Partnerships (PCPs)
Local providers	IEH, University of Melbourne

Conclusion

- The Roadmap to Close the Gap for Vision (2012) outlines sector-endorsed recommendations to address inequities in eye health
- Implementation of the Roadmap requires national, state and regional activity
- Regional collaborations between local services are vital to the success of the Roadmap
- Regional forums can share data and reform services to help close the gap for vision
- These forums are increasing in activity, with 37 regions across Australia now undertaking this approach
- Regional forums are increasing service levels and improving community engagement in eye care

Implementation of the Roadmap



IEH monitors Roadmap related activity across Australia

In 2017, all 42 recommendations from the Roadmap have activities commenced

16 of the recommendations fully implemented

67% of 138 activities associated with the 42 recommendation were completed

Roadmap Regional Implementation: Outcomes

Data sharing to identify gaps and monitor progress

Diabetes eye health promotion community activities

Increased optometry services in ACCHOs

Increased diabetes eye screening in ACCHOs

Increased access to the subsidized spectacle schemes

Reduction in cataract waiting time

Access to equipment to support increased and improvised services

