

Check your vision with the **WHOeyes** app

What is WHOeyes?

WHOeyes is a free, population-facing, mobile software application (an app) that:

- ✓ Checks near visual acuity,
- ✓ Checks distance visual acuity,
- ✓ Is language agnostic (uses the tumbling E chart),
- ✓ Provides educational messages on how the individuals can protect their eyes.

WHOeyes is available for both iOS and Android mobile operating systems and is compatible with mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets. The app is available in the 6 UN languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. WHOeyes is suitable for anyone aged over 8 years.

Although this test can identify central visual acuity, it is not useful to detect any peripheral visual defects.

What is visual acuity?

Visual acuity is the most common assessment of visual function. It is a simple, non-invasive measure and critical to determine the presence of vision impairment. A visual acuity test measures the ability of a person to identify or distinguish an object or letter clearly at a given distance.

Why should I check my visual acuity?

Many people with vision impairment are unaware of it. Regular vision checks can ensure that vision impairment is identified at the earliest so that you can take action to continue enjoying your sight.

How does WHOeyes work?

WHOeyes is based on how an eye care professional would assess your vision using a conventional chart in a clinical setting.

Download the app here



The letter E will be shown in different sizes and directions. You should identify the direction the open end of the E is facing. If you respond correctly, the size of the letter E will eventually become smaller, making the test harder, just like when you move down the lines on a conventional chart.

Testing your vision at the correct distance is important to achieve an accurate result. WHOeyes iOS version (not the Android version) uses built-in automated distance calculation technology. This technology allows your phone to measure the correct distance between the screen and the person being tested for distance vision (2m) and near vision (40cm). For the Android version, the tester must ensure the correct distance between the screen and the person being tested.

How accurate is WHOeyes?

WHOeyes underwent accuracy testing in three studies with the results showing high levels of accuracy when it was compared with the ETDRS acuity chart, renowned as the gold standard for visual acuity assessment in the clinical context.

What does the result of my WHOeyes test mean?

The WHOeyes app provides a score between 0 to 100% and fraction when you finish testing according to your visual acuity.

Vision impairment is diagnosed and classified based on the visual acuity.

Distance vision impairment:

Mild – visual acuity worse than 6/12 to 6/18

Moderate – visual acuity worse than 6/18 to 6/60

Severe – visual acuity worse than 6/60 to 3/60

Blindness – visual acuity worse than 3/60

Near vision impairment:

Near visual acuity worse than N6 or M.08 at 40cm.

What happens if WHOeyes says I have a vision impairment?

Fortunately, most cases of vision impairment can be prevented or addressed. It is possible to have vision impairment without realizing it. It is best to get an early diagnosis and take steps to address the cause of vision impairment.

Even in the case that you have good vision, you should still have your eyes checked regularly by an eye care professional. This is required because not all eye conditions immediately cause noticeable vision impairment.

WHOeyes does not replace the need for regular eye checks by an eye care professional, even if your vision is good.