INTRODUCTION

The control of blindness in children is considered a high priority of the World Health Organization’s (WHO’s) “VISION 2020 – The Right to Sight” global initiative. Although childhood blindness is relatively uncommon, only 1.5 million of a worldwide total of 45 million blind people, it is a priority of Vision 2020 for several reasons. First, the number of “blind years” in children is important because there is a lifetime of blindness ahead. This affects the child’s psychomotor and emotional development, education, opportunities for employment, and overall quality of life.