

Current patterns of surgical services for children with congenital/developmental cataract in Tanzania



Background

- Paediatric ophthalmology recently recognized as an essential service in Africa
 - Evidence suggests that congenital/developmental cataract as the leading cause of blindness in children
- WHO recommends: 1 Child Eye Health Tertiary Facility (CEHTF) per 10 million population.

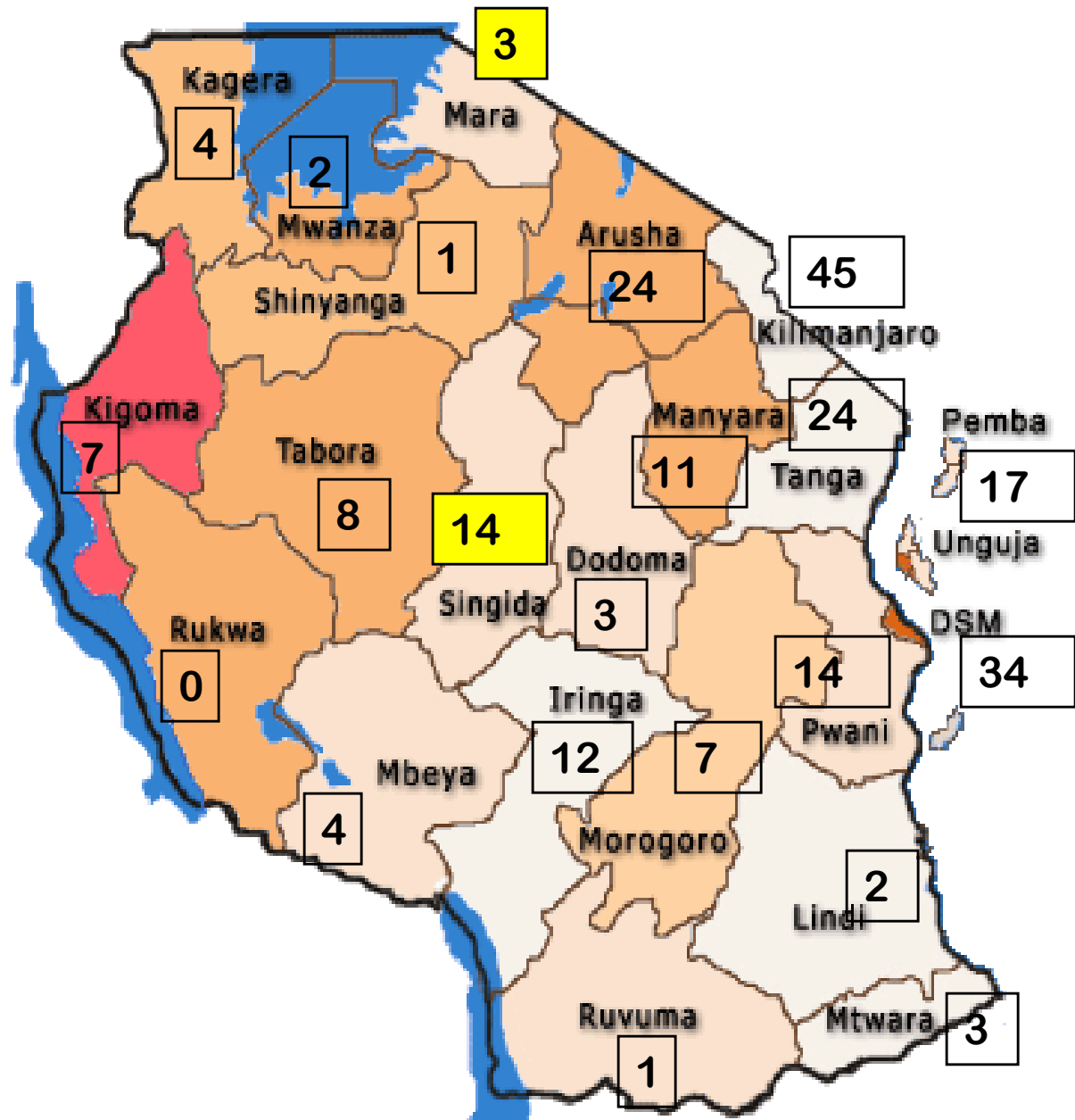
Estimates

- Estimates of (non-traumatic) childhood cataract in Africa:
 - Backlog: 100 children / million population
 - Incidence: 20-30 children / million population

In Tanzania we should be doing at least 20-30 children per million population per year!

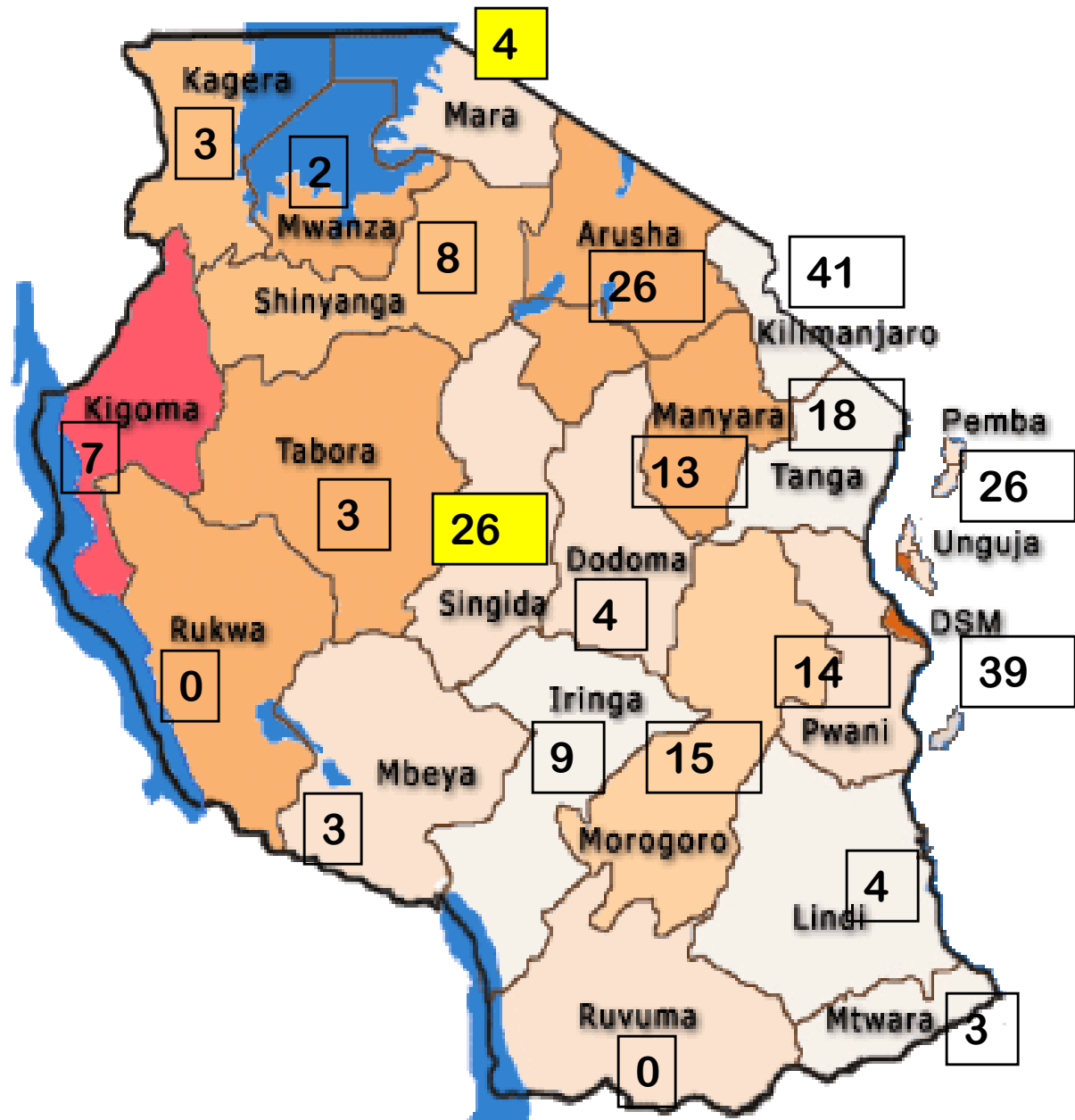
Tanzania

Childhood
cataract surgical
rate (2004-5)



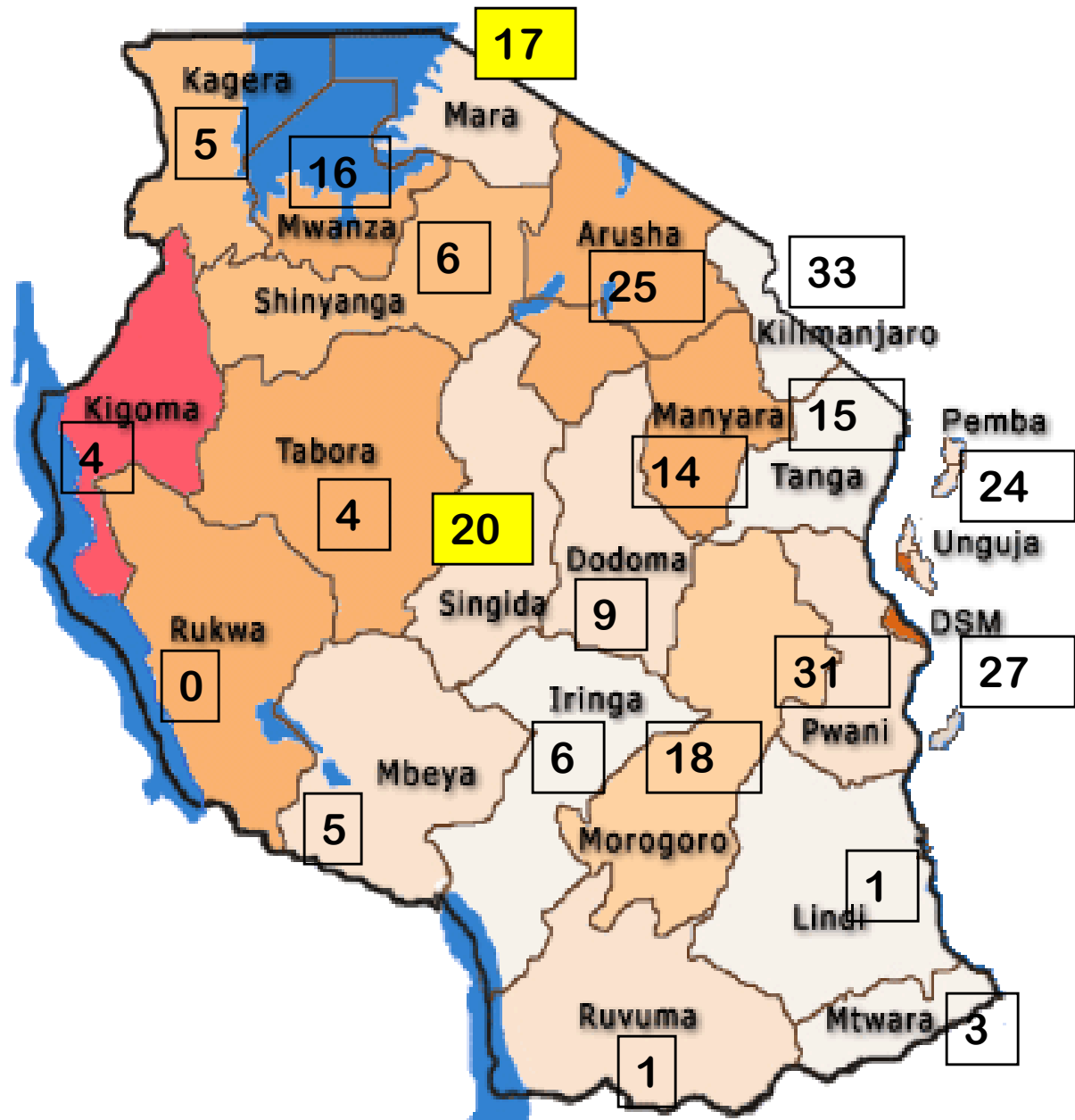
Tanzania

Childhood
cataract surgical
rate (2006)



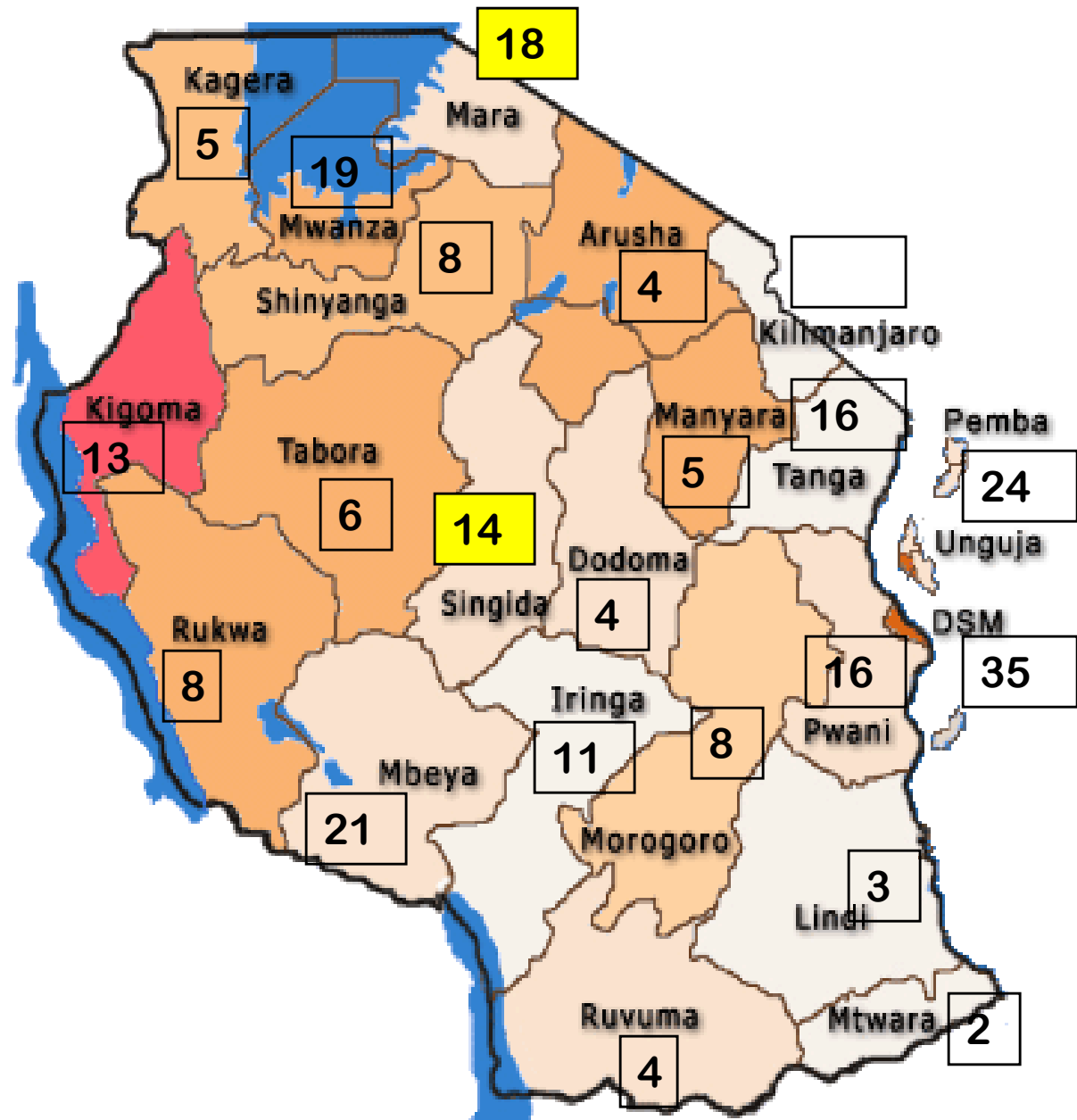
Tanzania

Childhood
cataract surgical
rate (2007)

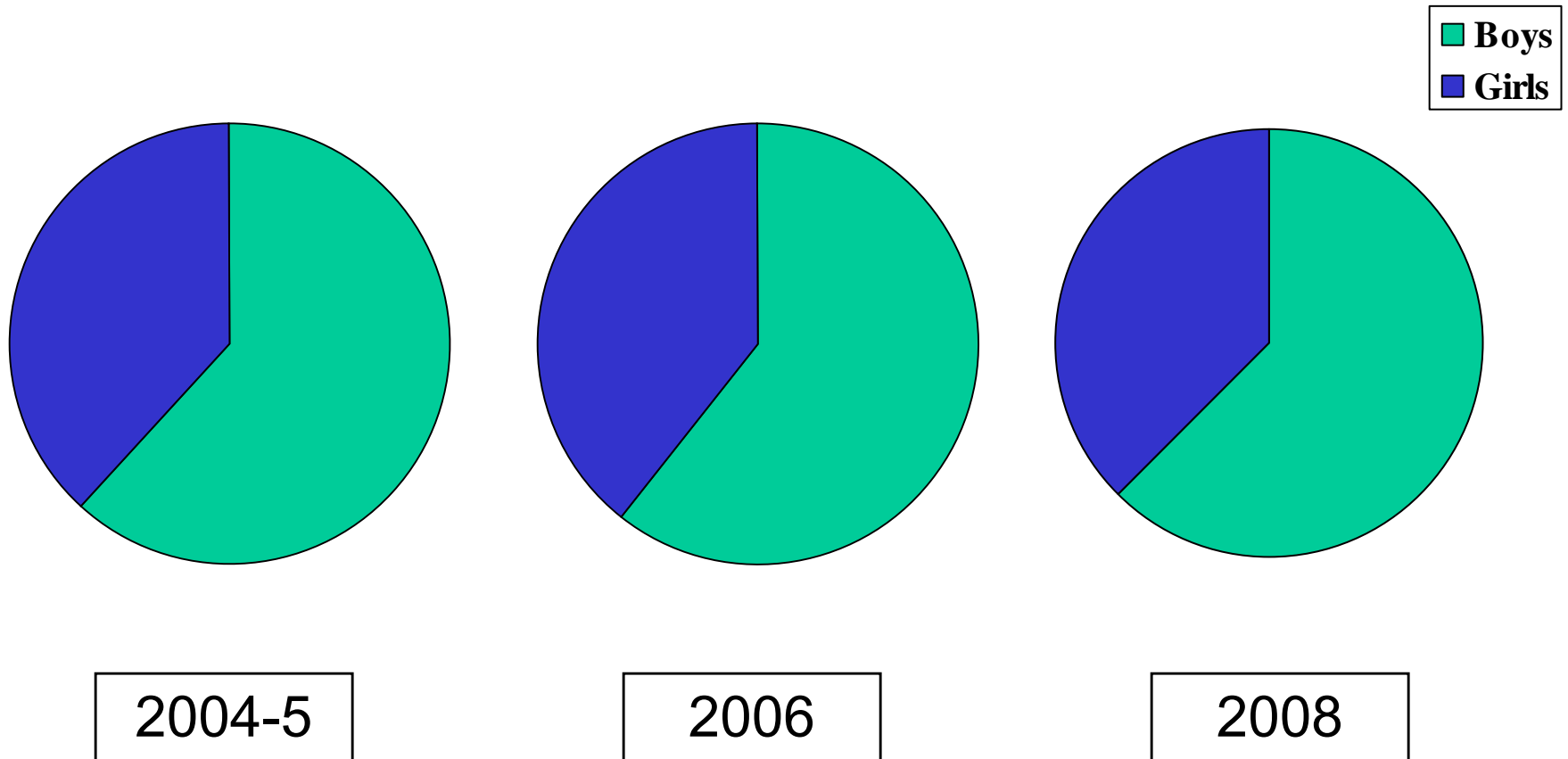


Tanzania

Childhood
cataract surgical
rate (2008)



Are we reaching gender equity?



Recommendations from “Childhood Cataract Experts Meeting” May, 2007 (Moshi)

- Efforts needed at the national level to address childhood cataract
- Identifying and referring children with cataract
- Surgical intervention & surgical facilities
- Decentralization of follow up services
- Linking eye care, low vision, education, and rehabilitation services
- Need external financing of cataract surgery in children