

# 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.

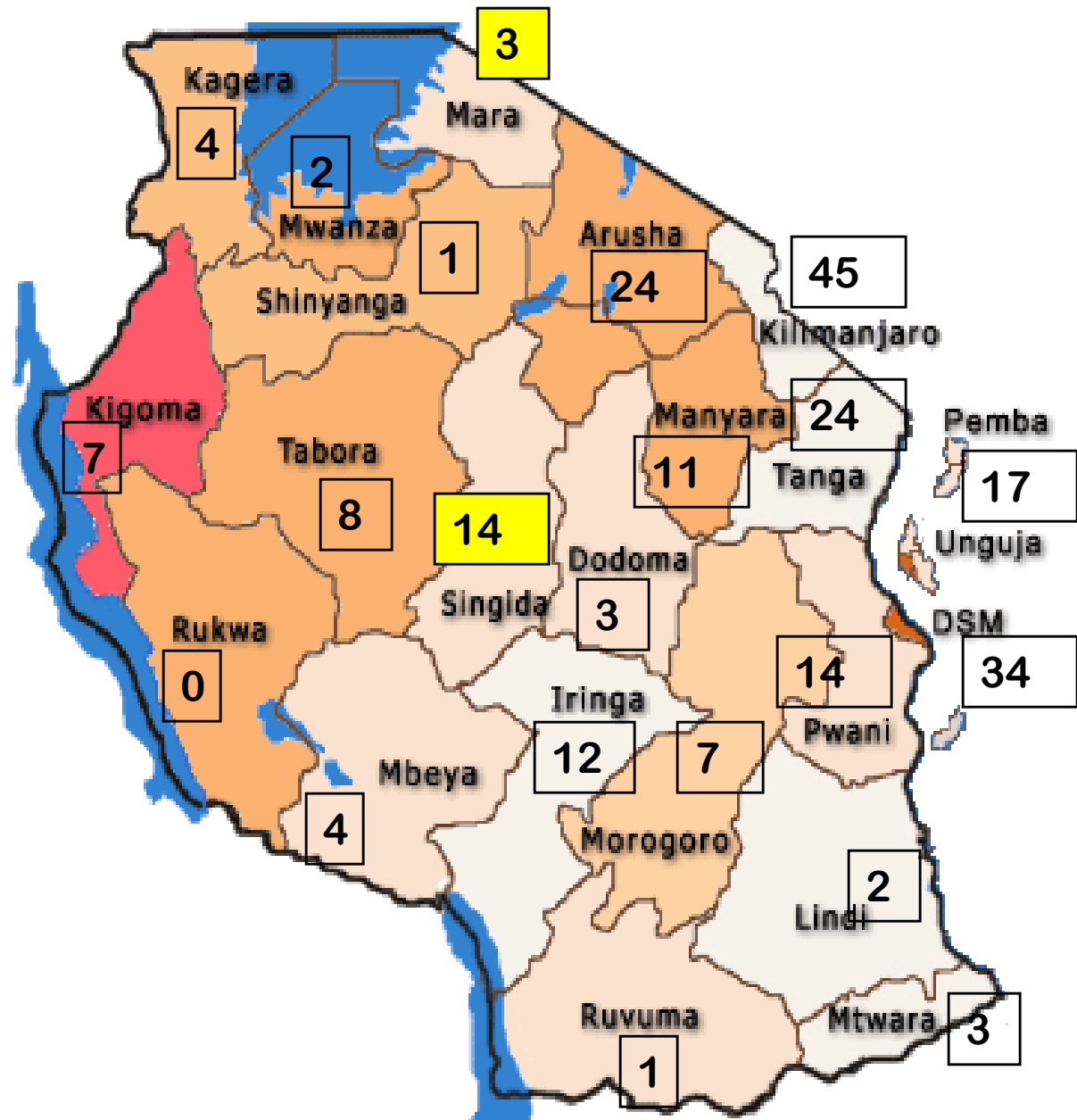
# Estimates

- 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!**

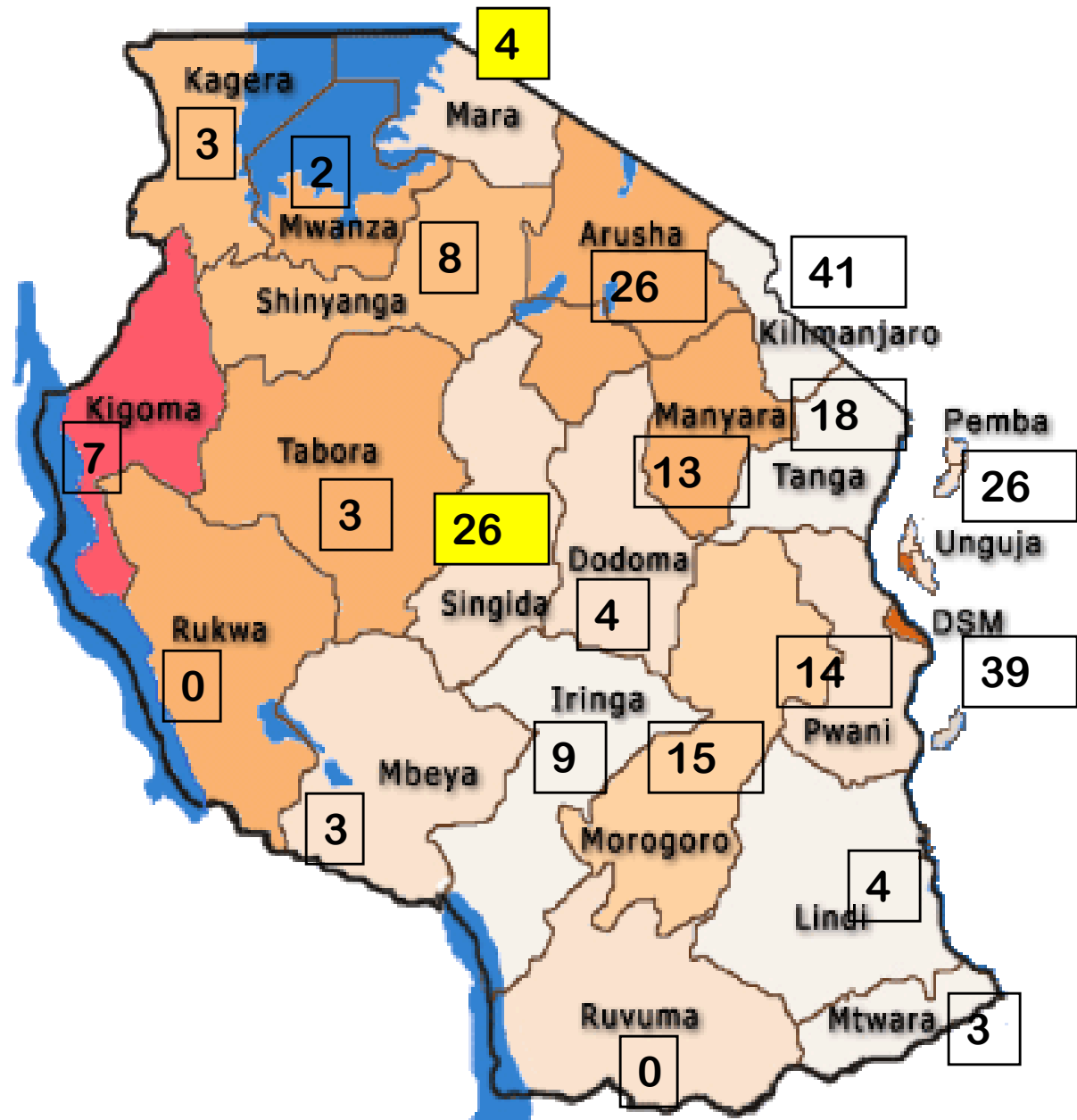
# Tanzania

Childhood  
cataract surgical  
rate (2004-5)



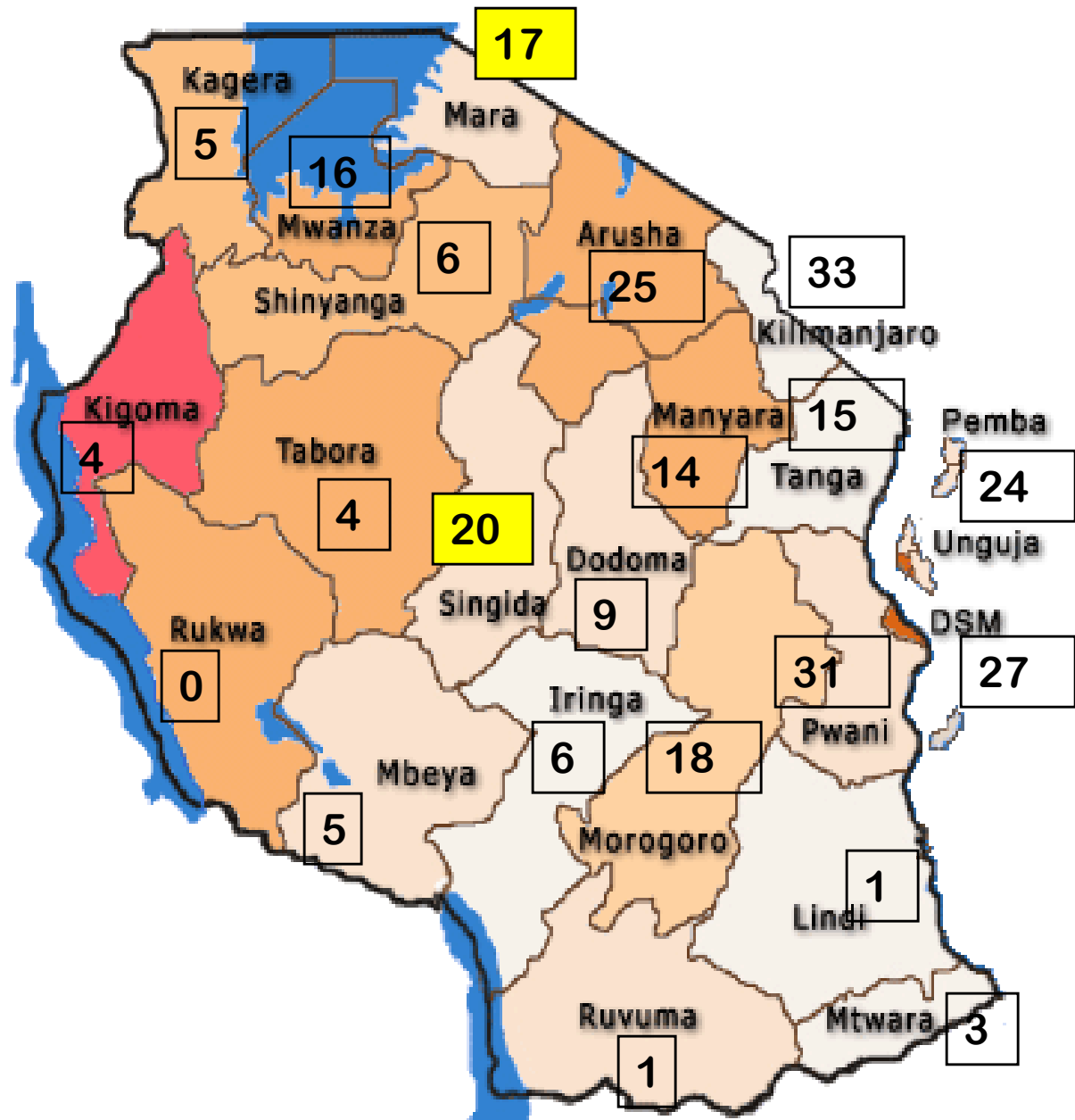
# Tanzania

Childhood  
cataract surgical  
rate (2006)



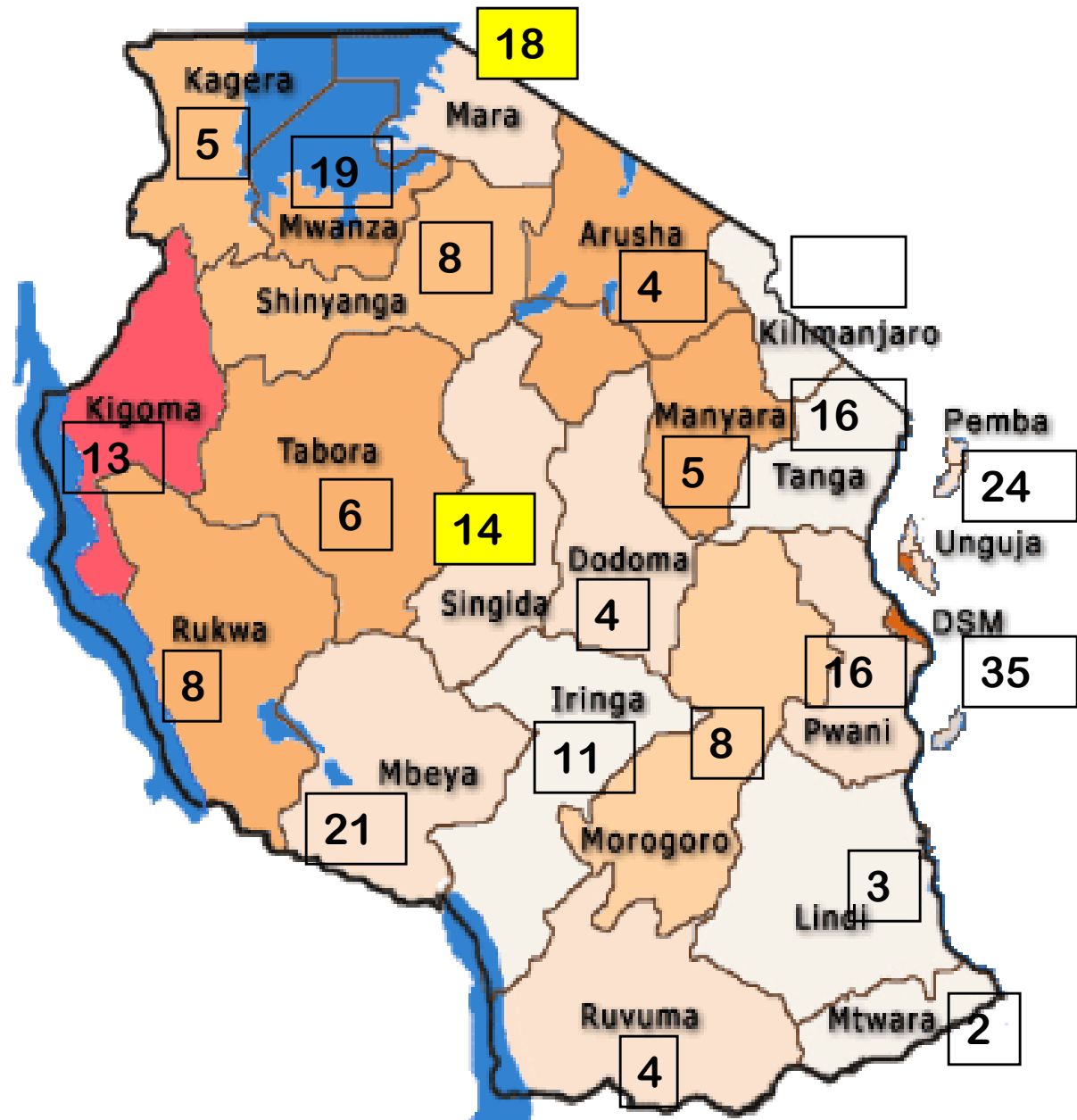
# Tanzania

Childhood  
cataract surgical  
rate (2007)

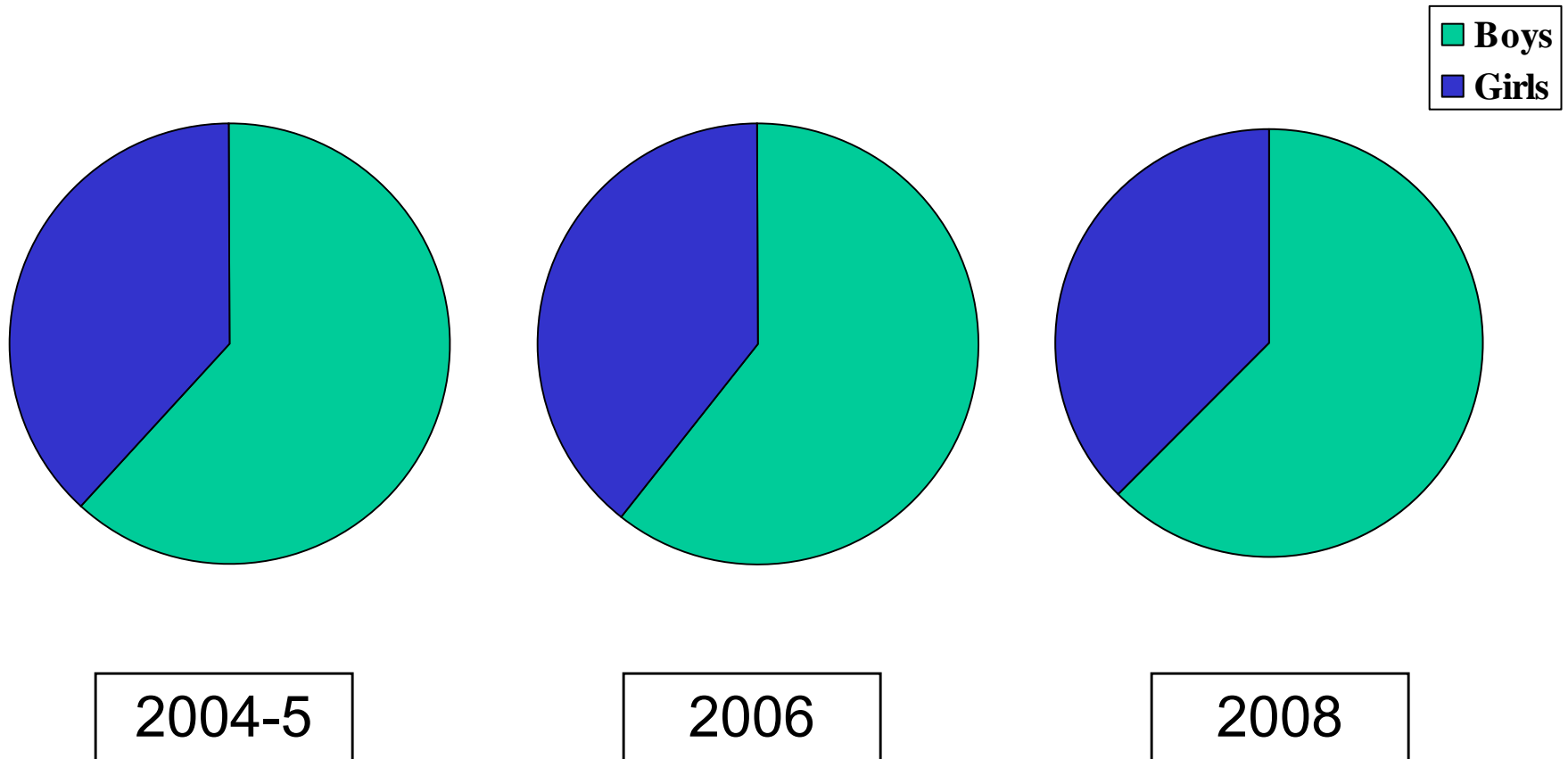


# Tanzania

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