

A growing global challenge

Over 2 billion people are living with poor sight and for over 1 billion of these people, this sight loss could have been avoided or treated. This represents a significant and rapidly growing public health challenge – but one that can be effectively addressed given that over 90% of sight loss cases are preventable or treatable through low-cost interventions such as glasses and cataract surgery.

An economic opportunity

Sight is foundational to economic and societal participation. It results in healthier workforces and higher productivity at work, better attendance and educational outcomes at schools as well as healthier and happier communities.

Our new research proves that if action was taken to reach the 1 billion people living with avoidable sight loss, the boost to the world economy would be \$447 billion annually. It would result in 13 million extra years of schooling, 22 million more people employed, and 304 million people relieved of unpaid caregiving, predominantly women.

\$447 billion

boost to the world economy

22 million

more people employed

13 million

equivalent school years gained

1.2 million

**fewer injuries from
crashes on roads**

304 million

**people, predominantly women,
relieved of the caregiving burden
and able to work more**

\$1 : \$28

**every \$1 invested in eye health can yield
a \$28 return in low- and middle-income
countries**

The Global Summit for Eye Health

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda will stage the first ever Global Summit for Eye Health in November 2026, held alongside Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), to focus on the value of vision to countries, communities and individual.

Hosting countries and global action

Host



Government of
Antigua and Barbuda

Co-Hosts



Federal Republic
of Nigeria



People's Republic
of Bangladesh



Co-operative
Republic of Guyana

Global Summit Commitments

The Global Summit for Eye Health aims to mobilise political and financial commitments that accelerate progress on eye health as part of broader health, education, and development agendas. A commitment is a formal public pledge made by a government, organisation, business or international institutions to take specific actions, allocate resources, or achieve measurable targets in pursuit of our shared goal of ending avoidable sight loss.

Access the [Global Summit Commitments](#).

The St. John's Global Compact for Eye Health

The St. John's Global Compact for Eye Health will be the first multi-stakeholder declaration on eye health and the unifying outcome document of the 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health, setting out a shared vision, a common approach to action, and a framework for collective action to accelerate progress on eye health. Governments and partners are invited to endorse the Compact and join The 1 Billion Pledge to ensure everyone can access the eye care they need.

Learn more about the [Global Compact for Eye Health](#)

The Value of Vision

Our Investment Case, launched at the 79th United Nations General Assembly, sets out the economic costs and benefits of addressing sight loss, and a clear, actionable path for countries to deliver an immediate impact for their populations. The 'Value of Vision' is clear. It speaks directly to targets governments are already pursuing. Eye health interventions raise productivity and employment, improve school outcomes, reduce road traffic injuries, and ease pressure on health and welfare systems - making eye health a low-cost lever for progress on existing national targets. With country-level data now available, policymakers globally are using this evidence to build the case for investment and shape national eye health strategies.

Technical Collaboration:



The Global Summit for Eye Health is in technical collaboration with the World Health Organization, which is supporting governments to translate commitments into action through technical guidance, country support, and transparent tracking of progress beyond the Summit.



Making the world see the Value of Vision

The burden of eye health already costs the global economy billions every year. But for the first time, research in *'The Value of Vision – the Case for Investing In Eye Health'* shows the huge economic return that is possible with targeted investment. **Every \$1 invested in eye health can yield a \$28 return in low- and middle-income countries.**

Six Accelerators

Six key accelerator interventions can supercharge the fight against sight loss and deliver huge productivity benefits back to countries by 2030:



Expand Screening in the community

Deliver simple sight tests in communities and integrate them into existing infrastructure of processes, with an emphasis on school children, professional drivers and adults over 40 years old



Give out reading glasses on the spot

Empower these same community screeners to hand out ready-made reading glasses if needed right after the screening. They can be fitted and dispensed by people with minimal training and no medical experience.



Increase capacity in the workforce

Increase capacity in the existing workforce for those who need a clinical diagnosis. As well as training more optometrists, there should be an emphasis on training up existing mid-level eye care professionals, deploying mobile units and using tele-refraction.



Boost surgical productivity and teams

Train new surgeons and improve the existing surgeons' tasks, workflow, support from allied health workers. And their kit and equipment. This has the potentials to increase surgical productivity by 40-50%.



Remove barriers to access

Reduce blockers like cost, distance and stigma that stop people from accessing the care they need. Subsidies for procedures, support with travel to facilities, and information campaigns significantly increases usage and surgical output.



Make cataract surgery even better

Ensure cataract operations are delivering the same high-quality sight for everyone, everywhere innovation training techniques, biometry and better post-op care can all lead to better sight and fewer complications.

Unlocking potential

The Global Summit for Eye Health will convene senior leaders from government, private and public sectors, NGO's and funding institutions to help reach the 1billion people living with avoidable sight loss. The Summit will ask leaders to:

Act

- Commit to leadership and action from the highest levels of Government to embed eye health into health systems.
- Activate nationally owned eye health plans to deliver change and an integrated approach.
- Implement policy changes to address sight, recognising it as a whole-of-life issue that needs a holistic, whole-of-government approach.

Allocate

- Increase resources in eye health, recognising the return on investment that is possible both nationally and internationally.
- Explore innovative funding mechanisms and new ways to fund eye health.
- Foster partnerships with the private sector.

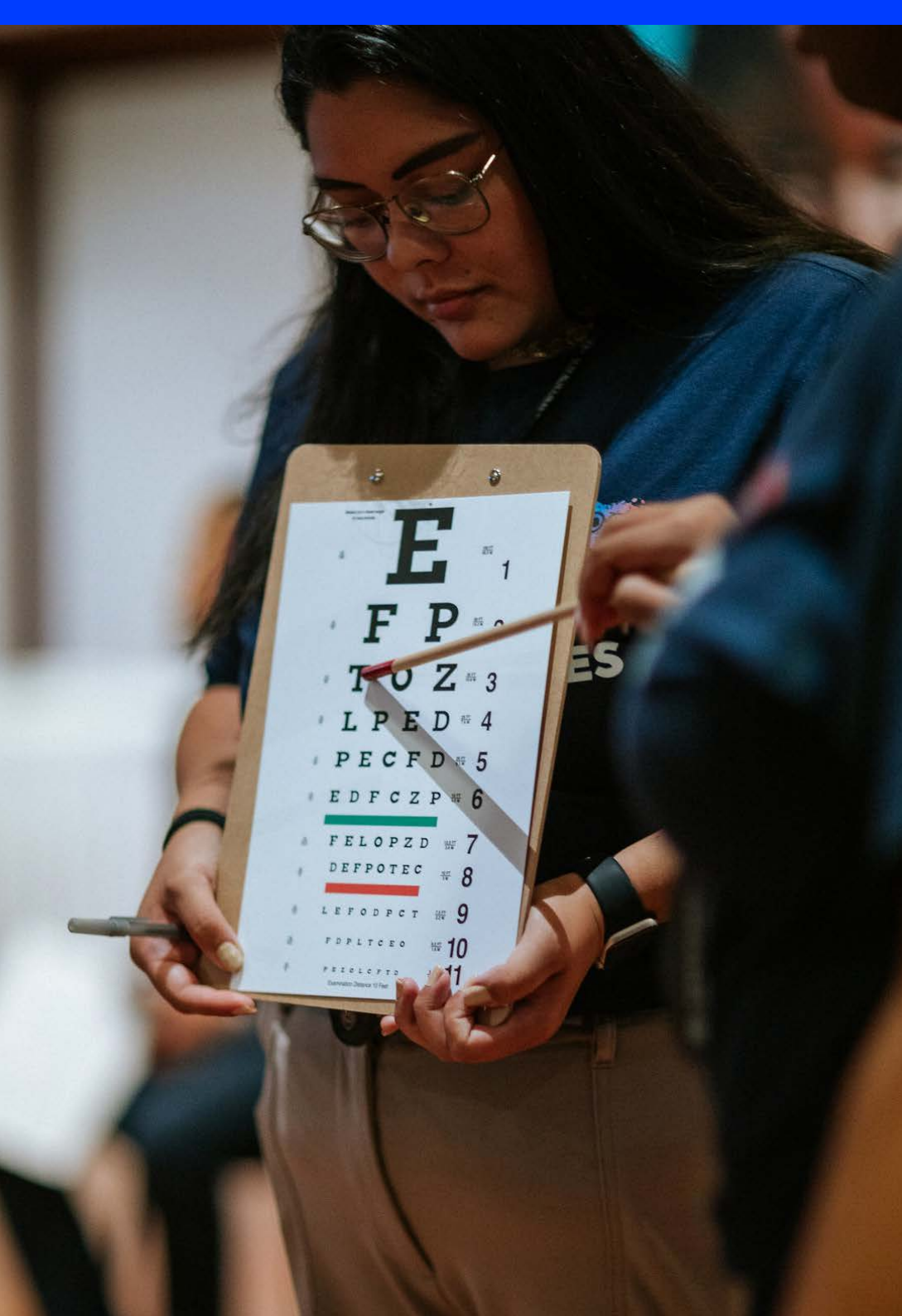
Accelerate

- Collaborate across the public and private sector and wider society to harness the educational and societal benefits of addressing poor sight.
- Implement the 6 accelerator interventions quickly and as a minimum and scale these up as progress is made.
- Harness technology and fast-track research and development in this area.

Find out more

The Value of Vision: The case for investing in eye health outlines how addressing sight loss can provide an immediate and positive impact on the economy, workforce, education and communities.





Policy Framework

A new eye health policy framework launched at the World Health Assembly in 2025 outlining the steps that government departments or ministries can take to support their own priorities and implement national approaches that are fitting for their populations' needs. Together, these steps will help ensure there is universal access to eye care as a fundamental aspect of well-being, productivity and prosperity, and that those with unavoidable blindness are empowered to participate in and contribute to society.

- 1. Integration** Integrate eye health into broader health systems including school health and beyond, and improve access to screenings, services, rehabilitation, equipment and technology.
- 2. Financing** Prioritise sustainable financing for eye health including domestic resourcing, public- private partnerships and support from international financial institutions and donors.
- 3. Monitoring** Support the tracking of progress against national and global eye health targets through strengthened national monitoring mechanisms.
- 4. Regulation** Create the optimum regulatory environment through tax changes, regulatory reform, standards and practices, for example removing regulatory barriers for access to spectacles enabling innovation and scale in the public and private sectors.
- 5. Workforce** Increase access to quality eye health services through the recruitment, training, distribution and retention of eye health workers as well as investing in technological advances to expand access.
- 6. Partnership** Partner with the private sector, civil society and academia to promote eye health and deliver services which are aligned with national government plans and policies.
- 7. Inclusion** Ensuring equity between population groups in access to services, and including persons with sight loss in policymaking.

For full information please visit the [Value of Vision Policy Asks](#).