

Overview & Background

The Global Summit for Eye Health (2 November 2026, Antigua and Barbuda) will convene Heads of Government, ministers, international organisations, civil society, and private sector leaders. Five years on from the UN Resolution Vision for Everyone, the Summit will catalyse a new wave of ambitious, measurable commitments to reach the one billion people currently living with avoidable sight loss.

The Summit will deliver:

- A new wave of government commitments
- Catalytic financing and partnerships
- A Global Eye Health Compact, embedding eye health within global development frameworks and ensuring long-term accountability

The Case for Action: Vision as an Economic Multiplier

Global vision impairment is a solvable crisis. Currently, 2.2 billion people are living with poor sight; for over 1 billion of these people, this sight loss could have been avoided or treated.

In a climate of global fiscal constraint, eye health offers an unparalleled economic proposition:

- **ROI:** Every \$1 invested generates a \$28 return in low- and middle-income countries.
- **Cost-Effective:** Interventions like glasses and cataract surgeries are among the most cost-effective and scalable healthcare solutions available today.
- **Transformational Impact:** Expanding access creates millions of jobs and unlocks gains in education, productivity and well-being.

The Commitment Framework

Governments are encouraged to demonstrate leadership by submitting national commitments aligned with the following pillars:

- **ACT:** Embed eye health into Universal Health Coverage and Primary Health Care. Launch nationally owned plans which deliver transformative change and a whole-of-government approach to eye health.
- **ALLOCATE:** Dedicate specific budget lines for eye health and include vision in national health insurance schemes.
- **ACCELERATE:** Implement [6 low-cost, simple accelerators](#) identified in the *Value of Vision Investment Case* and showcase and scale the use of innovation and technology.

Germany

Germany demonstrates strong leadership in eye health, supported by a comprehensive and inclusive Statutory Health Insurance (SHI) system and a high cataract surgical rate compared to other EU countries.

- **Service Coverage & Health Financing:** Germany is among the leading EU countries for cataract surgery rate per capita, with a CSR rate of 11,537 per million population. Effective refractive error coverage is also high overall, with a large proportion of those needing

correction receiving services with good quality outcomes. There are minimal financial barriers to receiving care.

- **Disease Specific Care Pathways:** Eye health care is largely disease-specific, with well-established pathways for glaucoma, diabetes-related eye disease, macular degeneration and cataract.

Germany Commitments at the Global Summit for Eye Health:

The areas outlined below are intended to illustrate possible pathways for national commitment that align with Germany's priorities, existing strengths, and the Global Summit for Eye Health Policy Framework. They are indicative rather than prescriptive and are provided to support discussion and refinement with government counterparts. Final commitments will be determined by the government of Germany based on national priorities, feasibility, and implementation.

Strengthening Prevention and Early Detection

Germany commits to reinforcing prevention and proactive detection as core pillars of its eye health approach, which is especially important due to Germany's aging population. This will be achieved through the following actions:

- **Improving uptake of regular eye examinations**, particularly for people living with diabetes, older adults, and other high-risk groups.
- **Exploring opportunities for enhanced collaboration between optometrists and ophthalmologists**, including the appropriate use of diagnostic tools aligned with safety standards to strengthen early detection and alleviate specialist bottlenecks.
- **Strengthening early detection pathways**, ensuring timely referral and treatment for preventable and treatable eye conditions.
- **Increasing public awareness** of avoidable sight loss, with targeted communication for populations at risk of late presentation.

Addressing Equity and Access Gaps in Refractive Error Care

Germany commits to reducing unmet need for refractive correction, particularly among children, adolescents, and lower-income groups. To achieve this, we will pursue the following actions:

- **Reviewing access and reimbursement for glasses**, recognising refractive correction as a foundational intervention for learning, productivity, and well-being.
- **Strengthening vision care for children and adolescents**, addressing documented gaps in glasses coverage and follow-up. Uncorrected refractive error is associated with measurable losses in educational attainment.
- **Improving monitoring of refractive error outcomes**, ensuring quality and equity across regions.

Strengthening Monitoring, Strategy and Accountability

Germany commits to improving national oversight and accountability for eye health performance. To achieve this, we will pursue the following actions:

- **Establishing clearer baseline metrics** on coverage, access, screening uptake, outcomes, and workforce capacity.
- **Strengthening routine reporting**, enabling identification of gaps and regional disparities.
- **Using evidence more systematically** to inform policy, planning, and investment decisions.