

The Value of Vision

The case for investing in eye health

Why eye health matters

Good vision is foundational to economic and societal participation.

It results in healthier workforces and higher productivity at work, better attendance and educational outcomes at schools, greater participation in society, less injuries and less dependence on the wider health and welfare system.

Globally there are over **2 billion people** living with a vision impairment. Shockingly, **over 1 billion of these people live daily with sight loss that could have been avoided or could still be treated.**

The good news is that we already have the solutions to tackle this global challenge. The interventions already exist and are proven, affordable, and easy-to-deliver. And crucially, the economic and societal impact of investing in them is profound.



Our latest research

The burden of eye health already costs the global economy billions every year. But for the first time, our new research shows the huge economic return that is possible with targeted investment.

Our research shows that every **\$1 invested in eye health can yield a \$28 return** in low- and middle-income countries. That means that a **\$7.1 billion investment** in just six priority areas – including expanded community screenings, access to reading and prescription glasses, and more frequent eye exams – could unlock a **\$199 billion** boost in productivity in those countries over 5 years.

If further investment and policy changes were implemented and the 1 billion living with avoidable sight loss were reached, this would be increased to a \$447 billion boost to the world economy annually.

\$1 : \$28

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middle-income countries**

Unlocking potential

If we reached the 1 billion people living with avoidable sight loss, every year there would be:

\$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

320,000

extra years of life lived

304 million

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

12.2 million

fewer people living with depression

Act

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

Allocate

- Increase resources, recognising the return of 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 vision.
- 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.

Photo credits:

From darkness to light; Collins Agyei Agyapong; submitted by Christiana Botic, VisionSpring

A report by



Available on the

IAPB Vision Atlas