



## Eye health is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Good vision and eye health unlocks people's potential to:



Get an education



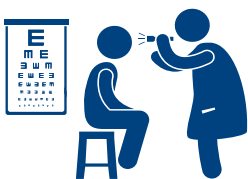
Earn a living




Maintain Well-being

**1.1 billion**  
people

are living with vision loss because they do not have access to basic eye care services



**55%** 

of people with vision loss are women and girls

**91 million**  
children

have vision loss as they don't have access to eye care services



**Vision loss**  
costs the global economy

**\$411 billion**

per annum in productivity losses

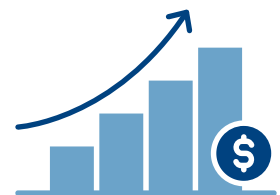
### Did you know?

Half the global population  
**[4.8 billion]**  
is set to have a  
**vision impairment**  
by 2050

Almost everyone will need access to eyecare services during their lifetime

**90%**

of all vision loss is preventable or treatable



Unless there is a significant investment, eye care services are unlikely to cope with future needs.

# Eye health is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



**1 NO POVERTY**  
Poverty is both a cause and a consequence of poor eye health

**90%** of vision loss is in low- and middle-income countries with the poor and extreme poor among the furthest left behind

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**  
Women and girls more likely to have vision loss and experience additional barriers to eye care services

Overall, women are **12% more likely** to have vision loss than men

**2 ZERO HUNGER**  
Improved eye health can increase household income which in turn reduces hunger

Free high quality cataract surgery can increase household income: **46%** of household incomes moved up an income bracket

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**  
Good eye health and vision promotes inclusive economic growth, employment and improved living standards

Providing glasses can increase workplace productivity by **22%**

Cataract surgery can increase household per capita expenditure by **88%**

**3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**  
Eye health is key to ensuring good health, mental health and wellbeing.

Poor eye health increases the risk of mortality up to **2.6 times**

**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**  
Poor eye health is driven by inequality

Women, older people, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants are among those most affected

**73%** of people with vision loss are over the age of 50

**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**  
Eye health has positive impact on school enrolment, educational attainment and learning

Glasses can reduce the odds of failing a class by **44%**

Children with vision loss are **2-5 times less likely** to be in formal education in low- and middle-income countries

**11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**  
Eye health is critical to reducing road traffic deaths and injuries

Unoperated cataract can increase the chance of a motor vehicle accident by **2.5 times**

To find out more about eye health and the Sustainable Development Goals, visit: <https://www.iapb.org/learn/vision-atlas/impact-and-economics/>  
Source: VLEG/GBD 2020 model, accessed via IAPB Vision Atlas and The Lancet Global Health Commission on Global Eye Health

The Vision Atlas is a free knowledge resource for eye health thanks to the support from Allergan an Abbvie company, Bayer, Seva Foundation, Sightsavers, CBM and The Fred Hollows Foundation.