

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.



\$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 host the first ever Global Summit for Eye Health in November 2026 to focus on the value of vision to countries, communities and individuals.

Five years on from the UN Resolution on Vision, the event will be an opportunity to secure a new wave of ambitious commitments and transform a shared vision into action.

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.

