

## ONE DOLLAR GLASSES PROVIDES BASIC OPTICAL CARE FOR ALL PEOPLE WORLDWIDE FROM ITS BASE IN GERMANY

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After more than 14 years of work, the [One Dollar Glasses](#) programme (Ein Dollar Brille) is celebrating the following impact milestones: over 25,000 eye camps and more than 2 million eye tests. The programme has now achieved the goal of providing Good Vision glasses to 1 million people.

According to a WHO study, more than 950 million people worldwide need glasses but cannot afford them. They usually suffer from the consequences throughout their lives: children cannot learn properly, adults cannot work. The resulting loss of income amounts to US Dollars 269 billion per year. The [Ein Dollar Brille association](#), based in Germany, gives those affected access to free vision tests and high-quality, affordable glasses so that they can lead self-determined lives.

[An article on the Siemens website](#) tells the story of this important initiative, created by Martin Aufmuth, math and physics teacher at a high school in Erlangen (Germany). With expertise in physics, specifically optical lenses, as well as knowledge of the physiology of the eye, he decided that he could contribute to solving the global problem. He created a frame made of lightweight spring steel wire, beads, shrink tubing and ready-cut lenses. In 2012, he founded the Ein Dollar Brille, which translates to *One Dollar Glasses*, an NGO whose goal is to provide basic optical care to people around the world. The plan was to get the OneDollarGlasses designed and manufactured on site, using a machine that didn't require electricity. After developing his initial concepts, prototypes, and sketches mainly by hand, he then had to determine, highly efficient manufacturing processes in order to produce the glasses. This process began with design and digitalisation. Since the invention of the ground-breaking OneDollarGlasses machine, the organization has grown to include approximately 500 volunteers and employees worldwide.

[In 2013 the One Dollar Glasses Program was awarded as one of the Technologies for basic needs by the Empowering People Network promoted by the Siemens Stiftung Foundation](#). Since 2013, Siemens' has been one of the partners of the One Dollar Glasses programme.

The One Dollar Glasses website presents all the essential features of this extraordinary initiative, which addresses a basic need among the population using sustainable and reproducible methods that can be applied in any country.



The “[fields of activity](#)” section of the [One Dollar Glasses website](#) presents information on the activities the organization develops in the countries where it operates. The aim of Good Vision is to provide basic eye care to people worldwide. In addition to eye tests, the provision of glasses and the training of local specialists, the areas of activity also include awareness campaigns and international networking:

- **Glasses & Production.** The GoodVision Glasses are made of flexible spring steel wire. They are very light and extremely stable at the same time. The material cost of a pair of glasses is about one US dollar.
- **Vision tests.** Glasses are only a safe and valuable tool for good eyesight when combined with a professionally performed eye test.
- **Training & employment.** GoodVision trains people in the programme countries worldwide and creates secure jobs for well-qualified employees. Over 500 men and women work for GoodVision in eleven countries in Asia, Africa and South America. This creates new jobs with prospects, even in regions with poorly developed labour markets.
- **Awareness.** Through free eye tests, educational work in schools and village communities and the development of relationships with health institutions and NGOs, the *Ein Dollar Brille* association is creating a growing awareness of the importance of good eyesight and the impact of glasses.
- **Standard of quality.** Quality plays a central role at GoodVision. The organization stands for high-quality optical care and attach great importance to providing the best possible care for refractive errors in the Global South.
- **Medical examination & treatment.** In addition to offering eye tests and high-quality glasses, GoodVision also provide access to eye care in its program countries.
- **Sustainability.** The United Nations' global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set the direction for our future. GoodVision's contribution is clear: it aims to ensure that all people worldwide to have permanent access to affordable, high-quality basic optical care. Good vision for almost 1 billion people is one of the most important prerequisites for advancing the 2030 Agenda.
- **Networks & Society.** Current studies predict that half of humanity will be short-sighted by 2050. Providing so many millions of people with glasses, even in the poorest and most remote regions of the world, is only possible if organisations join forces – through cooperation between international NGOs, the WHO and government representatives.

The [One Dollar Glasses website](#) also presents the results achieved and the partner involved in all the countries where the organization operates:

- in South America: [Bolivia](#), [Brazil](#), [Colombia](#), [Peru](#), [Paraguay](#).



- in Africa: [Kenya](#), [Liberia](#), [Malawi](#) and [Burkina Faso](#).
- in Asia: [Nepal](#) and [India](#).

[The Design Technology website summarizes the main features of the extraordinary One Dollar Glasses Programme:](#)

- *Self-sufficiency at its core* – Local specialists are trained to manufacture and fit glasses using an electricity-free bending machine, making it ideal for rural areas.
- *Affordable and accessible* – Sold at two to three times the local daily wage, the glasses are priced to support sustainability without being out of reach.
- *Training and employment* – One-year training in Best Spherical Correction (BSC) prepares GoodVision Technicians to carry out eye tests and fit glasses, tackling both the skills shortage and unemployment.
- *Immediate impact* – Glasses are distributed directly through mobile eye camps, eliminating long delays and high travel costs.
- *Inclusivity* – Training programmes actively include people with disabilities, as in Burkina Faso, where a blind employee works successfully in eyewear production.

[Out of a desire to work more closely together, all national organizations involved in the One Dollar Glasses have decided to establish GoodVision as an international umbrella organisation.](#) Its members are the country organizations, including the founding association *Ein Dollar Brille* in Germany, and the individual sister organizations. In future, joint strategies will be developed, global standards drawn up and services shared within this network. This will give the programme countries an equal role as partners.

The organization invites all interested partners to participate in this initiative.

### To know more

[Ein Dollar Brille website](#)

[Article in Siemens website](#)

[2024 Annual Report](#)

[Information Material](#)

[Ein Dollar Brille Awards](#)

[Ein Dollar Brille Partners](#)

[Ein Dollar Brille story](#)

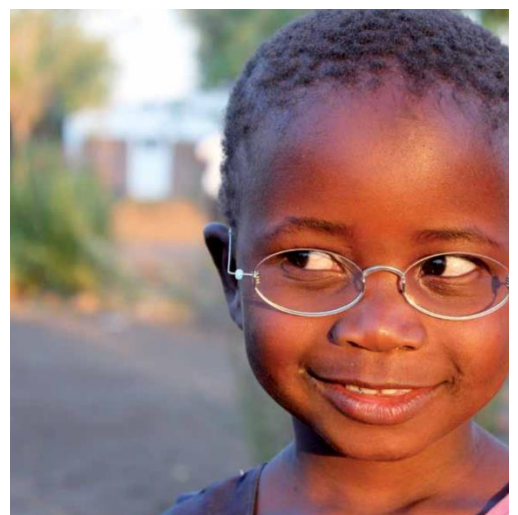
[Article in \[designtechnology.org.uk\]\(http://designtechnology.org.uk\)](#)

[One Dollar Glasses in Empowering People Network](#)

[One Dollar Glasses in Empowering People Network 2012](#)

[Article in \[oliverwyman.com\]\(http://oliverwyman.com\)](#)

[Article in \[goodsearch.org\]\(http://goodsearch.org\)](#)



[Article in engineeringforchange.org](https://www.engineeringforchange.org)

[OneDollarGlasses Burkina Faso in Siemens-stiftung.org](https://www.siemens-stiftung.org)

[OneDollarGlasses Bolivia in Siemens-stiftung.org](https://www.siemens-stiftung.org)

[One Dollar Glasses Press release](#)

[Best Practice Award at the World Expo 2025 in Osaka](#)

[EinDollarBrille e.V. awarded the Marion Dönhoff Prize 2025](#)

[One Dollar Glasses inmax-brose-hilfe.com](https://www.inmax-brose-hilfe.com)

