

# The Importance of the Eyes

## A World Built on the Ability to See

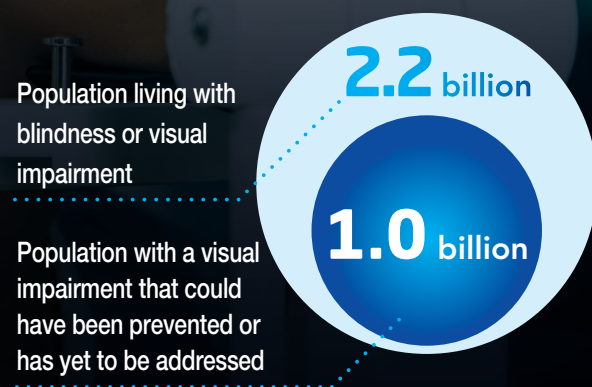
Sight has played an integral role in the evolution of social infrastructure, interpersonal communication, sports, the arts, business, education and many other human endeavors as we know them today. In a world built on the ability to see, the importance of vision can easily be taken for granted. Closing one's eyes might provide a glimpse of a world without vision, and how it completely changes our actions and lifestyles. The eyes play a critical role at every turn of life.





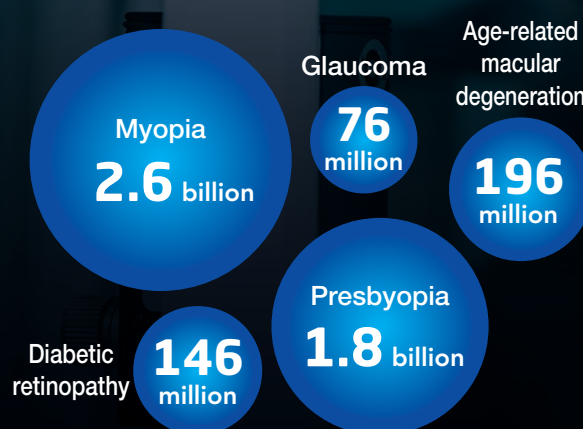
# Social Issues Related to Visual Impairment

## Population with Blindness or Visual Impairment<sup>1</sup>



At least 2.2 billion people worldwide live with blindness or a visual impairment. Of these people, at least 1.0 billion have a visual impairment that could have been prevented or has yet to be addressed. This number is expected to increase due to factors such as population growth, aging societies and changing lifestyles.

## Number of People Affected Worldwide<sup>1</sup>



People worldwide live with various eye conditions and diseases, and many of us must deal with an eye health issue at some point in our lives. Myopia is considered the world's most common eye problem, and the number of people affected is expected to increase to 3.36 billion by 2030.

## Economic Losses due to Visual Impairments

Approx. **US\$ 410.7** billion annually<sup>2</sup>

Visual impairments, are on the rise globally, are estimated to result in annual economic losses of as much as US\$410.7 billion. Initiatives to address eye health have led to improvements in education and the workforce, making the implementation of such initiatives a key social issue for achieving a sustainable society.

<sup>1</sup> WHO, World report on vision <sup>2</sup> The Lancet Global Health Commission on Global Eye Health: vision beyond 2020