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## Prevalence and Impacts of Vision Issues

“In a world built on the ability to see, vision, the most dominant of our senses, is vital at every turn of our lives [...] Yet [...] eye conditions and vision impairment are widespread, and far too often they go untreated. Globally *at least* 2.2 billion people have vision impairment, and of these, at least 1 billion people have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed.”

– Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)

In late 2019 the WHO published their World Report on Vision, which shares the global incidence rate of vision impairment and the prospects for resolving vision issues. Their results indicate that at least 1 billion people have preventable vision impairments, over 90% of which would simply require glasses. In addition, the prevalence of vision impairment in low to middle-class regions is estimated to be four times higher than in high-income regions.

While most vision disorders are age-related, some disorders such as myopia (near-sightedness) have relatively high incidence rates in children and teens. Children who are unable to properly see their classwork are at a disadvantage in their education. The Mexico Ministry of Public Education has estimated that 12.7% of school-age children suffer from vision problems. This coupled with the higher prevalence of unaddressed vision problems in lower income or rural areas means that programs focusing on the treatment of poor vision can have an exceptionally high impact in these communities.

## Providing Help to our Communities

In early 2025, First Majestic delivered 194 high-quality glasses to children and adults in the communities of San Dimas in Durango and Banámichi in Sonora, in partnership with the nonprofit organization Ver Bien para Aprender Mejor (See Well to Learn Better).

The objective of Ver Bien’s visual health campaign is to provide optometric care and high-quality glasses to all children in Mexico who suffer from refractive errors, that is, myopia, hyperopia, and/or astigmatism. The organization’s work is expected to help reduce poor academic performance, high failure rates, and school dropout rates. Ver bien also provides optometric services and equipment to adults with visual impairments, providing a better quality of life.

The eyeglasses provided by Ver Bien were created by industrial designer Yves Behar and “The Fuse Project” in San Francisco, California. Their design considered children’s physical and optical characteristics and tastes. The lenses are of the highest quality, are very resistant to impacts, and are manufactured in Mexico with materials approved by the FDA and the European Union. They offer twelve color combinations to satisfy any child’s preferences.

With this campaign, First Majestic reaffirms its commitment to education and the well-being of our local communities.

