

World Economic Forum and EYElliance release new report on how improving the vision of 2.5 billion people can help stimulate the global economy

Over \$225 billion in annual global growth could be unlocked by providing eyeglasses to the 2.5 billion people with uncorrected poor vision

Charenton-le-Pont, France (June 29, 2016) – Essilor has joined new multi-stakeholder coalition EYElliance and contributed to a new report - published earlier this week by the World Economic Forum - that highlights the strong case for investment in eyeglasses provision to generate significant socio-economic development gains.

Along with new data highlighting the scale of the world's visual divide, and examples of validated, scalable models, including Essilor's Eye Mitra model in India, the report also publishes a set of recommendations for governments, businesses and development partners that are keen to address this global challenge.

« We are excited to partner with EYElliance and to co-sign this important call to action alongside several esteemed personalities from the private and public sectors, » said Jayanth Bhuvanaraghan, Chief Mission Officer at Essilor International. *« Our experience in developing solutions to reach the 2.5 billion people with uncorrected poor vision confirms the importance of cross-sector collaboration between governments, businesses, philanthropists and the eye-care community in order to close the gap in access to eyeglasses and help improve the future educational and employment opportunities of millions of children and adults worldwide. »*

Of the 4.5 billion people who need vision correction, only 1.9 billion actually correct their eyesight. Over 2.5 billion people still live with uncorrected poor vision, and its social and economic consequences. 95% of them live in developing countries where they lack awareness of the impact of poor vision and access to basic vision care solutions.

In 2015, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and inclusive businesses collectively distributed less than 8 million pairs of eyeglasses in developing countries. Essilor accounted for 1/5 of these eyeglasses, distributed through its inclusive business division *2.5 New Vision Generation* and its strategic giving initiatives in over 30 countries. The Group has been scaling up these initiatives since 2013, with a particular focus on innovative inclusive business models, and has equipped over 2.5 million poor and low-income individuals with locally affordable eyeglasses over the past three years.

To read the report, go to <https://visionimpactinstitute.org/research/eyeglasses-global-development-bridging-visual-divide/>.

For more information on Essilor's initiatives to improve vision care access for the 2.5 billion uncorrected people worldwide, go to www.essilorseechange.com.

About Essilor

The world's leading ophthalmic optics company, Essilor designs, manufactures and markets a wide range of lenses to improve and protect eyesight. Its mission is to improve lives by improving sight. To support this mission, Essilor allocates more than €200 million to research and innovation every year, in a commitment to continuously bring new, more effective products to market. Its flagship brands are Varilux[®], Crizal[®], Transitions[®], Eyezen[™], Xperio[®], Foster Grant[®], Bolon[™] and Costa[®]. It also develops and markets equipment, instruments and services for eyecare professionals.

Essilor reported consolidated revenue of more than €6.7 billion in 2015 and employs 61,000 people worldwide. It markets its products in more than 100 countries and has 32 plants, 490 prescription laboratories and edging facilities, as well as 5 research and development centers around the world. For more information, please visit essilor.com

The Essilor share trades on the Euronext Paris market and is included in the Euro Stoxx 50 and CAC 40 indices.

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