PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY	
Organization	VisionSpring Foundation
Date	31st August 2023
Contact	sulekha.rana@visionspring.org
PROPOSAL SUMMARY	
Project Title	Promoting Safe Mobility through Clear Vision
Project Type	See to be Safe
New/Existing	New
Problem Statement	The blurry vision amongst commercial drivers in India causes road crashes, injuries and deaths that could be avoided through vision correction. The general wellbeing of commercial drivers is also held back by blurry vision.
Mission Goal	The goal of this program is to screen 50,000 commercial partners by Mar 2024 which could help in reducing road accidents and it also create awareness about road safety.
High level Outcomes	○ Reduce road accidents and fatalities caused by impaired visibility. ○ Improve the overall health and productivity of drivers. ○ Empower vulnerable road users to safely navigate Indian roads. ○ Foster a culture of responsible driving and community engagement.
Priority Level	High
Target Population	Drivers and Allied Transport workers
Project Location	All India
Program duration	6 month - From 1st October 2023 to 31st Mar 2024
Project Budget	CHF 241935

Clear Vision for Safer Roads and Saving Lives

Executive Summary:

Road safety continues to be a major developmental issue, a public health concern and a leading cause of death and injury across the world. At least one out of 10 people killed on roads across the world is from India, according to the World Health Organization. The cost of road accidents is borne not only by the victims and their family, but by the economy in terms of untimely deaths, injuries, disabilities, and loss of potential income. It is indeed a matter of great concern that despite the continuing efforts of the Government in this regard and our commitments for halving fatalities we have not been able to register significant progress on this front.

During the year 2021, a total number of 4,12,432 road accidents have been reported in the country, claiming 1,53,972 lives, and causing injuries to 3,84,448 persons. Unfortunately, the worst affected age group in Road accidents is 18-45 years, which accounts for about 67 percent of total accidental deaths. According to MORTH (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways) report 40 % two-wheeler riders were involved in road accidents in 2021 followed by other vehicles.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has been taking multiple initiatives including those related to vehicular and road engineering, Vision Screening, and provision of eyeglasses as well as educational measures for raising awareness in the field of Road Safety.

Impaired vision is a significant contributing factor to road accidents in India. Drivers with uncorrected or undiagnosed vision problems face numerous challenges that compromise their ability to drive safely, leading to accidents and fatalities.

VisionSpring Foundation's key Impact theme See to be Safe aims at correcting refractive error among commercial drivers and allied transport workers and create awareness on road safety to make Indian roads safer. Our program goal is aligned with the **Sustainable Development Goal 3.6: "Death rate due to road traffic injuries"**, by correcting the vision of the commercial drivers and allied transport workers reduces the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

Objective:

The overall objective of the "See to be Safe" program is to ensure road safety for all road users by providing access to affordable eyeglasses and eye care services in high-ways and transit hubs for long haul truckers, bus, auto, motorcycle and taxi drivers, and other allied transportation workers like helpers, conductors, electricians, mechanics, loaders, drivers family and other transportation workers.

Goal:

The goal of this program is to screen 50,000 commercial drivers and allied transport workers by Mar 2024 which could help in reducing road accidents and it also create awareness about road safety.

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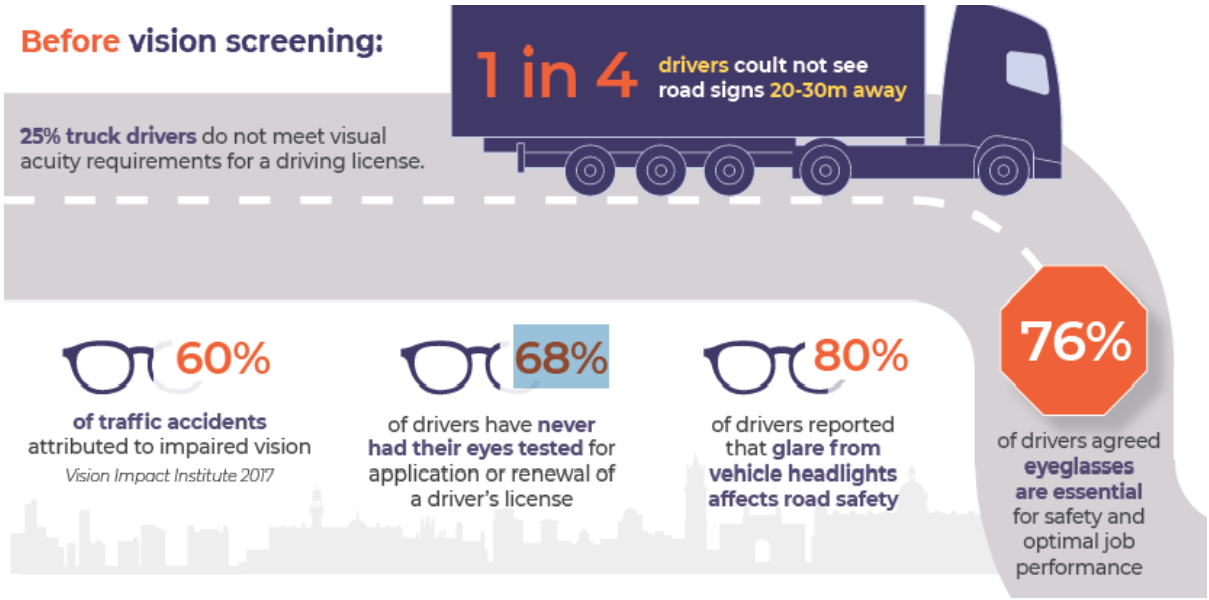
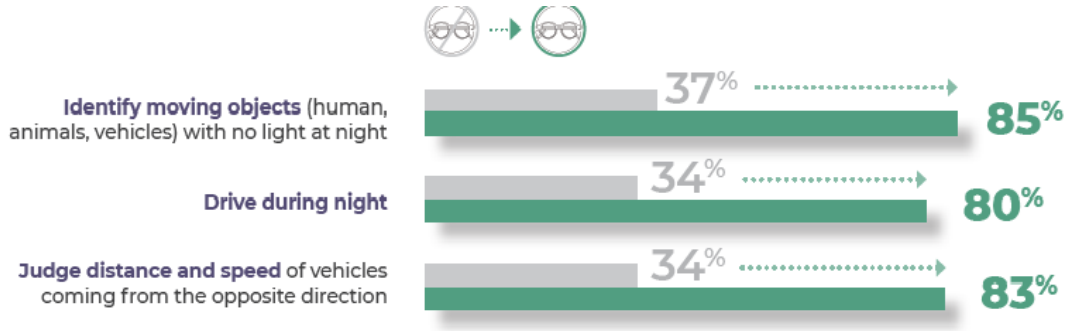
VisionSpring Foundation's program goal is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goal 3.6: "Death rate due to road traffic injuries", by correcting the vision of drivers reduce-es the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

Need for an eyeglass intervention amongst drivers' community:

In October 2019, we conducted a study to understand the impact of eye screening and usages of eyeglasses amongst highway drivers. The study was conducted for over 200 days to assess the impact of providing eyeglasses to drivers who specifically operate light/heavy commercial vehicles, at various transport hubs located in different states of India.



After getting their first pair of eyeglasses, the number of drivers reporting ease in driving safely increased because with glasses they were better able to



United Nations General Assembly Resolution July 2021

Unanimous vote to adopt the Eye Health for All resolution

World Health Assembly Vote May 2021

Commits to 2 new indicators for eye health:
1) Increasing coverage of cataracts

Why Commercial Drivers and Allied Transport Workers:

The impact of impaired vision on road safety is alarming. While specific statistics may vary over time, as of my last update in 2021, the following data highlights the magnitude of the problem:

1. **High Number of Road Accidents:** India has one of the highest rates of road accidents globally. Impaired vision is a contributing factor to a significant proportion of these accidents.
2. **Fatalities and Injuries:** Road accidents caused by impaired vision result in thousands of fatalities and injuries each year. Many of these accidents could be prevented with timely detection and treatment of vision problems.
3. **Economic Costs:** Road accidents and their aftermath incur significant economic costs, including medical expenses, loss of productivity, and damage to property and infrastructure.
4. **Impact on Vulnerable Road Users:** Impaired drivers pose a significant risk to vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists, leading to a higher number of accidents involving these individuals.
5. **Societal Impact:** Road accidents caused by impaired vision have far-reaching social implications, including emotional trauma for affected families and a burden on healthcare systems.
6. **Productivity Loss:** Injuries and fatalities from road accidents result in lost workdays and reduced productivity, impacting the nation's overall economic growth.

The issue we are addressing is road safety, specifically the impact of impaired vision on road accidents and fatalities. It matters because impaired vision among drivers poses a significant risk to road users, leading to a high number of preventable accidents, injuries, and fatalities. The issue is substantial and has far-reaching consequences for individuals, families, communities, and the broader society.

Addressing the issue of impaired vision and its impact on road safety is vital for building a safer road environment, reducing preventable accidents, and improving the well-being of communities. By promoting regular eye check-ups, raising awareness about clear vision's importance, road safety and providing access to affordable eyeglasses we can significantly contribute to road safety and create a positive impact on countless lives.

VisionSpring Foundation’s See to be Safe Initiative:

VisionSpring Foundation See to be Safe Initiative aims to bridge this gap by conducting comprehensive eye testing to identify and address vision impairments and create awareness on road safety and importance of clear vision while driving. Many commercial drivers lack awareness of the impact of impaired vision on road safety. The initiative's awareness sessions will educate drivers about the importance of clear vision and regular eye check-ups, filling the knowledge gap and encouraging responsible driving practices. We will also provide prescription and reading eyeglasses to drivers in need, ensuring they can drive safely with corrected vision.

VisionSpring Foundation has worked with commercial vehicle drivers and allied transport workers across 16 states in India and screened 6,22,838 peoples and dispensed total 3,92,694 eyeglasses till

Mar 2023 in partnership with Shell India, RPG Foundation, MakeMy Trip Foundation, Piaggio Vehicles, Apollo Tyres Foundation and many more. 64% of people touched were First Time Wearers (FTWs) of eyeglasses.

We have also won the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award in 2019 and Golden World Awards (IPRA) in 2020 for our #DriveSafeIndia program in partnership with Shell India.

Who Benefits from the Program:

The program "Promoting Safe Mobility through Clear Vision for Road Users in India" benefits multiple stakeholders, contributing to a safer road environment and improved well-being for various groups:

Commercial Drivers: The primary beneficiaries of the program are commercial drivers across India. Through comprehensive eye testing and access to prescription eyeglasses, drivers with impaired vision will experience improved visual acuity, enabling them to drive safely and reduce the risk of accidents caused by vision-related issues.

Vulnerable Road Users: The program indirectly benefits vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists. Drivers with improved vision are better equipped to detect and respond to these road users, reducing the likelihood of accidents involving them.

Communities: Safer roads lead to stronger and healthier communities. As road accidents caused by impaired vision decrease, communities will experience reduced economic and social costs associated with accidents and fatalities.

Government and Authorities: The program aligns with the government's efforts to enhance road safety. As road accidents reduce, the government benefits from a decrease in the burden on healthcare systems and resources needed to respond to accidents.

Healthcare Sector: The program fosters collaboration with the healthcare sector, creating opportunities for eye care specialists and hospitals to contribute to road safety efforts while promoting eye health.

Road Safety Advocacy Groups: Advocacy groups working to promote road safety and reduce accidents find a valuable ally in the program, strengthening their collective efforts to improve road safety in India.

General Public: The public benefits from improved road safety and reduced risks while traveling on Indian roads. As accidents decrease, the overall perception of road safety improves, enhancing public confidence in transportation systems.

Program Scope:

VisionSpring Foundation would like to collaborate with likeminded organisations for this noble cause of making Indian roads safer through eyeglasses by conducting eye testinmg and distribution of eyeglasses for commercial drivers and allied transport workers across India. An estimated 60 to 65% of the program participants will be determined to have refractive error (and/or presbyopia) and will receive eyeglasses. These would be the direct beneficiaries. The intervention aims at making the community refractive error-free and providing an instant solution, wherever possible. The camps result in instant impact and directly affect the road safety, overall productivity, and quality of life of the participants.

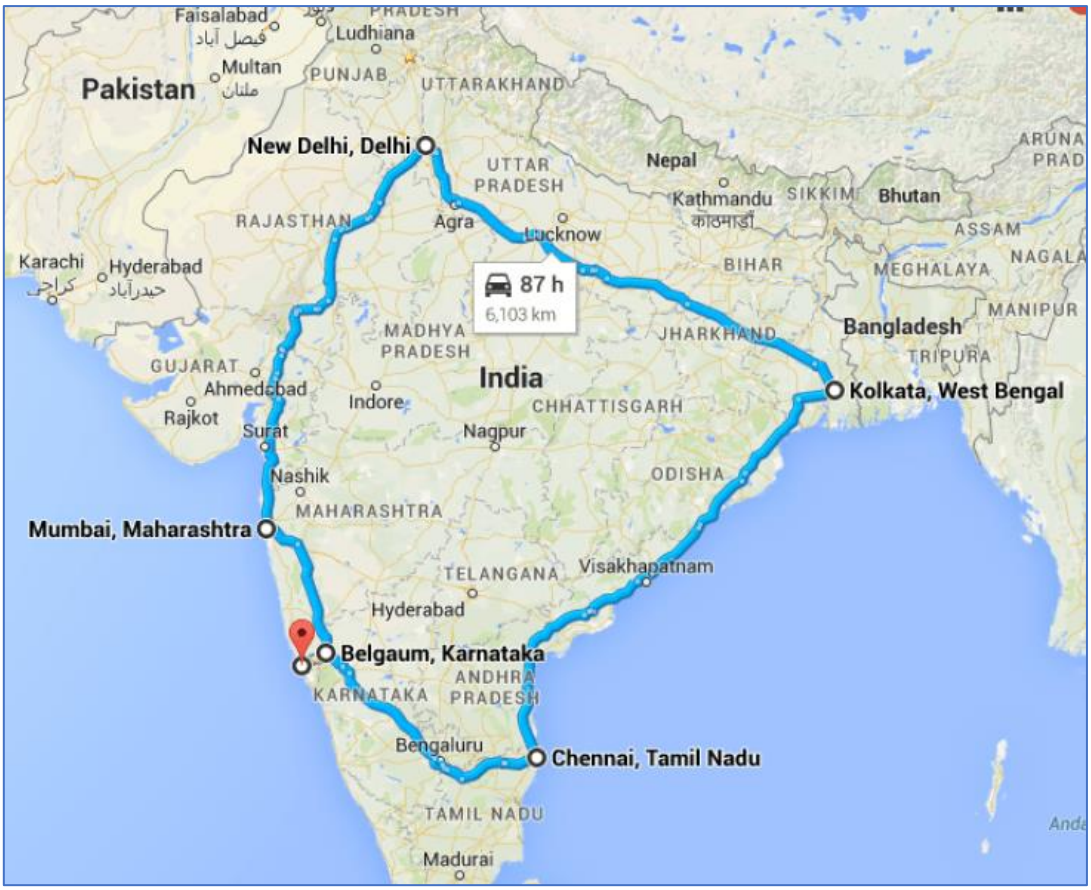
Total no. of screenings to be conducted	50,000
Program duration	6 months - From 1st October 2023 to 31st Mar 2024

Clear Vision India Advances the Government of India's Flagship Initiatives:

Project Locations

VisionSpring team will organise eye screening camps in and around Golden quadrilateral network which connects several major industrial, agricultural, and cultural centres of India.

Target area: Transport Nagar, tolls, and highways, dhaba's, ports, parking areas and bus depots.



Program Design:

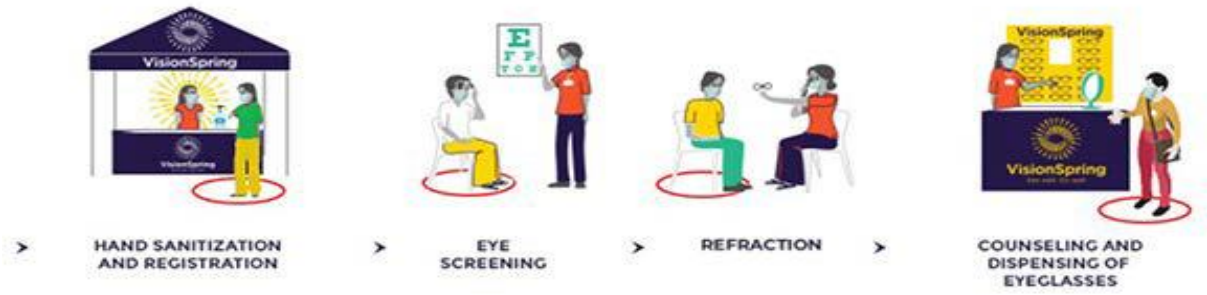
VisionSpring Foundation's goal is to screen 50,000 commercial drivers and allied transport workers across multiple cities in India and create basic awareness on Road Safety under See to be Safe program. VisionSpring Foundation will implement this program in partnership with government authorities, local partners, and eye hospital over the period of 6 months.

As part of the design, the beneficiaries will be encouraged to pay a minimum cost for the eyeglasses to ensure asset ownership. The implementation will be led by VisionSpring Foundation staff. The Theory of Change (ToC) will be defined at project inception with parameters defined under results chain - Input, Processes, Outputs, Outcomes, Impact.

Major components of the program will be:

- Create general awareness on eye care and importance of regular use of eyeglasses and basic road safety rules.
- Mobilisation of the population through Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material.
- Screening and identification with refractive error or poor vision through eye screening camps across (locations name)
- Distribution of eyeglasses among the population required within the define period.
- Identification and referral of the individuals identified with cataract and other eye disorders to a tertiary care hospital for further diagnosis and treatment.
- Regular monitoring of the project on monthly basis
- Case studies will be shared by the end of the project focusing on impact of eyeglasses and participant satisfaction.

Outreach Program Implementation Process:



Various stations at the outreach:

Registration: Filling up the participant consent and information sheet for proceeding to eye screening process.

Refraction: The process of technical eye screening and refraction by technical screener or optometrist.

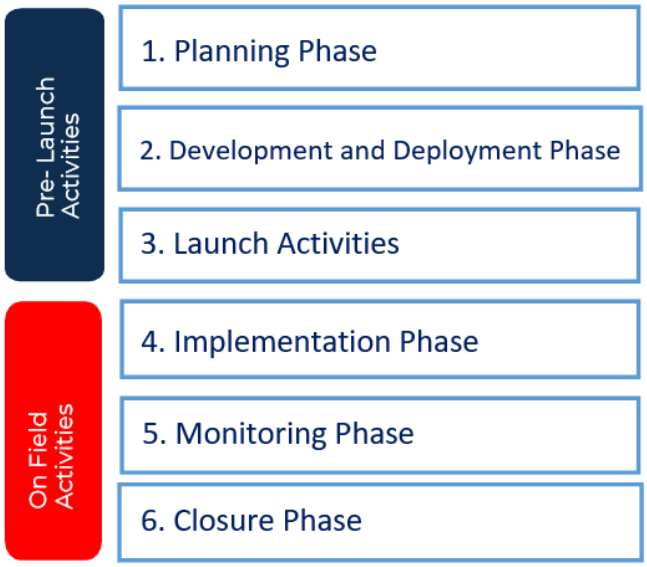
Dispensing, Counselling and Contribution Collection: Dispensing of reader eyeglasses and booking request for prescription eyeglasses as per the instructions of optometrist.

Team composition and Responsibilities:

Program Lead will be responsible for execution of the program and will decide the outreach activities, mobilisation, locations, eyeglass dispensing procedures, etc., in consultation with Arcelor Mittal.

- Each Outreach team comprises 3 to 4 members, including a Coordinator, an Optometrist, a Counsellor, and a Mobiliser.
- The Program Lead has the overall responsibility for program implementation and is the key point of contact for the outreach teams.

Outreach layout guidelines:



Program Activities (KPIS):

VisionSpring Foundation team will conduct the below activities in collaboration with local partners.

Activities	Target	Location	Timeline
Permissions: VS team will take all mandatory permissions before implementing the program on ground	As per the actuals.	Multiple	Program period
Mobilisation: Team will also mobilise fleet partners by providing then information in advance via messages or announcements.	50,000	Multiple	Program Period
Cobranding and IEC material:	Banners, Poster, Standees in regional languages.	Multiple	Program Period
Conduct Eye Testing: We will screen 4,400 commercial drives (Truck, bus, taxi, and auto) and allied transport workers (cleaners, conductors, helpers, mechanics, transport workers and drivers' family) across various regions in India to identify vision-related issues such as cataract, glaucoma, myopia, presbyopia, and astigmatism. In addition to this our team will also perform some mandatory test for drivers like colour vision, contrast sensitivity, night vision loss and diplopia.	50,000 (70% commercial drivers and 30% allied transport workers)	Multiple	Program Period
Awareness Sessions: Our team will organize awareness sessions on road safety to promote the significance of clear vision for safer mobility.	All beneficiaries will go through this session at the time of counselling	Multiple	Program Period
Provision of Eyeglasses: We will provide prescription and reading eyeglasses to those in need, ensuring their ability to drive safely.	60-65% (Prescriptions (Rx) Glasses and Reading Glasses) as per our experience - Need for eyeglasses may vary depending upon the age and/ or location of the delivery partners.	Multiple	Program Period
Hospital Referrals: Drivers diagnosed with cataract, glaucoma, and other eye diseases will be referred to hospitals for further evaluation and treatment.	As per the actuals.	Multiple	Program Period
Post camp follow Ups: VisionSpring Foundation will do post camp follow up with drivers through helpline support by taking feedback from the drivers and ensuring that they are wearing their eyeglasses regularly while driving.	All who have received eyeglasses and hospital referrals.	Multiple	Program Period
Weekly progress reports.		All	Every week
Monthly consolidated project reports.		All	By 10th of the following month

Final report.		All	Within 1 month of the completion

Program Outcome and Impact:

By partnering for this noble cause, we can make a substantial impact on road safety and well-being of Indian Communities. The Program aims to

- Reduce road accidents and fatalities caused by impaired visibility.
- Improve the overall health and productivity of drivers.
- Empower vulnerable road users to safely navigate Indian roads.
- Foster a culture of responsible driving and community engagement.

S. No.	Activity	Output	Outcome / Impact	Impact
1.	No. of drivers screened	Drivers identified with Refractive error/Presbyopia	Drivers with blurry vision identified	Fewer road crashes, injuries, and deaths on Indian Roads
2.	No. of eyeglasses dispensed	Drivers got their eyeglasses on the spot readers/pop-ins/RX	Drivers wear their eyeglasses regularly	Drives more safely
3.	No. of referrals done	Drivers identified with cataract and other eye diseases	Drivers gets their treatment done	Improved well being
4.	No. of awareness sessions done	No. of drivers participated in these sessions	Increased awareness on road safety and importance of clear vision while driving	Change in behavioural practices
5.	Post camp follow ups	No. of drivers participated in feedback survey	Drivers wearing their eyeglasses on regular basis	Increased productivity and earning potential

Impact Evaluation:

VisionSpring Foundation will combine qualitative and quantitative methods to assess the outcomes and effects of the initiative. By combining quantitative and qualitative methods, we will obtain a comprehensive understanding of the program's impact. The quantitative data will provide measurable outcomes, such as refractive error rate and eyeglass distribution rates, while qualitative insights will offer a deeper understanding of behavioural changes, program effectiveness, and the experiences of program beneficiaries. The combination of both approaches will enable a robust evaluation of the program's effectiveness and guide future improvements.

Program Budget:

Total screening	Per screening cost (INR)	Total cost (INR)
2,00,000	400	8,00,00,000

About our Organisation:

Our Mission
To increase lifelong earning, learning, safety, and well-being through eyeglasses for people vulnerable to poverty.

Our Focus
We aim to create awareness and access for eyeglasses and engage in advocacy to ensure there are supportive policies in India to help people see clearly. We conduct eye-screenings and provide eyeglasses to those who require them across India. Collaboration and alliances are in our DNA, and we feel we cannot achieve these ambitious goals without working closely with diverse stakeholders. We partner with corporations, hospitals, NGOs, government, donors, and other stakeholders from within and outside India. We are an FCRA registered organisation.

Our Programs

See to Earn
As part of this impact area, we work with low-income communities, weavers/artisans and tea garden workers (through a sub-program named Livelihoods in Focus), and factory workers (through a sub-program named Clear Vision Workplaces) across 24 states in India. Approximately 80% of those who were provided eyeglasses (after eye-screenings) through this program were First Time Wearers (FTWs). This impact area aligns closely with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1.2, 8.2, 8.8, and 8.10.

See to Learn
As part of this impact area, we work with school children (and teachers/school administration staff) across 9 states in India. Approximately 72% of those who were provided eyeglasses (after eye-screenings) through this program were First Time Wearers (FTWs). This impact area aligns closely with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4.1 and 4.5.

See to be Safe
As part of this impact area, we work with commercial vehicle drivers and allied transport workers across 16 states in India. Approximately 84% of those who were provided eyeglasses (after eye-screenings) through this program were First Time Wearers (FTWs). This impact area aligns closely with UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.6.

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We **serve locations across India:**