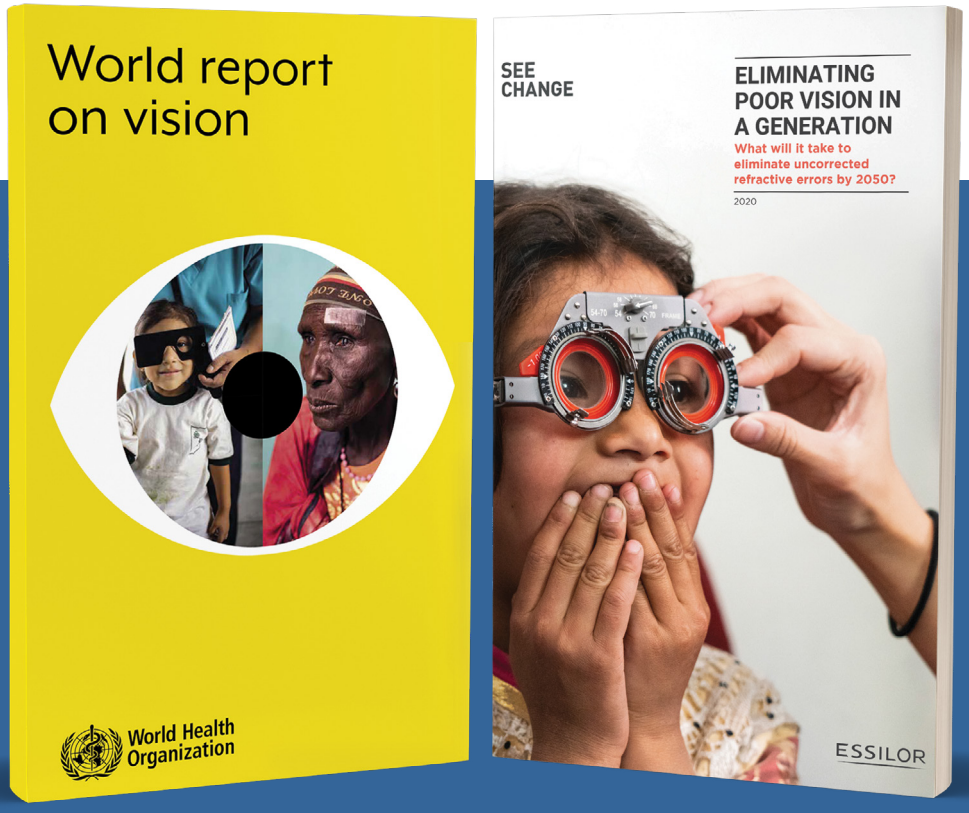
ELIMINATING POOR VISION

At the end of 2019, two landmark reports were published aligned in their objective to raise awareness and resources for eye care around the world.

The World Health Organization (WHO)'s **World report on vision** raises awareness of the global magnitude of eye conditions causing vision impairment and blindness, and draws attention to effective strategies to respond to eye care needs.



The Essilor report, **Eliminating Poor Vision in a Generation**, uses McKinsey and Co's analysis to define the global scale of uncorrected refractive errors and outline a roadmap to their elimination by 2050.

> "Global demand for eye care is set to surge in the coming years due to population growth, aging, and changes in lifestyle. Clearly, we have no choice but to take on this challenge. It is time to make sure that as many people as possible in all countries can see as well as current health technologies and health systems allow[1]."

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization

While the WHO focuses on ending avoidable vision loss due to a range of eye conditions and Essilor specifically targets uncorrected refractive errors, both reports draw similar conclusions about uncorrected refractive errors.

Population aging, coupled with **environmental** and **lifestyle changes**, will lead to a dramatic increase in the number of people with **vision impairment and blindness.**

1 in 3 people suffer from uncorrected refractive errors - a major public health challenge and the most significant driver for eye health services[2]

By 2050, if no action is taken, over **50 percent of the world's population** is expected to suffer from myopia and **3.2 billion people will suffer from uncorrected refractive errors.**

Integrated people-centered eye care is the key to tackling vision impairment – for this to become a reality, five actions need to be taken:

Significant investment is needed to strengthen eye health systems to combat uncorrected refractive errors

Investment in four areas is critical to create the change needed in primary vision care services:

1. Make eye care an integral part of universal health coverage
2. Implement integrated people-centered eye care in health systems
3. Promote high-quality implementation and health systems research, complementing existing evidence for effective eye care interventions
4. Monitor trends and evaluate progress towards implementing integrated people-centered eye care
5. Raise awareness and engage and empower people and communities about eye care needs

1. Creation of sustainable access points for vision services to equip 90% of the population in need - $2.4B
2. Innovation to accelerate the affordability of cost-to-serve and products - $0.7B
3. Funding of subsidized and free services - $6.2B
4. Raising awareness of poor vision and its socio-economic impact at an individual and societal level - $4.5B

Tackling vision impairment will require a full systems approach. Both reports recommend the involvement of multiple stakeholders including: governments, multilateral organizations, healthcare organizations, NGOs and the private sector.

[1] Excerpt from foreword of World report on vision.
[2] Recognizing the resource limitation of national public health systems as well as the burden on individuals, the WHO quantifies vision impairment due to refractive error (RE) based on a worse than 6/12 visual acuity cut-off. Essilor's definition of RE is based on a 6/9 visual acuity cut-off to establish a need-based model because:
- Individuals still battle to see at distance with a 6/12 visual acuity and this limits their ability to work or learn in various circumstances
- Many individuals present clinically for correction with a 6/12 impairment
- 6/12 visual acuity is often needed for driver's license and other functions