

Many Kenyan children struggle in school because they have vision problems like short-sightedness (myopia) or long-sightedness (hyperopia). **Around 86,000 children and adolescents in Kenya have these vision issues.**



Learning loss

When children can't see well, they can't learn as much as their classmates. This affects their education and future career opportunities.

Schoolchildren with poor vision learn approximately



as those with good or corrected vision

In Kenya

24,959
years of schooling
are lost

to uncorrected refractive error every year

The economic impact

Poor vision in children can lead to lower educational achievement, which affects the ability to earn a good income in the future. Kenya loses billions of shillings every year from failing to address vision problems in children.

One year of sub-optimal learning due to uncorrected refractive error



The benefit of addressing poor vision

In Kenya, each child with uncorrected refractive error misses out on significant future income. If a five-year-old child with poor vision receives glasses, in primary school and continues to wear them until the age of 18, they will experience:

- A **125% increase** in lifetime earnings.
- This translates to an additional **2.02 million KES** in individual lifetime earnings.

These figures are based on comparisons to individuals who do not receive glasses.



What can be done?

The good news is that a lot of poor vision can be easily fixed with simple solutions like eye exams and quality glasses. Investing in school eye health programs is a cost-effective way to improve children's learning and their future earning potential.

For full details see:

Parami Dhakhwa, Bryce Everett, Brad Wong. Better education in sight. An estimate of global learning and economic productivity losses from uncorrected refractive error in schools. (2024) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/ZTGPQ>