



# Mapping UNSW Impact Global Development

<b>Primary SDG</b>	<b>4: QUALITY EDUCATION</b>
<b>Broad theme</b>	Increase children's access to affordable spectacles
<b>Research</b>	Use the Health Action International (HAI) affordability indicator to determine affordability of spectacles globally
<b>Impact region</b>	Global (pinpointing developing countries in greatest need)
<b>Faculty</b>	Science
<b>School/Institute</b>	Brien Holden Vision Institute
<b>Academic</b>	Dr Anthea Burnett
<b>Project partners</b>	Global Partnership for Education (NGO) – managed via the World Bank, funding of USD\$276,000 that ended March 2017
<b>Related SDGs</b>	3: Good Health and Wellbeing 10: Reduced Inequalities

## Elevator pitch

Building on the analysis of child eye health in 43 countries, Brien Holden can determine spectacle affordability for children across the globe by country, pinpointing lower to middle income countries where financing strategies could help more children get access to spectacles, and providing the WHO with guidelines for global spectacle affordability.

## The Challenge: Which children in the world are missing out on spectacles?

The need for a pair of spectacles is the leading cause of vision impairment in children around the world (63%). Countries are increasingly assessing the eye health of children at the school level but the price of spectacles can be a barrier.

Recent research by Brien Holden, the first of its kind to assess spectacle data, found that in 56% of 43 countries surveyed spectacles for children are considered 'unaffordable'. Approximately 90% of the world's vision impaired people live in low-income settings.

## UNSW solution: Measure spectacle affordability globally

The analysis of child eye health was undertaken in 43 low-income countries. Spectacle pricing was one survey area that can be rolled out globally to create a global database of spectacle affordability. With further funding, research could be extended to the remaining nine low-income, 18 lower middle-income, 49 upper-middle-income countries and 77 high-income countries.

**The Impact: Highlight countries where children are in 'greatest need' of spectacles, inform policy**

A global database on spectacle affordability will highlight countries where spectacles are 'unaffordable'. This 'affordability index' can inform policy at the national level around taxes and levies on frames, subsidies for parents, and small businesses and supply chain policies. The database can also be pitched to the WHO as a global guideline for spectacle affordability for children. This research can kick start the motion of change at the policy level that will see more children who need glasses getting them, improving their learning and development capacity, and their quality of life.

**Researcher**

Dr Anthea Burnett is a Visiting Fellow at UNSW and Research Manager at the Brien Holden Vision Institute. She has over 10 years of experience researching issues related to vision impairment globally. She was inspired to investigate spectacle affordability in children as it is a major barrier to children getting the vision correction they need, yet little research has been done on it.

Ben Falkenmire 04.10.17