

Join us in bringing clear vision to 500,000 impoverished aging adults in Peru!

RestoringVision is working to correct the vision of 500,000 impoverished Peruvians ages 65 and older by the end of 2024, and we invite you to join us. With your help, we will ensure that this population has sustainable access to the vision services and glasses they need to correct age-related near-vision loss, otherwise known as presbyopia.

Vision impairment is one of the most overlooked and significant global health crises of our time, affecting one in three people worldwide (2.2 billion). It was described by the New York Times in 2019 as "the biggest health crisis you've never heard of." One billion people affected by the vision crisis have vision impairments that could have been prevented or have yet to be resolved. Within that group, 862 million have presbyopia, which onsets at about 40 years of age. Presbyopia creates barriers for people to perform many tasks that require the ability to see close up. It can reduce worker productivity, especially for those who rely on up-close clear vision to accomplish work tasks, and it significantly impacts carrying out daily activities with ease.

Fortunately, reading glasses can address presbyopia and immediately restore clear vision. The ripple effects of restoring someone's vision are many, including improved productivity, personal safety, health, independence, access to education, and overall quality of life. What's more, the World Health Organization states that "restoring someone's sight is the single most cost-effective health intervention to reduce poverty."

Unfortunately, 90% of individuals suffering from uncorrected vision impairments reside in low- and middle-income countries, where they face significant barriers to resolving this prevalent vision issue. In these countries, many communities simply lack the delivery channels necessary to access vision programs and eyeglasses, or lack the discretionary income to afford a pair, or both.

As a result, many elders in low- and middle-income countries need access to vision screenings and glasses that can correct their presbyopia. This need is especially pressing in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), where the aging population is growing and expected to increase 20% by 2050. To ensure that LAC's impoverished elders have the services they need to correct presbyopia, now and in the future, RestoringVision is taking swift action to scale and serve as many people as possible across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our program in Peru is a part of this broader effort to correct the vision of LAC's growing aging population. To do this, we have partnered with Management Sciences for Health Peru (MSH), which is an affiliate of MSH U.S. (one of the leading global health non-profits), and Peru's government program Pension 65. This program serves people 65+ years old who Peru's government has identified as impoverished. Through these collaborations, we plan to scale our vision program to correct presbyopia for 500,000 impoverished Peruvian adults over 65 by the end of 2024. This expansion has been approved by Peru's Ministry of Health and Social Inclusion and will reach aging adults across 1,874 districts.

If we can successfully scale our work to this extent, it will create a lasting and positive impact on the aging population in Peru and, in parallel, advance the United Nations' 2021 call to action "Vision for Everyone By 2030". Similarly, it has the potential to promote several of The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, including:

- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

We invite you to join RestoringVision in our effort to create sustainable channels for vision services and glasses for poor elders in Peru! With your help, we can ensure that aging Peruvians have the clear vision they need to remain productive, independent, and most importantly, healthy and safe.