



# Integrating Eyeglasses into Community Health Supply Chains in Liberia

## Overview

In Liberia, where 45 percent depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, the potential effects of vision loss due to presbyopia are enormous. It is estimated that the global economy loses \$227 billion in productivity each year because of poor vision. The benefits of access to eyeglasses are profound: correcting vision improves educational outcomes,<sup>1</sup> increases personal earnings by 5 percent, increases productivity of the working poor by more than 20 percent,<sup>2</sup> improves literacy rates,<sup>3</sup> decreases rates of early retirement, and results in safer drivers and roads.<sup>4</sup> The burden of this loss is great for countries like Liberia.

The Liberia Ministry of Health’s (MoH) National Eye Health Department is rolling out vision screening and dispensing of eye glasses within the community health system in 2020 in partnership with EYelliance, a coalition increasing access to eyeglasses. VillageReach is working with these partners to integrate eyeglasses into the community health supply chain to allow for vision screening and dispensing of eye glasses to be provided by Community Health Assistants (CHAs) in Liberia. This builds on VillageReach’s existing work to strengthen supply chains that provide health products and personal protective equipment to CHAs – the health workers who provide health care to the hardest-to-reach communities, or those outside a four-kilometer radius from health facilities, in Liberia.

The project is currently being implemented in River Gee County in Liberia, but lessons learned will inform future expansion to other counties.

## Approach

Our approach for integrating eyeglasses into community health supply chains is built on three core principles to help increase impact and ensure sustainability. Our work is:



### Government-led

Government actors are at the center of this project, and we are focused on processes to build technical capacity for the introduction of eyeglasses into community health supply chains.



### Data-driven

The (re)supply of eyeglasses to CHAs should be informed by the inventory management and restock needs at the community level, as informed by the CHA Logistics Management Information System.



### Continuously improving

We will incorporate lessons based on what we learn about the integration of eyeglasses and from our broader activities to supply CHAs



# Primary Activities

VillageReach is working with EYelliance and the MoH's National Eye Health Department to include eyeglasses on the list of health products approved for Community Health Assistants, which includes everything from rapid diagnostic tests for malaria to oral contraception. We will ultimately build a system structure to support the integration of eyeglasses within the supply chain and create a pathway that will facilitate the addition of eyeglasses by September 2020 through the following activities:

1

## A landscape assessment

to understand the scope and scale of supply chains relevant to dispensing eyeglasses in River Gee. This assessment reviews the system capacity to allow for the addition of eyeglasses into the community health supply chain and to ensure consistent (re)supply of eyeglasses to Community Health Assistants. It explores the challenges facing the supply chain for health products and the opportunities to add eyeglasses to the lowest service delivery level.

2

## An integration guideline

identifying the most suitable points of the system for eyeglasses to be incorporated based on both financial and technical considerations. It will describe the general procedure for integrating eyeglasses into community health supply chains.

3

## A planning tool

that outlines the risks, maps the existing landscape and charts a path to achieve optimal integration for inclusion of glasses into the community health supply chain. It is a decision-making resource to guide the alignment and coordination of activities.



Learn more at [eyelliance.org](http://eyelliance.org)

This initiative was proposed by EYelliance and adopted by the government of Liberia. It is supported by EYelliance, a multi-sector coalition that drives the global strategy to increase access to eyeglasses at scale, so that those in low and middle income countries can fully avail themselves of vital educational and economic opportunities. The coalition is comprised of over 60 partners collaborating to create equitable access to eyeglasses on a global scale. EYelliance partners represent the global NGO eye care community and leaders from global development.



Learn more at [villagereach.org](http://villagereach.org)

VillageReach transforms health care delivery to reach everyone, so that each person has the health care needed to thrive. We develop solutions that improve equity and access to primary health care. This includes making sure products are available when and where they are needed and primary health care services are delivered to the most under-reached. Radical collaboration with governments, the private sector and other partners strengthen our ability to scale and sustain these solutions. Our work increases access to quality health care for 43 million people in sub-Saharan Africa.

## Contact

Dauda Majanbu  
Manager, Supply Chain, VillageReach  
[dauda.majanbu@villagereach.org](mailto:dauda.majanbu@villagereach.org)

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