

Profile EinDollarBrille e.V.

The aim of the association is to provide basic eye care for all people worldwide. In addition to eye tests, the provision of glasses and the training of local staff, this also includes awareness campaigns and international networking.

The OneDollarGlasses system

According to a study by the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 950 million people suffer from correctable refractive errors but cannot afford glasses and usually have no access to optical care.

The resulting financial losses are estimated at **around 269 billion US dollars per year**. According to estimates, there is also a **shortage of between 70,000 and 160,000 eye health professionals** to care for these people—a number that is set to rise further as the global population grows.

To solve this problem, the EinDollarBrille e.V. team has developed a system based on the principle of "helping people to help themselves":

- **The OneDollarGlasses**
They consist of a light but sturdy spring steel frame and pre-cut lenses made of shatterproof plastic. The range includes spherical lenses from -10.0 to +8.0 diopters in 0.5 diopter steps. Square lenses and sunglasses lenses with prescription are also available. The material costs for a pair of glasses are around one US dollar, the retail price is two to three local daily wages.
- **The bending machine**
The OneDollarGlasses are produced on a simple bending machine by trained specialists in the program countries. The bending machine works without electricity and can therefore be easily used in structurally weak rural regions.
- **Training concept for ophthalmic specialists**
As there is a lack of ophthalmic opticians in many countries of the global south, EinDollarBrille e.V. has developed a training concept for best spherical correction (BSC) together with ophthalmologists and opticians. The training course lasts one year. Upon completion, the qualified GoodVisionTechnicians (GVTs) are able to reliably determine the best possible spherical lens during an eye test and fit the glasses professionally.
- **Supply structure**
In order to reach as many people as possible, EinDollarBrille e.V. is working with local partners to establish various distribution channels. These include its own shops for glasses, but above all eye camps where people are tested locally in their villages. People with refractive errors receive suitable glasses immediately - reducing costs for everyone involved.

EinDollarBrille e.V.

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Spenden

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- **Awareness-raising and education campaigns**
Through free eye tests, raising awareness in schools and village communities and building relationships with health institutions and NGOs, EinDollarBrille e.V. creates a growing awareness of the importance of good vision and the impact of glasses.
- **Help with cataracts**
Anyone who suffers from cataracts is at risk of going blind. A simple operation can prevent this. We want to develop the associated support services into a strong pillar of basic eye care in other program countries, as we have already done in India and Brazil.
- **Sustainable model**
The business model of EinDollarBrille e.V. is sustainable. The establishment of permanent production and distribution structures in the program countries is financed by donations. The proceeds from the sale of the glasses help to cover local costs.
- **Creating jobs and economic development**
EinDollarBrille e.V. trains local specialists to manufacture and distribute OneDollarGlasses. This also creates new jobs with prospects in countries with poorly developed labor markets.
- **Integration of disadvantaged groups:**
People with physical disabilities are actively integrated when training eyewear producers and ophthalmic specialists. In our program in Burkina Faso, for example, we employ the first blind person to work successfully in eyewear production.

11 program countries in Asia, Africa and South America

Bolivia	Burkina Faso
Brazil	India
Kenya	Colombia
Liberia	Malawi
Nepal	Paraguay
Peru	

Successes since 2012

- Around **1,010,000 people** worldwide supplied with OneDollarGlasses (as of 09/2025)
- Created more than **520 jobs** in the program countries (as of 09/2025)
- over **2.6 mio. eye tests** carried out worldwide (as of 09/2025)

What makes us unique:

- Permanent supply of free eye tests, customized glasses, repair and replacement of glasses (instead of a one-time supply of glasses without aftercare)
- Product concept is optimally tailored to the requirements of developing countries
- Effective training model for producers and ophthalmic specialists
- One-year training concept for Best Spherical Correction. Short training courses to combat the shortage of skilled workers, especially in developing countries. Burkina Faso was the first country to officially recognize the training in 2024 and incorporate it into the national education system.
- Creation of jobs, even in remote regions

Important awards

- Focus: Leading Innovators 2026 Germany
- Empowering people.award from the Siemens Stiftung (2013)
- The Tech Award, USA (2015)
- Bavarian State Medal for Social Merit - Martin Aufmuth (2017)
- Next Economy Award Foundation German Sustainability Award (2017)

Founded: 2012 in Erlangen as a registered association (e.V.)

Board: Martin Aufmuth (founder, 1st chairman), Karsten Wolf (member of the board)

Members: around 200 active volunteers throughout Germany

Sister organizations:

- OneDollarGlasses Switzerland (founded in 2015)
- GoodVision USA (founded in 2018)

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