

## **VisionSpring, Eye Care Foundation, and Deckers partner to screen the vision of factory workers in Cambodia**

**Cambodia – March 11 2025** – VisionSpring, Eye Care Foundation (ECF) and Deckers Brands today announce a new collaboration to screen the eyesight of factory workers in Cambodia.

They will conduct screenings for 4,600 factory workers over 18 days, including individuals who make footwear for Deckers Brands, the company behind renowned shoe brands like UGG and Hoka. The screenings will take place at two factories, one in Kampong Cham and the other in Phnom Penh.

This initiative is part of VisionSpring's *Clear Vision Workplaces* (CVW) program, which partners with businesses and manufacturers to provide vision care to factory workers. With a proven track record in Bangladesh, India, and Vietnam, CVW has already demonstrated the impact of accessible eye care in the workplace. Since its inception, the program has screened the vision of more than 670,000 workers and dispensed eyeglasses to 258,000 workers. As a result, VisionSpring is partnering with ECF to bring the model to Cambodia.

An estimated 40% of the factory workers in Cambodia will require glasses, and approximately 2,000 people of the 4,600 screened will be able to see clearly through eyeglasses.

Eyeglasses are a simple yet impactful tool that meaningfully enhances both economic and social outcomes for workers. This was demonstrated by PROSPER, the first-ever randomised controlled trial which proved that clear vision can improve worker productivity by up to 32%. The benefits of vision correction are especially significant for workers over the age of 35, who are beginning to experience age-related vision decline.

Employing 800,000 workers, Cambodia's garment sector is the cornerstone of its export economy. Having a workforce that can meet demand is crucial to its remaining competitive among apparel manufacturing countries.

Ella Gudwin, CEO of VisionSpring stated, "We're excited to bring the Clear Vision Workplace program to Cambodia in partnership with ECF and Deckers following its success in Bangladesh, India, and Vietnam. As Cambodia strengthens its global position in the apparel and footwear industry, we are proud to support its growth"

"This launch project is the first in what will be a growing initiative in Cambodia, and we're looking forward to expanding our work with Deckers and other apparel brands through the CVW program in the country in the coming months."

For workers, clear vision improves their ability to carry out detailed tasks, such as cutting and stitching materials, aligning patterns, and more. Increased productivity might lead to higher income potential and improve their job security by supporting career progression. Most importantly, clear vision will improve their

quality of life and personal wellbeing. Meanwhile, the factories they work in benefit from higher productivity, better quality of work, and less waste.

Brooke Beshai, Vice President, Sustainability and Compliance at Deckers Brands, said: "Clear vision is fundamental for footwear and apparel craftsmanship. By investing in vision care, we're investing in the quality of life of the people who make our products. At Deckers, we're proud to be the first brand to support this initiative in Cambodia, setting a new standard for worker well-being in the footwear industry. We hope this program inspires others to prioritize vision care as a key part of a healthy and empowered workforce."

[Björn Stenvers](#), CEO at Eye Care Foundation, added: "We appreciate the opportunity to conduct vision screenings among factory workers in Cambodia. Indeed, healthy vision is crucial for safety and productivity at any workplace as well as the overall mental health of the workers. We are thrilled to partner with exemplary brands such as VisionSpring and Deckers in pioneering this initiative in the country."

According to the World Health Organisation, one billion people worldwide lack access to the eyeglasses they need to see clearly. Without reading glasses more than 826 million people have difficulty performing routine tasks and maximising their income earning potential. Specifically in Cambodia, approximately 40% of apparel workers – around 320,000 individuals – require eyeglasses.

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**For more information, contact:**

Contact: Melissa Bromley  
Email: [Melissa.Bromley@VisionSpring.org](mailto:Melissa.Bromley@VisionSpring.org)  
Phone: (US) +1 203 9121669

**About VisionSpring:**

Founded in 2001, VisionSpring is the social enterprise accelerating the use of eyeglasses in emerging and frontier markets. Our mission is to increase lifelong earning, learning, safety and well-being through eyeglasses for people vulnerable to poverty. We believe in the wonder of clear vision for everyone and envision a world in which all who need glasses will have them to see well and do well by 2050. To date, VisionSpring corrected the vision of more than 14 million people living on less than \$4 per-day, unlocking more an accumulative \$3 billion in income earning potential. VisionSpring has received honours from the Skoll Foundation, Aspen Institute, World Bank, Duke University, and Tribeca Film Festival, among others. Their work has been covered by [BBC](#) | [The New York Times](#) | [The Economist](#) | [The Lancet](#) and more.

**About ECF:**

The Eye Care Foundation has been working in partnership with the National Program for Eye Health (Ministry of Health) in Cambodia since 1994 to decrease

cases of avoidable blindness and vision impairment. Over the past 27 years, ECF has expanded its projects to work with Provincial Health Departments in nine provinces, especially in remote communities to reach the most marginalized and isolated populations as well as to support projects in the capital, Phnom Penh.

In collaboration with the NPEH, ECF delivers mobile eye camps to the isolated provinces of Pailin, Oddar Meanchey, and Preah Vihear where the communities are still recovering from the impact of the Khmer Rouge regime (1975 to 1979) as well as the Mondulkiri province. In Stung Treng, Tbong Khmum, Ratanakiri, Kratie, and Svay Rieng, ECF supports the provision of eye care services including community and school eye screenings, cataract, and other surgeries, and continuous professional development for eye health professionals.”

### **About Deckers Brands**

Deckers Brands is a global leader in designing, marketing, and distributing innovative footwear, apparel, and accessories developed for both everyday casual lifestyle use and high-performance activities. The Company's portfolio of brands includes UGG®, HOKA®, Teva®, Koolaburra®, and AHNU®. Deckers Brands products are sold in more than 50 countries and territories through select department and specialty stores, Company-owned and operated retail stores, and select online stores, including Company-owned websites. Deckers Brands has over 50 years of history building niche footwear brands into lifestyle market leaders attracting millions of loyal consumers globally. For more information, please visit [www.deckers.com](http://www.deckers.com).