



## Vision Aid Overseas

### COLLECTOR'S NOTES - SECOND-HAND GLASSES

Vision Aid Overseas exists to transform access to eyecare services in developing countries. Vision Aid Overseas recycles thousands of pairs of glasses every year which are collected by many Rotary Clubs, Lions Clubs, churches, schools and individuals. In its work, Vision Aid Overseas applies two key principles. Glasses are only dispensed:

- After a full eye-test.
- If they are of a standard we would be prepared to wear ourselves.

#### What glasses are useful?

All glasses are potentially useful but the following cannot be used so please weed them out and do not send them to Vision Aid Overseas:

- Hard spectacle cases (too heavy to send overseas).
- Loose lenses.

#### How do I get glasses to Vision Aid Overseas free of charge?

- Pack them in a sturdy cardboard box clearly marked with the address shown below, and enclose a compliments slip or note (so we know where they have come from).
- Find an optician's practice that helps Vision Aid Overseas (and most do).
- Hand the box to the optician who will then pass it to the specialist optical courier DX. DX visits most opticians several times per week to deliver goods and they will transport boxes of recycled glasses to us free of charge, and without paperwork. (Note: Securicor Omega Express helps in the same way in Eire).

#### What happens to the glasses?

After delivery to Crawley, the glasses are "rough sorted" to eliminate any which are clearly unsuitable before being passed to one of the prisons which collaborates with Vision Aid Overseas. Selected prisoners are trained by Vision Aid Overseas volunteers to carry out a more detailed examination of the glasses before grading the lenses and packing them. Vision Aid Overseas provides optical instruments, hand tools and packing materials to the prisoners who find this relatively satisfying work.

*helping the world to see*