

# AT2030 Venture Spotlight Series

Scaling assistive technology innovation

This AT2030 Spotlight Series profiles growth-stage assistive technology businesses developing practical technologies and business models to meet unmet access needs at scale. Each case study explores the problem they are addressing, the model they are building, the evidence behind their work, and how AT2030, GDI Hub and GDI Accelerate are supporting their growth trajectory.



## Dot Glasses

Expanding access to vision correction in places traditional systems do not reach.

**130,000+**

Glasses distributed

**9**

Countries active

**400+**

Distribution points

**1M / yr**

Target by 2028

Dot Glasses is a vision-access venture focused on a simple but persistent gap: the disconnect between the availability of eyeglasses and the ability of people to access them. For many people, especially in rural and low-income settings, the issue is not whether glasses exist, but whether there is any realistic way to obtain them.

Their work centres on redesigning how vision correction is delivered so that it can function outside of clinics and specialist-led systems.



### The Problem

Across many low- and middle-income countries, access to eyeglasses is limited by more than cost. Services are concentrated in urban areas, and there are too few trained professionals to reach large parts of the population. In some regions, a population of tens of millions may be served by only a few hundred eye-care specialists. For people living outside major cities, this makes access to testing and correction inconsistent or unavailable.

The impact is cumulative. Difficulty reading, working, or moving safely affects education, income, and independence.



### The Innovation

Dot Glasses developed a simplified system for vision testing and correction. At the centre is a portable kit containing everything needed to test vision and assemble glasses on site. It can be used in schools, workplaces, health posts, or community settings, without electricity or specialised equipment.

The approach prioritises accessibility over precision. For many users, a close approximation that is available immediately is more useful than a perfect prescription that is out of reach.

This shifts who can provide vision correction. Community health workers, micro-entrepreneurs, and local organisations can deliver services directly, without relying on a limited specialist workforce.



 **How it Works - Delivery Model**

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 **Evidence and Traction**

With 130,000+ glasses distributed across nine countries and 400+ active distribution points, the model has been tested across a range of community, employer, and health facility contexts, with a particularly strong base in Kenya.

A field trial conducted as part of the AT2030 programme provided additional validation of the approach. Participants reported improvements in everyday activities such as reading, phone use, and mobility, alongside increased independence.

Dot Glasses also partners on research linking access to glasses with measurable productivity and income gains, repositioning vision correction as an economic enabler rather than a purely health intervention. This framing has opened pathways into employer programmes and government procurement channels that are less accessible through traditional models.

 **GDI Hub Support and Engagement**

Work with GDI Hub has focused on strengthening how the model translates across different contexts. This has included refining how different distribution channels are approached, identifying where regulatory or quality considerations vary by country, and clarifying how expansion decisions are made.

The engagement has also supported a more structured view of what is required to scale responsibly, particularly in balancing reach with quality and consistency.

 **Wider Implication**

Dot Glasses shows that access to assistive technology is constrained less by the existence of products, and more by whether delivery models are designed to function in the settings where people actually live.

Simplifying the product and process makes it possible to reach people who are otherwise excluded from formal systems. At the same time, maintaining quality and user experience becomes more complex as delivery expands. The model offers a way of addressing access gaps that are unlikely to be solved through workforce expansion alone.

**GDI Accelerate** is GDI Hub's platform for strengthening the systems that help inclusive innovation reach scale. The 'GDI Accelerate Growth Sprint' supports high-potential growth-stage assistive and accessible technology ventures through diagnosis, strategy refinement and investment-readiness planning, generating tailored support plans within GDI Accelerate's market-access and enterprise-strengthening model.

*Redesigning how  
vision correction  
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systems.*

## Bios



**Adam Boxer**  
CEO (Nairobi, Kenya)

- Adam has 9 years' experience developing business solutions for BoP populations.
- Co-Founder of WSV, a social franchiser and consultancy which develops community businesses for vulnerable communities.
- Masters in Aerospace Engineering
- [LinkedIn](#)



**Bradley Heslop**  
CCO (Nairobi, Kenya)

- Co-Founder of WSV
- Co-Founder of Action Accelerator
- Acumen Fellow
- Ranked 5th in the Top 100 Future Leaders publication.
- Formerly DOT Glasses Kenya Country Director.
- Masters in Aerospace Engineering
- [LinkedIn](#)