



# IAPB

## 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health

Draft Guidance

### Ghana Strategy to Secure Government Commitments

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#### Purpose and Status of this Document

This document is **Draft Guidance** intended to support a strategic process to explore, shape, and secure potential Government of Ghana commitments in the lead-up to the **2026 Global Summit for Eye Health**. It is propositional rather than prescriptive and is designed to support structured discussion, consultation, and iterative refinement with the **Ministry of Health (MoH)** and key stakeholders in eye health.

Timeframes included are indicative. Face-to-face engagement is considered important throughout the process. Exact dates, sequencing, and formats will be adapted to Ghana's policy environment, planning cycles, and decision-making processes.

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#### Overview of the Global Summit for Eye Health

The first-ever Global Summit for Eye Health, to be hosted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in **November 2026**, represents a landmark moment for global eye health. Building on the WHO Resolution on **Integrated People-Centred Eye Care (IPEC)** and the UN Resolution on Vision, the Summit will convene Heads of Government, Ministers, multilateral agencies, development banks, industry, and civil society.

The Summit aims to strengthen national action, unlock sustainable financing, and establish a global accountability framework for eye health. It positions eye health as a whole-of-life and whole-of-government priority that supports **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**, strengthens primary health care, improves education and workforce productivity, and advances equity and inclusion.

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#### Ghana's Context

Ghana has a long-standing reputation for leadership in public health and has made important progress in eye health through strong professional capacity, national policies, and collaboration between government and non-state partners.

Key features of Ghana's eye health context include:

- **A decentralised health system**, with policy stewardship led by the Ministry of Health and implementation through the Ghana Health Service and Teaching Hospitals.
- **An established National Eye Care Unit** within the Health Service that recognises eye health as a public health priority.
- **The elimination of trachoma as a public health problem**, with Ghana becoming the first country in the WHO African Region to achieve this after implementing the SAFE strategy.
- **Relatively strong specialist capacity** in urban centres, alongside ongoing gaps in geographic distribution of services, particularly in northern and rural regions.
- **Long-standing engagement of professional bodies, faith-based organisations, and NGOs** in service delivery, training, outreach, and infrastructure support.
- **Growing availability of routine health data**, with opportunities to strengthen eye health indicators within DHIMS2 and performance review processes.

Ghana's experience demonstrates the value of professional leadership and partnership models, while highlighting the need to strengthen equity, data use, and system-wide accountability for eye health outcomes.

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## Why the Global Summit for Eye Health Is Important for Ghana

The 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health presents a strategic opportunity for Ghana to reaffirm national leadership, consolidate existing strengths, and articulate clear government commitments that accelerate progress toward equitable eye health coverage.

Engagement in the Summit would enable Ghana to:

- Further plans to achieve UHC, providing a platform to strengthen financial protection and engage in mutual policy learning.

- Showcase effective collaboration between government and NGOs in expanding access to eye care.
- Strengthen national accountability through clearer monitoring and reporting of eye health outcomes.
- Position itself as a regional leader in policy-driven eye health integration, building on its history of health sector innovation.

Participation in the Summit does not require a new policy direction. Rather, it provides a platform to recognise, strengthen, and scale existing efforts through clear, time-bound commitments.

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## Characteristics of Potential Commitments

In discussion with the Ministry of Health and partners, potential commitments may be explored that are:

- **New or scaled**, building on existing initiatives rather than restating current policy
- **Specific, measurable, and time-bound**, with clear accountability
- **Aligned with Ghana's health sector priorities**, including UHC and primary health care
- **Grounded in existing data and delivery platforms**, including RAABs and PEC systems
- **Supportive of partnership-based implementation**, reflecting Ghana's delivery model
- **Aligned with global frameworks**, including WHO IPEC, the World Report on Vision, and Global Summit accelerators
- **Feasible and cost-aware**, drawing where possible on existing budgets and partner-supported programmes

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## Pathway to Exploring Government Commitments

The proposed approach aligns with established government decision-making pathways, progressing from technical engagement to senior endorsement and public signalling. The process is structured across five phases.

Each phase should include:

- Consultation with relevant MoH departments

- Engagement with key eye health partners and implementing organisations
- Periodic check-ins with the IAPB Africa regional team
- Simple tracking of consultations, decisions, and milestones

## **Phase 1: Engagement and Scoping**

**Indicative timing:** February – March 2026

### **Objectives**

- Explore alignment between possible commitment areas and MoH priorities
- Introduce the Global Summit and commitment concept informally
- Identify potential government champions

### **Indicative activities**

- Technical briefings linking eye health to UHC, NHIS, and NCD priorities
  - Initial discussions with key NGO and faith-based partners
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## **Phase 2: Cross-Sector Alignment and Initial Consultation**

**Indicative timing:** April – May 2026

### **Objectives**

- Translate priority areas into draft commitment concepts
- Encourage input from primary health care, NCD, and data units
- Begin informal feasibility and resourcing considerations

### **Indicative activities**

- Refinement of draft commitment language
  - Alignment with national health strategies and WHO reporting frameworks
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## **Phase 3: Commitment Shaping and Senior Engagement**

**Indicative timing:** June – September 2026

### **Objectives**

- Refine commitments with senior leadership input
- Prepare Ghana's narrative and positioning for regional and global audiences

### Indicative activities

- Clarification of implementation pathways and responsibilities
  - Preparation of draft public-facing commitment statements
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## Phase 4: Submission and Preparation

**Indicative timing:** By World Sight Day (October 2026)

### Objectives

- Register commitments in the Global Summit tracking mechanism
  - Support announcement planning and communications
  - Prepare for post-announcement follow-up
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## Phase 5: Announcement and Implementation

**Indicative timing:** Post-announcement

### Objectives

- Support implementation, monitoring, and reporting
  - Enable recognition, peer learning, and accountability
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## Messaging and Positioning Considerations

Messaging throughout the process may emphasise that the Global Summit for Eye Health is a **recognition and leadership opportunity**, rather than an external policy request.

Indicative messaging themes include:

- Ghana's commitment to **equitable access** to eye health services
  - Strong government-NGO partnerships delivering impact at scale
  - Eye health as integral to UHC, productivity, and inclusion
  - Data-driven planning and accountability
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## Illustrative Areas for Potential Commitments

The areas below are indicative and intended to support discussion. Final decisions rest with the Government of Ghana.

- **Monitoring and accountability for eye health outcomes**
  - **Scaling and strengthening Primary Eye Care and the Eye Health Workforce**
  - **Reducing cataract and refractive error backlogs**
  - **Strengthening partnerships for outreach and service delivery**
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## **Illustrative Commitment Examples**

These examples are provided to support discussion and refinement. They are not intended as final proposals.

### **1. Monitoring and Accountability (Flagship Example)**

From 2027 onwards, Ghana could commit to progressively strengthening eye health indicators within DHIMS2 and routine performance review processes, including cataract surgical output and refractive service coverage.

#### **Rationale**

- Improves accountability and routine use of eye health data
  - Aligns with health system performance management approaches
  - Supports WHO 2030 eye health targets and Global Summit accelerators
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### **2. Scaling Primary Eye Care and the Eye Health Workforce**

From 2027–2030, Ghana could commit to strengthening integration of basic eye health screening and referral within primary health care and priority NCD platforms, particularly diabetes services, as well as improving the equitable distribution of the eye health workforce.

#### **Rationale**

- Supports early detection of diabetic eye disease and avoidable blindness
  - Addresses persistent geographic inequities in service availability
  - Builds on existing PHC and NCD service platforms
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### **3. Reducing cataract and refractive error backlogs**

Ghana could commit to time bound national targets for reducing cataract and uncorrected refractive error backlogs, scale up cataract surgery and embed refractive error screening into school settings.

## Rationale

- Cataract and refractive error are leading causes of avoidable vision loss
  - Interventions are highly cost-effective and proven
  - Directly supports Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3 on health and well-being
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## Supporting Policy Frameworks and Evidence Base

This process will be supported by:

- Ghana's national health sector and primary health care strategies
- WHO Integrated People-Centred Eye Care guidance
- Global Summit for Eye Health Policy Framework and accelerator areas
- National RAABs and routine eye health data

Together, these provide a strong foundation for feasible, measurable, and high-impact commitments.

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## Looking Ahead

The 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health offers Ghana an opportunity to consolidate progress, elevate national eye health priorities, and demonstrate leadership grounded in data, partnership, and primary care. Through a structured and consultative approach, Ghana can articulate clear and credible commitments that deliver national impact while contributing to global accountability and progress in eye health.