



IAPB

2026 Global Summit for Eye Health

Draft Guidance

Rwanda Strategy to Secure Government Commitments

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This document is **Draft Guidance** intended to support a strategic process to explore, shape, and secure potential Government of Rwanda commitments in the lead-up to the **2026 Global Summit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 Rwanda's policy environment, planning cycles, and decision-making processes.

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.

Rwanda's Context

Rwanda has established itself as a regional leader in health system strengthening, results-based governance, and equitable service delivery. The country's emphasis on integration, performance management, and community-level care provides a strong foundation for advancing eye health within national priorities.

Key features of Rwanda's eye health and health system context include:

- **A strong primary health care system** anchored in health centres and a nationwide Community Health Worker (CHW) network, offering opportunities for integrated eye health prevention, referral, and follow-up.
- **High coverage through Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI)**, providing pathways for financial protection and expanded access to essential services, including eye care.
- **Central coordination through the Ministry of Health and Rwanda Biomedical Centre**, enabling coherent national planning and implementation.
- **Increasing policy focuses on NCDs**, with a national strategy that creates opportunities to prevent avoidable vision loss.
- **A track record of partner collaboration** and results-based implementation, aligned with national priorities and performance indicators.

Rwanda's context prioritises clear accountability, integration, and measurable impact while highlighting opportunities to strengthen national coordination, data use, and system wide accountability for eye health.

Why the Global Summit for Eye Health Is Important for Rwanda

The 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health offers Rwanda a strategic opportunity to consolidate progress, elevate national priorities, and strengthen visibility and accountability for eye health.

Engagement in the Summit would enable Rwanda to:

- Formalise and publicly signal government-led commitments grounded in existing eye health strategies and partnerships.
- 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 Rwanda as a contributor to regional and global learning on eye health delivery in low-resource settings.
- Demonstrate how community-based and primary health care-driven models can support eye health outcomes at scale.

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.

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 Rwanda'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 Rwanda'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

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 drawing on RAAB and routine eye health data
 - 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 Rwanda'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:

- Rwanda'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
 - Rwanda's experience contributing to regional and global learning
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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 Rwanda.

- **Monitoring and accountability for eye health outcomes**
 - **Integration within Primary Eye Care and NCD Services**
 - **Improve Financial Protection for Essential Eye Care Services**
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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, Rwanda could commit to integrating key eye health indicators—such as effective cataract surgical coverage and refractive error service coverage—into national monitoring and performance frameworks, using routine data to guide planning and equitable resource allocation.

Rationale

- Builds on Rwanda's strong culture of performance management
 - Supports accountability within UHC and health sector plans
 - Aligns with WHO 2030 eye health targets and Global Summit accelerators
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2. Integration within Primary Eye Care and NCD Services

By 2029, Rwanda could strengthen the integration of basic eye health screening, referral, and follow-up within primary health care and diabetes services, leveraging health centres and CHWs.

Rationale

- Supports early detection of avoidable vision loss
 - Aligns with NCD and PHC strategies
 - Utilises existing service delivery and community platforms
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3. Improve Financial Protection for Essential Eye Care Services

Rwanda could develop and scale up CBHI coverage for cataract screening, glaucoma medicines, diabetic retinopathy screening, and provision of low cost glasses especially for underserved, rural populations.

Rationale

- Builds on CBHI rather than creating a parallel system.
 - Can be phased, prioritising cost-effective interventions with high blindness-prevention impact.
 - Removes financial barriers to receiving eye care
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Supporting Policy Frameworks and Evidence Base

This process will be supported by:

- Rwanda'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.

Looking Ahead

The 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health offers Rwanda 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, Rwanda can articulate clear and credible commitments that deliver national impact while contributing to global accountability and progress in eye health.