



IAPB

2026 Global Summit for Eye Health

Draft Guidance

Kenya 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This document is **Draft Guidance** intended to support a strategic process to explore, shape, and secure potential Government of Kenya commitments in the lead-up to the **2026 Global Summit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 **National Department of Health (NDOH)** and key stakeholders.

Timeframes included are indicative. Face-to-face engagement is considered important throughout the process. Exact dates, sequencing, and formats will be adjusted as required to reflect Kenya's policy, planning, and decision-making context.

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 eye health globally. 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 underpins **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**, supports healthy ageing, strengthens non-communicable disease (NCD) responses, enhances education outcomes and workforce productivity, and promotes social and economic inclusion.

Kenya's Context

Kenya has made notable progress in eye health over the past decade, supported by strong government leadership, robust data, and effective multi-stakeholder coordination.

Key features of Kenya's eye health landscape include:

- **Strong national eye health data**, generated through multiple population-based eye health surveys over the past decade, providing a solid evidence base for planning and priority-setting.
- A **well-established Technical Working Group on Avoidable Blindness (TWG-AB)**, which meets quarterly and brings together the Ministry of Health, county representatives, professional bodies, academic institutions, and implementing partners.
- Integration of eye health within broader health system reforms, including UHC, primary health care strengthening, and NCD strategies.
- Active collaboration between national and county governments, reflecting Kenya's devolved health system and enabling locally responsive service delivery.

Kenya's experience demonstrates how sustained data generation, technical coordination, and partnership can translate into informed decision-making and progressive system strengthening.

Why the Global Summit for Eye Health Is Important for Kenya

The 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health presents a timely and strategic opportunity for Kenya to consolidate achievements, elevate national priorities, and demonstrate leadership at regional and global levels.

This opportunity is particularly significant because:

- **2030 In Sight Live will be hosted in Nairobi in June 2026**, providing a high-profile platform for Kenya to signal leadership and ambition ahead of the Global Summit.
- Kenya can showcase how strong data and governance mechanisms support evidence-based eye health planning in a devolved system.
- Engagement in the Summit allows Kenya to formalise and publicly signal commitments that are already aligned with national health priorities and existing systems.

- Kenya is well positioned to contribute African perspectives, experience, and leadership to the global eye health agenda.

Participation in the Summit does not imply a new policy direction. Rather, it provides a platform to recognise, strengthen, and internationally affirm Kenya's ongoing efforts through clear, time-bound government-led commitments.

Characteristics of Potential Commitments

In discussion with the National Department 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 Kenya's health sector strategies**, including UHC, primary health care, and NCD priorities
 - **Appropriate to a devolved system**, with clarity on national and county roles
 - **Grounded in existing data and delivery capacity**
 - **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 financing mechanisms
-

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 stakeholders (national and county)
- Engagement with the Technical Working Group on Avoidable Blindness
- Check-ins with the IAPB Africa regional team to review progress, risks, and next steps
- 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 NDOH priorities
- Introduce the Global Summit and commitment concept in an informal, non-binding manner
- Identify potential government champions

Indicative activities

- Technical briefings using Kenya's existing eye health data
 - Initial discussions through the TWG on Avoidable Blindness
-

Phase 2: Cross-Sector Alignment and Initial Consultation

Indicative timing: April – May 2026

Objectives

- Translate priority areas into draft commitment concepts
- Encourage cross-directorate and cross-sector input (e.g. NCDs, primary health care, data and digital health)
- Begin informal feasibility and resourcing considerations

Indicative activities

- Refinement of draft commitment language
 - Alignment with national strategies and WHO reporting frameworks
-

Phase 3: Commitment Shaping and Senior Engagement

Indicative timing: June – September 2026

Objectives

- Refine commitments with senior leadership input
- Prepare Kenya's narrative and positioning for regional and global audiences
- Use **2030 In Sight Live Nairobi (June 2026)** as a key milestone for political visibility and momentum

Indicative activities

- Clarification of implementation pathways and responsibilities
- Preparation of draft public-facing commitment statements

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 and implementation support

Phase 5: Announcement and Implementation

Indicative timing: Post-announcement

Objectives

- Support implementation, monitoring, and reporting
- Enable recognition, peer learning, and accountability

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:

- Kenya as a leader in **data-driven eye health planning** in Africa
- Strong technical coordination through the TWG on Avoidable Blindness
- Eye health as integral to UHC, NCD control, productivity, and inclusion
- Kenya's role in elevating African experience and leadership on the global stage

Messaging should be refined iteratively and aligned with senior government priorities and national development narratives.

Illustrative Areas for Potential Commitments

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

- **Monitoring and accountability** (anchor area)
- **Integration of eye health within primary health care and NCD services**
- **Strengthening national–county coordination and capacity**
- **Regional and continental leadership and peer learning**

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, Kenya could commit to integrating effective cataract surgical coverage (eCSC) and effective refractive error coverage (eREC) indicators within national health information systems, using existing survey and routine data to track progress and guide equitable action.

Rationale

- Builds on Kenya’s strong history of population-based eye health surveys
- Supports evidence-based planning in a devolved system
- Aligns with WHO 2030 eye health targets and Global Summit accelerators

2. Integration within Primary Health Care and NCD Services

By 2029, Kenya could strengthen the integration of eye health screening and referral within primary health care and NCD platforms, particularly for diabetes-related eye conditions, guided by national data and county implementation plans.

Rationale

- Aligns with UHC and NCD priorities
- Supports early detection and continuity of care
- Builds on existing primary health care reforms

3. Regional Leadership and Partnership

Kenya could explore formalising a role as a regional learning hub, sharing experience on eye health data, governance, and coordination through African and global platforms by 2028.

Rationale

- Positions Kenya as a continental leader
 - Leverages hosting of 2030 In Sight Live Nairobi
 - Requires limited new domestic policy change
-

Supporting Policy Frameworks and Evidence Base

This process will be supported by:

- The Global Summit for Eye Health Policy Framework and accelerator areas
- WHO frameworks on Integrated People-Centred Eye Care
- Kenya's national eye health data, surveys, and TWG outputs
- Existing national health and UHC strategies

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

Looking Ahead

The 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health offers Kenya a strategic opportunity to consolidate progress, elevate national priorities, and demonstrate leadership for Africa and the world. Through a structured, consultative approach anchored in existing strengths, Kenya can articulate clear and credible commitments that deliver national impact while contributing to global accountability and progress in eye health.