



IAPB

2026 Global Summit for Eye Health

Draft Guidance

Uganda Strategy to Secure Government Commitments

Purpose and Status of this Document

This document is **Draft Guidance** intended to support a structured process to explore, shape, and secure potential **Government of Uganda** commitments in the lead-up to the **2026 Global Summit for Eye Health**. It is a working document designed to guide consultation, internal alignment, and decision-making within government and with key eye health stakeholders.

The guidance is not prescriptive. Timelines and activities are indicative and should be adapted to Uganda's policy cycles, planning processes, and leadership priorities. Ongoing face-to-face engagement with the Ministry of Health is strongly encouraged.

Overview of the Global Summit for Eye Health

The **Global Summit for Eye Health**, to be hosted by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in **November 2026**, will convene Heads of Government, Ministers, multilateral agencies, development banks, the private sector, and civil society to accelerate action on eye health.

The Summit builds on the WHO Resolution on **Integrated People-Centred Eye Care (IPEC)**, the **World Report on Vision**, and the UN Resolution on Vision. It aims to secure concrete, time-bound national commitments that advance **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**, strengthen primary health care, improve productivity and education outcomes, and reduce inequities related to avoidable vision loss.

Uganda's Context

Uganda has a well-established eye health ecosystem, characterised by government leadership, strong technical capacity, and long-standing partnerships with non-governmental organisations.

Key features of Uganda's eye health context include:

- A **national eye health programme within the Ministry of Health**, including designated technical leadership for eye care.
- Availability of **population-based eye health data**, including Rapid Assessment of Avoidable Blindness (RAAB) surveys and routine service data, supporting evidence-based planning.
- A strong network of **national and international NGOs** supporting eye health service delivery, workforce development, outreach, and systems strengthening.
- Experience with **Primary Eye Care (PEC)** integration within the primary health care system, supporting early detection, referral, and continuity of care.
- Alignment of eye health with broader national priorities, including UHC, health workforce development, non-communicable diseases, and community-based health services.

These foundations position Uganda as a country with both technical credibility and practical delivery experience in eye health.

Why the Global Summit for Eye Health Is Important for Uganda

The 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health offers Uganda an opportunity to consolidate existing progress and demonstrate leadership at regional and global levels.

Engagement in the Summit could enable Uganda to:

- Publicly articulate **government-led commitments** that build on existing policies and programmes.
- Strengthen accountability for eye health outcomes through clearer monitoring and reporting.
- Highlight effective government-partner collaboration in expanding access to eye care.
- Position Uganda as a regional contributor to learning on eye health integration within primary health care.

Participation does not require new policy creation; rather, it provides a platform to strengthen implementation, visibility, and accountability for ongoing efforts.

Characteristics of Potential Commitments

Potential commitments, developed through consultation with the Ministry of Health and partners, may be:

- **New or scaled**, rather than restating existing policy intentions
- **Specific, measurable, and time-bound**, with clear accountability
- **Aligned with national health priorities**, including UHC and primary health care
- **Grounded in available data**, including RAABs and routine reporting systems
- **Supportive of partnership-based implementation**, reflecting Uganda's delivery model
- **Aligned with WHO IPEC and Global Summit accelerator areas**
- **Feasible and cost-conscious**, leveraging existing structures and partnerships

Pathway to Exploring Government Commitments

The proposed pathway aligns with standard government decision-making processes, moving from technical engagement to senior endorsement and public announcement. The process is structured across five phases.

Each phase should include:

- Engagement with relevant MoH departments and units
- Consultation with eye health implementing partners
- Coordination with the IAPB Africa regional team
- Documentation of key decisions and milestones

Phase 1: Initial Engagement and Scoping

Indicative timing: February – March 2026

Objectives

- Introduce the Global Summit and commitment concept
- Identify priority areas aligned with MoH strategies
- Identify potential government champions

Indicative activities

- Technical briefings using national eye health data

- Informal consultations with key eye health partners
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Phase 2: Technical Consultation and Alignment

Indicative timing: April – May 2026

Objectives

- Translate priority areas into draft commitment concepts
- Ensure alignment with health sector strategies and budgets
- Explore feasibility and resourcing considerations

Indicative activities

- Refinement of draft commitment language
 - Engagement with primary health care, NCD, HRH, and planning units
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Phase 3: Senior-Level Engagement and Commitment Shaping

Indicative timing: June – September 2026

Objectives

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

Indicative activities

- Clarification of implementation responsibilities
 - Drafting of 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 accountability mechanism
 - Support communications and announcement planning
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Phase 5: Announcement and Implementation

Indicative timing: Post-announcement

Objectives

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

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

Indicative themes include:

- Eye health as integral to UHC and primary health care
 - Strong government stewardship and partner collaboration
 - Data-driven planning and accountability
 - Uganda's contribution 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 Uganda.

- **Strengthening monitoring and accountability for eye health outcomes**
 - **Scaling and standardising Primary Eye Care integration**
 - **Addressing cataract and refractive error service gaps**
 - **Strengthening eye health workforce capacity and deployment**
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Illustrative Commitment Examples

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

1. Monitoring and Accountability

From 2027, Uganda could strengthen routine reporting and use of key eye health indicators—such as effective cataract surgical coverage (eCSC) and effective

refractive error coverage (eREC)—to guide equitable planning and track progress toward 2030 targets.

Rationale

- Builds on existing survey and routine data
 - Supports evidence-based planning
 - Aligns with WHO and Global Summit accountability frameworks
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2. Scaling Integrated Primary Eye Care

By 2029, Uganda could expand and standardise Primary Eye Care within the primary health care system, strengthening referral pathways and supervision across districts.

Rationale

- Builds on existing PEC experience
 - Improves early detection and continuity of care
 - Supports UHC goals
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3. Workforce and Partnership Strengthening

By 2028, Uganda could strengthen coordination between the Ministry of Health, training institutions, and implementing partners to support eye health workforce development and equitable deployment.

Rationale

- Addresses sustainability and access challenges
 - Builds on existing partnerships
 - Supports long-term system strengthening
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Supporting Policy Frameworks and Evidence Base

This process will be supported by:

- Uganda'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 eye health survey data and routine reporting systems
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Looking Ahead

The 2026 Global Summit for Eye Health presents Uganda with an opportunity to consolidate progress, strengthen accountability, and demonstrate leadership grounded in data, partnerships, and primary health care. Through a structured and consultative approach, Uganda can articulate credible commitments that deliver national impact while contributing to global momentum on eye health.