

## WPE East/ Southern Africa Sub-Regional Workshop Report

### Introduction

On 12-13 July 2022, WPE held sub-regional workshop focusing on the East and Southern Africa region in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting brought together representation from World Health Organization (WHO), WPE member agencies, WPE Partners and National Ministries of Health from within sub-region. The Fred Hollows Foundation, Kenya, acted as the local partner for the meeting providing on the ground administrative and logistical support.

The purpose of the workshop was to equip stakeholders in the sub-region with the knowledge and technical resources to deliver the [2030 in Sight](#) strategy and develop national level implementation plans. The meeting objectives were to:

- Highlight how the 2030 in Sight strategy can be implemented at the regional and national level
- Showcase tools for delivering the strategy
- To collectively agree on the ambition for implementing the 2030 in Sight strategy
- Agree on concrete steps and timelines

**Session: 2030 in Sight: Ending Avoidable Sight Loss**, presented by Dr Aaron Magawa, WPE Regional Chair for Africa

Dr Magawa unpacked 2030 in Sight, the sector's strategic plan for the next decade. He expressed it as a call to action to embed vision as a fundamental, economic, social and development issue, incorporate eye health in wider health care systems and drive patient, consumer and market change. All of which are fundamental to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

He said 2030 in Sight built on so much great work already done and that it recognizes that the challenge has changed and we have to work differently to make sure myriads receive the political, health and development priority it needs and deserves.

He went on to explain the three overarching pillars of the strategy:

- **EMPOWER** vision as a fundamental economic, social and development issue.
- **INTEGRATE** eye health in wider health care systems.
- **ACTIVATE** patient, consumer and market change.

[Access the 2030 in Sight presentation here](#)

### Elevate

The first component of the workshop focused on the elevating the eye health agenda at the regional, sub-regional and national level.

**Session: WHO AFRQ: Supporting member states to achieve Universal Health Coverage for Eye Care in the African region**, presented by Dr Proba Saranga, WHO AFRQ

Dr Saranga stated that Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and their risk factors are increasing exponentially in the AFRQ region with countries in the region among those with