

IAPB East/ Southern Africa Sub-Regional Workshop Report

Introduction

On 12-13 July 2022, IAPB held sub-regional workshop focussing on the East and Southern Africa region in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting brought together representation from World Health Organisation AFRO, IAPB member agencies, IAPB 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. Novartis, also a partner of the IAPB regional workshop, considers this a program which reinforces both organization's joint commitment to strengthen eye health in Sub-Saharan Africa. It supported the bringing together partners and key stakeholders in healthcare to move forward discussions on elevating eye health services in the region.

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 Magava, IAPB Regional Chair for Africa

Dr Magava, 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 recognises that the challenge has changed and we have to work differently to make sure eyesight receives the political, health and development priority it needs and deserves.

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

- ELEVATE 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 focussed on the elevating the eye health agenda at the regional, sub-regional and national level.