

**REPORT ON THE 2023 GHANA EYE HEALTH SUMMIT HELD ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> TO 27<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023, AT THE MRLIN HOTEL, ACCRA ON THE THEME: "REFOCUSING EYE HEALTH TOWARDS ACHIEVING 2030 IN SIGHT TARGETS"**

There are about 300,000 blind people in Ghana and about 332,000 people also having severe visual impairment. The major causes of blindness are cataract 54.5%, Glaucoma 15.4%, Posterior Segment Disease including diabetic retinopathy 12.9% and corneal related causes 11.2%. (Ghana Blindness and Visual Impairment Study, 2015)

Over the past few decades, significant progress has been made to improve access to eye care services in Ghana. Infrastructure, equipment, training, and deployment of human resource for eye health etc have seen much improvement. Furthermore, Ghana is the first country in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to be certified as having eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem.

However, there are still many issues to be addressed as all these improvements have not kept pace with the eye care needs of an increasing population.

To support Ghana to align eye care programs/activities to the 2030 IN SIGHT (the eye sector's joint strategy for ending avoidable blindness in the next decade), the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) supported the National Eye Care Unit, GHG to hold its first Eye Health Summit from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at the Mrlin Hotel, Accra. The theme for the Summit was **"Refocusing Eye Health towards Achieving 2030 IN SIGHT Targets"**. The summit brought together 50 stakeholders (in person and virtual) involved in eye care service delivery in the country.

Discussions and presentations centered around:

1. Eye care activities undertaken in all the 16 regions in 2022
2. Training of all cadres of eye health professionals
3. Human resource distribution across the nation
4. Rehabilitation of people with low vision
5. Eye NGOs partnership
6. School eye health
7. Eye health financing
8. Registration of eye health facilities by Health Facilities Regulatory Agency (HeFRA)
9. Best practices and challenges
10. IAPB partnership and 2030 IN SIGHT Strategies

#### **Day 1**

The Head of the National Eye Care Unit, Dr Honoratork Ake, welcomed participants and explained the purpose of the first-ever Eye Health Summit.

#### **Opening ceremony**

The opening ceremony was chaired by Mr. Harrison Abulata, a Ghana Health Service council member. Dr Lawrence Ofori Buedu represented the Director General of Ghana