

# **Sightsavers policy influencing 2025 global annual summary**

Key achievements in policy influencing



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## Introduction

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This report is a summary of the key successes in policy influencing in 2025, achieved by Sightsavers' country offices, with support from the Policy and Global Advocacy team, Campaigns team, Global Technical Leads as well as other teams. The summary aims to provide an overview of the most significant achievements, although it is not exhaustive and there are many other examples of progress made towards our policy influencing goals which have not been included in the interests of keeping the summary at a manageable length. The report does not include all instances of policy change achieved in the countries where Sightsavers has a presence, and only includes those in which Sightsavers played a contributing role. However, it is important to note that these achievements are not solely attributed to the input of Sightsavers. We recognise that policy change generally requires long-term investment from multiple actors including government, civil society and international NGO partners. For a comprehensive overview of Sightsavers' work on policy and advocacy, please refer to the [Policy Influencing Data Hub](#).

## Key achievements in 2025

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- Approval of the Persons with Disabilities Act in Kenya
- Development and implementation of the national eye care strategy in Tanzania
- Integration of eye health into the National Road Safety Policy in India
- Development and implementation of the Primary Education Development Programme in Bangladesh
- Launch of the national strategy for sexual and reproductive health rights of vulnerable people and persons with disabilities in Nigeria
- Implementation of the National Inclusive Education Policy in Cameroon
- Development and approval of Rules of Business for the implementation of disability rights in Pakistan
- Integration of the World Health Organisation guide for action into the health policy in Côte d'Ivoire
- Validation of the inclusive education policy in Senegal
- Ratification of the African Disability Protocol in Togo
- Enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act in Zimbabwe

## West Africa

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### Implementation of the national inclusive education policy in Cameroon

Following the launch of the national inclusive education policy in 2024, 2025 saw some encouraging examples of the implementation of the policy. The Ministry of Basic Education prepared a budget for its resourcing of the policy, and the inclusive education policy has been implemented to inform the training of teachers, identification of children with disabilities, and development resources for inclusive education. Sightsavers played an important role through the provision of technical and financial support with the guide for teachers, and a reference guide for disability which is used to inform the procurement of assistive devices.

### Integration of the World Health Organisation guide for action into the health policy in Côte d'Ivoire

In 2025, the 2026 - 2030 National Action Plan for Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities was given technical approval and now complies with the guidelines of the WHO Guide for Action. This milestone makes Côte d'Ivoire the first country in the world (out of the 10 that are implementing the Guide for Action) to have integrated its principles into health policy. Sightsavers played a catalytic role in this process, providing training and technical assistance, and facilitating the engagement between the WHO and Ministry of Health.

### Establishment of a national network of youth with disabilities in Ghana

In the past, Ghana had no youth-specific OPDs or coordinated network representing young persons with disabilities. This limited the ability to effectively mobilise young people with disabilities to participate in national programmes and benefit from social interventions, resulting in their frequent exclusion from development initiatives. To address this challenge, Sightsavers collaborated with the National Youth Authority to establish and launch the Ghana Network of Youths with Disabilities (GNYD), a national, non-partisan coordination platform dedicated to amplifying the voices and participation of youth with disabilities. The creation of this network marks an important step toward strengthening youth representation within national decision-making structures, consistent with the provisions of the Youth Authority Act. Sightsavers funded and facilitated the stakeholder workshop that convened diverse youth groups and disability organisations to co-design the network's structure and supported the official launch event that formally introduced GNYD as a unifying platform for youth with disabilities across the country.

### Introduction of a law on the rights and protection of persons with disability Guinea

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In 2025, law L/2025/020/CNT on the protection of persons with disability was signed by the President of Republic, marking an important milestone for disability rights in Guinea. The law received presidential approval in August 2025, and the implementing decree for the law was signed by the minister responsible on International Disability Day. Sightsavers has been advocating for this law to be passed for many years, providing technical assistance to the Guinean federation of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities (FEGUIPAH), coordinating advocacy efforts and facilitating the input of the OPDs to the drafting of the law.

## **Establishment of a committee for coordinating activities for the elimination of NTDs in Liberia**

In 2024, Sightsavers supported the establishment of a committee for coordinating activities for the elimination of onchocerciasis and lymphatic filariasis. In 2025, the first cross-border meeting was held with representatives from Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, promoting synchronised MDA and sharing of data. In a region where the effectiveness of NTD activities inevitably has to involve collaboration between countries, this is an important step forward in coordinating an international response.

## **Development of national, regional and local eye health plans in Mali**

In 2025, Sightsavers continued to engage with the Ministry of Health to advocate for the development of the new national strategic plan for eye health. To this end, Sightsavers facilitated a workshop to review the previous plan and define the next steps, including the recruitment of a consultant to draft the document, progress sessions to validate the various drafts, and a technical and political validation workshop to finalise the process, scheduled for 2026. Sightsavers continued its advocacy work to support the regional authorities of the project's three intervention regions—Sikasso, Segou, and Koulikoro—in developing and implementing their strategic plans for eye health. The regional plans for Sikasso and Segou have already been validated, and the plan for Koulikoro has been developed, pending validation at the regional level, due to take place in 2026. Beyond this, Sightsavers conducted advocacy at the local level with the authorities of Markala, in the region of Segou, for the operationalisation of the optical unit and the integration of eye health into their Local Development Plan. Finally, Sightsavers advocated for the integration of eye health and disability inclusion into the new Ten-Year Health and Social Development Plan (PDDSS 2026-2035), providing both technical and financial assistance.

## **Validation of the national strategy for sexual and reproductive health rights in Nigeria**

In 2025, the Federal Ministry of Health reviewed and validated the national strategy for the sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) of vulnerable people and persons with disabilities. Sightsavers provided technical assistance in this process, and facilitated the engagement of OPDs. In 2024, Sightsavers supported the domestication and dissemination of the SRHR policy in Kaduna state. Looking ahead to 2026, Sightsavers will continue its advocacy work to promote the domestication of the national SRHR policy in other states.

## Validation of the inclusive education policy in Senegal

In 2025, Sightsavers in collaboration with the Ministry of Education carried out the review of the inclusive education policy considering the recommendations from the technical review sessions for social validation involving OPDs, parents' associations, teachers and teachers' unions. A second review was organised, involving the ministries of health, local government, finance, justice and transport). These meetings enabled the Ministry of Education to align the policy with Senegal's VISION 2050 before proceeding to institutional validation. The validation of the policy marks an important step forward for the delivery of inclusive education for children with disabilities.

## Integration of eye health into district health plans in Sierra Leone

As part of its efforts to promote the sustainable financing of eye health and the representation of persons with disabilities in the delivery of eye health services, Sightsavers has supported the strengthening of district eye health committees. Persons with disabilities are playing a role in the allocation of resources for eye health through their representation and participation in these eye health committees. In 2025, eye health was incorporated into all local council and district health plans, facilitated by the various district eye health committees.

## Ratification of the African Disability Protocol in Togo

In 2025, the National Assembly of Togo passed a bill for the ratification of the African Disability Protocol (ADP). Together with OPD partners, Sightsavers has been advocating for ratification of the ADP for many years. In July 2025, Sightsavers coordinated with media organisations to raise awareness and launched a campaign to secure 10,000 signatures, a record, to demand government ratification. Sightsavers also engaged with the National Campaign for Human Rights (CNDH) to be involved in the process and submitted a petition to the National Assembly. The National Assembly passed a bill for ratification, and the bill has been submitted to the Senate for approval, although this is no more than a formality. There will be an official launch and celebration in 2026.

## East, Central and Southern Africa

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### Approval of the Persons with Disabilities Act in Kenya

Following many years of advocacy and policy influencing work from Sightsavers and partner organisations, the Persons with Disabilities Act was approved by the President of Kenya in May 2025. Sightsavers collaborated with the Inter-Agency Coordination Committee to advocate for the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2025, which repealed the outdated Persons with Disabilities Act of 2003. The new legislation aligns Kenya's legal framework with Article 54 of the Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD). It places a clear obligation on the State to respect, protect, and fulfil the rights of persons with disabilities.

## **Finalisation of an inclusive Early Childhood Development policy in Malawi**

The Early Childhood Development and Education policy was finalised in 2025. Sightsavers has been involved throughout the process, providing technical and financial assistance, facilitating the input of OPDs, and ensuring that the policy includes provisions for children with disabilities to access inclusive education.

## **Revision to the labour law in Mozambique**

A significant milestone was reached in 2025 with the revision of the Labour Law (Law No. 13/2023), which promotes fair conditions for all workers, including measures to protect and promote employment for people with disabilities. This legislation obliges companies to guarantee accessibility, non-discrimination, and training opportunities, aligning with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD). Beyond this, Sightsavers provided training on advocacy to the FAMOD, and provided technical assistance in the development of instruments for the implementation of the Disability Law, which came into force in early 2025. Sightsavers engaged with government stakeholders to highlight the need for a robust guideline, and facilitated the input of persons with disabilities in the drafting process.

## **Development and implementation of the national eye care strategy in Tanzania**

Tanzania made substantial progress in strengthening the policy environment for eye health through the development and launch of the National Eye Health Strategic Plan (NEHSP) IV 2024–2026, which was officially completed and launched in mid-2025. The new plan was developed following an evaluation of NEHSP III (2018–2022) and addresses gaps in leadership, financing, data systems, service delivery, and human resources in the eye health sector. The plan aligns with national health sector reforms and global eye health targets, providing a clear framework for implementation across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of care. Sightsavers was involved throughout the development process, providing technical and financial support. Sightsavers played a central role in convening national advocacy and planning meetings, providing evidence from regional budget analyses, and supporting government stakeholders to recognise persistent gaps in funding, supply chain systems, and primary eye care integration.

## **Revision to the Constituency Development Fund policy to cover assistive devices in Zambia**

In 2025, Sightsavers engaged with local councils to identify funding mechanisms to promote inclusive education for children with disabilities. Some councils had been unaware of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), which can be allocated for a range of purposes. Following advocacy from Sightsavers and OPD partners, the policy for the disbursement of

the CDF was revised, so that it can be used for the provision of assistive devices for learners with disabilities. Sightsavers also supported the formation of an association of organisations for persons with disabilities at provincial level, to advocate for the provision of inclusive education at local level. The association successfully applied for scholarships for 18 learners with disabilities through the CDF.

## **Enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Bill in Zimbabwe**

The Persons with Disabilities Act in Zimbabwe was passed in November 2025 and is a landmark piece of legislation designed to protect the rights of people with disabilities. It outlaws discrimination, guarantees access to public spaces and services, and replaces the outdated 1992 Disabled Persons Act, aligning with international standards like the UN Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities. Sightsavers has been advocating for the bill to be passed for many years and has been involved throughout the process, facilitating input from OPDs and providing technical assistance.

## **Asia**

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### **Development of the new primary education programme in Bangladesh**

In 2025, Sightsavers continued to support the development of the new primary education programme (PEDP-5). Activities included organising high-level workshops in Sirajganj and Narsingdi, effectively translating grassroots evidence from the old PEDP-4 programme to influence the development of the new framework. Sightsavers engaged District Primary Education Officers, Social Service officials, and the Deputy Director of PEDP-4, to demonstrate practical inclusive classroom strategies. This bottom-up approach ensured that local stakeholders' insights reached central authorities, becoming a crucial factor in national policy discussions. The ideas from these local workshops were integrated into the national dialogue, resulting in their formal inclusion in the PEDP-5 draft. This success formalises inclusive education achievements into a nationwide, rights-based, scalable model for disability-specific interventions. Sightsavers organised a series of high-level national policy dialogues that effectively integrated the "triangulated model" developed in Sightsavers' consortium Disability Inclusive Development programme into Bangladesh's core education strategy.

### **Integration of eye health into the National Road Safety Policy in India**

In 2025, Sightsavers engaged with partner organisations through the annual Vision and Road Safety conference, bringing together experts, policymakers, and stakeholders from the road safety and eye health sectors to deliberate on the critical role of clear vision in ensuring safer roads. The conference reinforced the recognition of eye health as the fifth 'E' of road safety alongside Engineering, Enforcement, Education, and Emergency Medical Services, calling for its systematic integration into road safety policies through mandatory vision

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screening for commercial drivers, alignment with UN Global Plan Pillar 3 and SPECS 2030, and evidence-based standards to reduce vision-related road traffic injuries. The initiative has moved vision and road safety into an institutionalised, multi-stakeholder policy space, demonstrated by political endorsement at the ministerial level, formal engagement with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Road Safety Task Force, and commitments to vision integrated road safety planning and public-private partnerships to scale vision screening, enforcement and access to affordable spectacles for occupational workers in the national economy.

## **Development and approval of Rules of Business for the implementation of the Disability Act in Pakistan**

With a federal structure, each province in Pakistan has its own Persons with Disabilities Act, with their implementation governed by Rules of Business (RoBs). In 2025, Sightsavers continued its support for the development of RoBs at provincial level, providing technical support through the community based inclusive development (CBID) disability rights network. In Punjab, the RoBs were developed and approved in 2025, an important step forward for the implementation of disability rights. Meanwhile, in the province of Balochistan, a Disability Act was passed in 2017, and the Rules of Business were also approved in late 2025 to enforce the Act.