

Clearer Sight, Brighter Futures

Recapping Our Vision for Schools Outreach

By Nicholas Oke, President of the Nigerian Optometric Students Association

Imagine a child seated at the back of a classroom, eager to learn. The teacher explains a complex maths problem on the board, but to this child, the numbers melt into a grey and indistinguishable blur. It is not a lack of intelligence or effort holding this and other children back. They are failing because they have poor vision.

Across many schools and universities in Nigeria, unaddressed visual impairment limits academic performance, confidence, and long-term potential. The Vision For Schools Outreach Program is our proposed strategy against this invisible barrier to education.

On the 6th of February, we took this initiative to the Baptist High School, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.



Image 1 The NOSA and SVOSH-UNIBEN volunteers addressing the students

Turning a school hall into a vision center

A day earlier, on 5th February, a dedicated team of the Nigerian Optometric Student Association (NOSA) alongside volunteers of SVOSH-UNIBEN transformed the school hall

into a vision center. The day of the clinic, the hallway of the local high school was buzzing, but not just with the usual lunchtime energy. The goal was simple but ambitious: to ensure that no student's potential is dimmed by a preventable vision issue.



This wasn't just a basic "read the chart" screening. Our outreach team provided a comprehensive "circle of care" directly on-site to remove every possible barrier for the students and even for some of their teachers.

Image 2 Examining a student

Measuring the impact

By the end of the one-day outreach, the results spoke volumes:

- over 500 students were screened
- 100 reading glasses were prescribed.
- about 100 patients were referred for specialised eye care.



Image 3 Explaining eye exam results

Awareness and education for good vision

Apart from the visual screening, our work involved educating the students on good vision care and optometry. Students learned:

- What optometry is all about and why it matters.
- Common myths and facts about eyecare,
- Career opportunities in optometry, from clinics and hospitals to sports, research, and technology.

- How optometry blends healthcare, science, and impact.
- Why eye care professions are growing and in high demand
- Practical tips on eye health lifestyles because loving your eyes matters.
- The subject combination required to study optometry.



Image 4 Great satisfaction after a day's work at the school

For many students, this was their first introduction to eye care as a need and viable career.

As we packed our equipment, one thing was clear: our work didn't end there.

We are already preparing for the next school.

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