
OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA FOUNDATION
(OSN FOUNDATION)

AN INITIATIVE OF THE OPHTHALMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
INDUSTRY, PRIVATE SECTOR, COMMUNITIES AND THE PUBLIC AT LARGE
TO PRESERVE AND RESTORE VISION
FOR PEOPLE THROUGHOUT NIGERIA

Every 5 seconds someone in the world becomes blind

Every minute a child becomes blind

In Nigeria approximately **1.2 million people** are blind and **4.08 million persons**
are severely visually handicapped

These numbers **will almost double by the year 2020** unless concerted action is taken
80% of this vision loss is avoidable — either preventable or treatable with currently
available knowledge and technology

In practical terms, **working together, we can restore or prevent visual loss in**
about 960,000 Nigerians and another 4.08 million Nigerians can be saved from low
vision

MISSION

With a mission to preserve and restore vision for all needy Nigerians,

The OSN Foundation will support activities of

Vision for the Future-Nigeria:

To ensure that all Nigerians have

access

to high quality and affordable eye care

To promote access by ophthalmologists and others to the training and continuing education they need to provide such appropriate eye care.

The OSN Foundation will ensure support and active participation by all stakeholders in the World Health Organization/International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (WHO/IAPB) Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness - Vision 2020: The Right to Sight

MAGNITUDE OF VISION LOSS IN NIGERIA

In 2002, more than **161 million people** in the world **were visually impaired** of whom **124 million people had low vision** and **37 million were blind**.

The figures for Nigeria are not known but from extrapolation about **1.2 million people are blind** and about **4.08 million have low vision**. It is hoped that more complete country data will emerge from the just commenced Nigerian survey, but given current estimates, the number of blind and low vision persons will almost double by the year 2020 unless concerted action is taken.

Most visual loss is avoidable with current knowledge and technology. The Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria has designed **the Strategic Plan to Preserve and Restore Vision – VISION FOR THE FUTURE-NIGERIA**, to encourage, enhance and coordinate activities of ophthalmologists, other eye-care providers, physicians, health specialists and societal leaders in a sustained programme to decrease the toll of blindness and low vision throughout Nigeria.

THE NEED FOR A COORDINATED AND CONCERTED EFFORT

There is no other time in the history of human civilization when the well being of each individual is inextricably linked to that of every other. With the stark reality of increasing vision impairment and blindness in Nigeria, programmes to preserve and restore vision deserve concerted attention. All well meaning people must join hands **to achieve the goal of VISION 2020 – THE RIGHT TO SIGHT**

This is even more compelling in Nigeria where everything is left for the government and it is obvious that the government works best when all hands are on deck. Thus the OSN Foundation is a unique initiative of bringing together all stakeholders to promote the best possible vision for every person in Nigeria.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE OSN FOUNDATION

The OSN Foundation, is established by the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria (OSN), in partnership with members from industry, the private sector, communities and the public at large to

- Direct
- Coordinate and
- Mobilize support for the implementation of the activities of the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria's Strategic Plan to Preserve and Restore Vision – **VISION FOR THE FUTURE-NIGERIA**.

The central purpose of **VISION FOR THE FUTURE-NIGERIA** is **to eliminate the blindness and low vision that result from preventable or treatable eye disease for people throughout Nigeria.**

OSN Foundation will work to promote access to high-quality, affordable eye care and to promote access by ophthalmologists and others to the training and continuing education they need to provide appropriate eye care to people throughout Nigeria in line with the objectives of VISION FOR THE FUTURE-NIGERIA.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE OSN FOUNDATION

The OSN FOUNDATION will work to:

1. Support activities for preservation and restoration of vision for people throughout Nigeria as laid out in the OSN Strategic Plan, Vision For The Future-Nigeria.
2. Advance the science of ophthalmology and vision
3. Support ophthalmological education and and training
4. Improve the quality and relevance of Ophthalmological training in Nigeria
5. Advocate quality eye care
6. Promote advocacy for preservation of vision
7. Promote research in Ophthalmology and vision
8. Cooperate with other local and international bodies with similar objectives to achieve these goals.

In particular, **research** is essential for the development of new and improved therapy as well as the identification of cost effective interventions for the control of the major causes of blindness and low vision. OSN Foundation will support **Research in Ophthalmology and Vision**, which encompasses basic science investigation, clinical and operational research focused on meeting the needs of eye care in Nigeria.

ORGANISATION AND GOVERNANCE OF THE OSN FOUNDATION

Membership

1. The Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria
2. Corporate Members
3. Individual Members

The OSN Foundation Board

The affairs of the Foundation are directed by the OSN Foundation Board, hereafter known as the OSNF Board.

The Chairman of the OSNF Board is a reputable Ophthalmologist appointed by the Board of Trustees of the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria (OSN). The tenure shall be four years renewable for another term of four years

The Vice-Chairman shall be elected by a simple majority from the members of the OSNF Board. He shall serve a term of four years renewable for another term of four years.

The Secretary/Treasurer is an Ophthalmologist appointed by the National Executive Council of the OSN and shall serve for four years renewable for another term of four years.

Legal Adviser shall be a senior member of the bar – a Senior Advocate of Nigeria - nominated by the OSNF Board and shall be expected to give free legal service to the Foundation.

All other offices and posts that may be created by the Foundation shall be at the instance of the OSN Board and shall follow the procedures laid down by the OSNF Board.

Appointment of Members to the OSNF Board

1. Apart from the officers above, the following **members of the OSN** shall automatically be members of the OSNF Board:
 - a. the current President of the OSN for the duration of his term as president
 - b. the Secretary-General of the OSN for the duration of his term as secretary-general
 - c. the Treasurer of the OSN for the duration of his term as Treasurer
2. **Corporate members** who have made a donation of N10,000,000.00 (\$74,071.00) or more shall automatically be qualified to be represented by a member on the OSNF Board

3. **Individual members** who have made a donation of N5,000,000.00 (\$37,030.00) or more shall automatically qualify for a seat on the OSNF Board

No member of the OSN Foundation Board shall receive any remuneration or reimbursement for any costs incurred by virtue of his/her attendance at a meeting of the Board

The OSN Foundation Board shall seek and obtain registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria as a charity organisation.

The first Chairperson of the OSN Foundation Board is Professor Adenike Abiose and the Secretary-Treasurer is Dr. Charles Bekibele

DONORS AND DONATIONS

The following apply to both individual and corporate donors.

1. **OSN Foundation Donors** – individuals or corporate who donate **any** amount of money will have their name and the amount donated against their name written in the OSN Foundation Register
2. **OSN Foundation Friends** – donors of amounts from ₦10,000.00 to ₦99,999.99 (\$74.00-\$740.00) will have their name and the amount donated against their name written in the OSN Foundation Register. The name will also be inscribed on a list displayed at the Secretariat of OSN
3. **OSN Foundation Silver Donors** – donors of amounts from ₦100,000.00 to ₦499,999.99, (\$741.00 - \$3,700.00) will have their name written in the Foundation Register and inscribed in SILVER on a plaque in the secretariat
4. **OSN Foundation Gold Donors** – donors of amounts from ₦500,000.00 to ₦999,999.99, (\$3,700.00-\$7,600) will have their name written in the Foundation Register and inscribed in GOLD on a plaque in the secretariat
5. **OSN Foundation Platinum donors** – donors of amounts from ₦1,000,000.00 (\$7,601-\$37,899.00) ₦4,999,999.00, will have their name written in the Foundation Register and inscribed in GOLD with a trimming of SILVER on a plaque in the secretariat
6. **OSN Foundation Benefactor** – donors of amounts from ₦5,000,000.00 to ₦9,999,999.99 (\$37,900-\$75,814) will have their name inscribed in GOLD with SILVER trimmings and if an individual, shall be automatically represented on the OSN Board
7. **OSN Foundation Patrons** – donors of amounts from N10,000,000.00 (\$75,815) and over will have their name inscribed in GOLD with SILVER trimmings and will be automatically represented on the Board. In addition, all OSN Foundation Patrons shall have their names on the Foundation Official Stationeries.

Donations are cumulative. That is, donors will have the opportunity of moving from a lower category to a higher one by giving the difference at anytime later.

Please send contributions and requests for additional information to:

Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria Foundation (OSN Foundation)
 Dr. Charles Bekibebe FMCOph.
 Secretary-Treasurer
 Department of Ophthalmology
 University College Hospital, Ibadan
 Tel : (02) 241 3753 ▪ Mobile : 0803 323 3564 ▪ E-mail : cob150@yahoo.com

For and on behalf of the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria

Dr. B.G.K. Ajayi
 President
 July 18, 2005

“I’ve always thought that a great lesson from that experience is to commit oneself to a life of service, life of sacrificial giving for the good of others, more than just yourself.....

“For me, I have been faced in this life with similar situations a few times, so it was not a completely new thing. But each time I come face to face with any of those life threatening experiences, I’m renewed in some of my convictions about what it means to be a human being.

Something that struck me was the spirit of co-operation between all of us, total strangers who were in the experience together, whose lives were suddenly threatened on that train. We had never met, but all of us began to relate, and co-operate about what to do and what not to do in the face of tragedy, each one obeying the other. And I wished the human race could always behave like that.

It doesn’t have to take a threat to life to make us relate one, with the other. I have always believed in the philosophy rightly captured by the late Pope John Paul II who talked about the civilization of love, that perhaps we could build the civilization of love; if we examine our motives or recognize the motive of the human person, we will find we were necessarily created gregarious animals, created in communities or societies.

It was not by accident that man exists in communities, but the purpose of nature was for man to exist in communities is that man should be able to relate one with the other, to make their existence more eventful, more purposeful, more pleasant. And if we care enough for that kind of situation, it is possible to do it; to come together and work for the common good of all.”

- Pat Utomi (*Lessons Learnt from The London Blast*) THE GUARDIAN, Saturday, July 16, 2005

DONATION SLIP

In appreciation of and support for the objectives of the OSN Foundation

I/We -----

Of (Address) -----

Tel: -----

Voluntarily donate the sum of -----

towards the OSN Foundation.

A Cheque/Bank draft in the name of the OSN Foundation is hereby attached/enclosed