

## Instead of Putting on a Spectacle, People in Need Were Given Spectacles: A Royal Legacy of Sight in Egbaland

**The President / CEO of**  
**The Center for African Citizenship and Economy**  
Welcomes you to the  
**Free Eye Screening, Test and Surgery as part of the 20th Coronation Anniversary of Oba (Dr) Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo, CFR, Okukenu (IV), The Alake and Paramount Ruler of Egbaland.**

**Date:** Thursday 18th & Friday 19th December, 2025 **Time:** 9.00am Daily  
**Venue:** Eye Foundation Hospital, 5 Olugbenga Awe Avenue, Access Medical Centre Road, Ijeun - Lukosi, Lemme, Abeokuta.

**Oba (Dr.) Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo, CFR, Okukenu (IV),**  
Alake and Paramount Ruler of Egbaland.

**Chief Stanford Ademuyiwa Aderibigbe-Stanford,**  
President/CEO, The Center for African Citizenship and Economy

In December 2025, the Center for African Citizenship and Economy and the Relief for Human Suffering Foundation (R4HSF), in partnership with the Eye Foundation Hospital, provided free eye screenings and referrals for cataract surgery in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. **Over two days, 161 individuals received life-changing care.** Here is what was achieved and why it matters.



Caption: *Community members gather under temporary shelter in Abeokuta, awaiting free vision screening during the two-day outreach.*

In the heart of Abeokuta, the air was thick with the celebration of 20 years of royal leadership. But for the Alake of Egbaland's 20th Coronation Anniversary, the most meaningful tribute wasn't found in the ceremonies. It was found in a mercy mission to underserved communities that desperately needed eye care.

Instead of putting on a spectacle, people in need were given spectacles, eye care, and free cataract surgeries. In a landmark collaboration, a royal milestone became a mission of mercy. Over two intensive days (December 18 - 19, 2025), R4HSF and its partners transformed the Eye Foundation Community Hospital into a hub of hope for the Egba community.

This free eye screening and cataract surgery outreach in Abeokuta, Ogun State, is part of R4HSF's broader mission to eliminate preventable blindness in underserved communities across Nigeria.

### **The Gateway to Care**

The mission began with a simple banner that signaled the start of something life-changing for hundreds of residents. Residents were invited to free eye screenings, with further testing and cataract surgery available where indicated.

### **A Community in Focus**

The community's response was immediate. Registration desks were busy from early morning as older adults and families gathered to seek help with their vision. By the end of the first day, 81 patients had been screened.



*Caption: A registration desk where an elderly man in a vibrant patterned shirt is registered by volunteers while others wait in the background.*

## Clinical Excellence in the Field

One of CACE's objectives is to foster partnerships and networks across continents to address shared challenges and leverage collective strengths. In addition to registration, every patient underwent basic eye health checks and vision screenings using standard Snellen eye charts.



*Caption: An eye screening in progress. A healthcare worker guided two adults through a vision test using a Snellen eye chart.*

*Some patients presented with eye infections and other ailments requiring medicated eye drops, which were administered on-site and provided for continued home treatment.*



*Caption: A healthcare professional stands beside a seated patient and carefully administers eye drops during an eye screening, with another supporting staff member assisting a waiting patient in the background.*

Where indicated, patients were referred for further specialized eye examinations to identify refractive errors and underlying conditions, primarily cataracts.

Cataracts remain one of the leading causes of preventable blindness worldwide, particularly in underserved communities where access to routine eye exams is limited. When detected early, cataracts can be treated with a relatively simple, highly effective surgical procedure. Community-based eye-screening outreach programs like this one are critical because they identify cases before vision loss becomes permanent, connect patients with qualified surgical teams, and reduce the long-term social and economic burden of avoidable blindness.



*Caption: A clinical professional at Eye Foundation Community Hospital performing a specialized cataract screening on a patient.*

Patients referred for cataract surgery underwent thorough health screenings, including blood pressure monitoring, to ensure they were fit for surgery.



*Caption: A healthcare professional sits beside a patient and measures blood pressure using a digital monitor during a health screening, while another staff member sits behind a desk and inputs their data and medical history on a computer.*

Over two days, what began as a symbolic gesture became a measurable transformation.

### The Impact in Numbers

Through this collaborative effort, the outreach team in Egbaland achieved measurable results that will change the trajectory of many lives:

- **161 Patients Screened:** A comprehensive eye health and vision check for every individual who walked through the gates.
- **35 Cataract Cases Identified:** These individuals received comprehensive eye examinations as well as thorough vital checks to ensure that they were fit for the life-changing surgeries, which were scheduled for December 22nd and 29th.
- **42 Pairs of Glasses dispensed:** Providing immediate clarity for those struggling with vision loss that could easily be corrected with eyeglasses.
- **40 Medicated Eye Drops:** Dispensed on-site to treat infections and prevent further unnecessary eye damage.

### Immediate Relief and Future Hope

While cataract surgeries represent Kabiyesi Oba Gbadebo's long-term commitment, many patients receive the "gift of spectacles" or medication immediately, allowing them to return to their daily lives with newfound vision, clarity, and comfort.



*Caption: Several adults sit in a waiting area to be fitted with eyeglasses. Staff assist patients at a desk with a computer, and eyeglass frames line the walls behind them.*

### A Sustainable Vision

Partnering with established institutions such as the Eye Foundation Hospital and the Center for African Citizenship and Economy ensures its impact is not a one-time event but a gateway to a modern, permanent system of care.

Together, Oba Dr. Adedotun Aremu Michael Gbadebo, CACE, and its partners are working to eliminate preventable blindness in Egbaland - one screening, one surgery, one restored life at a time.