The Eye foundation centre (EFC) for the prevention of blindness consists of:
- The Eye foundation hospital group which consist of 5 hospitals with state of the art equipment.
- The public/Community hospitals: Desert community vision institute (DCVI) Ijebu-Imushin and Desert Eye Centre, Lagos.
- The community outreach programme.

The Eye foundation centre vision is to eliminate avoidable blindness through the provision of an equitable, qualitative and affordable eye care to all.

The outreach service has a team made-up of: Ophthalmologists, resident doctors, optometrists, ophthalmic nurses, community ophthalmic technicians (COT), social marketing executive, eye care manager, medical record officer, counselor and driver.

MTN/EFC Eye Restoration Project in Nigeria 2013 Project
Eye Foundation Centre partnered with MTN communications limited (foundation) in 2013 to significantly reduce avoidable blindness among the underserved in the Nigerian societies. This resulted in the biggest cataract surgeries ever carried out in a year in Nigeria. 61,000 patients were screened, 15,415 cataract surgeries were done at the base hospital and across the six geopolitical zones. Pictures below show pie chart of cataract surgeries in EFC hospitals, bar chart of surgeries in the 6 geopolitical zones, CSR in Nigeria, people awaiting screening in Delta, after surgery in Jigawa, bilateral cataract, surgery session, after cataract surgeries at the base hospital in Ijebu.

Conclusions/Learnings
The partnership goes on in 2014 and beyond. Prior to this the EFC was doing an average of 2,000 cataract surgeries per year all over Nigeria. This shows that with assistance from multinationals there is much that can be done in increasing Nigeria’s CSR. There is need for more advocacy for the big and profitable companies to direct their corporate social responsibility to the eye sector to prevent and cure avoidable blindness.

One of the categories of eye health workers that helped us is the community ophthalmic technicians (COT). They are mid-level ophthalmic manpower that were trained to assist ophthalmologists. They help to make the work of the ophthalmologist easier. They help in setting up the microscopes, they scrub for surgeries, check the visual acuities etc. They are trained to be polyvalent.

With this type of partnership and many more to come, we are very optimistic that the backlog of cataract should reduce with increase in cataract surgical rate.

Special appreciation to the local ophthalmologists and nurses who were of great help in all the 6 geopolitical zones of Nigeria, They assisted us in surgeries and agreed to assist in following up on the patients.