

Standard Chartered trains 442 more girls at Gambia High School under its Goal Empowerment Programme

On Saturday 4th June 2016, Standard Chartered Bank trained an additional 442 girls at Gambia High School under its Goal Programme. The Bank's Goal Programme which aims to empower and equip adolescent girls with the confidence, knowledge and skills they need to be integral economic leaders in their families, communities and societies.

Goal was first launched in 2006 in Delhi India and reached 70 girls. By 2015, it has reached 217,000 girls between the ages 12 and 18 in 25 countries where the Bank operates.

Goal was officially launched in The Gambia on Friday 15th April 2016 at St Joseph's Senior Secondary with 100 girls from St Joseph's Senior Secondary School at the school premises. A further 110 girls were trained from Bakau Upper Basic School in May 2016.

In addition to the sporting games, classroom sessions were also held on the four Goal modules focusing on health and hygiene, 'Be Healthy'; communication skills, 'Be Yourself'; confidence and life skills, 'Be Empowered'; and financial literacy, 'Be Money Savvy'.

CEO Albert Saltson encouraged the girls to take the Goal Programme seriously as it creates leadership pipelines. According to Mr Saltson, in some countries, girls who complete the programme become Goal graduates; those graduates who show real leadership potential become Goal Champions and help educate the next group of Goal participants. "As the Executive Goal Sponsor Gambia, I want to see some of you girls moving on to become Goal Champions he added". He concluded by commending the Goal coaches for training a total of 652 girls within two months of launching Goal in The Gambia.

Mr Lamin Jaiteh Principal Gambia High School commends the Bank for choosing his school to part take in the Goal Programme. "We recognise that gender equality is critical to economic growth and sustainability. I am therefore pleased that 442 girls from my school are trained and empowered to contribute positively in their societies" he stated.

Standard Chartered's decision to implement the GOAL project is to complement the Gambia Government's commitment on girl education and empowerment in The Gambia through sport-based leadership skills building and financial literacy activities.