

Kotu Preparatory School

Ousman Njie, HoCB

## Standard Chartered affirms commitment to preventable blindness in the Gambia

*...delivers eye care services to Kotu Preparatory School...*

Standard Chartered, in partnership with the Sheikh Zayed Eye Unit, has provided eye care services to pupils of the Kotu Preparatory School in a demonstration of its commitment to preventable blindness and visual impairment in the Gambia.

The activity, which focused on lower primary children, was to help address potential eyesight challenges among the children and take measures to treat them.

The Bank's eye care initiative, "Seeing is Believing" is a global community campaign, established in 2003, to celebrate the Bank's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is driven by staff who fundraise, volunteer and raise awareness on avoidable blindness issues across the globe.

Since 2003, the Bank has reached almost 1000 people through the campaign to tackle avoidable blindness. In 2011, a total of **GMD514K** was contributed to the Sheikh Zayed Regional Eye Care Centre under the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to cater for 400 cataract operations for women and children nationwide under this initiative.

Speaking during the programme, Ousman Njie, Head of Consumer Banking, Standard Chartered Gambia said:

"As a Bank, our interest extends beyond the corridors of Banking to identifying the crucial issues affecting the communities in which we live and work and helping to erase them. The 'Seeing is Believing' initiative has brought immense benefits to our communities – highlighting our brand promise of Here for good.

We will continue to build a sustainable business as a bank, simultaneously creating value for our shareholders, supporting our customers and contributing to the communities in which we live and work."

On her part, the Headmistress of the school, Mrs. Anna Williams, said:

"We want to express our sincere thanks to the Management and staff of Standard Chartered for this show of love and care. We are extremely touched by it and we hope it will serve as a platform for subsequent engagements".