

press release

Standard Chartered trains 110 girls at the Bakau Upper Basic School under its Goal Programme to empower girls in The Gambia

Nearly a month since its launch, Standard Chartered Gambia announces that it has reached two hundred & ten girls through its award winning Goal Programme.

- **May 24th 2016**, Goal is Standard Chartered's leading education programme that provides financial literacy, life skills and employability training to low-income adolescent girls across its footprint. Since the programme was launched in 2006, it has grown from a small programme in two Delhi slums to an internationally recognised global movement operating in 25 countries, helping over 217,000 young women to date.
- In The Gambia, Goal was launched on April 15th 2016 with the aim of reaching 1,500 Gambian girls aged 12 – 14 in its first year. Goal will be a fully fledged programme in The Gambia and the Bank will work with local senior secondary schools to implement the programme. Two Physical Education Teachers from 4 schools (St Joseph's Senior Secondary School, The Gambia High School, Latirkunda Upper Basic School, and Bakau Upper Basic school, went through a 4 day training on the Goal Curriculum and Activity guide to be used in workshops and trainings sessions.
- The first Goal event held at St Joseph's Senior Secondary School was held with 100 girls. Today May 20th 2016, the Bank trained a further 110 girls at the Bakau Upper Basic School. 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 the sport-based

leadership skills building and financial literacy activities, Goal aims to empower and equip adolescent girls with the confidence, knowledge, and skills they need to be integral leaders in their families, communities, and economies.

- Mr Williams, Principal at Bakau Upper Basic school said, “ *We welcome this initiative and this is a historical moment as never before a programme was so thoroughly designed to focus on the well – being of adolescent girls which is in need in The Gambia. I am pleased that the first 110 girls at my school have just gone through this life changing training*”.
- Several studies have shown that investment in girls positively affects GDP growth rates. A World Bank study in 1999 demonstrates that increasing the secondary education of girls by 1 per cent results in an annual income increase of 0.3 per cent per capita. Educating girls and giving them the tools to shape their own future has an incredible multiplier effect on economic growth. It leads to increased prosperity not just for individuals but for their communities and their societies. It provides returns for decades.
- Albert Saltson, CEO/Managing Director of Standard Chartered who was present at the Bakau Upper Basic School Goal event said: “*Goal is a powerful, life changing initiative which started nearly 10 years ago. From just 70 girls in India it has since grown to an international movement which has supported nearly 217,000 girls across 25 countries worldwide. Its impact is phenomenal. I’d like to thank the great efforts of our staff and partners as today we train another 110 girls after our launch event at the St Joseph’s Senior Secondary School. Nearly a month since the Gambia’s launch, Standard Chartered announces that it has already reached two hundred girls through its award winning Goal Programme. We are delighted with progress so far but we cannot continue without the support of our key stakeholders, implementing partners, and volunteers. We call on all of you to join us in our quest to empower adolescent girls, and help change the world with, one girl at a time.*”