

# press release

## Standard Chartered calls for individual action on World AIDS Day

**01 December 2011, Lagos :** In celebration of World AIDS Day, representatives from Standard Chartered will remind individuals about the importance of prevention in fighting the pandemic as well as the need to challenge the stigma associated with HIV/AIDS.

As part of the bank's commitment to prevent HIV and AIDS in the wider community in Nigeria, on World Aids Day, members of staff of the bank together with Nigeria Business Coalition on HIV and AIDS (NICUCCA) would conduct education and awareness sessions for all staff, guards, drivers and domestic workers of the members of staff. Elective and Confidential Testing and Counselling would also be offered on a voluntary bases.

Standard Chartered is one of the few financial institutions to proactively champion the importance of education in the work place to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. In 1999, Standard Chartered launched Living with HIV, a work education programme, to respond to the detrimental impact HIV/AIDS was having on its employees in Africa. Living with HIV provides employees with the facts and tools to make safe lifestyle choices and avoid becoming infected or infecting others as well as removing the stigma and discrimination associated with the disease. The Bank was one of the first companies to take such an approach. The programme has, since, been rolled out to its offices globally.

As part of the Bank's employee policies, non-discriminatory/non-disclosure clauses protect any employee who may be affected by HIV and AIDS. The Bank also provides financial support to employees to help cover the cost of necessary anti-retroviral drugs when they are not freely available in their home country.

Last year Standard Chartered delivered on a Clinton Global Initiative commitment to educate 1 million people on HIV/AIDs, reaching 1.6 million by the end of the year. As part of its promise, the Bank shared its Living with HIV programme with more than 70 partners in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. As part of this initiative, Bank employees offered face-to-face workshops to participating organisations and local communities. In Nigeria through various partnerships, the bank has educated more that 600,000 people on HIV and AIDS.

Diran Olojo, Head, Corporate Affairs, Standard Chartered Nigeria says: *"According to UNAIDS, the number of new HIV infections continues to outstrip the advances in treatment numbers. For every two people put on antiretroviral drugs, another five become newly infected. Education is, therefore, key to preventing the spread of HIV. Too many people are still reluctant about getting tested for HIV. We believe that everyone should know their status. In the absence of a cure or vaccine, the only hope of tackling HIV is to educate people on how to avoid contracting the virus in the first place – or passing it on if they are HIV positive."*

-- ENDS --

**For further information please contact:**

**For further information, please contact:**

**Diran Olojo**  
**Head, Corporate Affairs**  
**Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria**  
**142 Ahmadu Bello Way**  
**Victoria Island**  
**Lagos.**

**Tel: 01 270 2168**  
**E-mail: [diran.olojo@sc.com](mailto:diran.olojo@sc.com)**

For more information, visit [www.standardchartered.com](http://www.standardchartered.com)

**Note to Editors:**

**Standard Chartered – leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East**

Standard Chartered PLC is a leading international bank, listed on the London, Hong Kong and Mumbai stock exchanges. It has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets and earns more than 90 per cent of its income and profits in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This geographic focus and commitment to developing deep relationships with clients and customers has driven the Bank's growth in recent years.

With 1,700 offices in 70 markets, Standard Chartered offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities for around 85,000 staff. It is committed to building a sustainable business over the long term and is trusted worldwide for upholding high standards of corporate governance, social responsibility, environmental protection and employee diversity. The Bank's heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, Here for good.

For more information on Standard Chartered, please visit [www.standardchartered.com](http://www.standardchartered.com).

**World AIDS Day**

World AIDS Day on 1 December brings together people from around the world to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and demonstrate international solidarity in the face of the pandemic. The day is an opportunity for public and private partners to spread awareness about the status of the pandemic and encourage progress in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in high prevalence countries and around the world.

Between 2011-2015, World AIDS Days will have the theme of "Getting to zero: zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS related deaths". The World AIDS Campaign focus on "Zero AIDS related deaths" signifies a push towards greater access to treatment for all; a call for governments to act now. It is a call to honour promises like the Abuja declaration and for African governments to at least hit targets for domestic spending on health and HIV.

For more information on World AIDS Day, please visit <http://www.worldaidscampaign.org/>