

# press release

## **STANDARD CHARTERED RESTORES SIGHT TO 1,400 BLIND PEOPLE**

**Kampala, Saturday 26 November 2011** – Standard Chartered Bank Uganda in partnership with Sightsavers has today held the climax of the 2011 Seeing is Believing 2011 sight restoration campaign. The initiative was launched in June 2011 in Kamuli with the aim of restoring sight to at least 1,000 people across all the regions of Uganda by November 2011. At the time of the climax 1,419 eye operations had been carried out. This was revealed at the event held at Mulago National Referral Hospital where a week-long camp was held.

The campaign, inaugurated in 2003 and now in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, covered Central, Eastern, Northern and Western regions of Uganda. Standard Chartered and Sightsavers this year invested UGS 100m and UGS 35m respectively. Partners, namely Orange, Kampala Associated Advocates and KPMG each invested UGS 5m. Seeing is Believing is a campaign against preventable blindness that Standard Chartered Bank has run since 2003.

The ceremony was presided over by Dr Godfrey Wabulembo, Senior Consultant Ophthalmologist, working with the Ministry of Health, who commended the Bank for leading the way in the execution of Corporate Social Responsibility.

“I would like to thank to Standard Chartered Bank, Sightsavers and all the other partners including customers and staff for this fight against preventable blindness. As Government, we value the public-private sector approach to service delivery. Its success rate is proved and tested. Government alone cannot fully satisfy the demand for services. Blindness is among the 10 morbidity factors and has negative consequences not only on the directly affected individual but also on the immediate family and society. The fight against blindness can only succeed through concerted efforts of all the stakeholders” Wabulembo said.

He further underscored that preventable blindness is still very prevalent and should be tackled squarely to root it out of our society.

Commenting on the reason for investing heavily in the fight against blindness, the Standard Chartered Bank Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Lamin Manjang, stated that Standard Chartered will continue to lend a helping hand to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves.

“We are here for the good of our customers, our communities, for progress and for the long run. The Bank will always do what it takes to help the less privileged live a meaningful and dignified life. In light of the prevailing situation, Standard Chartered Bank joined the global campaign of working towards elimination of avoidable blindness. At present, blindness elimination is at the core of the bank’s community intervention initiatives. We strive to continuously raise awareness on blindness prevention at all

times. Standard Chartered will invest an additional 4.7bn into the fight against preventable blindness in Uganda for the next 5 years. This is part of a USD 5m East Africa Plan, and a USD 67m global plan. By 2020 the Standard Chartered Group will have invested USD 100m in the global campaign," Manjang said.

Manjang thanked the contributing / partnering customers, Sightsavers and government for the support over the years and pledged the Bank's continued support.

The Country Director Sightsavers, Dr Johnson Ngorok, thanked Standard Chartered Bank for the smooth partnership over the past 9 years and pledged the organisation's continued full support towards the fight against preventable blindness in Uganda, and to be the link between the Bank and Government to support the delivery of these health services.

Dr Ngorok thanked the staff, customers and Bank management for the continued support to make a difference in people's lives.

Indicated here below are some shocking statistics.

- ❖ There are an estimated 45 million blind and 135 million visually impaired people worldwide.
- ❖ Every 5 seconds, a person in the world goes blind, every minute, a child goes blind.
- ❖ In developing countries of which Uganda is inclusive, it is believed that 60% of children who become blind die at the age of 1-2 years, meaning that these countries are deprived of the productive future generation.
- ❖ 75 million people are likely to become blind by 2020 if trends continue like this.
- ❖ In Uganda an estimated 350,000 people are blind.
- ❖ 75% of all blindness is either preventable or can be reversed
- ❖ A cataract operation costs USD 30 or about UGS 80,000
- ❖ Since its inception in Uganda in 9 years ago 10,842 blind people have had their sight restored through Seeing is Believing.

Standard Chartered Bank launched the campaign to eliminate avoidable blindness in 2003 with the aim of restoring sight to 28,000 people worldwide, equivalent to the total number of staff in the SCB Group at the time. That number was doubled in terms of achievement and all the targets set for subsequent years were exceeded. This was after realizing that blindness was increasingly becoming a global challenge and blindness cases were on a rapid increase. In order to achieve this, Standard Chartered Bank through its Corporate Social Responsibility committed itself to eliminate blindness through awareness raising, extending support to sight restoration and sharing information. The 2011 program had an investment of UGS 150m.

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**Notes to Editors**

**Standard Chartered Bank in Uganda**



Standard Chartered Bank Uganda is a member of the Standard Chartered Group. The Bank has been operating in Uganda for over 99 years. As Uganda's first bank, established in 1912, it currently has a network of 11 branches, 29 ATMs spread across the country. The Bank employs over 500 people. Standard Chartered's core businesses in Uganda are in Consumer Banking and Wholesale Banking (Origination & Client Coverage and Global Markets) products and services.

Standard Chartered is committed to the community in Uganda through various community relations programs, working closely with the Ministry of Health, Uganda Red Cross, Sight Savers International and Water Aid. The Bank's philanthropic work in Uganda was recognized when it won two awards from the Federation of Uganda Employers.

Standard Chartered Bank won the Euromoney Award for Best Bank in Uganda, 2009 and 2010, the emea Finance Best Bank in Uganda 2009 and 2010, and was recognized by Consumer Insights as the best bank in customer service in Uganda. The Bank also won the Federation of Uganda Employer's Award for best in Training and Development for 2008.

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

Standard Chartered PLC is a leading international bank, listed on the London and Hong Kong stock exchanges. It has operated for over 150 years in some of the world's most dynamic markets and earns around 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 1700 offices in 70 markets, Standard Chartered offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities for its 75,000 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)

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