

# press release

## **STANDARD CHARTERED BANK PLEDGES SUPPORT TO VARKEY GEMS FOUNDATION TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM IN UGANDA**

**Tuesday 20 August 2013 - Kampala, Uganda:** Standard Chartered Bank has announced that they will donate \$25,000 (Ugx 64,375,000) to the Varkey GEMS Foundation Teacher Training Program in Uganda, an initiative that will help train and up skill Ugandan teachers, hence improving on the quality of education in Uganda. The program aims at developing head teachers and teaching staff in order to improve student outcomes through improved teaching and learning skills. The sponsorship and partnership was announced at a press conference held at the Bank's Head Office in Kampala.

The Varkey GEMS Foundation (VGF) is the philanthropic arm of international education provider, GEMS Education. It set up the pilot in May this year, in partnership with Uganda's Ministry of Education and Sports and other Ugandan NGOs, because it believes that free training for Ugandan teachers by international educationalists could play a key role in improving the lives of the 65% of Ugandans who, according to World Bank figures, currently live in poverty. The pilot was run by a mixture of Ugandan teachers and international ex-teachers who are working as consultants for GEMS Educational Solutions.

Speaking at the function, Mr. Abdu Kibedi speaking on behalf of Hon. Jessica Alupo, the Minister of Education and Sports, pointed out that because of the young and growing population, the need to improve the skills of teachers is heightened in Uganda.

***'A young population combined with the introduction of free primary in 1997 and free secondary schooling in 2007 has led to a boom in school enrolments in Uganda over the last fifteen years. As enrolment increases and class sizes grow, improving the quality of teaching in Uganda is more urgent than ever. The Varkey GEMS Foundation's Teacher Training Program, generously supported by Standard Chartered Bank, will help more Ugandan students reach their potential,' He said.***

At the same ceremony, Herman Kasekende, Chief Executive Officer, Standard Chartered Uganda and Chairman of the Varkey GEMS Foundation Advisory Board in Uganda, said ***'Standard Chartered Bank is pleased to support the Varkey-GEMS Foundation's Teacher Training Program. The pilot scheme shows that it is already proving a***

**success. Thousands of young lives will be transformed if teachers can improve their teaching techniques, and teach children literacy and numeracy skills they would otherwise go without. The world is waking up to the economic opportunities that Africa offers. But improving standards in education is essential if the continent is to tackle poverty and accelerate its development. Better educated children are proven to be healthier and wealthier and their own children are more likely to be educated too. So I am delighted that Standard Chartered will work with the Varkey GEMS Foundation and the Ugandan authorities to deliver high quality teacher training". Mr. Kasekende concluded.**

The Varkey GEMS Foundation (funded by GEMS Education) has committed significant funds towards the set-up and delivery of the programme in Uganda and is now seeking partners such as Standard Chartered to support the growth of the program so that its impact can be extended as far as possible.

The VGF Approach combines international best practice in teaching with an understanding of Uganda's local context, supported by on-going Monitoring and Evaluation of the project to ensure quality outcomes are delivered.

While speaking at the function, Varkey GEMS Foundation's Program Director, Lachlan Mackinnon, said: ***'I am delighted by this major contribution from Standard Chartered Bank to help the Varkey-GEMS Foundation provide teacher training in Uganda. Businesses need to do more to support education in Africa – and Standard Chartered is setting the standard for others. We are continuing to seek other corporate partners who will support this vital work. Improving global education is as urgent a cause as improving global health. Teacher quality has been shown to directly correlate to key economic indicators - higher lifetime earnings, low teen pregnancy and female empowerment. Our low-cost teacher training program addresses the common gaps in teaching standards across rural communities.'***

The Varkey GEMS Foundation believes that the greatest impact on student outcomes can be achieved through improving the quality of teaching, and that education frees people from poverty. The Varkey GEMS Foundation Teacher Training Programme has committed to train 250,000 teachers over the next 10 years to underserved communities across the world.

IMPORTANT NOTES

**VGf PILOT IN MAY**

- 118 Head Teachers 63 schools...118 each terrain 10 staff supported by VGF trainers hence 1180 teachers trained approximately 59,000 students through improved classroom practice.
- VGF aim is to train 500 Ugandan teachers to train 5000 more teachers which would impact 250,000 students by March 2014.

**OUTCOMES OF THE PILOT:**

- Teachers significantly increased their understanding of pedagogy (teaching methods) throughout the course
- Teachers have shown strong commitment to cascading their learning to their colleagues at school and VGF trainers have observed improved teaching practice.
- All participants reported that the training workshops enhanced their knowledge and understanding of new teaching approaches.
- 62 out of the 63 schools cascaded the workshop materials in context to their schools.

**NB: It's important to note this program doesn't add to the curriculum, it's about how teachers teach the curriculum.**

- ENDS -

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**Notes to Editors**

***The Varkey GEMS Foundation Teacher Training Programme*** *develops head teachers and teaching staff to improve student outcomes through better teaching and learning. It trains participants to become trainers and, equipped with new skills and best practice pedagogy, they are empowered to go back to their schools and embed sustainable and long-lasting changes in teaching practices. The program aims to:*

- *Improve the quality of teaching and active, student-centred learning in Uganda through developing a body of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable both students and teachers to thrive.*
- *Equip principals and other key staff in schools with the practical skills for change leadership, so that they are able to deliver high quality professional development within their schools.*

*The Varkey GEMS Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, established to improve the standards of education for underprivileged children. For every child enrolled in a GEMS school, the Foundation*

*aims to impact 100 underprivileged children. The Honorary Chair of the Foundation is former US President, Bill Clinton*

*GEMS Education was founded in 1959, and is an international K – 12 Education Company. Its vision is to be the world's leading provider of quality education, enriching the lives of millions of children and the communities in which they live. GEMS Education works across both the private and public sectors. In the private sector the company is the largest kindergarten to grade 12 education provider in the world. It educates 130,000 students from over 150 nationalities across four continents. GEMS employs over 11,000 education professionals, specialists and staff from over 80 countries. In the public sector GEMS Education works with governments to lift school performance and improve the standards and expertise of government schools across the globe. GEMS has offices in the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the United States of America, Singapore, India, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kenya, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.*

### **About 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 100 years having celebrated its centenary in August last year. As Uganda's first bank, established in 1912, it currently has a network of 12 branches and 30 ATMs spread across the country. The Bank employs over 500 people. Standard Chartered's core businesses in Uganda are in Consumer Banking, Corporate and Institutional Banking 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, World Vision and Water Aid. The Bank's philanthropic work in Uganda was recognized when we won the awards below;*

- *Bank of the Year 2012 in Uganda - FT-The Banker - Bank of the Year*
- *Euromoney Best Bank in Uganda 2009 & 2010*
- *EMEA Finance Best Foreign Bank in Uganda 2009, 2010, 2011 & 2012*
- *Consumer Insights; Best Bank in customer service 2009*

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

*Standard Chartered is a leading international banking group. 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 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. Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong stock exchanges as well as the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges in India.*

*With 1,700 offices in 70 markets, the Group offers exciting and challenging international career opportunities for nearly 87,000 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. Standard Chartered's heritage and values are expressed in its brand promise, 'Here for good'.*