

press release

Standard Chartered Bank partners with The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust to eliminate avoidable blindness

Wednesday 16 October 2013 – Kampala, Uganda: The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust (The Trust) and Standard Chartered Bank have formed a strategic partnership to help significantly advance the elimination of avoidable blindness.

An estimated 80 per cent of blindness globally could either be prevented or treated. This new partnership, launched on World Sight Day, will increase momentum behind the VISION 2020 goal of eliminating avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

The Trust, established by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in 2011 to mark and celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 60 year contribution to the Commonwealth, will be supported by Standard Chartered, an organisation that has been focused on tackling avoidable blindness for ten years through its community investment initiative, *Seeing is Believing*. Through the partnership, ambitious programmes with proven solutions will be delivered across the Commonwealth by the Trust, supported by a donation of USD20 million from Standard Chartered, the largest corporate donor to the Trust.

The partnership will focus on two main causes of avoidable blindness – blinding trachoma and retinopathy of prematurity (ROP):

- **Blinding Trachoma Programme:** Trachoma is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. It's a neglected tropical disease which manifests gradually and, in some cases, leads slowly and painfully to complete blindness. At least 110 million people live in areas where the disease is endemic and 4.6 million are in the advanced stages of the disease. Within the Trust's pan Commonwealth programme, this partnership will target blinding trachoma in Africa, including in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Uganda, and Nigeria. Of the global population that live in trachoma endemic areas, 77 per cent live in Africa, which has an estimated 28 million cases of active trachoma. The joint initiative plans to ultimately reach over 17 million people in 217 districts.
- **Retinopathy of Prematurity Programme:** ROP, an entirely avoidable and treatable condition, is caused when preterm infants are given suboptimal neonatal care during the first few days and weeks of life, such as being exposed to infection or given too much oxygen. With an estimated 15 million preterm births per year, it is a common cause of blindness in children and is becoming increasingly prevalent in emerging economies where neonatal care services are expanding. The programme will focus on supporting the development of a national plan to tackle this problem in India, which has the highest number of preterm births worldwide.

Commenting on the partnership, Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister of Health said:

'Trachoma is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. It is a neglected tropical disease which manifests gradually and, in some cases, leads slowly and painfully to complete blindness. In Uganda, there are an estimated 8 million people currently at risk from trachoma.'

'I am delighted that The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust has embarked on this joint partnership with Standard Chartered, in a shared campaign against avoidable blindness. I am enormously grateful to the Bank, not only for their most generous donation, but also for the leadership that the company has given on this particular health issue over the past ten years.'

H.E Alison Blackburne, British High Commissioner said: *'The Trust's ambition to accelerate impact and raise awareness about avoidable blindness should also be part of our collective responsibility. What the Trust, with support from Standard Chartered Bank, is aiming to do will be significant in terms of accelerating the VISION 2020 goal to eliminate avoidable blindness by 2020, and increase the potential to raise further awareness about the issue.'*

'We are proud of the partnership and we look forward to seeing the importance of eye care increasing on the global health agenda.'

Herman Kasekende, CEO, Standard Chartered Bank Uganda said: *'Given our decade of experience in investing in eye care projects through Seeing is Believing, we are partnering with the Trust and funding their ambition to help tackle avoidable blindness. Our support goes beyond a donation, though. Given our experience in this field, we will also share our decade worth of expertise. Our donation will help fund a blinding trachoma programme that will reach an estimated 5 million people in Uganda.'*

The Trust will work with expert NGOs to implement the programmes over the next five years.

-ENDS-

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About The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust

The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust is a charitable foundation established in 2012 to mark and celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, The Queen.

The Trust has received donations from governments, organisations, businesses, private groups and individuals to transform lives across the Commonwealth. We will invest in a series of programmes within the two themes of youth leadership and avoidable blindness. Our mission is to empower a new generation of young leaders and help to eliminate avoidable blindness across the Commonwealth. This legacy, which will be owned by the whole Commonwealth, will be our tribute to Her Majesty, The Queen.

Find out more by visiting www.jubileetribute.org

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 2008, 2009 & 2010
- EMEA Finance Best Foreign Bank in Uganda 2008, 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 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. 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 to over 88,000 staff. It is committed to building a sustainable business over the long term and 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'.

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