

# press release

## **Standard Chartered Bank's 'Seeing is Believing' project – bringing hope to communities across Zambia**

**Lusaka – Thursday 10 April 2014:** Standard Chartered Bank's commitment to invest in the communities where they operate is an important part of the way they do business. One such community investment initiative is 'Seeing is Believing,' which funds eye care projects in Zambia and other countries where the bank operates.

*In Zambia, 'Seeing is Believing' is the first major preventative blindness initiative. Launched in 2009, the bank works in partnership with Sightsavers and ORBIS. In 2013 alone, 240,000 patients had their eyes screened, including 45,000 children; over 10,000 cataract operations were carried out; and over 20,000 free spectacles were given to communities across Zambia. In December 2013, Standard Chartered opened a New Vision Centre at Solwezi General Hospital where eye-care equipment worth US\$300,000 was handed over.*

One beneficiary of the 'Seeing is Believing' project is Esther Hamukolo who comes from the Mapande area of Monze District where she lives with her children. Esther is 65yrs old and was diagnosed with bilateral cataracts in September 2012. From the time that she was diagnosed with the cataracts, she was unable to work on her farm, she could not cook for herself and there were times when she could not recognise her own family members as a result of poor vision caused by the cataracts. Due to this condition, she had to be assisted by people wherever she went.

Esther, at the time, was being looked after by her two daughters, Edith Moba and Dorothy Moba. Dorothy is a business woman while Edith stayed at home to look after her mother's needs. One of the issues that Dorothy highlighted is that her mother's condition posed a major challenge for the family - there were times when she was away on business and had to pay someone to help her mother find her way around, especially if her sister Edith was not around.

In April 2012, Esther and her daughters heard about the 'Seeing is Believing' Monze surgical camp organised by Sightsavers. They got to know about the surgical camp through the radio and the outreach activities that were being conducted by the Monze District Medical Office.

Esther's daughters took her to the surgical camp and she had her first cataract surgery on her right eye. After 6 months, when the next surgical camp was being held, Esther went again, this time to have surgery on her left eye.

Her daughters are very pleased that their mother has now regained her sight and is now able to do the things that she was unable to when she had poor vision due to the bilateral cataracts. The result of her sight restoration means that the family is now able to spend more time to grow their businesses.

## ***ENDS***

For further information please contact:

**Christine Matambo – Head of Corporate Affairs, Standard Chartered Bank Zambia**

**Email: Christine.Matambo@sc.com**

**Tel: 227616 (Lusaka, Zambia)**

## **NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

### ***Standard Chartered Bank in Zambia***

- Zambia is a core part of the Standard Chartered Bank's Africa strategic footprint and has consistently been among the top five revenue contributors for the region.
- In Zambia, the Bank was established in 1906 and has since grown to be one of the most profitable banks in the country primarily as a result of organic growth.
- The Bank services both wholesale and retail banking customers
- Standard Chartered Bank Zambia (SCBZ) accounts for 19% of the market share.
- The Bank is consistently among the top 3 banks in profitability and balance sheet size.
- The Bank is a leader in providing access to finance for the mining, agriculture, telecommunications and SME sectors.

## **Pictures**



*Esther before her operation*



*Esther after her operation*