**Seeing Is Believing Project**

This is a USD 6.25m Child Eye Health project funded by Standard Chartered Bank’s Seeing is Believing Programme and it is carried out by two consortia consisting of partners in eye health and education; Brien Holden Vision Institute and Sightsavers. It aims to reduce the percentage of avoidable blindness and visual impairment among children by promoting child eye health in, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

This project was launched on 1st March, in an event which was presided over by Hon. Sarah Opendi, the State Minister of Health. Some of the activities were eye screening of the children that attended the launch by ophthalmologists, counselling and mentoring by the Bank staff and handing over of equipment that included cataract sets and a motor vehicle, donated by Sightsavers to Ministry of Health.

Since the inception of this project in 2003, over 12,000 blind people have regained their sight through surgeries and over 120,000 screened and treated.

We have recently won awards for this project like; The Seed Award 2013 (Low Carbon Winner) and Tumaini Best Corporate in Social Responsibility Award.

**Tree Planting In Mpigi**

On Saturday 14 September, we planted 18,421 indigenous tree species in Navigulu Central Forest Reserve located on Bboza Hill, in Mpigi district, in an event where Hon. Ephraim Kamuntu, the Minister of Water and Environment was the Chief Guest. This was after the signing of an MOU with National Forestry Authority for a three year tree planting project in which the Bank will invest Ugx 70million per year.

This initiative was also carried out on 5th and 19th October, in a bid to replant 109 hectares of the forest reserve. It is an ongoing project.
Prior to this, Standard Chartered Bank partnered with Environmental Conservation Trust of Uganda for 3 years to plant 200,000 trees in various areas including; Bukoma hills, Bubutsatsa, Walanga hill, Kabulangete hill, Nabitalo, Kiziba PS and Awach PS in Gulu. This investment of over UGS 461m was under the oversight of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and National Forestry Authority (NFA).

**World Earth Day**

Staff of the bank joined World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) as they launched their reforestation initiative dubbed, the **Earth Hour Forest**. The Earth Hour Forest was planted in Mpigi District, about 40 Km from Kampala on Saturday 23rd March. The initiative was part of the global Earth Hour celebrations marked every year in different cities, towns and territories around the world.

The Forest was to be planted in Navugulu Central Forest Reserve, which suffered severe deforestation over the last decade leaving close to 2,500 hectares of land degraded.

The Earth Hour Forest was therefore a response to the dire trend of deforestation in Mpigi and around the country. According to a 2008 UNDP report, Uganda loses 6,000 hectares of cover every 30 days, mostly at the hands of firewood and charcoal consumption.

**Missionaries of the Poor**

Missionaries of the Poor, located in Kisenyi, is both a children's and adults’ home. It is run by Catholic Fathers and it takes in the homeless, helpless and the abandoned. It provides comfort through accommodation, food, medical services, love and care to all those who truly need it.

On Saturday 23rd March, staff visited the home and interacted with the children and adults, cooked, cleaned, groomed the children and donated items including laundry soap, detergent, clothing, among others.

**‘Bless the Children’ Home**

On Saturday 13th April, the Global Markets team went to ‘Bless the Children’ home near Makerere University. The home takes care of children suffering from cancer and offers them shelter, food and clothing as they attend treatment at Mulago hospital and other hospitals around Kampala. The team took items like rice, sugar, cooking oil, juice, soap, sanitary towels, among others, to enable the home’s administration cater for the sick children.
Staff joined forces with Pablo and went to various schools for an HIV/AIDS prevention campaign, where entertainment and testimonies by HIV+ youth were used to put the message across. This is in line with the Bank’s Living with HIV policy of sharing knowledge about the epidemic as well as no discrimination. The schools were Kings’ College Budo on Saturday 20th April, Luzira Senior Secondary School on Saturday 22nd June, St. Denis Ssebugwawo SSS on Saturday 20 July and Kololo SSS on Saturday 12th October.

Along the HIV sensitisation/prevention messages, staff passed on financial literacy, career guidance tips, legal knowledge, life skills and mentoring.

**Mengo Primary School**

As a measure to minimise the rampant school fires that had claimed many lives in the recent past, some staff went to Mengo Primary School on Wednesday 24th April and donated 4 Carbon dioxide fire extinguishers. They also gave guidance sessions to the pupils on how to protect themselves in case of a fire and held a Fire Safety awareness skills training to equip the pupils and staff with the necessary skills. In addition, they gave and planted fruit tree seedlings at the school.

**Kigo Women’s Prison outreach**

On Wednesday 1st May, staff made a trip to the Women’s Section of Kigo Prisons, located on the shores of Lake Victoria in Wakiso district.

The population of the inmates was composed of 11 convicts, 40 on remand and 6 babies (born in prison). To keep the women from being redundant, they are involved in a number of activities like gardening - where they grow crops like vegetables which in turn supplement their diets, poultry rearing - from which they get eggs too and craft making of mats, baskets, jewellery; which are sold when visited. Also, the women that leave prison always have a starting point to life with these skills.

The team counselled the women, gave basic financial literacy to use when they leave the prison and also talked to them about HIV/AIDS.
St. Anthony's school

The Corporate Real Estate Services team engaged in an initiative at St. Anthony's School on Tuesday 14th May.

St. Anthony is a school for deaf and dumb children and many of them are neglected by their parents and thus they do not have anyone to support them.

Since all the pupils are deaf and dumb, the only way of communication is through sign language but this was not possible at night as they did not have electricity connected to the school. They had to use hand lamps which was a risk, considering the high rate of school fires.

The team donated a solar panel to the school with 42 pupils, who will use it for lighting, reading at night as well as watching television. They also had experts who took the pupils and teachers through a First Aid session and a Fire Safety awareness skills training.

Nsambya Babies’ Home

City branch staff championed a visit to this orphanage that takes care of infants of ages 0 to 6 on 1st June. The team gave some of the most pressing items that the home needs which included pampers, Vaseline, tea leaves, sugar, juice, biscuits, cleaning materials like soap and vim.

Zebra Crossing Painting

Gulu branch staff painted three zebra crossings on Gulu’s Main Street Andrea Olal Road in on Saturday 15 June, in partnership with Lions Club of Gulu.

Andrea Olol Road is Gulu’s busiest street, and therefore a zebra crossing was necessary to reduce accidents and save lives.
Mildmay Children’s Ward

Staff along Ms. Ruth Markland, an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Standard Chartered Group Board visited Mildmay Children’s Ward on Friday 21 June. The ward is a facility that takes care of children with HIV.

They toured the premises, counselled and interacted with the children, and imparted financial literacy to the ward staff and parents.

Project Uplift, Biina

On Saturday 29 June, Lugogo branch staff undertook an EV at Project Uplift, located behind Biina Catholic Church. Project Uplift, located behind Biina Catholic Church, provides free ‘O’ and ‘A’ level education to under-privileged boys and girls and all the staff are volunteers.

Staff talked advised the students about career guidance as well as financial literacy.

Mulago Hospital

In light of the Bank’s aspiration to build and strengthen collaborative relationships with the various stakeholders, as well as exhibiting our brand promise of being Here for good, staff visited the Maternity Ward of Mulago hospital on Saturday 27th July. This came after the realization that maternal mortality in Uganda was on the rise.

The project was intended to cater for the needs of new born babies at Mulago Hospital whose mothers can hardly afford warm clothing for them. The Baby Kits, which included nappies, nappy liners, pair of socks, baby suit, and cotton sheets, were distributed to more than 90 mothers.

Jinja Regional Hospital

On Saturday 27th July, Jinja branch staff gave the Children’s ward of this hospital at Nalufenya a facelift. The staff armed with sand paper, rollers, painting brushes and jerrycans of paint worked on the ward’s dirty walls whose paint was already peeling.
The hospital staff was engaged in a financial literacy session where they were advised on how to live debt-free lifestyles by drawing up personal budgets. The hospital doctors and nurses also led a discussion on Living with HIV/AIDS and shared best practices with the branch staff on how to prevent the spread of the virus.

They later took a tour around the children’s wards and had a one on one session with the mothers and caretakers of the admitted children. Best practices on good feeding and nutrition were shared with the mothers, with special emphasis on the importance of giving a balanced diet to their kids.

**New Midland Islamic Orphanage**

Friday 2nd August, during the Ramadan month saw Muslim staff take off their afternoon and spend time with children at New Midland Islamic Orphanage, an underprivileged primary school in Kawempe. They had Juma prayers with them, toured the school premises and later donated foodstuffs.

**Naguru Remand Home**

The Legal and Compliance team championed an initiative to Naguru Remand Home on Saturday 24th August. The inmates were engaged in talks related to HIV awareness, legal and counseling. The team also handed over items like sugar and toiletries to the home’s caretakers.

**Road Safety Campaign**

Last year’s Uganda Sports Press Association’s annual road safety campaign, under the theme ‘Do not drive while speaking on phone’, was held in Jinja on Saturday 31st August. The Bank’s aim to partner with USPA was to fight road carnage and play its role in combating road accidents through sensitization especially in Jinja where our own staff perished. Activities of the day included a march around the town, zebra crossing painting and football matches.
Blood Donation Campaign

In an effort to alleviate the plight of several Ugandans who lose their lives owing to unavailability of blood in Uganda's blood bank, and in an effort to reduce maternal deaths, Standard Chartered Bank Uganda, partnered with Uganda Blood Transfusion Services to collect blood from its staff, customers and well wishers in a campaign that lasted over a week starting from 9th September to 17th September.

360 units of blood were collected from the Bank’s branches of Speke road (17 units), City branch (101 units), Kikuubo branch (87 units), Ndeeba branch (44 units), Lugogo branch (32 units), Mbale branch (25 units), and Freedom City branch (54 units).

Kampiringisa Remand Home

On Saturday 12th October, the CEO along with more than 80 Standard Chartered Bank Uganda staff volunteered at Kampiringisa Remand Home, which has over 300 children in Mpigi. Staff were engaged in various activities, both skill and non-skill based volunteering activities that included counselling, legal training, HIV awareness, serving breakfast, painting, cleaning, hair and nail cutting.

We were joined by staff from Monitor Publications and Sheraton Hotel that offered used linen and clothes to the home.

Spire Road Primary School For The Blind

On Saturday 12th October, the Technology and Operations (T&O) staff decided to spend time with the visually impaired children of Spire Road Primary School in Jinja.

Staff had one-on-one mentoring to equip these children with life skills that will enable them realize their dreams. They had discussions about a variety of topics like personal hygiene, realizing dreams, unlocking potential /ability, staying on course / fighting the urge to give up.
The team handed over items that included Braille paper (special paper used by the visually impaired), walking white canes, mathematical Taylor frames, mosquito nets, hygiene items like Vaseline, toothpaste, sanitary pads and soap among others. By giving these children an opportunity to look forward to the future with renewed hope, passion and focus, the staff of T&O demonstrated that we at Standard Chartered are “Here for good”.

Kawolo Hospital

Kawolo Hospital is a government hospital that was constructed in the early 1970’s with the major purpose of saving life of the accidents victims along Jinja highway and providing medical care to the nearby communities.

For a while, the hospital was running on harvested and fetched water since the piped water was cut off because of poor plumbing. It required renovation and some places needed thorough cleaning as some wards including, the children’s ward were foul-smelling.

The Human Resources department contributed funds and bought some items that the hospital’s administration required support with and on Friday 18 October, organized a visit to the hospital. The items bought included blood pressure machines (mercury type), multi-purpose medicine trolleys, treated mosquito nets, cleaning materials such as liquid soap, small buckets, stick mops, squeezers, stick scrubbing brushes, cobweb brushes, windolin, cleaning towels and Jik.

Staff cleaned the children’s ward, demonstrated how to use a mosquito net, shared best practice on how to prevent malaria, counseled HIV infected individuals and handed over medical equipments to the hospital administration.

Kitante Primary School

On Friday 18 October Consumer Banking staff painted the Zebra crossing at Kitante Primary School and had career guidance talks and HIV lessons with the school pupils.
Youth For Christ – Uganda

With Uganda’s crisis pregnancy rate at 23% according to a Daily Monitor July 2013 report, Youth For Christ – Uganda, an interdenominational organization that provides interventions to care for rejected pregnant teenagers and gives them opportunities to learn vocational skills which will help them to earn an income, is just the right answer.

The teenage mothers receive ongoing counselling, life skills education, bible study, parenting education and vocational training to encourage behavioural change, spiritual development and self-reliance. All these services are offered are free to all clients.

On Friday 18 October, the Finance department led other staff and donated every day-use items such as toiletries, painted the premises and offered counseling and guidance sessions to the teenage mothers.

Kawempe Positive Women’s Union

Staff headed to the Kawempe Positive Women’s Union offices on the afternoon of Thursday 24 October. This union is of women based in Kawempe that are HIV positive.

They engage in small scale business, mainly jewelry, which they sell to supplement their families’ incomes.

During the visit, staff offered a legal clinic, financial literacy, HIV awareness sessions and one on one mentoring and counseling. Some also bought the jewelry pieces that were on sale.

Opening Doors Mengo

Opening Doors is an NGO tasked with the sacrificial and selfless role of redeeming the independence of children and young adults with learning/mental disabilities through imparting special developmental skills. It provides a surrogate family environment to the 25 children under its care, to enable them discover their own potential through a socio-family bonding.

These children are faced with numerous mental and physical disabilities which include Ortism, Epilepsy, Mental/Physical impairment, Down syndrome and Celebral palsy.

Ndeeba branch staff visited it on Sunday 27th October. With them they took sugar, rice, juice, cooking oil, biscuits, Vaseline, baking flour, soap; which they bought using their own resources.
Mu-Jhu Mulago

On Saturday 16th November, Ntinda branch staff visited children living positively with HIV/AIDS at MUJHU in Mulago. Since these are largely neglected by family, staff went to spend time with them as well as offer guidance and counseling. They also donated items like juice, biscuits, soap, sugar and salt.

Kyasiira Home Of Hope

Staff of City Branch headed to Kyasiira Home of Hope in Entebbe on 16th November. This home takes care of children between 4 and 22 years, most of whom are orphans.

During the visit, staff counseled and interacted with the children and also gave them things like toiletries, sugar, soap, rice, tea leaves, juice and stationery.