

# press release

## **Standard Chartered reaches USD100 million goal to tackle avoidable blindness**

**Accra, 11 October 2018** – Annually, on the second Thursday of October, World Sight Day is celebrated to raise awareness of the 36 million people who are blind and the 217 million people that are visually impaired worldwide.

This year Standard Chartered is celebrating 15 years of Seeing is Believing. Standard Chartered has reached the goal it set in 2011 to raise USD100 million for the fight against avoidable blindness and visual impairment. The goal has been reached two years ahead of the Bank's 2020 target date.

80 per cent of the blindness and vision loss are curable or preventable. That means four out of five of the visually impaired lose their sight needlessly. According to the Ghana Blindness and Visual Study (2015), 0.74 percent of Ghanaians are blind. Additionally, 1.07 percent have severe visual impairment. That's why Standard Chartered committed to raising USD 100 million by 2020 through Seeing is Believing – its global initiative, run in partnership with the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) – to fund leading eye health organisations to deliver projects that train doctors and health workers, develop eye care infrastructure and support services to the poor.

In Ghana, since 2007, Seeing is Believing has implemented various projects delivering eyecare interventions to millions of Ghanaians across the 10 regions in Ghana. Projects undertaken include the construction of fully equipped eye clinics complete with surgery facilities to the training of health workers in identifying and dealing with primary eye health issues. We have delivered eye restoring surgeries, provided spectacles to low income families and provided eyecare equipment to 35 district hospitals.

**Mrs. Mansa Nettey, CEO Standard Chartered Ghana** said, *"Over the last decade, the Bank has invested over GHS13m to improve the eye health of Ghanaians through the integration of primary eye care into the primary health care across the 10 regions of Ghana changing the lives of millions of Ghanaians. We will continue to work with Orbis Africa to expand the delivery of child eye health services from the primary level through the referral system to the tertiary level through the strengthening of the existing health system specifically in four districts in the Ashanti Region."*

With the fundraising goal achieved, SiB will continue to fund eye health projects up until the end of 2020. After this point, Standard Chartered will support the fight against avoidable blindness and visual impairment through the Vision Catalyst Fund (VCF). Led by a group of private sector and philanthropic organisations, the VCF is an ambitious plan to establish a USD1 billion fund that will provide eye care to all people in the Commonwealth and around the world.

Seeing  
is Believing



15<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary

Standard  
Chartered



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- Ends -

**For more information or interview opportunities, please contact:**

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#### **Standard Chartered Bank Ghana Limited**

Standard Chartered Bank Ghana Limited is Ghana's premier bank established in 1896 with over 1000 employees. We are part of a leading international banking group, with presence in more than 60 of the world's most dynamic markets.

Our purpose is to drive commerce and prosperity through our unique diversity. Our heritage and values are expressed in our brand promise, Here for good.

The Bank is listed on the Ghana Stock Exchange and has been one of the leading stocks over a sustained period.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong Stock Exchanges as well as the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges in India.

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