

press release

Standard Chartered launches 8 eye vision centres in Bihar and Maharashtra

To cover 400,000 people under its Seeing is Believing project in 3 years

Patna, 12 May, 2017 – Standard Chartered Bank today opened eight vision centres in Bihar and Maharashtra as part of its **Seeing is Believing** project, a global initiative to tackle avoidable blindness and visual impairment. With this launch, the bank has taken the total tally of such centres across India to 120.

Honourable Member of Parliament Shri Shatrughan Sinha inaugurated these vision centres, which are located in Patna, Ara and Vaishali districts (Bihar) and in Latur, Nanded, Parbhani and Jalna districts (Maharashtra).

This project will be implemented in collaboration with Canadian NGO, Operation Eyesight Universal and its partner hospital Sri Sai Lions Nethralaya (Patna - Bihar); Udayagiri Lions Eye Hospital (Udgir - Maharashtra) and Shri Ganapathi Nethralaya (Jalna – Maharashtra).

The Bank has since 2003, invested more than USD10 million towards **Seeing is Believing** in India, which is an important market in the Bank's international footprint.

Ms. Zarin Daruwala, Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank, India, said, "Eye-care is a critical component of health care. By building eye-care capacity in the country, we are improving health systems and infrastructure. Through sustained investment and innovation, and by integrating **Seeing is Believing** projects within national health systems, we are extending the impact of the programme to many marginalised communities in India."

India has over 12 million blind people, the largest anywhere in the world; however 80% of blindness can be prevented through a simple cataract surgery or a pair of spectacles. In Bihar and Maharashtra, blindness is a significant public health problem because of the lack of infrastructure and poor health seeking behaviour of the populace.

These new vision centers will act as a hub for implementation of community eye health projects which will include a comprehensive door to door survey by women community eye health workers to identify those suffering from eye problems and provide them appropriate treatment at the base hospitals.

At the end of the three year project, it is anticipated that over 4,00,000 persons will be screened for potentially blinding conditions, over 6,500 will undergo sight-saving surgeries and over 5,500 will receive spectacles in the 7 districts covered under the project. *It is also estimated that at the end of the three year project, prevalence of blindness will be reduced from 1.47% to 0.3% (WHO and Vision 2020 India target) and over 200 villages will be declared avoidable blindness free.*

For further information please contact:

Rahul Virkar
Head - External Communications
Standard Chartered
022-61158632
rahul.virkar@sc.com

Note to Editors

Standard Chartered

We are a leading international banking group, with more than 80,000 employees and a 150-year history in some of the world's most dynamic markets. We bank the people and companies driving investment, trade and the creation of wealth across Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Our heritage and values are expressed in our brand promise, Here for good.

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

For more information please visit www.sc.com. Explore our insights and comment on our blog, [BeyondBorders](#). Follow Standard Chartered on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

Standard Chartered Bank India

Standard Chartered Bank is India's largest international bank with 100 branches in 43 cities, a combined customer base of around 2 million retail customers and around 2500 corporate and institutional relationships. Key client segments include Corporate & Institutional Banking, Commercial & Private Banking as well as Retail Banking.

For more information, visit <https://www.sc.com/in/>