

press release

Standard Chartered partners with Masvingo Province Eye Care Programme to restore eye sight to the under privileged

Employees aim to make a difference in the community under the Seeing is Believing initiative.

Chikombedzi, 9-13 June, 2013 – Standard Chartered Bank has partnered with Masvingo Eye Care Programme (MPECP) in tackling avoidable blindness. The Reformed Church in Zimbabwe, through its MPECP, based at Morgenster Mission, has been selected as an implementing partner of the Bank’s “Seeing is Believing” (SiB) programme to prevent and treat avoidable blindness in Zimbabwe. Seeing Is Believing is a global philanthropic initiative, which is dedicated .to tackling avoidable blindness. In Zimbabwe, it is estimated that at least 50% of blindness is due to cataracts, the most common cause of blindness and a condition which is wholly treatable through surgery.

SiB is a partnership between Standard Chartered Bank and the International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). Together with the World Health Organisation, SiB launched the ‘Vision 2020 – The Right to Sight’, a global campaign to eliminate avoidable blindness by 2020. Against this background, Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe decided to partner with Masvingo Eye Care Programme – to contribute towards this global goal.

Under the project, Standard Chartered Bank Zimbabwe has donated \$20,000 towards equipment and medical support at Morgenster Mission for 2013.

To mark this donation, an Eye Camp will take place in the Chikombedzi area, 100km from Chiredzi, from 9 – 13 June 2013. The sight restoration camp is being conducted by a team of eye specialists from Morgenster Mission as part of their outreach programme for the under-privileged. In addition to the monetary donation, Standard Chartered Bank staff members will also participate in the clinic under the Bank’s Employee Volunteering programme. Under the Bank’s Employee Volunteering programme, employees are encouraged to take three days paid leave a year to volunteer on projects aligned with Standard Chartered’s community and environmental programmes.

Commenting on the initiative, Ralph Watungwa, Chief Executive Officer said:

“Seeing is Believing is one of the Bank’s global initiatives that demonstrates our brand promise, to be Here for good. In Zimbabwe, we continue to maintain our long-standing commitment to the country, and this project is another demonstration of our dedication to our staff, and to the communities in which we operate. Every five seconds someone in the world goes blind. About 90% of blind people live in developing countries, where access to

affordable eye-care is limited. But, 80% of blindness can be treated or prevented, for example a cataract operation costs on average US250, We are proud to be contributing towards restoring the sight of our fellow Zimbabweans through the very good work of the Masvingo Eye Care Programme.”

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For more information or interview opportunities, please contact:

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Note to Editors:

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