

# press release

## Standard Chartered marks Africa Malaria Day through '*Nets for Life*'

**April 25, 2007, Accra** - Standard Chartered Bank today announced that over 200,000 Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLITNs) have been distributed in eight African countries since it embarked on its Africa-wide malaria prevention program called ***Nets for Life***, with the program's funding partners in April 2006.

Malaria remains the number one killer disease in Africa. In the past 15 years, more people have died from malaria than HIV/AIDS, and every 30 seconds an African child dies from the disease. There is no vaccine and none is expected in the foreseeable future. Protection against the disease is therefore very crucial in preventing its spread. The ***Nets for Life*** program aims to significantly reduce the impact of malaria in Africa, by distributing 1 million nets by the end of 2008 across 16 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in which the greatest number of malaria cases have been reported.

To date, the program has registered resounding success in all eight countries where it has been launched. A total of 200,000 LLITNS have been distributed to vulnerable people across Angola, Burundi, DR Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, Zambia. In addition, over 389,000 people have taken part in the accompanying awareness programs, learning about how the disease is spread and what can be done to protect the more vulnerable members of the community such as infants, pregnant women, the chronically ill, immuno-compromised individuals and the elderly. In 2007-2008, similar programs will be run in Botswana, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, and Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and a further 800,000 nets will be distributed.

Commenting on the program, Ebby Essoka, Standard Chartered CEO for Central and West Africa said:

“We are extremely proud of the *Nets for Life* program. This is our response towards Africa’s need for a sustainable program that checks the spread of a disease that is killing an African child every 30 seconds and which costs the continent over USD12 billion a year through lost GDP. We believe malaria is largely preventable, and we remain committed towards preventing the spread of the deadly disease.”

Earlier this year, Standard Chartered Ghana together with its *Nets for Life* partners, the Anglican Church, Exxon Mobil and the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation launched the program in Tamale through which they will be distributing 49,500 long-lasting Insecticide treated Nets (LLITNs) in the three regions in the north of the country. This effort represents a positive step in collaboration between the government and the private sector to control malaria and demonstrates the Bank’s commitment to supporting the communities in which it operates.

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## **Note to Editors:**

### **1. Standard Chartered – leading the way in Asia, Africa and the Middle East**

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is consistently ranked in the top 25 among FTSE-100 companies by market capitalisation.

Standard Chartered has a history of over 150 years in banking and is in many of the world's fastest-growing markets with an extensive global network of over 1,200 branches (including subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures) in over 50 countries in the Asia Pacific Region, South Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the United Kingdom and the Americas.

As one of the world's most international banks, Standard Chartered employs almost 50,000 people, representing over 90 nationalities, worldwide. This diversity lies at the heart of the Bank's values and supports the Bank's growth as the world increasingly becomes one market.

With strong organic growth supported by strategic alliances and acquisitions and driven by its strengths in the balance and diversity of its business, products, geography and people, Standard Chartered is well positioned in the emerging trade corridors of Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

Standard Chartered uniquely derives over 90 per cent of profits from Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Serving both Consumer and Wholesale Banking customers worldwide, the Bank combines deep local knowledge with global capability to offer a wide range of innovative products and services as well as award-winning solutions.

Trusted across its network for its standard of governance and corporate responsibility, Standard Chartered takes a long term view of the consequences of its actions to ensure that the Bank builds a sustainable business through social inclusion, environmental protection and good governance.

Standard Chartered is also committed to all its stakeholders by living its values in its approach towards managing its people, exceeding expectations of its customers, making a difference in communities and working with regulators.

For more information on Standard Chartered, please log on to [www.standardchartered.com](http://www.standardchartered.com)

### **2. Standard Chartered in Africa**

Standard Chartered is a market-leading financial services brand in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Bank has a network of over 140 branches and offices in 13 countries

– Botswana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.

It employs 4,800 people and has created over 700 new jobs as direct sales agents marketing its range of consumer banking products and services. Standard Chartered is the leading foreign bank, in terms of trading profit in most of these countries.

Its business operations in Africa continue to win several Banking Excellence awards each year from prestigious publications such as Euromoney, Trade Finance, Global Finance and Africa Investor. It has a very active community partnership program in place and had won several international awards for its philanthropic work in HIV/AIDS. A survey conducted by the Commonwealth Business Council in early 2005 of Standard Chartered's various community programs declared it as having the most effective community program run by the private sector. A report on these programs was published in early 2005.

In 2006, it rolled out the '*Nets for Life*' project across 16 countries in Africa in partnership with several charitable organizations. Spanning three years from 2006 until 2008, *Nets for Life* aims to distribute one million specially treated bed nets supported by educational programs to educate vulnerable communities in an effort to control the spread of malaria and improve fatalities related to the disease.

The Bank had also built schools for displaced children, constructed bore holes and wells to provide clean water to thousands in villages, equipped hospitals with medical instruments to save lives, provided financing to micro-finance companies in support of cottage industries and small businesses and launched consumer education programs as part of its aim to advocate financial literacy among its customers. These and many more initiatives are part of the Bank's commitment towards the communities that it operates in.

### **3. Standard Chartered in Ghana**

Standard Chartered is a market-leading financial services brand in Ghana. The Bank has been operating in Ghana for over 110 years and has a network of 21 ATMs, 21 branches and corporate offices throughout Ghana. It employs nearly 1000 people in Ghana, out of which a few dozens are on international assignments across Standard Chartered's global network. The Bank has also created over 270 new jobs as direct sales agents marketing its range of consumer banking products and services.

Standard Chartered is one of the leading foreign banks in terms of trading profit in the country. Its business operations in Ghana continue to win several Banking Excellence awards each year from prestigious bodies such as Euromoney, Global Finance, The Banker and Corporate Initiative Ghana. It has a very active community partnership program in place and has also won recognition for it. The Bank has won the Ghana Banking Awards 'Corporate Social Responsibility Award.' In 2004, the Bank's 100 wells for 100 communities community project which provided clean water to 100 villages was cited as best practice within the country as a standard for responsible business.

This year, it has rolled out the Standard Chartered – Ghana@50 Future Leaders Programme under which it is providing support to the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of Ghana's independence. This will be through the 'Rural Schools Desk' project under which it is distributing 5000 dual desks to 50 deprived schools Ghana-wide and *Nets for Life*, a malaria prevention initiative. *Nets for Life* aims to distribute 49,500 Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLITNs) supported by educational programs to vulnerable communities in an effort to control the spread of malaria and improve fatalities related to the disease in the three regions in the north of Ghana.

Through its Seeing is Believing initiative, it is, in partnership with Sightsavers International, undertaking a Comprehensive Eye care Program in the Eastern Region of Ghana. The project aims to undertake sight restoration for the curable blind, prevention of blindness through awareness creation and the distribution of Mectizan® and rehabilitation.

The Bank has also provided financing to micro-finance companies in support of cottage industries and small businesses and launched consumer education programs as part of its aim to advocate financial literacy among its stakeholders. These and many more initiatives are part of the Bank's commitment towards the Ghanaian communities we operate in.

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