

Headline	Bank pledges funds for 150 children with HIV		
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# Bank pledges funds for 150 children with HIV

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Standard Chartered Bank Bhd recently donated RM660,000 to the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) for 150 HIV-infected children.

Chief executive officer and managing director Osman Morad and Standard Chartered Trust Fund trustee Datuk Lim Say Chong signed an agreement to pledge the money for Standard Chartered Paediatric AIDS Fund (SCPAF) for 22 months.

MAF was represented by its chairman, Prof Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman, and honorary secretary Datin Mina Cheah.

The signing was witnessed by MAF Red Ribbon celebrity ambassador Dayang Nurfaizah Awang Dowty.

Morad said the aid would have a huge impact on the children's quality of life.

"The children still have positive attitudes amid being weakened by the disease."

He said when he joined the bank in the mid-1990s, cases of AIDS were emerging.

"It was a concern in Africa where the employees had loved ones affected by the disease," he said, adding that the bank operated in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. He said since then, initiatives on remedial efforts, awareness and community engagement were taken up by the bank to address this issue.

Dr Adeeba lauded Standard Chartered's commitment and looked forward to support-

ing the children with them.

"The children will receive RM200 monthly each for their livelihood," she said, encouraging more participation from corporate sectors to collaborate with the government and non-governmental organisations.

"Awareness, early intervention and proper treatment are important," she said, adding that by reducing diseases transmitted among spouses, it could lower the number of infection to children.

She said the medical cost for HIV-infected individuals ranged from RM200 to RM2,000 monthly.

Cheah, who is also SCPAF chairman, said MAF wanted HIV-infected children to be raised in a family environment.

"They need nutrition and supplements to lead a healthy life."

Cheah said due to the stigma against HIV-infected patients by society, some children had to travel far for treatment.

Dayang Nurfaizah hoped society could open their hearts to HIV-infected patients.

"Some extended family members refuse to take care of HIV-infected orphans," she said, adding that besides drug abusers and those in the sex industry, there were children and women being affected by AIDS.

"With MAF and the Malaysia AIDS Council, activities are held for education, empowerment of women and shelter homes occupants."



**"The children still have positive attitudes amid being weakened by the disease."**

**Osman Morad**  
Standard Chartered Bank  
Bhd chief executive officer and managing director