

Headline	Bank pledges RM660k for AIDS cause		
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Bank pledges RM660k for AIDS cause

Money will help children infected and affected by HIV

AS PART of its global commitment towards eradicating the spread and growth of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, Standard Chartered Bank has stepped up to help infected and affected children with an allocation of RM660,000.

Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad pledged financial aid to the Standard Chartered Paediatric AIDS Fund (SCPAF) to support children made orphaned or vulnerable by AIDS across Malaysia.

The programme was set up in collaboration with Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) and the Bank's foundation, Standard Chartered Trust Fund (SCTF).

At the signing ceremony, Standard Chartered managing director and chief executive officer Osman Morad who is also SCTF chairman said, "HIV and AIDS remains one of the greatest challenges to global health.

"With 33 million people affected, the response to children living with HIV/AIDS does not come close to matching the enormity of their rapidly expanding plight."

"Millions of children made vulnerable to HIV struggle to survive and even obtain the daily necessities essential to a child's development. In our determination to build a sustainable community and reduce the number of new infections, Standard Chartered is making a more immediate contribution to those suffering with the consequences of the disease.

"I'm pleased that we are working with MAF on yet another endeavour. Their dedication in responding to the epidemic mirrors our efforts in educating the community on and supporting children affected by HIV/AIDS," he added.

Echoing Morad, MAF chairman Prof

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Dr Adeeba Kamarulzaman said, "Children are among the most vulnerable group as the deadly disease has put them at risk physically, emotionally and economically."

Those infected with the virus – some undiagnosed and some unable to have access to treatments, resulted to many dying very young.

Even those who were not infected by living in affected families often grapple with poverty issues and were denied necessities critical for the child's physical, social or emotional well-being.

"Up to end December 2010, a total of 2,204 children from the age of two to 19 were infected with HIV, of which

486 were AIDS cases.

"This is where corporate citizens like Standard Chartered play a pivotal role in making a huge difference in the lives of these children through the SCPAF which will make a tremendous difference in relieving the families' burden," added Dr Adeeba.

Under the new agreement, 150 children below 13 years old from poor families will each receive RM200 a month to help with their medical treatment, education as well as basic expenses such as food and clothing. MAF will help identify and evaluate the eligibility of the children and households involved.

Signing for Standard Chartered

were Morad and SCTF trustee Datuk Lim Say Chong while MAF was represented by Dr Adeeba and honorary secretary and SCPAF Committee chairman Datin Mina Cheah.

The signing was witnessed by MAF's Red Ribbon Celebrity Supporters local songstress Dayang Nurfaizah who is an active champion of the HIV/AIDS cause.

SCPAF is one of the bank's initiatives to supporting local communities in the area of improving children's health; in addition to its global commitment to raising awareness on HIV and AIDS through its *Living with HIV* education programme.

For details, visit www.standard-chartered.com/sustainability

In our determination to build a sustainable community and reduce the number of new infections, Standard Chartered is making a more immediate contribution to those suffering with the consequences of the disease.

—OSMAN MORAD



Noble gesture: (From left) Mina, Dr Adeeba, Dayang, Osman and Lim after the signing ceremony.