New partnership between Stanbic Bank and UNOPS delivers COVID-19 test kits to Ghana Health Service

A total of $100,000 worth of test kits handed over delivered to support the Government of Ghana’s response to the pandemic.

Accra, Ghana; 08 June 2020 - UNOPS delivered 5,568 units of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test kit, 5,504 units of Nucleic acid (RNA) extraction kit, and an Autopure 32A-Nucleic Acid Purification System to the Ghana Health Service (GHS). Funded by Stanbic Bank Ghana, the $ 101,541 project is aimed at strengthening the government of Ghana’s effort at tracing, testing, treating and combating the spread of COVID-19 cases in the country.

The number of confirmed cases in Ghana has been continuously increasing across all the regions since authorities officially reported the country’s first COVID-19 case on 12 March 2020. To combat the spread of the virus, the government of Ghana, the Ministry of Health and the GHS have been engaging development partners and the private sector for support.

In response to this call to action and as part of its corporate social responsibility, Stanbic Bank committed to facilitating the provision of COVID-19 test kits for the GHS.

As one of the UN’s central resources for procurement, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) was requested by Stanbic Bank Ghana to procure COVID-19 test kits, its related accessories and an associated sample testing device for the GHS to improve its diagnostic capacity for COVID-19.

UNOPS will continue to support the government and its partners in facilitating procurement of goods and services in these crucial times.

This unique Public Private Partnership (PPP) shows that if there is a will, there is a way. In this respect, UNOPS and its UN sister agencies in Ghana have mobilized and are poised to support the Government of Ghana and its partners in their COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

The Director and Representative of UNOPS, Ms. Ifeoma Charles-Monwuba said “The global scale of the COVID-19 epidemic is having an unprecedented impact on the medical supply market. UNOPS is supporting partners across the globe to strategically reduce risk of the unstable market conditions and minimize the impact on procurement operations. We are excited about our partnership with Stanbic and with the opportunity to deploy our Emergency Procurement Procedures (EPP) which enabled us to quickly procure the test kits in support of the Ghana COVID response. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the government of Ghana and the private sector to support the response as well as the recovery plan.”
The Chief Executive of Stanbic Bank, Alhassan Andani, said “We are glad to be contributing towards curbing the spread of the virus with these test kits. Knowing the status of our citizens makes it possible to treat those who are infected and that is the surest way to control the pandemic. Covid-19 has strongly brought home the point that no one can succeed alone in times of distress. Ghana is our home and we believe in driving her growth and survival. That is why we have joined in this existential struggle. It is time to demonstrate our unity of purpose to achieve the common goal of combating the spread of the virus while not losing sight of our individual responsibility to stop the spread. As we tackle the challenge of critical supplies, the collective task is for each of us to be personally responsible for our health and that of the community.”

For his part, the Deputy Director General of the GHS, Dr Anthony Adofo Ofosu, noted that “Ghana Health Service is grateful to STANBIC Bank Ghana and UNOPS for supporting and improving the COVID-19 testing capacity of the Public Health Reference Laboratory in Korle-Bu.

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About Ghana Health Service
Ghana Health Service (GHS) is a Public Service body established under Act 525 of 1996 as required by the 1992 constitution. The mandate of the GHS is to provide and prudently manage comprehensive and accessible health service with special emphasis on primary health care at regional, district and sub-district levels in accordance with approved national policies. Read more: www.ghanhealthservice.org/

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