

Basic literacy skills: reading and writing enriches an individual's life and opens doors for several opportunities for skills development for economic stability. In view of this, Standard Chartered Bank Ghana PLC in partnership with United Way Ghana and with support from Ghana Library Authority launched the Reading Club project in four schools within the Ayawaso East Municipality. Beneficiary schools are the Kanda AMA Basic, Islamic Training Institute Basic, Kanda Estate 3 & 5, and the Ring Road Basic School under the theme "IMPROVING CHILDHOOD LITERACY". This project forms part of United Way Ghana's Improving Basic Education Project strategy which is ensuring that all children of school age are enrolled in school at the right age and have access to the required resources and engagements to promote lifelong learning. Ms. Angela Okai, Company Secretary, Standard Chartered Bank Ghana PLC launching the programme, said, "We believe that helping our children acquire reading skills at an early age will not only expand their vocabulary but build their self-confidence, make them creative and help them to acquire a habit of life-long learning. Beyond the children, we would also build the capacity of teachers, providing them with resources to enable them to support the children ensuring the sustainability of the project." After an assessment conducted by the team, it was discovered that only 40% of young learners could read and understand what they read. Key expected outcomes from this project is to have at least 80% of the young learners being able to read books at their class level and understand what they read by the end of 2023. The Reading Project will run for a period of 36 weeks, from February 20, 2023, to December 4, 2023. Activities such as teachers' capacity enhancement, assessments on young learners' literacy levels, and periodic literacy engagements with employees from the Bank, volunteers from the community, and class teachers have been outlined for the year. To ensure that all engagements are effective, the engaging schools will be provided with relevant literacy materials comprising age-appropriate books, literacy board games, jigsaw puzzles, Flash Cards and Chess Games.