



[www.sapghana.com](http://www.sapghana.com)

... for children with Specific Learning Difficulties

## Special Attention Project (SAP)

SAP envisions that all children with Specific Learning Difficulties in Ghana are included in mainstream education.

We spread information on learning difficulties; advocate for learning support for children with learning difficulties in mainstream schools; provide direct learning support and individualised interventions for children with learning difficulties; undertake research and training on Specific Learning Difficulties; and develop learning solutions to address the educational needs of children with learning difficulties.

# Annual Report 2018



Training teachers and educators to recognise learning difficulties early can help prevent abuse and discrimination against children with learning difficulties in classrooms.

# Thematic Area: Behaviour Change Communication

Objective: Increased Community Understanding about Children with Specific Learning Difficulties

Many parents find it difficult understanding the learning difficulties of their children. SAP's awareness raising campaign aims at providing adequate and instructive information on learning difficulties and inclusive education to help parents understand the learning problems of their children and provide them with the right support; help promote positive attitudes and behaviour change towards children with learning difficulties. When parents are equipped with adequate information on the rights of their children, they become effective advocates.

In 2018, SAP reached out to thousands of citizens through face-to-face and group interactions, media, website, newsletter, sharing of information materials and social media campaigns.



## Sensitisation of Parents

We sensitised about 8,000 parents on learning difficulties and inclusive education in 30 schools. The face-to-face sessions were conducted during parents and teachers association (PTA) religious groups and social meetings. Sessions equipped parents on how they could recognise symptoms of learning difficulties and the practical measures that parents could take to help children with learning difficulties to be able to learn better.

## Media Awareness

We sensitised thousands of people on learning difficulties and inclusive education through mainstream media and social media platforms.



## Formation of Self-Help Groups

We mobilised 30 parents of children with learning difficulties into three self-help groups. The objectives of the self-help groups are to bring the parents together to support each other and draw comfort from sharing their experiences; talk about their problems together and find solutions as a group; learn about services that are available to help their children; and work together to get the right educational support for their children in mainstream schools.

**Specific Learning Difficulties... learn more @ [www.sapghana.com](http://www.sapghana.com)**

### What is Dyslexia?

**Dyslexia affects development of reading skills.**

If your child has difficulties in reading but

- \* is intelligent,
  - \* can see and hear well, and
  - \* has been going to school like other children
- then he or she may have Dyslexia.

Imagine

### Living with Dyslexia

Read the following sentence:

**.əɒnətɪz zɪft bɔəri ɒt tɪʊɪtɪb ti bɪnɪ I**

Now, copy this sentence on a piece of paper (write from right to left).

How much effort and concentration did it take?

Imagine you would need this same amount of effort for everyday reading and writing, and still often get it wrong.

That's Dyslexia.



## Thematic Area: Inclusive Interventions

*Objective: Enhanced Capacity of Basic Schools to Internalise Systems and Mechanisms that Provide Learning Solutions for Children with Specific Learning Difficulties.*

SAP provides inclusive interventions for school children with learning difficulties to help prevent dropout. Some of these interventions include assessment and mapping of learning needs, homework support and special vacation classes for children with learning problems. SAP equips teachers and educators with resources and strategies and develops learning solutions to meet the needs of children with learning difficulties in regular schools. Through SAP's direct learning support, many children with learning difficulties received learning support to learn in mainstream schools.



### Assessment and mapping of learning needs

We conducted literacy test in reading and writing, maths, as well as behavioural and emotional problem test for 250 children. The assessment was carried out to determine whether any of the children show symptoms of learning difficulties or not. Children identified with learning difficulties received individualised learning support from SAP.

### Training of Teachers

We conducted training on learning difficulties, inclusive education and the use of phonics reading methodology for about 150 teachers. We equipped the teachers to recognise signs of learning difficulties in children and teaching strategies they can employ to help the children learn better.



### Training of Databank Volunteers

We partnered with the Databank Foundation to train 31 volunteers of the Foundation's Read Aid Literacy Programme. The volunteers, drawn from tertiary institutions in Ghana learned about how to recognise symptoms of learning difficulties; teaching strategies that can be used to teach children with learning difficulties; and using phonics reading methodology to teach children to help improve reading and writing skills.

### Vacation Classes

We organised a 6-week vacation classes for 40 school children. The children from different private and public schools were assessed for their learning problems. Individualised education plans were then developed for each child with the aim of aligning teaching with the learning needs of the child to enable him/her learn better.





# FonixGH

Learning to Read through Phonics and Everyday Words

We used FonixGH to help improve reading skills of children in our interventions. FonixGH teaches to read through phonics (letter sounds) and Akan vocabulary. Children learn to systematically tackle a word and blend the sounds to pronounce it. They practice this skill with words that are familiar to them. Some schools in Kumasi, Sunyani, Koforidua and Takoradi have started using the FonixGH methodology.

**Specific Learning Difficulties... learn more @ [www.sapghana.com](http://www.sapghana.com)**

**What is Dyscalculia? Dyscalculia affects development of skills in numbers and mathematics.**

If your child has difficulties in mathematics but is intelligent, can see and hear well, has been going to school like other children, and has no problems in reading, then he or she may have Dyscalculia.

Imagine

Living with Dyscalculia

$$8 + 13 = 12$$

$$12 - 3 = 10$$

$$19 + 1 = 110$$



Anything wrong?

For someone with Dyscalculia these answers may be perfectly correct. 8 plus 1 plus 3 makes 12, isn't it? And counting back three steps from 12 lands you at 10 (12-11-10). And is 9 plus 1 not 10? Imagine counting your money if you have Dyscalculia...

## Other Events in 2018

### SAP Presents at 2018 Philanthropy Forum

SAP's Project Director, Richard O. Opoku presented at the third edition of the National Philanthropy Forum and Awards held at the Accra International Conference Centre on 28 and 29 March, 2018. Mr. Opoku charged CSOs to actively engage citizens in the implementation of their development programmes. The two-day summit was under the theme: "The Role of the Third Sector (NGOs, CSOs) in Attaining National Development."



### SAP Re-launches Website

SAP launched the new face of its website in 2018. The new website stands out with customised information that meets the needs of our various audiences.

Visit [www.sapghana.com](http://www.sapghana.com) to know what we have for you. We will also love to receive your feedback on the new website.



### **SAP Builds Capacity on Support Mobilisation**

SAP participated in a 5-day training programme on Mobilising Support. It was organised by the West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) in collaboration with Change the Game Academy, and sought to strengthen capacities of NGOs to effectively engage in policy making and implementation.

### **SAP Educates School Girls on Study Skills**

SAP partnered with Smiling Hearts Foundation to organise training on mind mapping and study skills for 37 school girls. They were taught how to use the mind mapping to visualise how they learn, and how they can improve their learning and develop effective study skills. The girls were participants of the Adolescent Female Convention 2018 organised by the Smiling Hearts Foundation under the theme: "Experience the Change and Live It." Assessment was also conducted for 16 participants in efforts at identifying their learning problems and assisting them through individualised education interventions.



### **Accra Golden Lions Club Donates to SAP**

Accra Golden Lions Club in partnership with MTN Ghana Foundation and Promasidor Ghana donated items and cash to SAP. Education materials donated included 10 sets of desktop computers, children's footwear, soccer balls, food beverages and cash of GH¢20,000.00. The initiative which form part of the club's corporate social responsibility was to raise support to aid teaching and learning of Children with Learning

### **SAP Participates in GNAPS National Conference**

SAP joined heads of private schools, teachers and other education stakeholders to mark the Ghana National Association of Private Schools (GNAPS) 26<sup>th</sup> National Conference 2018 at the CCB Auditorium, KNUST in Kumasi. Under the theme: "Promoting a Reading Culture: The Key to the Information Age," the conference provided SAP the opportunity to network with participants, and share and exchange ideas with stakeholders about promoting quality education in Ghana.





### SAP Presents at AutismDTgh 2018

SAP delivered a presentation at the AutismDTgh 2018 to outline the various digital technological tools that SAP was utilising to enhance the work for children with learning difficulties. Mrs. Hannah Ackom-Mensah, a Doctorate student at the University of Cambridge, UK, convened the two-day Digital Technology Event and Exhibition in Accra to research ways in which digital technology can be used to enhance teaching and learning for children with autism and other special educational needs.

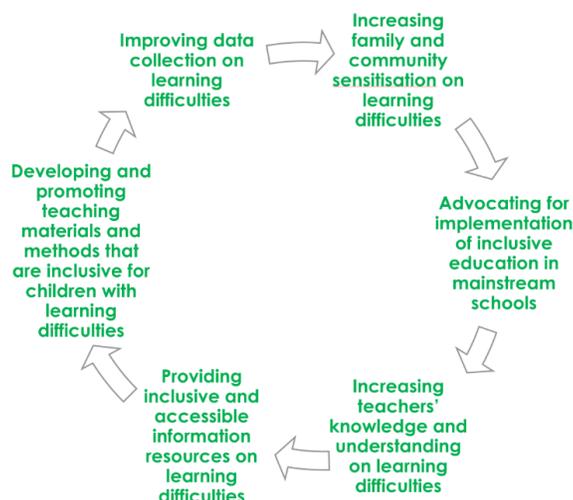
### SAP Goes Green!

At SAP, we do not only care for children with learning difficulties – we also care for the environment. We decided to reduce the amount of plastic waste we generate as an organisation, and we made two changes to our office operations: instead of purchasing bottles or water in sachets, we now have a water filter in the office. And lunch is no more purchased in polythene bags or disposable packs, but we rather use strong re-usable containers.



### SAP's New Strategic Plan 2019-2021

In 2018, SAP developed its Strategic Plan for the next three years which sets out creative solutions to critical challenges facing children with learning difficulties and their families in Ghana. We are seeking **funding partners** to create these solutions to help improve the lives of children with learning difficulties. Partner us if you believe in equal opportunities and access to quality and inclusive education for all children!



## Specific Learning Difficulties... learn more @ [www.sapghana.com](http://www.sapghana.com)

**Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) find it difficult to pay attention, to concentrate and to finish tasks.**

If your Child **\*cannot sustain attention for long and/or \*is over-active,**

cannot regulate his or her behaviour well, often does not finish tasks, shows these problems for a long time, shows these problems both at home and in school while other children of the same age behave differently, then he or she may have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

**Imagine Living with Hyperactivity**

Recall: that great football match that your team won. Or that party where you had the time of your life. Remember the excitement? The energy you had?



Imagine you always feel like that. Full of energy, moving, talking and laughing.

How would life be? Could you sit quietly for long?

**Imagine Living with Attention Deficit**

Stop reading. Close your eyes. What do you hear? What are the sounds from your environment? Imagine these sounds are much louder and they all need your attention. Would you be able to concentrate on any task?



Look at your screen. What do you see?

A blot, a scratch, an icon that you never really noticed before? How about anything or anybody moving beyond your screen? Imagine that every time you look at your screen you need to give attention to all these details. Would you be able to focus on anything?



## Call for Action: Speak Up!

Join SAP's action and add your voice towards the **full implementation of Ghana's Inclusive Education Policy**. The policy will help meet the needs of all children with Special Educational Needs including children with learning difficulties.

### SAP's Board of Advisors in 2018

- Mr. Hamidu Sulemana, Chairman
- Mr. Eugene Aihoon
- Mr. Bukari Mahammed
- Mrs. Josephine-Naana Baiden-Agyarko
- Mr. Bernard Boaheng
- Ms Alice Awuah
- Ms Margaretha Ubels
- Mr. Richard O. Opoku

We express our sincere appreciation to our cherished partners for their unflinching support and commitment in making a difference in the lives of children with learning difficulties. We are also very proud to be associated with all our corporate and individual donors. We say 'A very Big Thank You' to you all for your sustained commitment! A Special Thanks to the Management and Security Department of Kaneshie Market for their continued support and cooperation for the Children's Centre.

### Our Partners in 2018



**Our Individual Donors contributed greatly to our success in 2018:**

**Thank You to Georgina, Elizabeth, Alexa, Varinder, Hugo, Rockson!**

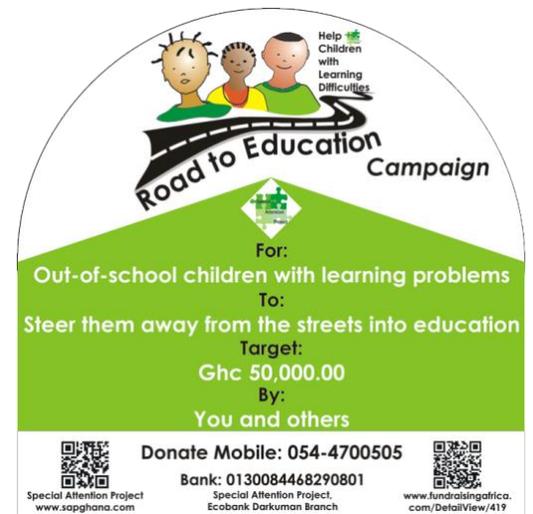
### Our Media Partners in 2018



**Support SAP's "Road to Education Campaign":**

**Mobile wallet: 054-4700505**

**A/C: 0130084468290801, Special Attention Project,  
Ecobank, Darkuman Branch, Accra**



Help Children with Learning Difficulties

**Road to Education Campaign**

For:  
Out-of-school children with learning problems

To:  
Steer them away from the streets into education

Target:  
Ghc 50,000.00

By:  
You and others

Donate Mobile: 054-4700505

Bank: 0130084468290801

Special Attention Project  
Ecobank Darkuman Branch

Special Attention Project  
www.sapghana.com

www.fundraisingafrica.com/DetailView/419

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*SAP is a registered Non Governmental Organisation (not for profit), registered with the Registrar General of Ghana, number CG005292016 since 9th August 2007; recognised by the Department of Social Welfare, registration number DSW/3484; and recognised by the Ghana Education Service as an Organisation of Special Needs Education in Ghana, number SpED/GES/CR/0002.*