



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 2019



SAP's Project Manager, Mr. Richard O. Opoku (*1st right*) took Dyslexia awareness beyond the shores of Ghana to Nigeria. In recognition of SAP's dedicated services to Dyslexic children, Mr. Opoku was invited as a panelist during the First Annual Africa Dyslexia Dialogue, held in November 2019 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Lagos, Nigeria.

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 and community members

We sensitised about 9,928 parents on learning difficulties and inclusive education in 53 meetings. The face-to-face sessions were conducted during parent-teacher association (PTA), religious and other social group 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 continued capacity building programme for our three self-help groups, comprising 30 parents of children with learning difficulties. The self-help groups bring 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

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:

.əɹɔtɒɹɔz zɪɪt bɔɹɔ tɔ ɹɔdɪtɪbɪt ɪ bɹɪt l

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 300 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 and teacher trainees

We conducted training on learning difficulties, inclusive education and the use of phonics reading methodology for about 350 teachers and teacher trainees. 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 28 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 35 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. The classes focused on developing pupils' competencies in literacy, numeracy and ICT.





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

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 2019



SAP's Project Manager speaks on Dyslexia in Nigeria

In recognition of SAP's extensive work in the area of Dyslexia identification and support in Ghana, the organisation's Project Director, Mr. Richard O. Opoku was invited as a panelist at the First Annual Africa Dyslexia Dialogue, held in November 2019 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Lagos, Nigeria. The dialogue was organised by [Dyslexia Nigeria](http://DyslexiaNigeria.com) under the theme: "Unmasking Dyslexia." It was aimed at raising awareness about Dyslexia and calling on national governments to prioritise inclusive education.

SAP presents at AutismDTgh 2019

SAP's Project Director, Richard O. Opoku presented at the [Autism and Digital Technology Event and Exhibition \(AutismDTgh\)](http://AutismDTgh.com) 2019 held in Accra. Speaking on "Awareness and Recognition of Children with Disabilities", the Project Director expressed worry about the low level of awareness on children with disabilities in Ghana. "As organisations, there's therefore, the need for us to intensify our awareness raising campaigns by utilising the number of information sharing platforms available to us", Mr. Opoku appealed.





STAR Ghana, Ghana Philanthropy Forum Stakeholder Dialogue
SAP's Project Director, Mr. Richard O. Opoku was a panelist at a two-day Stakeholder Dialogue held in December 2019. The dialogue organised by the [STAR Ghana Foundation](#) and the [Ghana Philanthropy Forum](#) was part of the National Giving Week celebrations in December. Discussions focused on the ongoing NGO Bill Formulation Process which provided the opportunity for CSOs/NGOs to make inputs in refining the NGO Bill. There were also discussions on local giving trends and the realities of fundraising and NGO/CSO sustainability in Ghana.

SAP among WACSI/STAR-Ghana 20 Sustainability Champions

SAP was named one of the 20 NGOs across Ghana selected for the [West Africa Civil Society Institute \(WACSI\)](#) and [STAR-Ghana Foundation](#) Sustainability Fellowship. The 20 Fellows were shortlisted from 60 NGOs which participated in three workshops. SAP's inclusion in the top 20 NGOs was based on its commitment to organisational sustainability, implementation of sustainability strategies, and mandate, as well as gender and inclusive sensitivity.



SAP participates in SEND Ghana/UNICEF Ghana Forum

SAP participated in the Annual Sectoral Forum on the 2020 National Budget Statement and Economic Policy presented by the Minister for Finance. The event was organised by [SEND Ghana](#) in partnership with [UNICEF Ghana](#). Following the presentation on the 2020 Education Budget Analysis, a call was made on the government to prioritise sustainable funding for inclusive education. This followed the revelation that despite significant financial commitments to Ghana's education sector, inclusive education remains the most neglected sub-sector.



SAP at 2019 Ghana NGO Forum

As a child-focused organisation, SAP is keenly interested in gatherings that promote and advance children's rights. In line with this, SAP joined other CSOs in Ghana to participate in the 2019 Ghana NGO Forum held at the University of Ghana, Legon. The event was organised by [OAfrica](#) in collaboration with the Department of Children, under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection with support from the European Union. It was under the theme: *"Preventing Child Neglect: Whose Responsibility?"*



SAP partners with Ashesi University Leo Club

SAP partnered with Ashesi University Leo Club to carry out an outreach programme to sensitise church members on learning difficulties and inclusive education at Berekuso in the Akuapem South District of the Eastern Region. About 70 church members from the Christ Apostolic Church and Christ Reigning Church received education on how to recognise symptoms of learning difficulties in children and the practical measures they could take to help children with learning difficulties to learn.

SAP at United Way Ghana's Nyansapo Literacy Project Launch

SAP joined United Way Ghana at the launch of the Nyansapo Literacy Project at the Ayebeng Memorial Primary School in Kotobabi, Accra. The project seeks to increase the literacy levels of pupils through reading and writing sessions to be led by trained volunteers each week.



SAP educates school girls on study skills

SAP partnered with the Smiling Hearts Foundation to educate 40 school girls who were participants of the 2019 Adolescent Female Convention. The convention which is an annual event organised by Smiling Hearts Foundation was held at the Pentecost Convention Centre, Nyanyano-Kasoa. The school girls benefited from practical learning tips in reading and writing, as well as maths. They were taught how to use flashcards to study maths, and mind mapping to visualise how they learn, and how they can improve their learning skills.

SAP participates in launch of CSOs Shadow Report

SAP participated in the launch of the CSOs Voluntary National Review Shadow Report on SDG's at Coconut Grove Hotel, Accra. The report recommended that all stakeholders, including CSOs and the government should work together to step up public education, improve coordination and do all they could to ensure the SDG's were achieved. The assessment of the 61 paged report on the implementation of the SDG's was presented to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in USA, a week after the launch in Accra.



Exhibition at Edify Ghana and Global Teachers' Conferences

SAP was exhibitor at [Edify Ghana](#) and [Global Teachers' Conferences](#), all held in Accra. SAP mounted stands to showcase the organisation's reading and information materials and sensitised participants on learning difficulties. SAP's participation in the conferences was also aimed at improving visibility. It provided a platform for SAP to share and exchange ideas, and networked with school owners and teachers who participated in the conferences.

SAP celebrates with Chance for Children

SAP joined the children and staff of [Chance for Children \(CfC\)](#) to celebrate CfC's 20 years of providing home to vulnerable children on the streets. SAP participated in a tree planting exercise to mark the event. We congratulate CfC on this significant milestone and look forward to collaborating with them to promote the rights of children in Ghana.



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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 2019

- Mr. Raymond Luguzuri, Chairman
- Mrs. Josephine-Naana Baiden-Agyarko
- Ms. Alice Awuah
- Mrs. Ellen Awo Ochere
- Ms. Margaretha Ubels
- Mr. Richard O. Opoku
- Mrs. Ajara Amadu

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 2019



Our Individual Donors contributed greatly to our success in 2019:

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

Our Media Partners in 2019



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
www.sapghana.com

Special Attention Project,
Ecobank Darkuman Branch

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.