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Spring-UP Scroll

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SUGN Strengthens Ties with Ghana Commission for UNESCO

Spring-UP Global Network (SUGN) paid a courtesy call on the Ghana Commission for UNESCO to formally welcome the new Secretary-General, Dr. Osman D. Tahidu, and reinforce its commitment to collaborative efforts in advancing education in Ghana. The meeting served as a platform to brief the Commission on SUGN's key programme areas and explore avenues for deeper partnership.

During the meeting, Executive Director, Akorfa Ama Akoto, presented updates on our flagship initiative, the iRead iLead Campaign. Since its launch in 2020, this campaign has: Established 10 libraries across five regions, stocked over 10,000 books, primarily by African authors, and positively impacted more than 24,000 children in the first year of impact.

We also discussed the second phase of the campaign, which will focus on nurturing creative writing and making Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education more accessible and engaging through activity-based literature and hands-on STEM learning at the pre-tertiary level.

The Commission praised our efforts and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting innovative educational initiatives in Ghana and beyond.

In attendance were Dr. Naazia Ibrahim (Deputy Secretary-General, Gen. Operations, NatCom), Moses Gemeh (Programme Officer-Education, NatCom), Eric Kwesi Oppong (Lead, Partnerships and Fundraising, SUGN), Benedicta Owusu (Administrative Officer, SUGN), and Zachariah Bandiibu (Finance Lead, SUGN).

This meeting marks a renewed commitment to building a future where every child has the tools to read, lead, and innovate.

SUGN Engages 533 BECE Candidates at Kwashieman Cluster of Schools

On Friday, 30th May 2025, the Spring-UP Global Network team visited the Kwashieman Cluster of Schools as part of our Mentor Me Programme (Spring-UP MMP), a dynamic school outreach initiative designed to connect pre-tertiary students with professionals, tertiary students, and industry leaders.

We had the privilege of engaging in meaningful conversations with 533 Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE) candidates, listening to their dreams, answering their questions, and encouraging them to believe in their potential.



One such moment came when Ama, a bright-eyed student, shared her dream of attending Mfantseman Girls' Senior High School and becoming a chartered accountant. Her face lit up when she met a chartered accountant on our team, an alumna of Mfantseman. That connection, that spark of recognition and possibility, is exactly why we do what we do.

As part of our support, we also donated 120 math sets to aid the students in their exam preparation. It's a small gesture, but one we hope will make a big difference.

This outreach is grounded in a larger mission. While the global demand for STEM careers continues to rise, Ghana's Education Strategic Plan (ESP 2018–2030) reveals that only 12% of Senior High School students enroll in science disciplines. Through mentorship, career awareness, and personalized guidance, we aim to change that narrative, one student at a time.



SUGN Joins Africa's Changemakers at 2025 Nonprofit Summit

On 13th May 2025, the Executive Director of Spring-UP Global Network, Akorfa Ama Akoto, and Elkanah Tieha Zingsong, a Student Ambassador and BSc. Physiotherapy student at the University of Health and Allied Sciences, proudly represented SUGN at the Africa Nonprofit Summit 2025 held at the ISSER Conference Hall, University of Ghana.

The summit was organized under the theme “Advancing Nonprofits: Innovation and Action for Greater Impact,” and was attended by over 250 nonprofit leaders, innovators, and stakeholders from across the continent who came together to explore bold ideas and collaborative solutions for sustainable development.

Participants engaged in a series of thought-provoking sessions and panel discussions, including:

- Organisational Compliance – featuring insights from the Office of the Registrar of Companies, SSNIT, and the Ghana Revenue Authority.
- CSR Policies & Requirements – led by Naa Dzadzama Quao of PwC Ghana, offering practical strategies for nonprofit sustainability.
- Networking Carousel – a dynamic session that fostered collaboration and partnership-building among organizations.

Akorfa Ama Akoto and Elkanah Tieha Zingsong actively participated in the summit's discussions, sharing SUGN's commitment to youth empowerment, mentorship, and educational equity. Their presence underscored the importance of youth voices and grassroots innovation in shaping Africa's nonprofit future.

“A year ago, I joined this summit as a panelist. This year, I'm back to deepen collaborations with the incredible nonprofits represented here. It's been a full day of insightful conversations and impactful training,” said Akorfa Ama Akoto.

Spring-UP Global Network remains committed to the continuous professional development of our volunteers as well as leveraging platforms like the Africa Nonprofit Summit to amplify its impact, build strategic partnerships, and continue empowering the next generation of changemakers.

The Africa Nonprofit Summit 2025, organised by the National Consortium for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO Ghana) and the Partnership Bureau supported with other partners.



Monitoring visit to Aburi Cluster of Schools Library



On Tuesday, 27th May 2025, our team visited the Aburi PWCE Demonstration School as part of our ongoing efforts to support and monitor the Aburi Cluster of Schools' library.

The purpose of the visit was twofold: to assess how the library is being utilized and to engage in discussions with key stakeholders, including the SISO, headteachers, and librarians.

This visit provided valuable insights into the current usage of the library and highlighted areas for continued support and improvement.

Commissioned in May 2024 under the Deloitte WorldClass initiative, the Aburi Cluster of Schools library is a shared resource for ten schools in the cluster. It is stocked with over 1,000 books, staffed by two librarians, and in its first year alone, it served 3,394 students.

“One of the most valuable things we've experienced from your team is your commitment to continuous engagement. From the outset, you've collaborated closely with us to develop this library, consistently seeking feedback and offering thoughtful guidance on its management and use. This level of dedication truly reflects your drive to create a meaningful impact. We're grateful for the partnership and look forward to continuing this journey together.”

SISO, Aburi Circuit



Volunteer Spotlight: Philippah Sampson

In May 2025, Philippah Sampson stepped into the role of Lead, People and Culture at Spring-UP Global Network (SUGN), bringing with her a wealth of HR experience, a deep passion for youth development, and a deep commitment to volunteerism.

Though currently serving in an Executive Support role at her full-time job, Philippah's heart remains firmly rooted in the world of Human Resources.

"I applied for this volunteer role because it allows me to remain active and relevant in the HR space, continue learning, and sharpen my skills," she shares. "I've successfully volunteered in a similar capacity before while working full-time, and I'm confident I can manage this role without any conflict of interest."

Philippah's journey reflects her dedication to people-centered leadership. With a strong academic foundation, including a Master's in Management and Human Resource Strategy from KNUST and currently pursuing certification with the Chartered Institute of Human Resource Management, she brings both expertise and empathy to her new role.

She also believes in creating space for growth and learning:

"I'd love to see volunteers lead sessions or discussions on topics relevant to our work. It's a great way to build skills, confidence, and community."



Philippah is also keen on building a culture of open communication:

"Regular check-ins and feedback sessions monthly or quarterly can help volunteers feel heard, supported, and connected."

Her motivation is clear:

"This opportunity allows me to contribute meaningfully to the growth and wellbeing of volunteers, which is essential for sustaining the impact of SUGN's mission. I'm passionate about using my HR skills to support a cause that promotes literacy and youth development."

With her proactive mindset, strong sense of responsibility, and genuine passion for people, Philippah is poised to make a lasting impact at SUGN.

"I believe in building a culture where volunteers feel valued, empowered, and inspired. That's how we sustain impact, and that's what I'm here to do."

Monitoring Visit to Osu Cluster of Schools Library

As part of its ongoing commitment to educational development, Spring-UP Global Network (SUGN) recently visited the Osu Cluster of Schools to monitor the usage and impact of the school library commissioned in November 2022.

This visit is one of several monitoring engagements under the iRead iLead Educational Campaign, aimed at ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of refurbished libraries across Ghana.

During the visit, the SUGN team met with the School Improvement Support Officer (SISO) for the circuit and the school librarian to gather feedback on the library's usage and its influence on student learning.

The discussions highlighted the positive outcomes since the library's inauguration, including increased student engagement and improved reading habits.

SUGN also took the opportunity to brief school leadership on the progress of the upcoming LitSTEM Programme, the second phase of the iRead iLead Campaign.

This new initiative will integrate activity-based learning in Literature and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) to further enrich the educational experience of students.

The SISO commended SUGN for its consistent follow-up and collaboration with the school since the library's handover, emphasizing the importance of such partnerships in driving educational improvement.

The Osu Cluster of Schools library was officially commissioned on Thursday, 17th November 2022, through a partnership between Deloitte and Spring-UP Global Network under the Deloitte WorldClass Initiative. It is the first of eight school libraries under the initiative.



Behind the Shelves: A Librarian's Daily Journey

Featuring Theresa Afua Duah- Librarian, Aburi Cluster of Schools

Library

When Theresa received her National Service posting to the Aburi Cluster of Schools, she had no idea it would lead her to a role that perfectly aligned with her passion for books and education.

“After graduating from the Accra College of Education, I was posted to Aburi PWCE Demonstration School for my National Service. As a book lover, I was thrilled to discover such a well-resourced and colorful library. After completing my NSS registration and speaking with the Head of School, I was assigned to the library as one of two librarians.”

From her very first day, Theresa has played a vital role in helping students make the most of the library. She works closely with class teachers to ensure students follow the library schedule and rules.

“Each class has a library period on its timetable. When it's time, you'll see the students trooping in with excitement. The most popular books are the *Pacesetters* and *Mills & Boon* collections.”

Theresa, who majored in Early Childhood Education, strongly believes in the **Spring-UP Global Network (SUGN)** model of nurturing literacy through the **iRead iLead Campaign**.

“I believe SUGN is a key organization contributing to achieving of **UN Sustainable Development Goal 4** in Ghana. I'm especially grateful to **Deloitte** for funding this project and making this library a reality for us here in Aburi.”

Having attended schools without libraries herself, Theresa sees the library as a game-changer.

“These children are very fortunate. Growing up, we relied solely on textbooks. This library has transformed teaching and learning. Students now have access to a wide range of books, and even teachers come here to research topics, especially from the STEM section.”

Theresa collaborates with the senior librarian daily to organize books and coordinate class visits. She ensures that every child makes the most of their one-hour library period.

“What drives me every day is knowing that I'm helping children discover the joy of reading and learning something I didn't have growing up.”



Alumni Spotlight: Benedict Kofi Amofah

At Spring-UP Global Network, we celebrate alumni who not only excel in their fields but also embody the spirit of service. One such individual is Benedict Kofi Amofah, a dedicated volunteer, geospatial enthusiast, and proud alumnus of our network.

Benedict served with Spring-UP Global Network in 2022, during his time as a student at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), where he earned a BSc in Geomatic Engineering.

His commitment to community development was evident in his active support of the Konongo Cluster of Schools Library Project, where he contributed to creating a space for learning and literacy in underserved communities.

When asked about his motivation for volunteering, Benedict shared:

“I’ve always believed that education is the most powerful tool for change. Volunteering with Spring-UP gave me the opportunity to be part of something bigger than myself, to help others access the resources and mentorship I was fortunate to receive.”

His time with Spring-UP not only allowed him to give back but also helped him grow.

“It sharpened my leadership and communication skills and deepened my passion for using technology to solve real-world problems,” he reflects.



Today, Benedict is a rising expert in Geospatial Technologies, with research interests spanning:

- GIS and Remote Sensing
- Photogrammetry and Drone/LiDAR Applications
- WebGIS and GeoVisualization
- Precision Agriculture
- Urban Planning and Environmental Sustainability

His undergraduate research, “Monitoring the Impact of Urbanization on Urban Heat Islands through Google Earth Engine,” showcased his ability to blend technical skill with social impact.

We are proud to spotlight Benedict as a shining example of what it means to Spring-UP and give back. His journey reminds us that when young people are empowered, they don’t just succeed, they uplift others along the way.

Spring-UP Global Network

Empowering children through education and mentorship



Important Events

What: International Literacy Day 2025 & Back-To-School Drive

When: September/October 2025

Where: Central and Volta Regions



Support a child with school supplies this academic year. Be the reason a child walks into school prepared. Donate today.

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