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UNESCO ASPnet ASSOCIATIONS & CLUBS NEWSLETTER

2ND EDITION



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Acronym

1. UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
2. ASPnet – Associated Schools Project Network
3. SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals
4. UN – United Nations
5. Ghana Natcom – Ghana National Commission
6. M/A – Municipal Assembly
7. D/A – District Assembly
8. ADHD – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
9. ASD – Autism Spectrum Disorder
10. NVLD – Non-verbal Learning Disability
11. EBD – Emotional and Behavioral Disorder
12. ID – Intellectual Disability
13. KNUST – Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
14. NGO – Non-governmental Organisation
15. KOICA – Korea International Cooperation Agency

Editorial Feature

Dear partners, ASPnet Members, and Clubs,

Do you know what notable progress Ghana has made, and what challenges the country still faces in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations General Assembly as part of the 2030 Agenda?

Warmest greetings on the second issue of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) and Clubs Newsletter.

In this edition, we highlight Ghana's progress and challenges in advancing the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, promote inclusion, and combat climate change. This analysis is drawn from the 2024 Sustainable Development Report, which has tracked annual progress on the SDGs since their adoption by the 193 UN Member States in 2015. The data for Ghana covers the period from 2016 to 2024.

While achieving these goals is a global challenge, real progress happens at the local level through the dedication of governments, citizens, organizations, and, of course, our ASPnet members and Clubs for UNESCO. It is, therefore, essential to examine Ghana's trends to provide you with the necessary insights and tools to better guide your actions in schools.

The 2024 SDG report (Sach et al 2024)

offers a clear overview of Ghana's successes and upcoming challenges (<https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings>).

Ranked 117 out of 167 countries, Ghana has demonstrated notable progress in key areas. Among the SDGs where the country is on track for 2030, SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) is considered achieved, while SDG 13 (Climate Action) still faces challenges. These improvements reflect the Ghanaian government's commitment to sustainability, particularly through investments in renewable energy and improved resource management. Moderate progress has also been observed in critical areas such as SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). However, significant challenges remain. For instance, lower secondary school completion rates (SDG 4) were a major concern in 2019, making it crucial to assess current progress. Similarly, access to clean fuels and cooking technologies (SDG 7) remains limited, with only 30.3% of the

population benefiting from it as of 2021.

Despite these advancements, Ghana still faces major challenges in meeting certain SDGs. Key concerns include SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), where progress has stagnated. Deforestation and inadequate protection of marine biodiversity pose severe risks to Ghana’s environment, hindering SDG 15 (Life on Land). Governance and institutional challenges further complicate the achievement of SDG 16. Other structural issues persist, particularly in food security (SDG 2), health infrastructure (SDG 3), where maternal and infant mortality rates remain high, and access to clean water and waste management (SDG 6). These gaps directly affect the health and learning abilities of children in Ghana, slowing progress toward several other SDGs.

In this context, ASPnet schools and clubs play a crucial role in raising awareness and engaging younger generations in intercultural dialogue, peace promotion, health and well-being, and climate stewardship. Below, we highlight specific activities already implemented by UNESCO ASPnet schools and Clubs in these areas.

Additionally, the results of the SDG scorecard highlight key areas where ASPnet’s future efforts should be concentrated. We strongly encourage religious organisation, NGOs, and other civil society organizations in Ghana to collaborate with UNESCO Associated Schools and Clubs in driving progress on the SDGs, particularly where major challenges persist, such as SDG 1, SDG 5, and SDG 16.

Together, we can explore innovative approaches to accelerate progress toward the 2030 Agenda, ensuring a prosperous and sustainable future for all citizens of Ghana.

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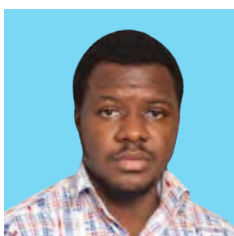
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About UNESCO Associated Schools Network and Clubs in Ghana

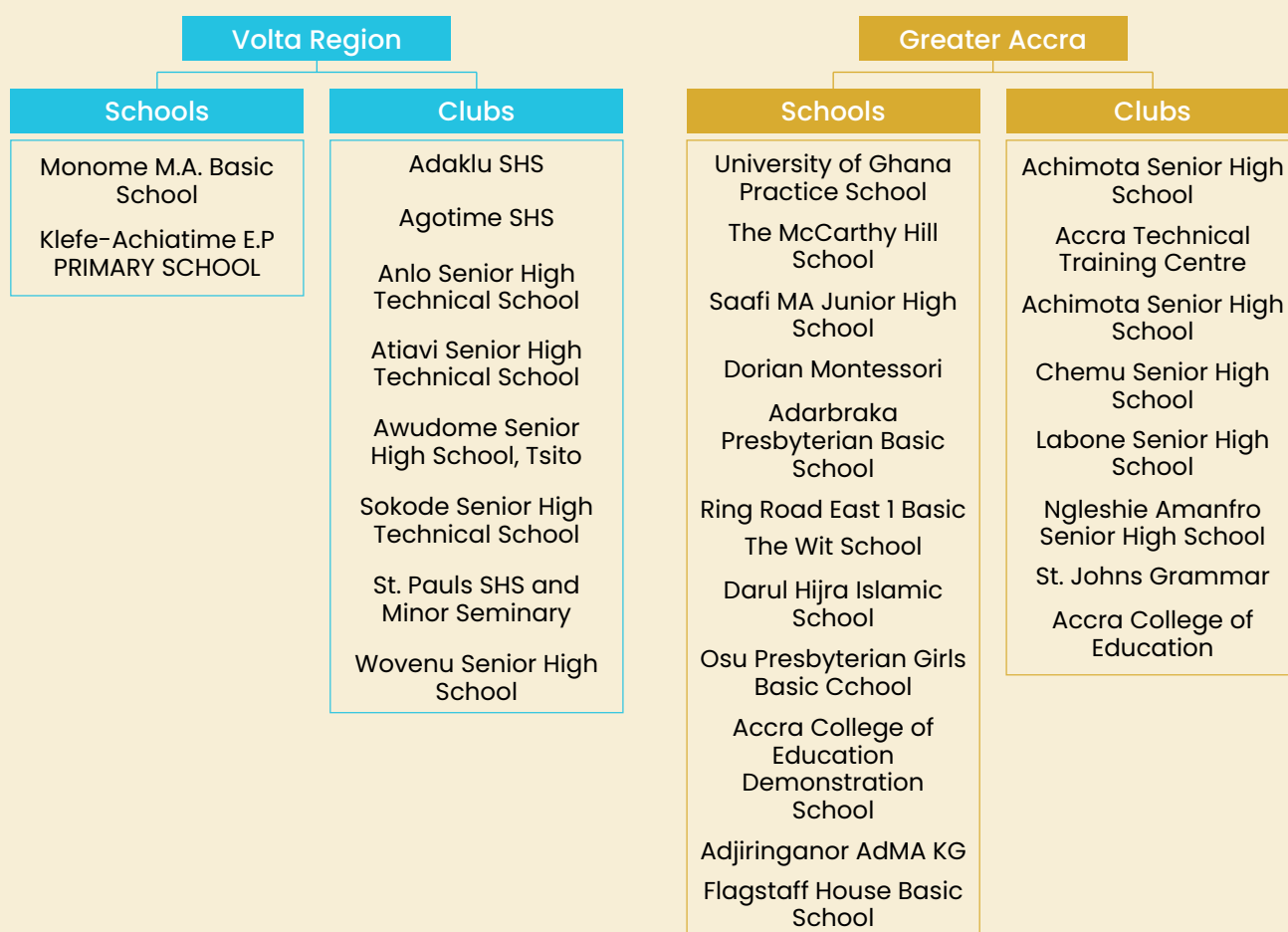
The UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) is a global initiative founded in 1953, dedicated to driving transformative education for more peaceful and sustainable futures. It connects over 3.5 million students, teachers, principals, and broader school communities across more than 12,000 schools in 182 countries worldwide.

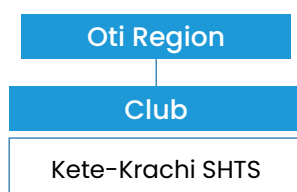
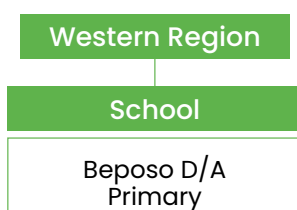
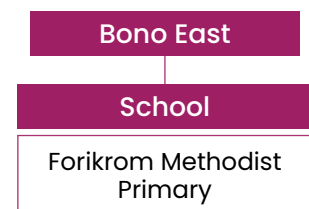
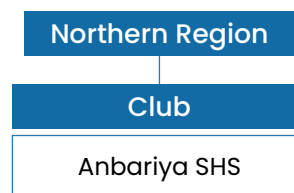
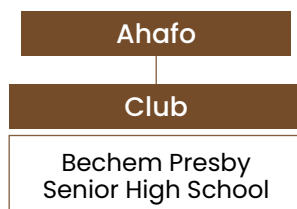
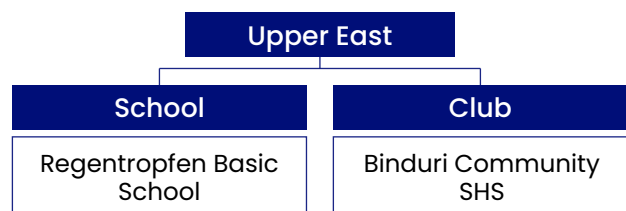
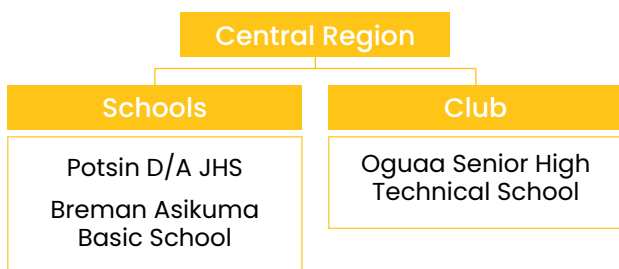
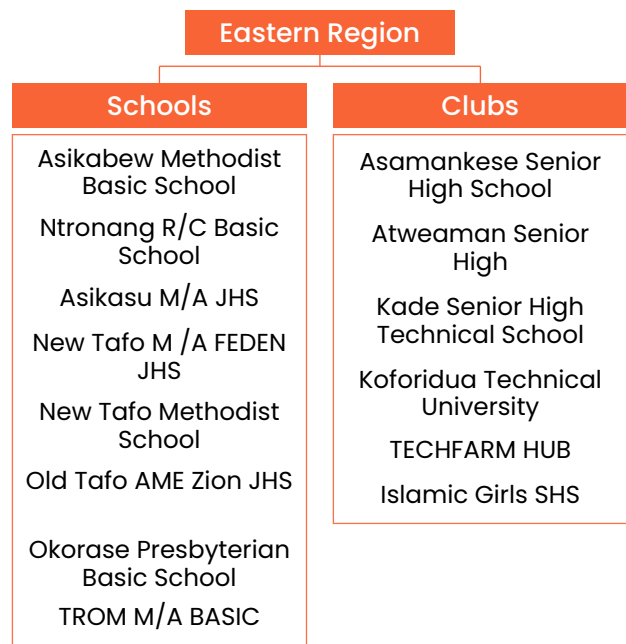
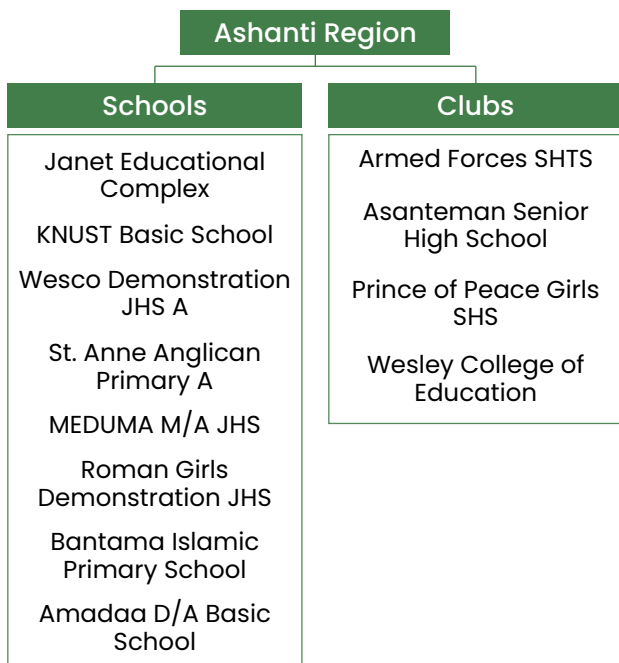
Ghana's Associated Schools Network has been in existence since 1987 and is

coordinated by Ghana Natcom in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service. The network consists of approximately 60 learning institutions, ranging from kindergartens to junior high schools.

Additionally, Clubs for UNESCO, composed of members from diverse backgrounds and age groups, undertake projects inspired by UNESCO's principles of sharing, solidarity, and exchange.

Member Schools & Clubs in Ghana





Highlights of School Initiatives and Activities

The activities and initiatives presented here fall into four key categories, which form the foundation of the UNESCO Associated Schools and Clubs Network: **Intercultural Dialogue, Promotion of Peace, Health and Well-being, and Climate Stewardship.**

Intercultural Dialogue

Intercultural dialogue involves the exchange of ideas and perspectives to foster a deeper understanding of different cultures and traditions. This helps to promote social cohesion and create an environment conducive to sustainable development.

Promotion of UNESCO's Ideals through the Celebration of Ghana's Independence Day – 6th March 2024



On 5th March 2024, UNESCO's ASPnet and Club schools, including The McCarthy Hill School, The WIT School, Westside Educational Complex, Trom M/A Basic School, New Tafo M/A Feden JHS, Akim Old Tafo AME Zion JHS, and Labone Senior High School, hosted their annual Cultural Day in anticipation of Ghana's Independence Day celebrations.

The event was filled with patriotism and cultural vibrancy as students

showcased Ghana's diverse cultural heritage. A series of performances reflected the unique traditions of different regions. Students adorned colorful costumes and performed traditional dances such as Adowa, Kpanlogo, Damba, and Agbadza, captivating audiences with their energetic steps and rhythmic movements. The celebration also featured melodious renditions of regional folk songs, transporting attendees to different parts of the country through music and storytelling.

A major highlight of the event was a vibrant fashion show, where students proudly displayed traditional attire from Ghana's 16 regions. Their dazzling outfits, adorned with intricate beads, slippers, and embellishments, reflected the rich cultural heritage of the nation. Their confident strides and radiant smiles exemplified national pride.

The festivities culminated in a Food Buffet, offering a delightful culinary journey across Ghana. The aroma of local delicacies such as fufu and light



soup, omotuo and groundnut soup, akpele, waakye, ampesi with kontomire, banku with okro stew, tubani, wasawasa, tuo zaafi, kenkey with fried fish, eto, sobolo, brukina, kube cake, and zowe filled the air, enticing everyone’s taste buds.

As the event concluded, a profound sense of unity and appreciation for Ghana’s diverse cultural heritage resonated among students, teachers, and attendees, reinforcing the importance of cultural preservation and national identity.



KNUST Primary School Celebrates African Union (AU) Day



AU Day, also known as Africa Union Day, is celebrated across the continent with various events, cultural performances, and discussions about Africa’s future. This day highlights the importance of unity among African nations.

On May 25, 2024, KNUST Basic School in the Ashanti Region commemorated AU Day to mark the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, which later became the African Union in 2002. The theme for the 2024 AU Day was “Educate an African Fit for the 21st Century: Building Resilient Education Systems for Increased Access to Inclusive, Lifelong, Quality, and Relevant Learning in Africa.” The celebration aimed to educate students on the significance of the AU and its impact on Ghana and the continent.

KNUST Basic School takes pride in its inclusive education approach, supporting over 60 special needs students with conditions such as ADHD, ASD, NVLD, EBD, and ID. This commitment aligns perfectly with this year’s theme, emphasizing quality and inclusive education for all.

The school was honored to host Dr. Vincent de Paul Kanwetuu, a lecturer from the Department of Sociology and Social Work at KNUST, who delivered an insightful presentation on the theme to both teachers and students. As part of the celebration, students were grouped according to Africa’s five regions, Southern, West, East, Northern, and Central Africa. They and their teachers dressed in traditional attire representing their assigned regions.

The event also featured a fashion show, food bazaar, face painting, and local games such as Piloloo, Antoakyire, and Ampe.

The school hopes that its students will continue to receive relevant, quality, lifelong, and inclusive education, equipping them for success in the 21st century and beyond.

Memorandum of Understanding for Ghana-Korea Educational Exchange Program



The Ghana Commission for UNESCO and the authorities of Seocho-Gu, Korea, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a strategic educational exchange program between Ghana and Korea. The MoU, signed at Ghana’s Ministry of Education, aims to strengthen cooperation between the two countries and create opportunities for students to gain international exposure, contributing to the global community.

As part of this initiative, Seocho-Gu City will provide support to students from UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) schools in Ghana, enabling them to participate in international public education exchanges. Likewise, Korean students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Ghanaian

traditions, heritage, and culture.

The agreement was officially signed by Ama Serwah Nerquaye Tetteh, Secretary –General of Ghana Natcom, and Park Jeawone, Deputy Mayor of Seocho-Gu, on behalf of their respective countries.

Ghanaian Delegation Arrives in Korea for UNESCO ASPnet Student Exchange Program



In 2024, the Ghana-Korea student exchange program provided students from ASPnet schools in Ghana with an opportunity to visit Seocho-Gu, Korea, and exchange knowledge about culture, innovation, and education with their Korean peers.

On July 15, 2024, the Ghanaian delegation, consisting of 10 students from public and private basic schools, two teachers, and Mr. Kofi Kwakye Takyi, the Education Program Officer of the Ghana Commission for UNESCO, arrived in Korea for the program. The students were selected from:

- » McCarthy Hill School (Accra)
- » Trom M/A Basic School (Eastern Region)
- » Accra College of Education Demonstration School (Accra)

These three ASPnet schools participated in the maiden edition of the exchange program.

During their stay in Seocho-gu, the Ghanaian delegation visited several educational and cultural institutions, including Dongdeok Girls Middle School, the Seocho City Office, the Supreme Court, the Seocho Youth Center, Hyundai Motor Studio Goyang, Seoul National University of Education, and key agricultural and technological centers.

Additionally, Ghanaian students interacted with local peers, participated in workshops, and attended classes covering topics such as traditional Korean arts and modern technological advancements. This unique experience broadened their understanding of global education trends, governance, and innovation, making a lasting impact on their academic and personal development.



Peace Promotion

Peace is more than just the absence of conflict—it’s about values, attitudes, and behaviors that foster understanding and harmony. Teaching peace from an early age is a key focus of UNESCO, and schools play a vital role in shaping students into responsible, compassionate citizens.

67th independence celebration at KNUST primary school themed “every student matters”



At the KNUST Primary School, the 67th Independence Day celebration on March 5, 2024, embraced this idea with the theme "Every Student Matters." Rooted in SDG 10.3 (ensuring equal opportunities and reducing discrimination), the event encouraged inclusivity. Unlike previous years, when only selected students could participate in the traditional march-past, this time, all students—regardless of ability, background, or socioeconomic status—were given the opportunity to take part. They proudly marched in Ghana-themed T-shirts, sectional T-shirts, or even their regular school uniforms, while the School Band and Hula Hoop Team added energy and excitement to the celebration.



Health and Well-Being

A healthy lifestyle is essential for success in school and beyond. Schools can contribute to this by promoting nutrition, physical activity, and overall well-being among students.

New Feden M/A basic school celebrates egg day to promote SDG 3 about good health and well-being



On May 21, 2024, New Feden M/A Basic School in the Eastern Region celebrated Egg Day to highlight the importance of good health and nutrition (SDG 3). Teachers educated students on the benefits of eating an egg a day, emphasizing its role in muscle growth, brain function, and overall well-being. They also explained how eggs provide essential nutrients like choline, which supports brain development and liver function. To make learning fun and interactive, teachers distributed eggs to all students, reinforcing the importance of balanced nutrition.

Both events, KNUST Primary's Independence Day celebration and New Feden M/A's Egg Day, show how schools can integrate peace promotion and health awareness into education, shaping students into healthy, informed, and inclusive future leaders.

UNESCO ASPnet schools celebrates world menstrual hygiene day



Menstrual Hygiene Day is observed on May 28th every year to raise awareness about the importance of good menstrual hygiene management. It aims to break the silence and stigma surrounding menstruation, promote access to hygienic menstrual products, and ensure that girls and women can manage their periods safely and with dignity. In commemoration of this day, UNESCO ASPnet schools (including Trom M/A Basic School) engaged in conducting educational sessions on menstrual hygiene to provide students with accurate information about menstruation hygiene. NGOs that aim to empower adolescents and teenage mothers through education, health and vocational skills training were invited to our ASPnet schools to educate the students on menstrual health and highlights the significance of proper sanitation facilities that can help break the stigma and normalize conversation about periods.

Other schools (including New Tofo Feden M/A JHS) also had a float to create Menstrual Hygiene awareness. Learners were taught how to appropriately fix the sanitary pad into the pant during menstruation and how to dispose it off

properly. Learners were taught how to sew the reusable pad and learnt about using beads/calendars for the menstrual cycle calculation. The boys learned that menstruation is not a disease neither is it a crime; however, they should offer support to the girls where necessary.

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where necessary.

Also, Sanitary pads were distributed to the learners. This is a crucial initiative to empower individuals and communities to address menstrual health challenges effectively.

Climate Stewardship

At UNESCO ASPnet and Clubs, programs are designed to teach students about protecting the environment and encourage them to take actions on climate change through learning, building skills and working with their communities. Through these activities, students become climate stewards.

Clubs for UNESCO members organize a clean up exercise at the Bechem Presbyterian Senior High School (Ashanti Region)



A clean up exercise was done in the Bechem Presbyterian Senior High School which happened on 18th November, 2023. This included weeding, scrubbing, removal of cobwebs, and sweeping in commemoration of the ASPnet 70th anniversary. The students congregated in the vicinity of the school premises daily to remove any dirt or debris.

This was an excellent method to educate the students about the value

of taking care of their surroundings while also maintaining a tidy and orderly atmosphere. The students put a lot of effort into making sure everything was tidy, and the outcomes were outstanding. The pupils' efforts were not in vain, and shortly afterwards other local schools started to follow their lead. For a while, other local schools had launched their own sweeping initiatives to maintain a clean atmosphere. It was an effective way to teach children the value of taking care of their surroundings.

The kids' efforts were proved fruitful as neighbouring schools began to follow their example and launched their own initiatives to foster a cleaner environment. These served as a helpful reminder that everyone has a role to play in preserving our surroundings and that even modest actions can have a big impact.



Westside Educational Complex marks Environmental Awareness Week

Diving into the world of environmental awareness, the Westside Educational Complex uncover the crucial role each person plays in safeguarding the beauty and balance of our planet. Let's explore together the ways we can

contribute to a greener and more sustainable future for all.

Environmental week awareness in the Westside Educational Complex was meant to sensitize the learners to the things surrounding us. Also identifying the various elements in the environment and understanding it well, to appreciate the environment and use it for our good.

The entire staff of the school assembled the students and lectured them on environmental week awareness, emphasizing, we have one earth, and it is our responsibility to take very good care of it. A teacher made a powerful statement, "The environment is not as intelligent as humans to take good care of itself, humans with this level of intelligence have to keep it well".



On the next day, the school organized first aid training for the learners, with a practical demonstration. Students were taught to keep their environment clean to prevent the spread of diseases. The awareness creation continued through to the next days. Pupils learnt safety signs and their interpretation.

Facilitators from Ghana National Fire

Service Department, Agona Ahanta Municipality taught the entire population, how to prevent unwanted fire. The fire triangle: the three main things needed for fire to start (fuel, Oxygen, and heat). They demonstrated how to fight fire using the fire extinguisher, the wet blanket. They also demonstrated how to use used or unwanted materials to craft new things in an attempt to recycle or renew them for use.



Using the fire extinguisher to quench fire



CPR



First Aid kit



Recovery position

Green Ghana Day at Dorian Montessori and Potsin D/A JHS: Promoting Life on Land



On June 9, 2024, students at Dorian Montessori (Greater Accra) joined the nationwide Green Ghana Day initiative to support Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land). Led by Ghana

Natcom, students and teachers planted flowers around their school, learning firsthand the importance of caring for the environment. Each student was given a flower to plant and was guided through the process, digging, planting, and watering, with encouragement to nurture their plants daily.

Meanwhile, students and teachers at Potsin D/A JHS A&B took part in a tree-planting exercise to make their school environment greener and safer. With support from the Gomoa East District Assembly, they planted 40 seedlings to help restore lost plantations and protect the environment.

Since 2021, Ghana Natcom has worked with students and schools under the UNESCO Associated Schools Network (ASPnet) to take part in Green Ghana Day. This initiative, launched by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, aims to encourage young people to take responsibility for the environment and become global citizens.

To further promote environmental

sustainability, we encourage all schools to create school gardens, where plants and insects can thrive. This hands-on approach helps students learn about planting, harvesting, and the role of insects in the food chain.

Shoutout to students from: Ring Road East Basic School, The McCarthy Hill School, Accra College of Education Demonstration School, who excelled in last year's Green Ghana Day!

SDGs in Action: Ideas for School Projects

The 2024 SDG Scorecard Report highlights key areas where Ghana needs to improve. Here are some ideas for school-based projects to address these challenges:



SDG 1: No Poverty

Regarding the SDG 1, the SDG Scorecard considers the poverty headcount ratio at \$2.15 per day as a key indicator. In 2024, Ghana's poverty headcount ratio at \$2.15 per day stands at 17.9%, reflecting a substantial portion of the population still living in extreme poverty despite recent economic progress. This underscores persistent challenges in reducing income inequality and enhancing access to essential services for the most vulnerable groups.

We would suggest following initiatives:

- ▮ **Recycling for a Cause:** Organize workshops where students create useful items (bags, wallets, decorations) from recycled materials and sell them to support low-income students.
- ▮ **Practical Skills Training:** Teach students skills like repairing clothes, bicycles, or electrical items to save money or start small businesses.
- ▮ **Food & Clothing Drives:** Hold donation events where students exchange gently used clothes or school supplies to help families in need.



SDG 5: Gender Equality

Concerning the SDG 5, three (3) indicators are particularly stagnating in Ghana: the demand for family planning satisfied by modern methods, the ratio of female-to-male mean years of education received and the seats held by women in national parliament.

We would suggest following initiatives:

- ▮ **Women in Leadership Talks:** Discuss the role of women in politics and leadership to inspire students.

- ▮ **Girls' Empowerment Programs:** Provide mentorship, leadership training, and academic support for girls.
- ▮ **Gender-Sensitive Curriculum:** Promote female role models in textbooks and challenge gender stereotypes in lessons.



SDG 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

Concerning the SDG 16, many indicators are either stagnating or decreasing in Ghana. The corruption perception index shows a score of 43 for the country (with worst 0-1 best), stagnating since 2022. There has also been a decline in the degree of press freedom since 2021, with a score of 67.71 in 2024. The long-term target for this indicator is 88. Finally, the issue of the time taken to complete administrative procedures is still a significant challenge in Ghana: the country had a score of 0.44 in 2022, with a long-term target set at 0.85.

We would suggest following initiatives:

- ▮ **Anti-Corruption Awareness:** Organize discussions on integrity, transparency, and ethical leadership.
- ▮ **Press Freedom Workshops:** Invite journalists to speak about the role of media in democracy.
- ▮ **Student Journalism Club:** Teach students how to identify misinformation and report on community issues.

Let's work together to make Ghana greener, more inclusive, and more just! Every action counts!

Youth Driven Initiatives to Promote SDGs



Nana Yaa Gaisie

KNUST, Level 400

BA. Media and Communication Studies

Project Coordinator

Silent Cries: A Collective Effort Towards a Safe World

The world is grappling with a disease far deadlier than coronavirus or any other illness, one that is worse than the Holocaust. Yet, for years, humanity has remained in the clutches of this canker. November serves as a month to reflect and also dedicated to the silent cries, the unspoken wills, and the voices that echo unheard. Every day, one in three women worldwide experiences physical or sexual violence. The problem isn't a lack of awareness; it's the overwhelming apathy that allows these atrocities to continue. The information is often limited, misrepresented, or distorted to normalize what is far from acceptable.

Jasper Women, an NGO focused on women's health, took a bold step to address this through a 16-day activism campaign against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which I led. Our goal was to raise awareness about gender equality, in line with Sustainable Development Goal No. 5, and combat the prevailing myths and misconceptions surrounding Gender Based Violence. Our campaign unfolded in three key phases. The first was a social media campaign, a crucial tool for spreading our message. With daily posts and

story highlights, we aimed to highlight the harsh realities of GBV, dispelling myths and fostering a better understanding of the issue. We used hashtags such as #JasperTakesAStandAgainstGenderBasedViolence, which helped us create a supportive community committed to our cause.

Next, we brought the conversation to the streets. On November 30, 2024, we hosted a street activism event at Accra Mall, where we engaged the public in open dialogue. It was a sobering experience that revealed a shocking gap in understanding about equality and violence. One moment stands out: I engaged with an individual who shockingly believed that indecent dressing equated to consent for sexual intercourse. This misconception was disheartening, but it also gave me the chance to engage in a meaningful conversation to debunk such harmful views.

The campaign ended with an educational outreach at Achimota Senior High School, where we spoke to over 900+ teenagers about the importance of consent and sexual

health. Even though, addressing such sensitive topics posed a challenge, we were thrilled by the students' eagerness to learn and engage in the discussion.

Gender-based violence is a grave issue that demands our collective attention. It is one of the most insidious forms of abuse, and its actions are often hard to prove, leaving survivors in a deep existential crisis. This initiative was a success, despite facing

challenges with securing sponsorships and collaborations. .

The time to act is now. Abuse is the worst form of human suffering, and no one should endure it. Let's unite to protect humanity and ensure a safer world for ourselves and for future generations. A safe world should not be luxury.





Juanita Eyram Twumwaa Alorka

Labone Senior High School
3 Science 5

Breaking Mental Slavery Through Culture

At Labone Senior High School, my classmates and I launched an initiative focused on preserving and celebrating Ghanaian culture. Ghana's heritage is rich, from our flavorful foods to the colorful Kente cloth, energetic Adowa and Kpanlogo dances, vibrant music, and diverse languages. But over the years, many young people have started to view local traditions as "outdated" while embracing foreign influences.

This is a form of mental slavery, a mindset that makes us believe that anything from outside Ghana is superior. We wanted to change that.

We were honored to host Mr. Park Jeawon, the Mayor of Seocho-Gu (a city in Seoul, South Korea), who shared a fascinating presentation on how Koreans embrace their culture. Through a virtual tour, we saw how they preserve their palaces, wear their traditional attire, and take pride in their language and customs. It was a wake-up call, if they could do it, why couldn't we?

This inspired us to start a cultural revival movement at our school, with initiatives such as:

Organizing cultural events, festivals, and exhibitions to showcase Ghanaian traditions.

Collaborating with the University of Ghana to include mental slavery awareness in educational programs.

Hosting discussions with experts like Mr. Daniel McKorley, CEO of McDan Group, who emphasized economic empowerment and lifelong learning as solutions to mental slavery.

But the most powerful lesson we learned was this: change starts in the mind. A simple shift in mindset has transformed the students at Labone Senior High School. We have become more innovative, competitive, and independent.

One of our biggest achievements? A team of five students recently won first place in an international robotics competition, the first time in a decade! This was proof that when we believe in ourselves, we can achieve anything.

As Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." The movement for mental

freedom started in Labone, but we invite all of Africa to join us. The future is bright, and it is powered by self-belief and cultural pride.



Q/A from our UNESCO ASPnet and Clubs Coordinators on SDGs



Mrs Akosua Andrews

ASPnet Coordinator, KNUST Basic School

What role do teachers play in promoting mental health and wellbeing among students?

//

At KNUST Basic School, we make sure students learn in a safe and supportive environment. We promote fairness, respect, and tolerance while actively working against discrimination, bullying, and stigma. By creating a positive space, we help students feel valued and supported."

What projects have you introduced in your school to promote the SDGs?

//

The SDGs are at the heart of our school activities. For SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-being), we have a monthly 'Fruit Week' to encourage healthy eating. To reduce plastic waste (SDG 13 – Climate Action), students bring reusable bowls instead of using plastic bags. Our Physical Education department ensures every class gets regular exercise.

For SDG 4 (Quality Education), we provide training for teachers and organize debates and quizzes to sharpen students' critical thinking. SDG 5 (Gender Equality) is reflected in our student leadership, ensuring equal opportunities for boys and girls.

We also run a class-based plastic segregation competition to promote sustainability and collaborate with organizations like Clean Africa and the Otumfuo Education Fund to enhance education (SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals)

How do you empower students to become active global citizens?

“ Through both classroom learning and extracurricular activities, we encourage students to think globally and act locally, helping them become responsible leaders who care about global issues.



Miss Linda Amoani

Club Coordinator, Labone Senior High School

How do teachers support students' mental health?

“ At Labone Senior High, when students struggle with mental health issues, we listen to their concerns and guide them to school counselors and nurses for support. We also include mental health topics in lessons to help students understand its importance and reduce stigma. Open communication is key—we encourage students to express their feelings and seek help when needed.

What SDG-related initiatives are in place at your school?

Our Club, made up of second-year students, focuses on activities aligned with UNESCO's goals and the SDGs. We partner with other schools like Ghana International School for collaborative projects, and we celebrate international days linked to the SDGs.

Recently, we marked International Maths Day with quizzes and games to make learning fun and engaging.

How do you prepare students to contribute to the SDGs?

// We empower students through debates, public speaking, leadership roles, and technology-driven learning. These activities build critical thinking skills and encourage them to become problem-solvers in their communities."



Mr. Benjamin Buabeng

UNESCO ASPnet Coordinator, Potsin D/A JHS

What partnerships support SDG projects in your school?

// We collaborate with key organizations to promote the SDGs: Ghana Health Service (World AIDS Day & Menstrual Hygiene awareness) – SDG 3, Forestry Commission & District Assembly (Tree planting projects) – SDG 13, Ghana Education Service & Potsin Traditional Council (Speech & Prize Giving Day) – SDG 4, Prem Rewart Foundation (Peace Education programs) – SDG 16 KOICA (STEM Education, especially for girls) – SDG 5.

How do you include social justice and equity in lessons?

// We make sure leadership roles in group projects are fairly distributed, giving opportunities to both boys and girls. Teachers also take a minute in each lesson to discuss topics like human rights and fairness. The Civic Union Club, supported by the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), regularly holds discussions on justice and equality.



Rose Ama Kodimeh

ASPnet Coordinator, Trom M/A Basic School,
Koforidua

How do teachers integrate sustainability and environmental awareness into lessons?

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We teach sustainability through various subjects: Social Studies & Languages – Students read and discuss environmental stories from Ghanaian folklore, Science – Hands-on projects like experiments with renewable energy and sustainable gardening, Creative Arts – Students design crafts using recycled materials, School Events – We invite environmental experts for talks and organize exhibitions.

What role does education play in creating a sustainable and fair future?

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Education is key to solving global challenges. By teaching students about sustainability, equity, and social responsibility, we prepare them to make positive changes in their communities and beyond. Our goal is to raise a generation that values environmental protection, human rights, and inclusion, leading to a better future for all.

Call for Action

Achieving the 2030 SDG Agenda is a shared responsibility!

The 2024 SDG scorecard has highlighted critical gaps that demand urgent attention. As UNESCO ASPnet Schools and Clubs coordinators and members, you play a vital role in mobilizing schools, students, and communities to drive real progress.

As a citizen of Ghana, you are part of the global movement to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, a call to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all. But we cannot do it alone. Your commitment,

creativity, and collective action are essential to making a lasting impact.

By leading initiatives at the school and community levels, UNESCO ASPnet Schools and Clubs can be powerful changemakers, ensuring Ghana stays on track to meet the SDGs.

Let's join forces and turn ambition into action!

Join the Networks

Please send your application to
education@unescoghana.gov.gh

Reference

1. Sachs, J.D., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. (2024). The SDGs and the UN Summit of the Future. Sustainable Development Report 2024. Paris: SDSN, Dublin: Dublin University Press. 10.25546/108572

