



Sampson Sayibu, Director of Operations– Slamson Ghana, Ltd. (Updated: January 2017)
sampson@slamsonghana.com

Sampson Sayibu (Sam) is the Director of Operations of Slamson Ghana, Ltd. Originating from the north of Ghana, Sampson was an elite level athlete who exhibited natural problem-solving and leadership abilities from a young age. He is a founding member of Slamson’s key personnel, a group who have successfully tackled some of the biggest environmental and social challenges in Ghana, namely clean water and waste management.

Background

Sam originates from the north of Ghana where he dedicated his early years to high level tennis, representing Ghana when he was 20 years of age. The discipline and drive that led him to an elite level in tennis was apparent in his academic life. He attained a Higher National Diploma in Hotel Management from Tamale Poly in 2007, and was awarded an Executive Certificate in Human Resource management from the African Center for Capacity building (AFCAB) in 2010. Upon graduating, he sought career opportunities in the business sector.

Sam is fluent in English and Dagbani, and is able to overcome many of the cultural barriers that exist among local ethnic groups because of his background. He has a well-established network in the local Accra community, and has gained access to some of the most tight-knit communities in Accra, such as in the Agbogbloshie slum. He has strong interpersonal skills, and is able to understand and adapt to the sociocultural needs of the different ethnic groups that comprise Accra’s vibrant local population.

BonVi Ghana: 2008-2011

In 2008, Sam began his career in a temporary position at BonVi Ghana, a social enterprise that assisted local women with micro-enterprise activities. He was quickly promoted to a full-time position because he demonstrated integrity, a very strong work ethic, and natural leadership tendencies.

In his first full-time position as Warehouse Manager, Sam developed his organizational skills and proved to have excellent problem-solving skills. He effectively managed local staff and



increased efficiencies in warehouse management. After less than a year in this position, he was promoted to local Distribution Coordinator.

As Distribution Coordinator, Sam was entrusted with the distribution of products to the over 800 women who were involved as micro-entrepreneurs with BonVi Ghana. Sam provided direct support to these women who often faced both personal and professional obstacles in building their own micro-enterprises. In this position, Sam became increasingly sensitive to the gender-based challenges associated with operating a business in Ghana, and worked on developing solutions that would be both appropriate and sustainable for the women involved.

Sam's success in his community-based role led to another promotion to the Regional Manager of BonVi Ghana's operations in Kumasi. In this role, he was responsible for all the company's activities in the Kumasi region, and again demonstrated strong leadership and organizational skills through his management of 20 local staff and over 300 women entrepreneurs.

In 2011, Fredrik Sunesson convinced Sam to take a risk and relocate to Accra and help him to establish Slamson Ghana, Ltd.

Slamson Ghana, Ltd.: 2011 to present

After relocating to Accra in 2011, Sam worked with Fredrik Sunesson to establish Slamson Ghana, Ltd. The aim of the company was to provide low-cost and sustainable low-tech solutions to some of Ghana's most challenging infrastructure problems. Sam is part-owner of the company, and has worked to help the company act as a bridge between local communities, who are often suspicious of development work, and higher level stakeholders involved in development, such as the federal government, environmental agencies (EPA), and international development agencies (Danida, RVO).

Sam was central in managing the construction and operations of the pilot treatment plant built by Slamson Ghana near the Lavender Hill dumping site, commissioned in 2013. His natural leadership skills emerged in his ability to manage staff from different ethnic backgrounds, who already had well-established reputations in the local community.

In addition to Sam's full-time responsibilities managing the operations of the treatment facility in 2013, Sam attended continuous intensive night school classes at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), and graduated with his Bachelor's degree in Operations and Supply Chain Management in June 2015. Sam's educational vision has been to study towards an MBA, and in September 2015, he began classes at the University of Applied Management (Germany, Ghana campus) towards this degree.

As Slamson's Director of Operations, Sam oversees the logistics, supply chain and operations management for the company. His extensive knowledge of the local communities, and his ability to gain access to these communities is what has made Slamson so successful in initiating, investigating and implementing a number of development initiatives (clean water, e-waste, liquid waste management) in Accra.



His passion for environmental sustainability and waste management underlies his tremendous commitment to Slamson's vision as a company that can overcome some of the most difficult environmental and social challenges that plague his country and the rest of sub-Saharan Africa.