**Beyond business: the rewards of volunteering at RX**

**In November 2024, two award-winning RX volunteers embarked on an unforgettable journey to** **Ghana to visit our charity partner, Book Aid International**. **During their visit, Amrane Lamari and Dang Phuong Thao saw at first-hand how volunteering and fundraising is transforming the lives of young people through education. Here, they share their inspiring experiences and why giving back means so much to them.**

At RX, we’re committed to making a difference – not just to our customers but to the communities we serve. Through **RELX Cares, our global community programme,** every employee is given **two paid days** a year to volunteer and support causes close to their heart. And for those who go above and beyond, RELX rewards them with an incredible opportunity—an exclusive trip to see the impact of one of our charity partners at first-hand.

Dang Phuong Thao from RX Vietnam and Amrane Lamari from RX France were amongst just eight individuals selected by RELX from across the global organisation to travel to Ghana to see how our donations to Book Aid International are benefitting the Ghana Library Authority.

Since 2004, RELX has donated over 1.5 million books to the charity, as well as time and money, to increase access to books and information for children and young people in Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zanzibar. During their trip to Ghana, Phuong Thao and Amrane were able to witness the joy the books bring to children at the Accra Central Library, and to help process books at the RELX-funded Takoradi Library Children’s corner.

“It was an incredible privilege to discover this fascinating country, and to feel the energy and unique "vibe" of the African continent, with its beautiful landscapes and vibrant atmosphere,” revealed Communications Manager, Amrane. “I will always remember the warm welcome of the schoolchildren at the library, and how they greeted us with a mix of shyness and eagerness.”

“Their curiosity and thirst for reading were truly motivating for us” he continued. “It was powerful to see the impact the libraries have on their lives, and how the spaces we have helped to create have become real life-enhancing hubs. The libraries are not just places to borrow books, but also spaces for exchange, learning, and enjoyment for the children.”

For Dang Phuong, the most unforgettable experience was participating in reading activities with children and students in Ghana. “I will forever cherish the moment when our group sang and danced joyfully to traditional Ghanaian rhythms with the children at the library,” she said.

RELX’s career orientation session was another inspiring moment: “Seeing the students’ enthusiasm and curiosity through their thoughtful questions reaffirmed the value of this initiative. Although the journey has ended, the images of bright-eyed students, their love for reading, and the dedicated individuals managing the library—who continuously seek opportunities to enhance learning resources—remain deeply in my heart.”

**Taking action against hunger**

Amrane’s Ghana trip was recognition for his efforts in organising RX France’s "Connected Against Hunger" challenge for the past three years. Thanks to Amrane’s inspiration and motivation, participation has grown from 98 colleagues in 2022 to 160 in 2024. The teams challenged each other to walk, run and cycle, logging their kilometers in the Connected Against Hunger app and raising €19,200 for Action Against Hunger in the process.

As well as being a focus for the Ghana trip, books are also a feature of Amrane’s regular volunteering efforts in France, where he participates in the "Libraries Without Borders" initiative. In 2024, he and five colleagues helped sort over 3,300 books for the international non-profit that facilitates access to education, culture and information for people in vulnerable situations.

Reflecting on his volunteering Amrane said: “To me, RELX Cares is a great opportunity to give back to society with the support of my company,” he explained. “I participate in volunteering because it allows me to make a positive impact while building stronger connections with my colleagues. The two days per year dedicated to volunteering make it easier to engage in meaningful projects without affecting my work commitments. Overall, it’s a fulfilling way to contribute to important causes and foster a sense of solidarity within the company.”

**Supporting the visually impaired**

Senior HR and Admin Executive Dang Phuong Thao joined RX Vietnam in 2019 and was inspired by RELX Cares to volunteer. In 2022, she secured a $5000 RELX Cares prize fund for the Go Vap District Blind Association, supporting 92 blind members – and it is her continuing support for the charity that was recognised by RELX with a place on the Ghana visit.

With the money she secured, Dang Phuong was able to fund smartphones, Braille classes, provide financial aid, sponsor Braille book printing, and host a year-end party. Her efforts resulted in 11 impactful programmes, significantly enhancing the lives of the blind members.

“I volunteer because I believe in the power of small actions creating big change,” shared Dang Phuong. “Witnessing the struggles of visually impaired individuals motivated me to step out of my comfort zone and take action. Volunteering enriches my life, strengthens my leadership skills, and deepens my understanding of inclusivity. More importantly, it allows me to bring hope to those in need, reinforcing my belief that kindness and dedication can truly transform lives.”

“To me, RELX Cares represents compassion, empowerment, and community impact. It is more than just a corporate social responsibility program—it is a platform that enables employees to contribute meaningfully to society.”

**At RX, we don’t just offer you a world-class career in events—we empower you to make a difference by volunteering for causes you care about. Visit our website today for more information about our** [**global community programme**](https://rxglobal.com/corporate-responsibility) **and** [**current job openings**](https://rxglobal.com/event-jobs)**.**