



AFRICA REGION
WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF GIRL GUIDES
AND GIRL SCOUTS

AFRICA REGION NEWSLETTER



June 2020 Edition



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WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF GIRL SCOUTS



FOREWORD



Dear Sisters in Guiding,
Dear Guiding partners,

I am pleased to write a foreword for the Africa Region Newsletter!

Welcome all to our first issue after many years! I am very excited and happy to launch this Newsletter which will inform and motivate you all on a triannual basis with inspiring stories, learnings and news about Guiding in Africa through our Member Organizations.

It's a new team of Africa Region Committee Members, so often a time for new dreams, new ideas and goals as well as renewed energy to get things done. This Africa Region's newsletter is all about what's new. You'll find that it is filled with educational information, helpful hints and tips, events, news and stories on the impact of Girl Guiding within our communities.

My hope is to see each one of you contributing by promoting this Newsletter, distributing information and sharing inspiring Girl Guiding stories within our Region. We believe that this Newsletter will help members feel part of a community of like-minded people, and it is important to build a sense of ownership by making sure that our members have the chance to contribute.

I would like also to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of our volunteers who have joined us by working hard to produce this Newsletter and their respective Member Organizations. Youth empowerment does not happen overnight. It requires active participation from each one of us in providing young women the opportunity to grow through learning opportunities, reason why, part of our strategy to empower and promote our talented young women in the region, we decided to create this Newsletter' team, exclusively led by young talented women.

We want this newsletter to be valuable for you, to be used as social tools, and as a tool to prompt debate and conversation within the region so *please, please* share your feedback and suggestions to help us improve.

Sincerely,

Larissa BYLL CATARIA

Chair Africa Region, WAGGGS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



It is with immense pride and honor that I get to write this section of the Africa Region Newsletter. Alfred North Whitehead once said, *"No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude"*. First and foremost, I would like to thank God for making this possible and seeing to it that this wonderful work is now before us. My deepest appreciation goes to the Africa Region Committee for birthing the idea of the Newsletter reinstate, the encouraging words and support. Thank you to our volunteers from the region for putting in the finishing touches and the people who worked in the background - friends and loved ones- who lent their time to perfecting the newsletter.

My sincere gratitude does also go to the Africa Region Guiding Associations. There would be no newsletter without you and your dedication towards keeping our movement alive and empowering the girl child. Finally, my heartfelt thanks to the team behind this masterpiece. The young women who put their time, passion creativity and expertise into this publication. Thank you for compiling and putting together the stories of our region so beautifully, may this be the beginning of an amazing album of works that detail the amazing work Africa does.

This is a dedication to you Africa. Enjoy it.

Lucia Ndanga
Editor in Chief

Africa Region Committee Member

EDITORIAL TEAM



Daniel Oluwakemi Esther

Nigeria Girl Guides Association
B.Ed. French and international studies

"It is no disgrace to be a follower, on the other hand, it is no credit to remain a follower most great leaders began in the capacity of followers, they became great leaders because they were intelligent followers"



Céline Mame Ndeu DIOUF

The Senegalese Girl Guides
L1, L2, L3 in the communication department at
Gaston Berger University (Saint Louis, Sénégal)

I'm passionate, committed and extroverted



Marielle Edoth

Togo Guides Association.
Bachelor's degree in Project Management and
preparing to undergo a master's degree in
Communication and Public Relations.



Lucinda Kangwana

Kenya Girl Guides Association.
Master's in Public Administration, BA
International Relations and Diplomacy.

"I never assumed ever, that I was a woman
anything was off-limits to me."



Joyce Malayi Chaula

Malawi Girl Guide Association
B.Ed. at University of Malawi Chancellor College.
"....., Guide others to happiness and you will bring
happiness to yourself, and by doing this you will be
doing what God wants of you" Baden Powell



Joëlle Fausta MONSI

Benin Girl Guides Association
I have defined myself as a woman of action with
creative potential and a spirit of service.

"Look at the bright side, not the darkest side"
Robert Baden-Powell; The last message before 1928.



Blessmore Chikwakwa

Girl Guides Zimbabwe.
Business student.

"Nothing in the world is more flexible and yielding than water. Yet when it attacks the firm and the strong, none can withstand it, because they have no way to change it. So the flexible overcome the adamant, yielding overcome the forceful. Everyone knows this, but no one can do it." Author: Lao Tzu



AGNESS Faith Banda

Girl Guide Association of Zambia
Bachelor degree in Mass Communication and Public Relations

Always be proud of saving one soul than struggle with thousands
Always be ready to inspire as you aspire for a better future.



Armelle Irakoze

Burundi Girl Guide Association.
Finalizing my MBA-Marketing.

One word that can describe me is Positive.
" When we want one thing, the entire universe conspires to allow us realize our dream," Paulo Coelho



Nadia Lorraine Niyonsaba

Rwanda Girl Guides Association
Bachelor's degree in Business Information Technology.

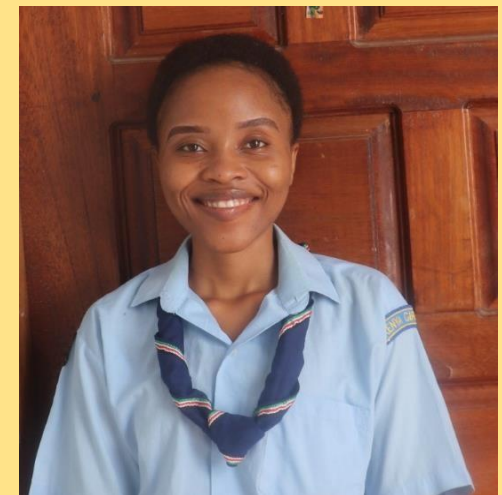
She is a passionate writer and recently published her first children's book.



Ange Felicien KOUASSI

Ivorian Federation Girl Scout
Human Resource and Communication

President of the youth committee of Ivorian Federation of Female Scouting. I have a great passion for communication for the promotion of female scouting.



Nancy Wawasi Mwazuna.

Kenya Girl Guides Association
Journalist, blogger and a youtuber.

The future belongs to those who believe in the

GET TO KNOW YOUR REGIONAL COMMITTEE



"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success." -- Henry Ford.

This encapsulates the journey that the WAGGGS Africa Region Committee is like. Following their recent election into office at the 12th African Region Conference in Kigali Rwanda, they have been collaboratively working together to fulfil their promise to make the Girl Guiding Movement in Africa vibrant. During their Committee Induction Meeting in Yaoundé Cameroun, the Committee started off by laying the foundation of developing a strategy that addresses Africa's Girl Guiding needs. It was also an opportunity to visit Association de Guides du Cameroun.

Additionally, our Region Volunteer Leadership has been offering support to MOs since their election. The committee conducted MO visits to Togo, Sierra Leone and Swaziland and represented the Region's interest at global events. Their leadership journey is still ongoing, so far so good. Let us get to know our Committee better and what they have been doing in pictures



COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ACTION



Top left: Larissa Byll; chair Africa Region, visit to Association des Guides du Togo

Top right: Juliana Ofiri-Kissi MO lead English speaking MOs, visit to Sierra Leone Girl Guides Association

Middle: Lucia Ndanga and Alice Waweru Senior Member Organization Partner WAGGGS at the International Conference on Population Development ICPD25 Nairobi, Kenya

Bottom left: Jennifer Karina Vice Chair Strategic Partnerships and Friends of Africa lead, Larissa Byll Cateria Chair Africa Region and Strategic Leadership lead

Bottom right: Faniry Rakotoarivony: MO Relationship lead, French speaking MOs and Florentina Bernard: Core mission and Kusafiri World Centre lead



BADEN POWELL SPLENDID BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION 2020



22nd February is the birthday celebration of the founding Father and Mother of Guiding (WAGGGS), the day officially known as World Thinking Day!!!!

2020 WORLD THINKING DAY THEME WAS: Living Threads: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Africa celebrates diversity in our Movement and region. As Guides we are encouraged to learn a huge amount about ourselves, others and the world by connecting and sharing our experiences and Africa is not an exception! The activities explored the themes Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to increase our understanding of these concepts and acquiring skills that will help us develop our fullest potentials.

"We should all know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads in the tapestry are equal in value no matter what colour."- Maya Angelou

Take a look at the Celebration of some Member Organizations from East and West Africa!!!

KENYA GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION- WE KEPT IT FORMAL!!!



The celebration was held in Nairobi County at Loreto Convent Msongari, all speakers emphasized on the need to give every child equal access to opportunities as this is the biggest impact on a child's success. The Chief Guest was Her Excellency The first lady of the republic of Kenya, Mrs Margaret Kenyatta, who is the Patron of the Kenya Girl Guide Association, accompanied by the cabinet secretary for public Service and gender affairs, Margaret Kobia,

Jayne Wachira, Word Board Vice Chair and Alice Waweru, Senior Member Organization Partner were among invited guests. The first lady, in her speech, cited;

"Empowering girls with skills, knowledge and confidence is the biggest predictor for securing their future. It is what will make them competitive and take up leadership roles that were previously taken by boys only". She urged Girl Guides to embrace solidarity and friendship for one another for positive impact in their communities."

The event celebrated some pivotal moments. There was passing of the baton from the Rainbows-Brownie-Girl guide-Rangers-young leader-bravo-Trefoil guild in that order. This signified passing of leadership roles from one generation to the other.

GHANA GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION- THROUGH INCLUSIVITY WE HAD FUN!!!

The celebration happened in collaboration with the International Scouts and Guides Fellowship (ISGF). During the event girls shared a reflection on the theme through activities that were presented as well as speeches that were delivered. The presence of the children with Special Needs Institutions made the event unique; they participated in the activities for the day.

"We enjoyed cultural performances and choreography by Guides, YESS Participants launched their Menstrual Hygiene Management programme and we also had eating competition, lime and spoon race, musical chairs, volleyball and football playing".

If it's not fun it's not guiding!!!!

TANZANIA GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION- THROUGH DIVERSITY WE RENDERED A HAND!!!



The activity pack for WTD from WAGGGS was translated to our language and shared to our Regional Trainers who ensured that WTD theme and activities were well implemented.

"A week before 22nd February, we visited children and women suffering from cancer, we also cleaned their premises and gave them some stuffs like soap, sugar

,fruits, clothes and shared our love through our speeches. On 22nd February the Head Quarters of TGGA organized Blood Donation and it was open to everyone and any organisation”.

RWANDA GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION- TOGETHER WE VOICED OUT!!!!

In Rwanda World Thinking Day follows the nation's Guiding and Scouting week. Throughout the week before the day of WTD celebration they had activities such as, planting fruit trees, anti-alcohol and anti-drugs campaign, fighting against Gender Based Violence to mention but a few.



“Our celebration took place in Kigali, we were blessed with the presence of Madam Larissa Byll Cataria the Africa Region President. On this day we had a big walk and marched to the place of celebration. Guides and Scouts presented activities such as games and dances as well as inspiring speeches by leaders to empower Guides, Scouts and everyone present”.

WTD has been celebrated since 1926, each year having its own theme and amazing activities, just as this year has been yet another wonder, we all should expect next year and other years to come to be extra splendid!!!!!!

A NEW WAY OF GUIDING IN AFRICA?

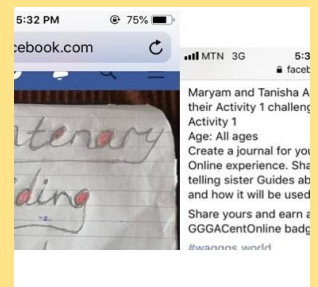


A new dynamic for guiding in Africa? Following the restrictions of assembly and movement of people due to COVID-19, several African structures, whether institutional or associative, had to reinvent their way of working by establishing online working which is not widespread in Africa. Focus on some associations « girl guides » in the Africa Region which have made social networks their new weapon for working.

GHANA: Online Centenary and inspirational sessions Online Centenary

As part of its centenary celebration, the Ghana Girls Guides Association launched for the first time on April 1, 2020, a monthly program of activities and challenges on its Facebook platforms (Ghana girls guides) as well as Instagram. This program presents high-spirited aspects but mainly educational. Indeed, it is posted every day on social networks, a challenge or an activity to perform on the basis of the instructions to follow. Once the challenge or activity is completed, the participant sends her masterpiece which may or may not earn her a badge. Some of these activities so far:

1. My Centenary Journal – This journal was to help members keep track of all activities on the challenge journey.
2. My CoVID -19 Challenge – In this activity, members were to create a banner to share on the respective social media platforms of the Association showing one precaution for the corona pandemic.
3. My Basic Principles Day– This activity engaged Guides to come up with a skit on any of the basic principles of Guiding
4. My Day with the Chief Commissioner – Guides had the opportunity to interact with the Chief Commissioner on a live stream on Facebook and Instagram. We also participated in the Global campfire, World Centres Virtual Tour with Girls Scouts of USA, project campaigns and fundraising.



SENEGAL: Celebration of the feast of St. Jeanne d'Arc, patron saint of Jeannettes. It is in facing difficulty that our faith is brought out. COVID could not prevent the Jeannettes from Senegal to celebrate the feast of their patron Ste Jeanne d'Arc. They wrote prayers for a novena and with the support of Girl Guides, the novena spread from region to region. At the end of the novena, dressed in their most beautiful traditional outfits, the Jeannettes took part in a virtual carnival by sending photos or videos.

ZAMBIA E- recruitment

The Youth Council welcomed eight young girls to the Guiding program. In this period of COVID, the association has more than usual used its Facebook page to attract new girls. At the end of the program, the council hopes that the girls will become full members. They are also using platforms such as WhatsApp for membership.



Currently Guiding activities which were formerly focused on outdoor and physical experiences may have been put on hold. However, this has been an opportunity to reinvent how we do things. Technology is helping the Movement to bridge the gap - and there is a need to focus on making it accessible, easy to use and safe. May we pick and implement a thing or two from the above and keep the guiding flame burning.

MY GRANDMOTHER'S MOON LIGHT STORY



My name is Hadiza, I lived with my grandmother and my siblings, it was a big family which was well known in the community. While growing up, moonlight story was one of the things we enjoyed so much with our grandmother as an African Child. We gave her the name Mama Africa because she loved Africa and everything embedded in it. It was another precious evening and we were ready to hear another interesting story from her. My siblings and I were sited early awaiting the arrival of mama because she said the story, she would be telling us a true-lifestory full of tension. Mama Africa arrived and we all greeted her and immediately she started the story.

Mama Africa: There was a certain time, when everyone was working from home, children couldn't go to school and religious places were all closed including the markets. A disease had hit the world affecting a large population across the globe. The world was in a global crisis due to a viral disease called 'Corona Virus' it was also called Covid-19, an airborne disease that could be contracted through the sensory organs. It was a deadly virus that was killing its victims faster than a bullet. It also left the physicians, doctors and health workers in total darkness as they couldn't find the cure. The World Health Organization (WHO) worked so hard and tried to find a cure or vaccines to this virus but all efforts proved difficult

Mama Africa started coughing profusely and I hurriedly left to get her a cup of water. After she took the cup of water, and wanted to continue her story, little Hauwa raised her hands signifying that she has a question. Mama granted her permission and she stood up to ask.

HAUWA: Did the virus kill children too? **Mama Africa sighed and replied her. Mama Africa:** Yes Hauwa, the virus killed children that contracted it.

Before mama could continue her story, Joseph stood up and everyone started murmuring. Joseph was a stammer. Mama pleaded for decorum among the children. And she told Joseph to ask his question.

Joseph: What were people doing in other not to contract this virus and what were the symptoms that showed someone has been infected with the deadly virus? Mama was so happy and she told the children to clap for Joseph because he had asked a good question. Mama Africa continued by answering Joseph's question

Mama Africa: The Corona virus like I told you earlier was an air born disease and highly contagious. People were told to avoid going out unless it was absolutely necessary. They avoided touching their faces, until they properly washed their hands with running water and soap, using hand sanitizers. The use of face masks was mandatory for some and as for the symptoms, If anyone was feeling feverish, coughing profusely, and having high temperatures, they were to go to the hospital for medical checkup and treatment. If such a person tested positive to the virus, he or she was isolated from their family and society so that such a person would not spread the virus to society. Not all fever symptoms meant people had Covid-19 but they had to be careful and look out for themselves.

Then my Mama gave us the chance to ask questions and Rachael stood up to ask her question.

Rachel: How were people feeding since the markets were closed?

Mama Africa: People were allowed to go to Malls and buy food stuff but could not go out without taking precautions like masks. It was a period when the Guide Law number 9 was being practiced by the world "A guide is thrifty" no one dare waste food or **anything whatsoever.**

(Amina interrupted)

Amina: Talking about Girl Guides Mama, what was their contributions during this period?

Mama Africa: As you all know that "a guides duty is to be useful and to help others" Girl Guides from different countries gave out palliatives and safety instruments to people. They engaged in online training/teaching each other to keep people busy so as to maintain their mental health and free them from the prison called Boredom. The Covid-19 period was a time of lesson to the whole world that health is important and to show kindness to people, because some people were not thinking about others who were suffering and needed help. They were thinking about themselves alone and so they bought everything in the supermarket without considering others.

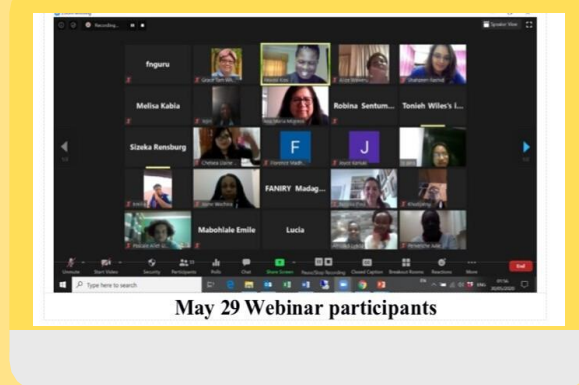
Children: Yes Mama, we all promise to be kind, considerate and make the world a better place (Rachel and Hauwa decided to become doctors when they grew up so as to help people in times of crisis)

WEBINAR UPDATES

WEBINARS FOR AFRICA REGION Member Organizations – coping with Covid 19 global health crisis.

WAGGGS Africa Committee, with the support of Membership and Regional Support staff, reached out to Member Organizations (MOs) to discuss the need for girls to continue with their activities online and offline during this Covid-19 global health crisis. The Africa committee members responsible for MOs Relationships and needs - Juliana Adade and Faniry Rakotoarivony - supported by Natalia Plou, Head of Membership and Regional Support together with -Alice Waweru, Senior Member Organizations Partner - identified priority needs classified as short, medium and long term. This exercise led to planning the first set of webinars.

The first of this series of webinars was held on May 29, 2020 for the English-speaking MOs and on June 5th 2020 for the French Speaking MOs. We are pleased to update you on the outcome of the first webinar which was entitled "Sharing Resources and Best Practices in the Context of the Covid-19 global Health Crisis"



The pandemic has brought a lot of changes in the way we carry out our activities at global and within the Africa Region. It was therefore prudent for the Committee to organize the first webinars to introduce and provide our MOs with online tools as they shared best practices of coping in the crisis. We believe that a new normal can be adapted for the Girl Guiding activities to be sustained.

The main objectives of the webinars were:

- *to share the available resources and girls Activity Packs that members can use during this Global Health Crisis***
- *to learn the ways some MOs in the Africa Region are engaging members online and offline***
- *to exchange and learn best practices on the use of media and social media to engage members***
- * to identify and discuss ideas for the re-opening of activities and sharing of resources.***

The presentations were well delivered, insightful and inspiring. We are so grateful to the presenters; Ghana, Madagascar, Rwanda, the Youth Exchange South to South (YESS) Girls Movement participants who highlighted the latest resource on coping during the crisis and staff from Core Missions who facilitated how to use the resource **ForHerDigitalWorld**.

The excitement, eagerness and above all the enthusiasm was overwhelming and we appreciate it. Congratulations goes to the Chief Commissioners, International Commissioner with some of their Regional/District Commissioners and Chief staff. We are grateful to our Chair, Larissa Byll Cataria together with the Vice Chair, and Jennifer Karina for continue to provide strategic leadership. Our fellow members on the committee provided their immense support and encouragement. Lucia Ndanga, the Lead for Advocacy coordinated the publicity and information on the webinars on the social media platforms. The World Board Chair Ana Maria Mideros and Vice Chair Jayne Wachira were present to grace the occasion, encouraged and acknowledged the hard and commitment Chief Commissioners with other volunteers and staff in their MOs.

We are so proud of you our members;

We, Faniry and Juliana are grateful to each and every one who made this first webinar a success. Special thanks to Alice Waweru for her unflinching support all through the process of planning and to Grace Tam, Senior Member Organisations Partner who offered to host the zoom webinar.

We promise more useful webinars in the nearest future.



WAGGGS INITIATIVES

Women, the true pillars of a society! Yet their value is not universally recognized.

Aware of this, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), driven by the desire to improve the conditions of girls and young women, makes them actors of their own development by implementing actions aimed at help them take control of their lives, have confidence in them and make their dreams possible.

African Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, despite the pandemic, are evolving along the same lines. Indeed, they continue to carry out activities related to WAGGGS initiatives, mostly using social media. Guides in Cote d'Ivoire, aware of the recurrence of rape cases in their country, decided to **educate internet users and school children about violence against women**. To this end, they showed the school children how to stand up against violence by making them know the different parts of their bodies and the role of each of them. They also insisted on preserving privacy. This training has benefited **more than 260 children** from a primary school in the capital.

Still on this streak in the fight against violence, the girls of the YESS (Youth Exchange South to South) program in Rwanda, engaged in an activity entitled "**Voices against violence**". To achieve the goal, Guides also conducted an awareness campaign. In partnership with aid centers, they criss-crossed schools, dispensaries, streets, etc., and went on television and radio to show the different forms of this violence, denounce them and send a message to the victims to encourage them to regain self-confidence.

To these are added the guides from Nigeria which, around the theme "**Yes! Girls can "managed to reach many people through the "Stop the violence "campaign** via Facebook, Instagram, Radio, Twitter and WhatsApp. They raised awareness and provided key information to the population, believing that even during this pandemic period, girls and young women can be ill-treated, their rights violated while cases of rape continue to increase. **In partnership with the Mirabel center, the international federation of lawyers and the international federation of women lawyers working in the field of domestic violence, they created banners, videos and motivation articles to share with the public about the dangers of gender-based violence**. In this period marked by confinement and witnesses to the recurrence of violence in their country, Rwanda Girl Guides found a way to raise awareness among the population via social networks.

Besides these, other associations of guides are interested in **Menstrual Hygiene Management**. In Senegal, the Guides conducted an online training on Menstrual Hygiene Management on May 16, 20 and 22, 2020. The purpose was to meet the information needs of young girls to help them to remove prejudices and to understand that rules are by no means inevitable. On May 28, 2020, World Menstrual Hygiene Management Day, they led a lively awareness campaign on Facebook, Whatsapp, under the leadership of YESS alumni.





Guides from Rwanda celebrated this day by organising a radio program and challenging themselves to write messages to other young girls. They have each, through a video or image, sensitized their fellow men. The day before, taking advantage of a television program, they recalled the importance of the day and sent an awareness message on Menstrual Hygiene.

Others have focused on body and self-confidence through the **"Free Being Me" initiative**.

"Kgato girl guide unit" from South Africa, under the leadership of the group leader Segomotso, organised activities, including a photo session in a swimsuit to celebrate body diversity. She also took part in the "Build Me" activity, where her members wrote positive notes about what they like to do and their personality traits. They then grouped them into a collection of positive notes. Participants learned to recognise the importance of diversity, inner beauty and the imperative not to judge people by their appearance.

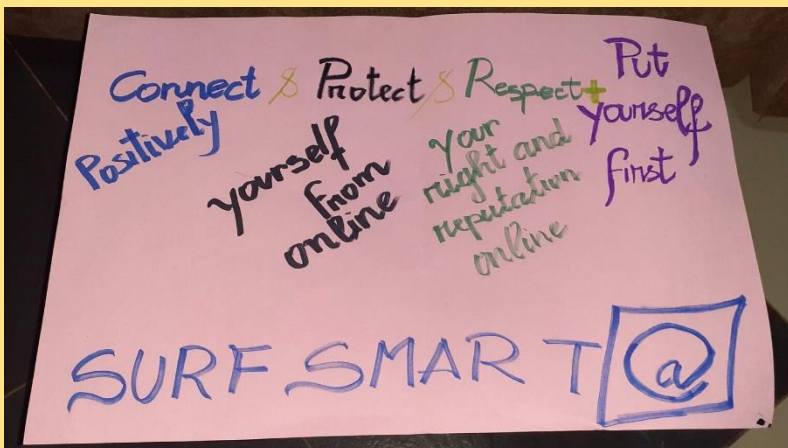
To these were added the girls of the Yess program from Rwanda who went to meet young girls using the "Free Being Me" guide to bring out the prejudices that women themselves have regarding female beauty. Through the activities of the guide in question, they taught them to go beyond prejudice, to accept themselves and to appreciate each other. **They were able to reach 330 young girls from 10 to 14 years old** and thus succeeded in saving lives given the numerous cases of suicide which could result from these complexes and prejudices in adolescent girls.

The girls of the Yess program from Tanzania spent five days talking to carry out their activity "Welcome to my world". During this activity, they presented Guiding with photos of different age groups in uniform, to show that a girl should not set limits. They also shared orientation photos of field activities and explained the YESS program as one of the opportunities offered to guides by showing the process, criteria and value that this experience adds to Guiding and young women.

The guides from Gambia are championing the environment through the WAGGGS Plastic tide turner project. This they have done through training leaders in their districts on the dangers of plastic pollution and benefits of reuse, reducing pollution and recycling. Furthermore, they recently took a step further going on cleaning campaigns to reduce the levels of littering in their environment.

Girls from Rwanda's YESS program also worked on the WAGGGS "Surf Smart" initiative to help them use social media effectively. In this sense, they have, using the "Surf Smart" guide made up of 3 sections, **trained 30 guides from 18-25 years old** in order to teach them to use social networks in a thoughtful way (choice of username, words, friends, followers, posts etc.)

These associations and programs somehow succeed in experiencing Guiding despite this health crisis. They participate in the achievement of the common goal which is "to allow girls and young women to fully develop their potential as citizens of the world, aware of their responsibilities" in all circumstances.





THE COLOR OF HAPPINESS THROUGH FOOD FESTIVAL: A DAY OF ADVOCACY

Madagascar is one of the 5 countries which take part in the Girl Powered Nutrition (GPN) program through the Skotisma Zazavavy Malagasy (SZM). Many are the activities that have been done since 2018 but this time let us live the color of happiness through their food festival held in Mahajanga in the month of March. On the 18th of March, there was a lot of excitement within the Skotisma Zazavavy Malagasy. You might ask why? **About 50 persons came from different regions to gather in one place and attend a GPN national event called "Food festival"**. They are trainers, Advocacy champions and leaders, commissioners and the GPN project team. All of them become one during this festival. They are one team working together for one goal: eradicate the malnutrition in Madagascar through non formal education.

This "Food Festival" gathered about 300 persons in Mahajanga, including decision makers and members of the Federation. It has impacted more than 1000 members of the community who attended the event or have been reached through the media channels. The event was unique from the others because the diversity that filled the day. The guides and scouts who were there were joined by the local leaders, decision makers and different personalities of the city. They felt honored by the presence of those important people. The day started with different speeches and it gave an opportunity to the Advocacy champions to speak out about what they want to improve in their community. When their time to speak came they elaborated on 4 main messages. First of all, a message to the public that was a call for support for the good nutrition of girls and young women. Secondly, a message to those responsible for schools, teachers, school canteen and parents to help them to understand the importance of the cleanliness and the quality of food that their children should eat. Furthermore, they emphasises the need for colorful plates and healthy food that the children need to eat at school. Thirdly, the advocacy champions showed the importance of the education around nutrition at school, starting from the primary school. So, they launched a call to the country leader about the revision of the content of the program offered at school and to include the education about nutrition from a the younger age . Finally, they addressed their message to the government and all the decision makers in the country to support the non-formal education offered by the Skotisma Zazavavy Malagasy.

Right after the speeches there was a visit of the different stands where different associations exhibited their work around nutrition. During that exhibition we visited the Nutrition Regional Office of Mahajanga stand that showed different healthy recipes based on the local food, and also the different associations within Skotisma Zazavavy Malagasy which exhibited their associations and the work they are doing. The day was closed with talks given by a Doctor, in charge of the nutrition department from the Ministry of Health, the Nutrition Regional Office representative, a youth representative of the scouts WOSM and the Skotisma Zazavavy representatives. This was followed by a debate where all the audience got the opportunity to ask or to give their point of view around the subject if nutrition. In the afternoon, more fun took place for the members of the Guides and Scouts in Mahajanga and also some representatives of students from schools in Mahajanga. A carnival followed which was conducted through the city and to make it a real food festival day, the participants showed from their clothing the food and the colors that we should see in the plate of food we eat. Dances, songs and shouts of messages, such as "We need to eat from a colorful plate to ensure our health", "The food we eat today ensures our health now and in the future", animated that march. We could see the enjoyment in the face of the participants. Ending the day were different games that entertained the children and gave support to them to understand more about the key messages in the GPN program. It was indeed day's journey of advocacy.



COVID19 didn't stop Guiding, it inspired us to do things differently

Edward de Bono once said, "Creativity involves breaking out of established patterns in order to look at things in a different way." This quote has inspired Rwandan girl guides to do things differently amidst coronavirus (COVID19).

Association des Guides du Rwanda is one of Africa Region WAGGGS' MOs, located in the East of Africa. It was officially established in Rwanda in 1980. Currently AGR serves more than 16,000 members classified in four branches which are: Brownies of 5 to 11 years old, Guides of 12 to 17 years old, Route (young leaders) of 18 to 35 years old and Cadres who are from 36 years old and above.

In Rwanda, the pandemic hit the country in March, and the lives of citizens completely changed. The streets have never been that empty. Who would believe that one day we will cease marching proudly in our uniforms? Well, that was done for one week, two weeks, one month, two months until God knows when. The summer camp 2020 (the most exciting event), the trainings for young leaders, international travels to World Centres, local girl guides meetings were all put on hold.

Although 2020 is a year like no other, it kicked off on a good note. For instance, on January 04, 2020, the National Youth Committee convened the annual gathering named "Umurunga", an opportunity for young leaders to celebrate the New Year, evaluate the previous year while setting up the upcoming year's priorities and opportunities. This year's Umurunga was also an occasion to elect a new youth committee.

Few days after Umurunga, four young leaders were sent to represent Rwanda through the Youth Exchange South to South – Girls Movement. After the bootcamp in Uganda, AGR welcomed eight YESS

As a growing organization, capacity building of members is the core centre of AGR. In February, AGR invited qualified young women to the National Training of Trainers. A pool of 45 was upgraded, among whom 30 earned their "Animatrice" badge and 15 earned the "Assistant Trainer of Trainers". They were hoping to do wonders to receive more badges during summer.

The World Thinking Day 2020 was different in a special way! It was celebrated jointly with Rwanda Scouts Association. More than 35,000 Guides and Scouts across the country spent a week working on various



initiatives, including education on sexual reproductive health, fighting against violence, campaigning against alcohol and drugs, sensitization about good nutrition, protection of the environment and so on. The week was concluded on the very World Thinking Day, in the presence of the Chair of Africa Region Committee, Larissa Bill Cataria. These were far the best WTD celebrations! The whole country saw the impact of volunteerism, our flags were hoisted higher!

The joys didn't last. Few days after the WTD, Rwanda got its first COVID19 case, a moment of panic and uncertainty. The Rwandan Government set prevention measures, which involved a total lockdown. So how did AGR cope with the lockdown? First the girls' safety was the most important aspect, therefore all programmes were put on hold. Second, a new communication strategy was designed to preserve the culture and reach out to the Guiding community.



Weekly content on various themes were shared to educate, advocate, inspire and change the lives of girls. They were channeled through social media (WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook), radios, TVs and online newspaper. Through this online adaptation the association kept conversations on COVID19 prevention, anti-drugs and alcohol abuse, mental health, Guiding experience, violence prevention, kitchen gardening and menstruation hygiene and pride, etc.

Girl guides are so far enjoying online programs. Ingabire, a girl guide from Burera says *“Every morning I click in my phone to check the daily sessions. During the lockdown I learnt how I can use the little plot we have at home to grow a kitchen garden. In few days my family won't need to buy vegetables from the market, we have them. I am happy Guiding keeps me connected”*.

Though things are not back to normal yet, Rwandan girl guides still engage with the content through media. AGR is grateful to WAGGGS team for keeping in touch, the Africa Region Committee for the moral support, and for the wider Guiding community for inspiration. We see you; we are in this together!



YOUNG AFRICAN WOMEN CHANGING THE STATE OF THE WORLD

Helping girls and women embrace who they are and gain confidence to show their authenticity to the world has always been WAGGGS biggest goal through young women. To help inspire others to speak up for themselves and even laugh at their mistakes. The African Region hasn't been left behind. The Region's volunteers are doing a great job by inspiring young women who are shaping the future, improving the state of their country and creating attest to having a community that supports their work and leadership.



Jessica **Malalaniaina**, a young woman from Mpanazava Girl Guide Association with a Bachelor's degree in Trade and Marketing followed by an engineering degree in Project Management from High institute of Antananarivo has given her time to volunteering and lending a hand to her community. "It started in 2010 when I joined Girl Gguide Aassociation, I was a Rranger and spent two years in that branch before becoming Bbrownie leader for five years at Tsinjo Ambohitra Tahaba unit." Following her activeness, commitment and understanding in guiding as well as WAGGGS branding, she was chosen to be YESS program coordinator of Mpanazava Eto Madagasikara and has served for three years. "Girl Gguide has contributed a lot in my professional development, I have been a project coordinator of rural and social development project in WASH section in collaboration with Mpanazava and WATERAID Madagascar, this project was financed by the European union. My message to all girls and young women is retrieved from the Bible. "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9"



Vicentia Adjovi is Project Manager, Consultant, trainer and specialist in gender and local development. She is also head of the red branch and president of the youth committee of the association of guides in Benin. She participated in the recruitment of new members and launched mini-projects. "Being an active guide allowed me to work in certain structures because of my dynamism, my rigor, my open-mindedness and my ability to work in a team. I was also able to convince my family and those around me of the relevance of my activism within the movement. One of my many benefits is my love for service to others". She joined the Guide Movement at the age of 5. In 2015, she participated in the Free Being Me training in Rwanda. Having become the focal point of Free Being Me in Benin, upon her return, she duplicated the training with her peers but also with non-guide girls and young boys. From 2017 to 2019, she led the ENOUGH Campaign with Oxfam in Benin as part of the fight against violence against girls and women in a collective of nine organizations including AGB.

The campaign took place over three years and focused on the deconstruction of social norms that perpetuate violence against the female sex in Benin. 15,000 young people were trained in leadership, assertiveness, self-confidence, non-violent communication and the emphasis was placed on violence in romantic relationships. This campaign was also a springboard to approach the concept of Free Being me through training modules on self-esteem, self-confidence. Traditional and religious leaders, journalists, and heads of educational institutions and NGOs have also been trained in the deconstruction of social norms that lead to violence against women through kitchen assemblies. Unanimously, Vicentia was appointed to represent the Collective in China in order to present the results of the campaign to the other countries involved and which could not achieve the same results. At the end of the campaign, the different organizations worked together to form an association to continue the fight. She was appointed president of the NGO ENOUGH. In 2019, she was trained in the new WAGGGS leadership model at NAIROBI. She has duplicated the training and is also involved in the implementation of the project 100 girls of the Guides who participated in the Juliette Low Seminar in 2019. "I would like to encourage young girls and women to continue to give the best of them. Be free to be yourself and don't let anyone unsettle you. Always have confidence in yourself. Remember that true beauty comes from inside. And finally, work, work and work again! Open your door so that you can be the voice of the voiceless. Let us fight so that our voices are heard, so that our rights are respected and that a woman is really raised high! We are strong, we have a lot of potential. May our dynamism help us not only to discover our full potential but also to put it at the service of others. Because, it is in Service to others that we will make exploits."

Tionge Msukwa is the Regional Youth Chair and Board Member of the council in the Malawi Girl Guide Association. She's also an advisor, peer educator as well as an assistant. "Guiding is my passion and I have been a brownie from a tender age till date and the future that will come." Tionge has worked with WAGGGS through YESS Project and kitchen intern at Our Chalet World center, Free being me and Stop the violence. Through being an active member, she has benefited a lot such as learning more about WAGGGS program to become a trainer, learning how to make reusable sanitary pads and being an orator. She has carried out awareness campaigns coming up with sanitary wear pads for girls and recruiting more than 20000 girl guides as well as planting more than 5000 trees. She has provided mentorship and career guidance to young people in secondary schools. "My experience is rooted in a rock-solid background of working with young people and elderly people from all backgrounds and differing life circumstances. I have had an experience working in both rural and urban areas with in and out of school girls and boys focusing on SRHR. My message to the young girls is "Believe in yourself knowing that you can do it for confidence is everyone's talent but it manifests only when you embrace it."

There's an entire generation of young women who are ready to act, make daily changes and own their title as "the future" so can you!



DID YOU KNOW?

Honorine KIPLAGAT is one of the oldest and long serving Guides in the Africa Region! Former Chief Commissioner of the Kenya Girl Guides Association, she had also been Chair of the Africa Region. She had been recognized for her exemplary leadership and service to the community.



BLAGUE SCOUTE

CITATIONS/ QUOTES

« A Guide is someone who uses both hands to succeed and achieve in life. She does not throw in the towel when faced difficulty. »

« Ce que j'ai appris moi-même, c'est que je ne dois pas être quelqu'un d'autre; que je suis assez bien ; et que lorsque je suis fidèle à moi-même, je peux faire des choses extraordinaires. Tu dois permettre que l'impossible devienne possible. »

« Si vos rêves ne vous font pas peur, c'est qu'ils ne sont pas assez grands. »

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former Liberia's Head of State

C'est le p'tit scout qui frappe timidement à la porte d'une maison pour offrir le calendrier scout de l'année. Un vieux monsieur lui répond et le p'tit scout de dire : « Bonjour Monsieur, je passe pour vendre le calendrier scout. Voulez-vous m'encourager ? »

Et le vieux Monsieur de rétorquer d'une voix toute tremblante et en frappant dans ses mains : « Allez, lâche pas, vas-

« Si vos rêves ne vous font pas peur, c'est qu'ils ne sont pas assez grands. »
» Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former

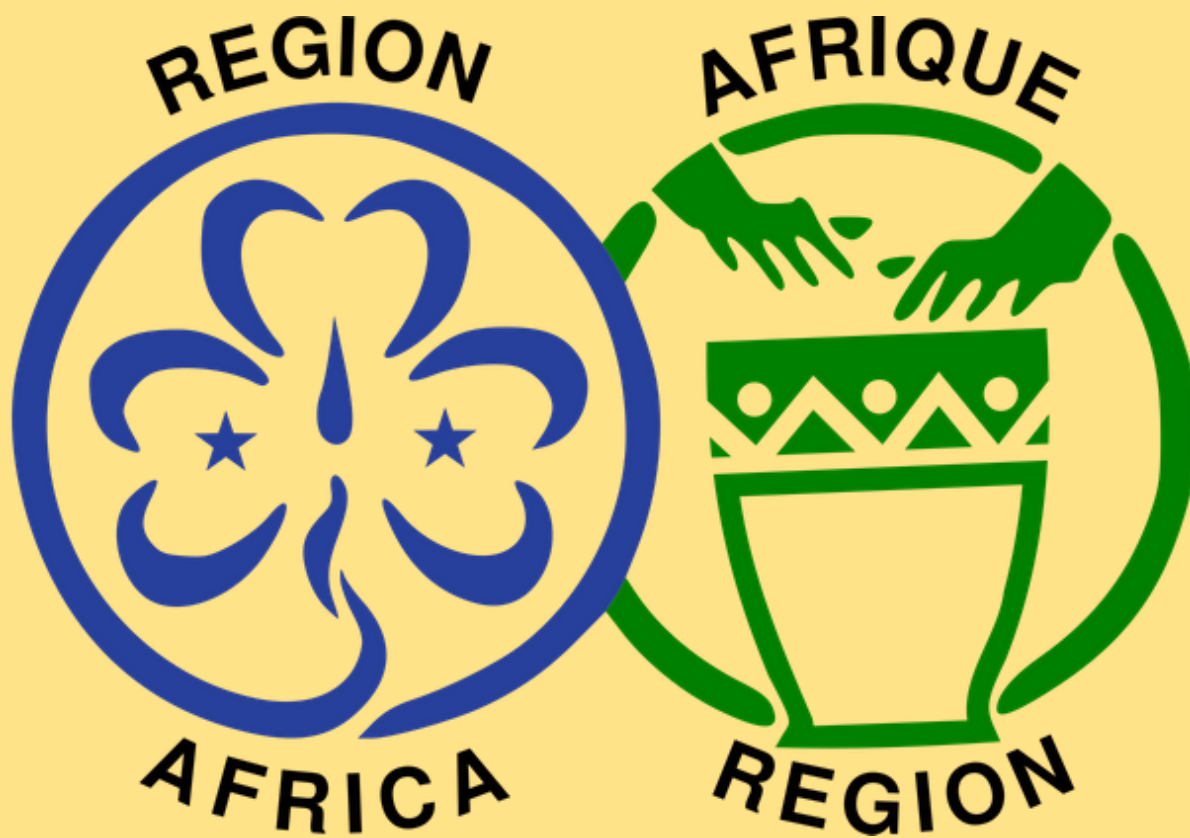
Quelques dates à retenir/Some dates to remember

16 Juin : Journée de l'Enfant Africain

11 Juillet : World Population Day

31 Juillet : Journée de la Femme Africaine

12 August : International Youth Day



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