



**Association**  
des Guides du Rwanda

**N°1**

# **GIRLGUIDES LETTER**

## ***Welcome to the Guidesletter !***

We know you have been waiting for this! We are thrilled to bring you the brand-new edition of our quarterly newsletter. We hope you will enjoy the updates!

Get ready to dive into all the **exciting activities, updates, and stories** from the last three months of 2026 at AGR. From inspiring community projects to fun events and achievements by our amazing **Girl Guides**.

Enjoy your read !

● *January - March 2026*

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### KEY POINTS :



#### WAGGGS PROGRAMS

- 242 tree seedlings distributed with GLACC project
- 18 PLANETE ambassadors, received training for advocating for peace, biodiversity and gender equality.



#### SRHR PROJECT OUTCOMES

- 1260 girls learnt to sew reusable pads
- more than 11 000 students attended SRHR school out reach
- More than 6750 people participated in teen



#### GUIDIND WEEK

- 500 new Girl Guides were enrolled in all categories, from Brownies to Adults Guides

[Read More on our website](#)



Association  
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## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTRIVE DIRECTOR

*Dear Members, Partners, and  
Friends of Girl Guides.,*

*Welcome to the very first edition of  
AGR's newsletter.*

*This is more than an update it is a space  
to share the voices, stories, and impact  
of girls and young women across  
Rwanda. Every three months, we will  
bring you key highlights, stories from  
the field, and the progress we are  
making together in  
advancing, advocacy leadership and  
gender equality.*

*We invite you not only to read, but to  
engage, share, and be part of this  
journey."*

● Prudenciene Kamabonwa  
*Executive Director*



As part of their **Community Action Project** addressing the **impacts of climate change**, **Girl Guides** from G.S. Mukarange distributed **242 tree seedlings** in Nyagatovu Cell, Kayonza District.

This initiative was implemented under the **Girl-Led Action on Climate Change** (GLACC) program, led by the Rwanda Girl Guides Association with funding from the WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts). The **seedlings** were **distributed to parents** from the villages of Gatagara and Kabeza who have children under five.

For Dative, these seedlings represent more than just growth. They represent a **healthier future**. 'These trees will provide **fruit to feed** my children and help us **fight malnutrition**', she shared. 'Beyond the food, they will **bring shade** to our home and **the fresh air** the Girl Guides taught us about.'



Group picture of Nyagatovu community members holding trees they've received



Nema - GLACC Advocacy champion handling trees to a community member



The community warmly welcomed the initiative and expressed appreciation for the Rwanda Girl Guides Association's continued contribution to climate resilience and sustainable development.

## Powering Our Girl Guides with The Diverse Skills



A group picture of participants and trainers after the workshop

At the headquarters of the Association of Guides of Rwanda (AGR), the **PLANETE** project convened **112 Guides** aged **14 to 25** for a series of parallel **training sessions** designed to **strengthen their leadership and advocacy skills**. The sessions focused on **women's leadership, peacebuilding, inter-Religion and intercultural values, gender equality, and the prevention of gender-based violence**.



Participants came from the districts of Rwamagana, Kayonza, Nyanza, Bugesera, Rulindo, Nyarugenge, Gasabo, Kamonyi, and Kicukiro. Accompanied by their leaders, the **Guides** not only enhanced their **knowledge and practical skills** but also **reconnected with the history and core values of the Girl Guides Movement**.

Through this experience, the young participants renewed their commitment to becoming **agents of change**, promoting **gender equality, peace, and positive transformation** within their **communities**.



A trainer reminding trainees about the Girl Guides salute and connecting it with responsibilities we hold

## Workshops for Girls Guides



*Participants learning in small groups*

Under the PLANETE Project, another workshop on **environmental protection** and **biodiversity conservation** was held in Rubavu District, bringing together Rangers and young leaders.

A total of **63 Girl Guides** aged **14 to 25** participated in the training, alongside district commissioners from Rubavu, Rutsiro, and Nyabihu. The sessions focused on **strengthening** participants' **understanding of environmental stewardship** while equipping them with practical knowledge to promote **sustainable practices** in their **communities**.



*Group picture of participants and trainers after the workshop*

In addition, participants revisited **the history of the Girl Guide Movement** and explored key topics related to Girl Guiding. Unit leaders were encouraged to establish fully functional committees and effectively carry out their responsibilities.

At the end of the workshop, participants committed to becoming responsible leaders, driving positive change, and sharing the knowledge and skills gained with fellow Girl Guides in their respective units.

## FEBRUARY ●

### *YESS Girls are here!*

This year, we received five participants **four volunteers** and **one professional** from **Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, and Bangladesh.**



*AGR Team receiving YESS participants 2026 at Kigali International Airport*

Through the **Youth Exchange South to South (YESS)** program, over the course of **six months**, these young women will conduct **campaigns, support recruitment efforts**, and contribute to the **retention and enrollment of new Girl Guides.** Throughout this journey, they will learn from one another while gaining valuable experience within the Rwanda Girl Guides Association.

By the end of the program, they will return to their home countries with **enhanced guiding skills** and **professional knowledge**, contributing to their **personal and professional growth.**

We are excited to **welcome the YESS Girls** to AGR as they begin a journey of a lifetime with us. These young leaders have joined an **international program** designed to help them **learn, lead, and take action in their communities.**

Over the coming months, they will take part in trainings, advocacy initiatives, and community projects, while gaining the skills and confidence needed to make a meaningful impact.



*2026 Rwandan YESS participants who are being hosted in other countries*



*YESS Team Rwanda 2026*

Since 2015, the **YESS Girls' Movement**, an international exchange initiative by **WAGGGS** in partnership with the Norwegian agency **NOREC** has been transforming the lives of **young women aged 18 to 35.** The program has empowered **386 Girl Guides and Scouts** from **17 Member Organizations across Africa and the Asia-Pacific** to live and **volunteer abroad** for up to a year.

# FEBRUARY ●

## Guiding week

On **22nd February**, Girl Guides and Scouts around the world celebrate **World Thinking Day/Founder's Day**. In Rwanda, however, it is observed as part of Guiding Week, a **national event** that runs throughout the entire week.

This year, **Guiding Week** kicked off in Kicukiro District at **Centre Incuti z'Abakene**, where Girl Guides shared love and solidarity with **children with disabilities**. They donated **hygiene materials** and **food items**, accompanied by joyful songs and meaningful conversations.



Guides Girls visited Incuti z'Abakene center

**A 100-year celebration of World Thinking Day with "our friendship" theme**

In districts across the country, **Girl Guides** took action to **support their communities**: they **planted trees** to protect the environment, **provided food**, and **covered school fees** and stationery for **families in need**. They also spent time with patients in **health facilities**, proving in simple but meaningful ways that true **leadership** begins with **compassion**.



**Girl Guides planting trees**

*Guiding goes beyond meetings and activities. "It is about giving a helping hand to those in need and being responsible citizens by contributing to our communities socially, spiritually, and economically," said Marie Louise - Chief Commissioner during the opening event in Kicukiro, this was reminder to all Girl Guides, a message that resonated throughout the week.*



A 100-year celebration of World Thinking Day with "our friendship" theme

Guiding Week was not only about acts of service and good turn activities, it was also a **powerful moment of growth**. More than **500 new Girl Guides** were enrolled in all categories, from Brownies to Adults Guides, marking the beginning.

The week came to an end during the *Regina Pacis* mass celebration in the Gasabo Districts, where Girl Guides participated in the liturgical service, sung in the Holy Mass, and expressed gratitude. The Girl Guides from Kicukiro, Nyarugenge, Gasabo, and Rwamagana also **made their promise** at the occasion, which was a major turning point.



## Nurturing Advocates

*PLANETE Ambassadors group picture with AGR Executive Director*



**At the Association Des Guides Du Rwanda headquarters 18 PLANETE ambassadors from across the country, aged between 15 and 25, received training for advocating for peace, biodiversity and gender equality.**

The aim of this training was to equip these young leaders with practical tools so that they can positively influence change in their communities.

Determined and committed, After attending worksops on these thematics these 18 girls were voted as representatives from their districts, they will be organizing awareness campaigns and put in practice a collective advocay for the issues linked with peace, Biodersity and gender quality together with other Girl Guides from their troops and districts.



*“There are some issues i used to look and think it is normal the way they are, and i felt like it is the nature of the world we are leaving in, and we should accept it like that, but from now on i feel like my voice can play a role in educating others to change or to influence decision makers to act for change” Mentioned by Josephine - Ambassador from Nyarugenge*

After the workshop they all designed the draft of the activities they will be carried out for their advocacy journey, for now they are ready to turn their knowledge into concrete advocacy actions.

## **P.L.A.N.E.T.E ACADEMY aiming for sharing insights and sustainability**



*Group picture of participants who attended the Academy, from Rwanda, France, Ivory cost, Liban and Tunisia.*

### **From Rwanda to Côte d'Ivoire**

The Guides from Rwanda proud took part in the PLANETE Academy, they explored Abidjan and Yamoussoukro whilst as well as attending an inspiring workshops on peace, sustainable development and gender equality.

Together with other Scouts and Guides from France, Lebanon, Ivory cost, France and Rwanda, they reflected on the shared vision, values, and strengthened their advocacy skills so that they can make an impact in line with the PLANETE project.



*AGR delegation Group Picture*



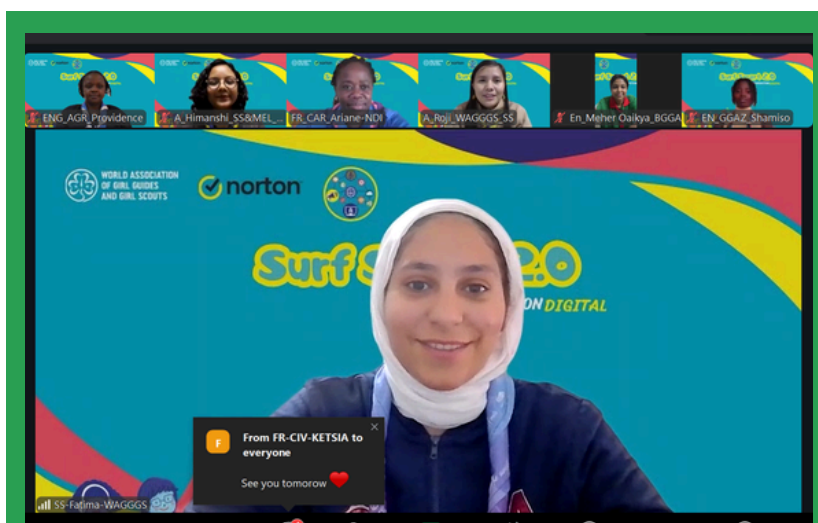
*Erlene participating in a small group discussion during the workshop (Academy)*

Through Planet Academy, I gained a deeper understanding of WAGGGS and WOSM how they operate and meaningfully engage young people. I also learned more about the important role youth play in becoming responsible citizens.

In addition, we explored how to design projects that meet global standards while being adapted to local contexts, and how to ensure these projects are sustainable in the long term.

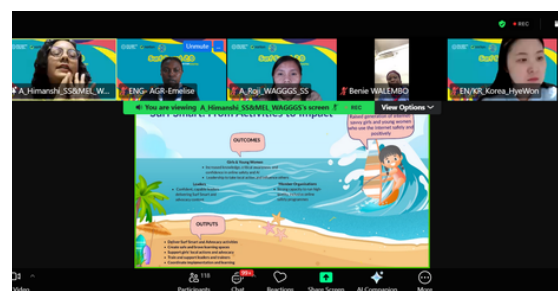
**– Erlene, Academy Participant --**

*The trip concluded with a lively international cultural evening, celebrating diversity, unity and universal friendship.*



As the world continues to grow rapidly in the digital space, technology has become an essential part of everyday life. While digital platforms offer incredible opportunities for learning, communication, and innovation, they also present risks especially for young users.

To address this, the Surf Smart 2.0 program has been designed to equip Girl Guides, particularly adolescents, with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the online world safely and responsibly. The updated curriculum now integrates emerging artificial intelligence (AI) concepts, ensuring participants are not only aware of online safety but also understand the evolving digital landscape.

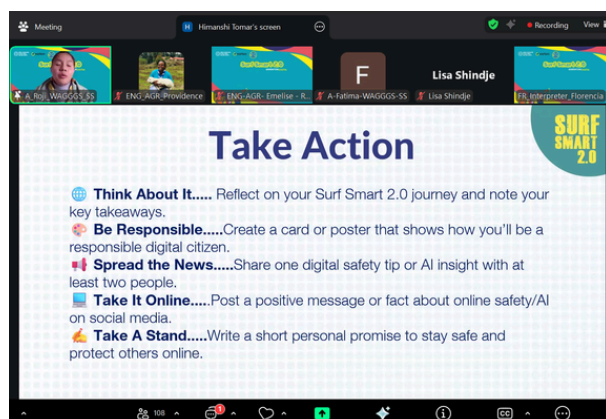


As part of the program rollout, a two-day online Training of Trainers (ToT) was conducted. During this training, trainers were equipped with essential facilitation skills and a deep understanding of the curriculum. This preparation enables them to effectively deliver sessions and engage participants in meaningful learning experiences.

The trained facilitators will go on to lead sessions for fellow trainers and directly support program participants through various trainings. Their role is key in ensuring that the knowledge and skills gained are widely shared and sustainably implemented within communities.

The Surf Smart 2.0 program is implemented by the Association of Rwanda Girl Guides (AGR), with funding support from Norton, through the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

Through this initiative, young girls are empowered to become responsible digital citizens confidently using technology while staying safe online.



## Making Reusable pads



Girls making reusable pads

*Pictures of peer educators sharing the skills with SRHR club members*

**Period poverty** continues to **affect many girls**, limiting their comfort, confidence, and full participation in daily life especially it contributes to the **school drop out**.

Through the ***Girl Decides in a Supportive and Protective Community Project in partnership with plan International Rwanda***, **23 adolescents** from Gatsibo, Nyaruguru and Bugesera districts were trained **to sew reusable sanitary pads**. These numbers include **15 peer educators** and **8 girls** from **SOYEE program** of dream village.

So far, they have been sharing these skills with fellow members of SRHR Clubs in their districts, helping **to expand access to practical knowledge** and **empowering more girls** to manage **their menstrual health with dignity**. To date, about **1,260 girls** have been **trained**, and the trainings are ongoing to ensure that these skills reach as many girls as possible.



*Belyne a trainer demonstrating to a girl to sew pads in Nyaruguru*

## MARCH ●

### Celebration of International Women's day



Group picture of Girl Guides, after the celebration of Women's Day in Rutsiro District

#### When women rise, communities flourish and nations grow stronger.

On March 8, the Association Des Guides Du Rwanda joined the community of Rutsiro District to celebrate the 51st International Women's Day under the theme "Empowered Women, Empowered Nation."

The celebration highlighted the invaluable role of women in driving progress across agriculture, leadership, technology, and financesectors that are essential to national development.

As part of its commitment to uplifting communities, AGR extended tangible support to 21 vulnerable families by providing health insurance for 124 individuals, reinforcing access to essential healthcare services.

The event served as a powerful reminder that investing in women is not only a matter of equality, but a pathway to building stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities.

*"Women, when nurtured, play a vital role in their communities as well as in the development of their country. AGR contributes to shaping future women from a young age by training girls and adolescents to become responsible citizens and build their confidence through various programs. This early investment in girls is essential for fostering strong, empowered, and responsible generations,"* said Chief Commisioner Marie Louise.



## MARCH

### Strengthening Community Action to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy



Every young girl deserves the chance to dream, grow, and thrive but teenage pregnancy continues to put many of these futures at risk. In response, a teenage pregnancy prevention campaign was successfully implemented across Nyaruguru, Gatsibo, and Bugesera Districts through the SRHR project, aiming to raise awareness and promote shared responsibility among communities.

These campaigns brought together students, out-of-school youth, community members, motorcycle riders, cyclists and leaders, creating a platform for open dialogue on the root causes of teenage pregnancy and the importance of continuous education, awareness, and family support.

Blending advocacy with entertainment, artists delivered engaging performances that reinforced key messages on protecting girls' rights and encouraging responsible behavior among young people.

The campaign underscored that preventing teenage pregnancy requires collective action and sustained conversations within families, schools, and communities to ensure young people are informed, empowered, and supported.



*“Lack of timely Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights information is one of the leading causes of teenage pregnancy. When girls become pregnant, many of their dreams are cut short,” Said Antoinette - A teen mom from Nyaruguru District*

## Access to SRHR Information

As the world continues to grow rapidly in Open, honest conversations can transform lives yet for many adolescents, discussions around Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) remain shrouded in silence, stigma, and misinformation. This gap leaves young people vulnerable, often navigating critical stages of their development without the knowledge or support they need.



*SRHR club members posing with a Nurse from Munini after the session*

Access to reliable SRHR information and youth-friendly services is not just important, it is essential for building confidence, protecting health, and enabling informed decision-making. So far, 23 districts have been visited, with plans to visit remained schools in both districts in districts where the project is being implemented (Gatsibo, Nyaruguru, and Bugesera). The Rwanda Girl Guides Association, in partnership with Plan International Rwanda through the Girls Decide in Protective and Supportive Community project, is creating safe and inclusive spaces where adolescents can learn, ask questions, and access essential services without fear or judgment.



*SRHR club members interacting with Facilitators*

As part of this effort, health center staff responsible for youth corners, Rwanda Investigation Bureau representative, youth center workers are invited to engage with secondary school students, answer their questions, and help them easily access sexual and reproductive health and rights information.

# We appreciate our partners



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