

GUIDESLETTER



DID you miss us ?

Another exciting quarter has flown by, and we are delighted to share with you the highlights, achievements, and memorable moments that have shaped the past few months at AGR.

From impactful community initiatives and inspiring leadership activities to celebrations, events, and the incredible accomplishments of our Girl Guides, this edition is filled with stories that showcase the energy, dedication, and spirit of our movement.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. We hope these pages inspire you, make you smile, and remind you of the positive difference we continue to create together.

We hope you enjoy this edition

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[Read More on our website](#)

KEY POINTS :



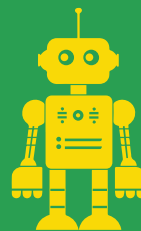
COMMEMORATION

- AGR joined Rwanda's Genocide commemoration, honouring victims and promoting unity, remembrance, peace.



RED PRIDE WEEK

- AGR celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day, raising awareness and distributing menstrual kits.



SURF SMART IMPLEMENTATION

- Surf Smart expanded across districts through strong partnerships with local authorities.



39TH WAGGGS WORLD CONFERENCE IN CAMBODIA

- AGR won bid hosting 2029 WAGGGS World Conference, strengthening global Guiding leadership.

FORWARD

A little word from our new Head of Programme

Dear all,

I am honored to join Association des Guides du Rwanda as the new Head of Programs. Driven by a strong commitment to advancing the Organization's mission, I look forward to collaborating closely with our members, partners, and stakeholders to strengthen program delivery, foster leadership and professional development, and expand opportunities for youth and young women's empowerment. I am excited to contribute to the organization's continued growth and impact, helping to create meaningful and sustainable change for the communities we serve.

Best Regards,
Nadine RUTABAYIRO,
Head of programmes.



● **Nadine RUTABAYIRO**

*Head of
programmes*

APRIL ●

Access to SRHR Information

As the world continues to grow rapidly, open and honest conversations can transform lives 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.



Access to reliable **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights** information and youth-friendly services is not just important it is essential for building confidence, protecting health, and enabling informed decision-making among young people.

To strengthen access to these services, AGR, in partnership with *Plan International Rwanda* through the **Girls Decide in Protective and Supportive Community** project visited all schools participating in the programme across Gatsibo, Nyaruguru, and Bugesera districts. These visits ensured that programme participants and other students could **easily access accurate SRHR information** within their schools while also being referred to nearby youth-friendly health facilities and other trusted service providers for additional support when needed.



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

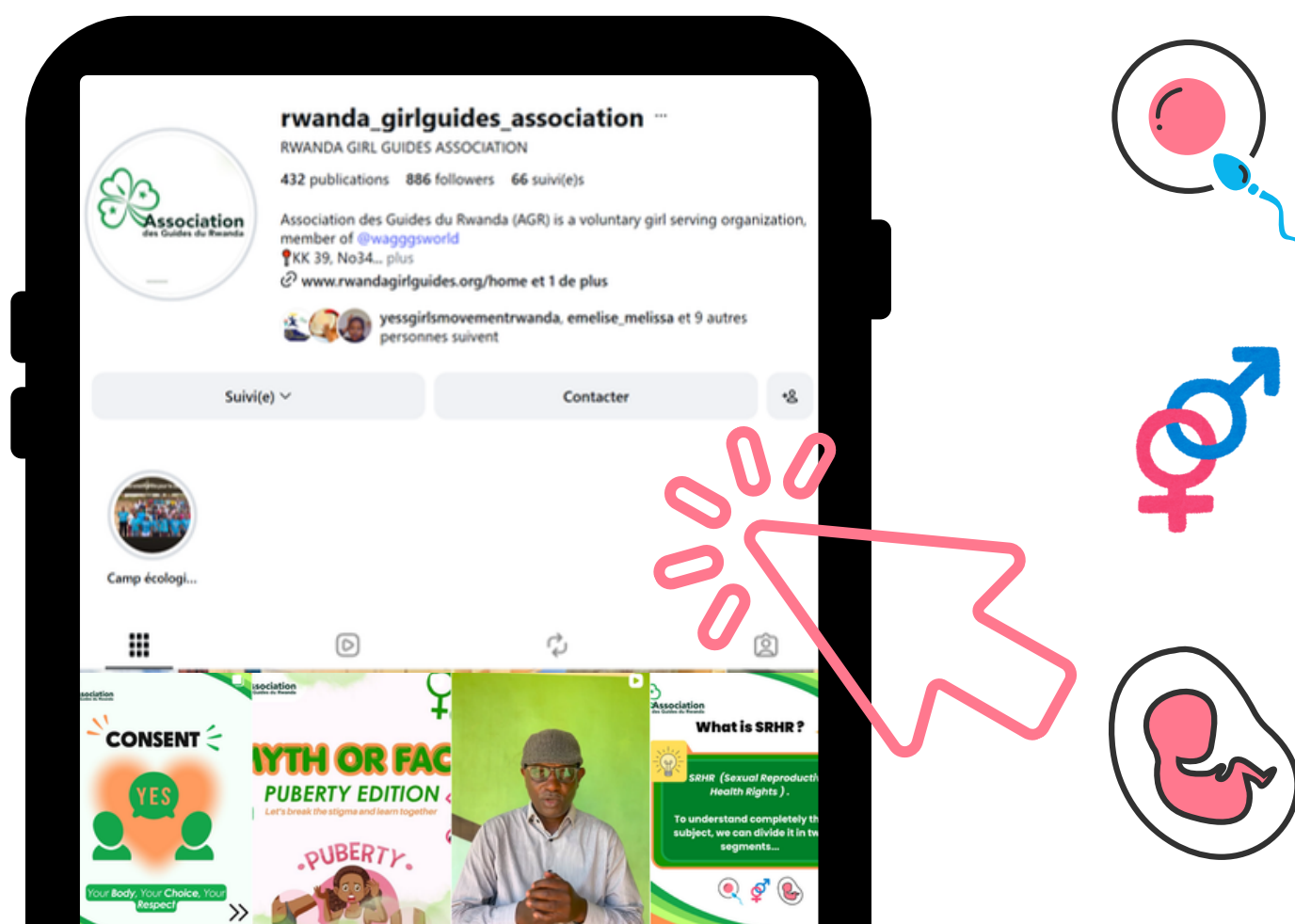
SRHR DIGITAL CAMPAING

Following the activities carried out in April to raise awareness among adolescents about Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, the **Association des Guides du Rwanda** From 11–15 May 2026, conducted a five-day digital campaign on SRHR under the theme "**Know Your Body, Know Your Rights, Shape Your Future**". The campaign aimed to equip young people with accurate, youth-friendly SRHR information while addressing common barriers such as stigma, myths, misinformation, and limited access to trusted services.

Throughout the week, AGR shared engaging educational content across its digital platforms, including posters, short videos, reels, graphics, and interactive discussions. Daily topics covered the fundamentals of SRHR, puberty and body changes, menstrual health and hygiene, consent and healthy relationships, gender-based violence prevention, and youth-friendly health services. A live WhatsApp question-and-answer session with an SRHR expert also provided Girl Guides and other young people with a safe space to ask questions and receive reliable information.

The campaign reached more than **5,000 young people**, increasing awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights and encouraging informed decision-making. By delivering accessible content in both English and Kinyarwanda, AGR reinforced its commitment to ensuring that many young person has the knowledge and confidence to make informed choices about their health, well-being, and future.

The campaign took place on our digital platform (Instagram, LinkedIn, X, and Whatsapp).



MAY •



Menstrual Hygiene Day

END PERIOD
STIGMA



On 28 May 2026, AGR marked **Menstrual Hygiene Day** with a special **Red Party** at our office. The event served as an opportunity to raise awareness, challenge stigma, and promote dignity, confidence, and menstrual health for all girls and women. As part of the celebration, all female staff members received an Aunt Flo Kit, containing essential emergency menstrual products to support their menstrual health and well-being.

The event fostered **open conversations about menstruation** and reinforced the importance of creating **supportive environments** where girls and women can thrive without barriers. Through such initiatives, AGR, continues to advocate for menstrual health education, period dignity, and access to essential menstrual hygiene products.



MAY •



To mark Menstrual Hygiene Day 2026, AGR, through its Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) project implemented in partnership with Plan International Rwanda also joined Gatsibo District in raising awareness about menstrual health and hygiene.

The celebration brought together government institutions, development partners, schools, young people, and community members to promote sustainable menstrual hygiene solutions and advocate for girls' health by demanding all partners contribution, education, and well-being. AGR also had the opportunity to showcase the achievements and impact of its SRHR project in empowering girls and supporting menstrual dignity.

**MENSTRUAL
HEALTH
SERVICES
FOR ALL**



By working together, we can continue breaking the stigma surrounding menstruation and ensure that every girl has the knowledge, resources, and confidence to manage her period with dignity, and this commitment may start from individuals to all stake holders.





For AGR, environmental protection and raising awareness about its preservation are central to its mission. The organisation is committed to building a better future for young people by promoting **sustainable environmental practices**, recognizing that protecting the environment is a fundamental pillar of the health, well-being, and prosperity of future generations.

As part of its commitment to environmental stewardship, AGR officially kicked off **Environment Week** by joining the Ministry of Environment in Gisagara District for the national launch of the week-long campaign. The event brought together government institutions, development partners, community members, and youth to reaffirm their shared responsibility for **protecting Rwanda's natural resources** and **promoting sustainable environmental practices**. AGR's participation highlighted the vital role that Girl Guides play in driving environmental awareness and inspiring communities to take action for a greener and more resilient future.



Environment week 2026

Girl Guides Rwanda joined students from G.S. Nganzo and G.S. Gitare, local leaders, and community members in Rulindo District for a meaningful day of environmental action.



Under this year's theme, "A Global Call for Climate Action," participants came together to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment and promoting sustainable practices within their communities. A highlight of the day was the planting of 200 fruit trees, a concrete step toward strengthening climate resilience, improving local biodiversity, and supporting sustainable livelihoods.



Beyond their environmental benefits, these trees will contribute to healthier ecosystems and provide long-term value for future generations.

World Environment Day reminds us that collective action, no matter how small, can create lasting change. Every tree planted today represents a commitment to building greener, healthier, and more resilient communities.



Advancing Digital Safety Through Surf Smart 2.0



Implemented in partnership with WAGGGS, Surf Smart 2.0 aims to equip young people with the knowledge and practical skills needed **to navigate the online world safely, responsibly, and confidently**. Through interactive learning materials and engaging activities, the program promotes digital literacy, online safety, critical thinking, and responsible internet use.



This approach will enable both in-school and out-of-school youth to benefit from the program, ensuring that more young people are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to stay safe and thrive online. Through strong collaboration with local stakeholders, AGR remains committed to creating a safer and more inclusive digital future for young people across Rwanda.

As part of its commitment to empowering young people in the digital age, AGR continued the rollout of the Surf Smart 2.0 initiative through a series of engagement meetings with district leaders in Rusizi, Nyagatare, Kamonyi, Nyabihu, Rubavu, and Gasabo Districts.



The meetings provided an opportunity to introduce the program to **local authorities** and discuss effective strategies for its implementation. District leaders welcomed the initiative and recognized its importance in helping young people address the opportunities and challenges presented by the digital environment. To ensure broader access and greater impact, local authorities recommended **expanding the program beyond schools** to include youth centers and other community-based spaces.



Rwanda to Host the 40th WAGGGS World Conference in 2029



AGR is proud to announce a historic milestone for Guiding in Rwanda and across Africa. Rwanda has successfully secured the bid **to host the 40th World Conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) in 2029**. This remarkable achievement reflects the confidence and trust placed in Rwanda to welcome the global Guiding and Scouting Movement for one of its most important international gatherings. The conference will bring together delegates, leaders, and young women from around the world to celebrate leadership, sisterhood, innovation, and collective impact.

The announcement was made during the 39th WAGGGS World Conference, hosted by the Girl Guides Association of Cambodia in Siem Reap. During the same conference, South Africa was also honored with the opportunity to host the 43rd Olave Baden-Powell Society (OB-PS) Annual Meeting, further enhancing the significance of this memorable international gathering.

Hosting the 40th WAGGGS World Conference marks a new chapter for Guiding in Rwanda and provides a unique opportunity to showcase the country's hospitality, culture, and commitment to empowering girls and young women. The event will also strengthen **Rwanda's position as a premier destination for international conferences and youth-focused initiatives**.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone whose dedication, commitment, and hard work contributed to this achievement. Special appreciation goes to our volunteers, leaders, partners, supporters, and all members of the Guiding Movement who believed in Rwanda's vision and worked tirelessly to make this dream a reality.

We are equally grateful to the Girl Guides Association of Cambodia for their exceptional hospitality and for hosting an inspiring and memorable 39th WAGGGS World Conference. Their warm welcome and outstanding organization created a truly enriching experience for participants from around the globe.



As we begin preparations for 2029, we look forward to welcoming the global Guiding family to the Land of a Thousand Hills for an unforgettable conference that will inspire collaboration, strengthen friendships, and advance our shared mission of empowering girls and young women to become leaders and agents of change.



June •

HONOURING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI



As part of the 100 days of commemoration (Kwibuka 32), AGR joined survivors, families, partners, and the wider community **to honour the victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi** and reaffirm the shared responsibility to preserve memory while building a future founded on dignity, inclusion, unity, and lasting peace.

The commemoration began with a Walk to Remember from the AGR Headquarters to the Gikondo Genocide Memorial, the final resting place of more than 15,000 victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi. At the memorial, participants paid tribute to the more than one million lives lost and reflected on the devastating consequences of hatred, discrimination, and division, while recognizing Rwanda's remarkable journey towards unity, reconciliation, and resilience.

Madame Uwimpuhwe Gloriose, the representative of Ibuka in Gikondo Sector, who provided **a historical overview of the Gikondo Genocide Memorial**. She shared a moving testimony illustrating how the ideology of Genocide had been deliberately cultivated long before 1994. She emphasized the critical role of parents in ensuring that genocide ideology is never transmitted to future generations, stressing that every family has a responsibility to educate children about unity, humanity, and the value of life.



June •



The Chief Commissioner of the Association des Guides du Rwanda, Madam Marie Louise Uwamwezi, called upon participants particularly young people **to reject all forms of discrimination and division**. She encouraged them to stand for truth and justice, honour and support survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi, and become role models who promote unity, responsible citizenship, and national development.

Participants also attended an educational session led by Mr. Jean Claude Sewase Karangwa, a researcher who also represented the Ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement (MINUBUMWE). He traced Rwanda's history from the pre-colonial monarchy through the colonial period and the divisions that ultimately culminated in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. He further highlighted the role of the RPF-Inkotanyi in stopping the Genocide and leading the country's liberation and recovery. Addressing the youth, he encouraged them **to seize the opportunities available to them, reject all forms of hatred and discrimination, and actively contribute to Rwanda's continued unity and sustainable development**.



Through this commemoration, AGR reaffirmed its commitment to educating young people about the history of the Genocide against the Tutsi, preserving the memory of its victims, supporting survivors, and empowering future generations to become ambassadors of peace, unity, and reconciliation.



Volunteering at the WAGGGS World Centres: Learning Through Service



Like the other WAGGGS World Centres, **Our Chalet** welcomes volunteers from around the world through its **Volunteer Leadership Development Programme**. As Volunteer Specialists, participants gain **practical work experience** in their chosen areas, strengthen their **leadership skills**, and contribute to creating memorable experiences for visitors. Along the way, they build lifelong friendships and experience the unique beauty of the Swiss Alps while serving a global community.

This season, we are proud to celebrate Pascaline, one of our young leaders, who was selected to join the summer volunteer team at Our Chalet. During her placement, she will support the centre's daily operations, welcome guests from across the globe, and further develop her leadership, teamwork, and intercultural communication skills. Her journey reflects the spirit of Guiding learning by doing, serving others, and growing as a leader.

Could You Be the Next Volunteer?

Volunteering at a WAGGGS World Centre is a unique opportunity for personal and professional growth. Whether you are interested in hospitality, programme delivery, administration, communications, or guest services, each season offers meaningful opportunities to learn while making a positive impact.

Girl Guides and Girl Scouts who are passionate about leadership, cultural exchange, and international service are encouraged to apply to volunteer at any of the five WAGGGS World Centres:

- Our Chalet
- Sangam
- Our Cabaña
- Pax Lodge
- Kusafiri

Every volunteering season provides a chance to develop new skills, expand your global network, and contribute to the mission of WAGGGS by supporting young people from around the world. If you are ready for an adventure that combines service, leadership, and international friendship, consider applying to become a volunteer at one of the WAGGGS World Centres. Your next leadership journey could begin there.

Girls Decide in a Protective and Supportive Community project graduation

AGR in partnership with Plan International Rwanda, celebrated the graduation of participants from the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Clubs in Gatsibo, Nyaruguru, and Bugesera Districts.

The graduation ceremonies marked the successful completion of a learning journey that has equipped children, adolescent girls, and boys with essential knowledge and life skills.



Throughout the programme, participants strengthened their understanding of sexual and reproductive health and rights by using grow up smart curriculum, built self-confidence, developed leadership skills, and learned to make informed decisions that positively influence their health and well-being.

The celebrations also recognized the dedication and achievements of outstanding club members, who received hygiene kits and school supplies as awards. In addition, essential materials were donated to Girls' Rooms in participating schools to help create safe, supportive spaces where girls can manage their menstrual health with dignity and continue learning without interruption.

Adding to the excitement of the day, participants showcased their experiences through poems, testimonies, songs, and creative performances, demonstrating the knowledge they had gained and the personal growth they achieved during their time in the clubs.



Through the Girls Decide in Supportive and Protective Communities project, AGR and Plan International Rwanda continue to empower young people with the information, skills, and supportive environment they need to lead healthy lives, advocate for their rights, and become positive agents of change in their communities.

More from AGR

ENROLLEMENT OF NEW GIRL GUIDES

The Association des Guides du Rwanda welcomed newly enrolled Girl Guides from Rulindo, Gasabo, Nyagatare, Kicukiro, Rusizi and Nyaruguru Districts, marking an important milestone in the organization's mission to empower girls and young women across Rwanda.

Through their membership in the Girl Guiding movement, these girls are embarking on a journey of leadership, personal development, community service, and lifelong learning. AGR continues to provide young members with opportunities to build confidence, develop essential life skills, and become active agents of positive change within their communities.

The enrolment of these new Girl Guides reflects AGR's ongoing commitment to nurturing a new generation of empowered, responsible, and engaged young leaders.



More from AGR

YESS GIRLS ACHIEVEMENTS

CAMPAIGN – UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

Throughout the month, the YESS Girls Movement actively engaged young people through the YOMA platform, encouraging them to explore new learning and opportunity pathways.

95 young women from Rwanda already onboarded YOMA, bringing them closer to skills development and future opportunities. And By the end of the year, an estimated 100 + young women are expected to have joined the platform acquired important skills



Wendy YESS Participant 2026 from Kenya



YOMA has shown me that learning goes beyond the classroom by providing practical skills and opportunities for personal growth. Through the platform, I have strengthened my leadership, digital and problem-solving skills while connecting with opportunities that empower young people. It has inspired me to keep learning, take action in my community and confidently prepare for my future.



YES! GIRLS CAN CAMPAIGN

From April the YESS team Rwanda launched the campaign under the theme **“Yes Girl Can Be an Excellent Leader.”**

The campaign aim is to promote girls' leadership, strengthen their confidence, and encourage active participation in decision-making spaces; the launch took place in Bugesera District but the awareness campaign reached more than 3000 girls across the country. These sessions equipped girls with leadership skills and voice.



More from AGR

YESS GIRLS ACHIEVEMENTS

WELCOME TO MY WORLD CAMPAIGN

The YESS Girls Movement advanced the **“Welcome to My World” campaign**, creating a safe space where young people could express themselves, share experiences, and feel seen and heard.

The campaign promoted understanding, confidence, and unity among girls, while reinforcing the message that **every voice matters**. It continues to inspire a world where everyone feels welcome and included.

As Girl Guides, this experience reflects core values of confidence, courage, and commitment to community impact. Through this campaign, girls are raising their voices to inspire, empower, and uplift one another celebrating sisterhood, leadership, and collective strength. This campaign also help the organization to recruit others girls as well presenting the opportunities they can find after joining.



MEDIA & ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

YESS participants appeared on **KC2 TV's Morning Cafe** to raise awareness about **Red Pride and menstrual health**. They shared practical tips on managing menstruation hygienically, challenged stigma, and encouraged open conversations. The session empowered girls with accurate information, confidence, and support to handle their periods with dignity and pride confidently.

We appreciate our partners



Until we are all equal



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Association des Guides du Rwanda

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<https://www.rwandagirlguides.org/home>