



ANNUAL REPORT

2017

Kigali, Rwanda

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Foreword

Association des Guides du Rwanda Girl Guides (AGR) has a proud history stretching over 35 years of empowering Rwandan girls and young women to develop the skills that are necessary in the society of the day. But the skills that girls need vary across time.

In the 2017 Annual Report, I am proud to present AGR's achievements, with a strong focus on developing and implementing programs and projects to support girls and young women in Rwanda on issues that are relevant to them, helping them build the skills they need for the future.

AGR continued its rollout of *Free Being Me and Action on Body Confidence*, the international body confidence programs and continued to scale out the *Voices Against Violence*, a program from the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) to support healthy relationships. Our 12+ Programme was implemented in our five districts of implementation in 2017, focusing on equipping adolescent girls with information on reproductive health, financial literacy and social assets including fighting against violence.

All our programs utilize the Girl Guide Method in their delivery—girls working in small groups, at their own pace, to explore issues that are important to them in an engaging and interactive way. In the spirit of friendship and support, we continued to foster our engagement with friends and colleagues across the world this year. In July 2017, Chief Commissioners from across Africa traveled to Rwanda for a conference that aimed at taking them through the WAGGGS new leadership model, and the same week, nearly 200 young leaders, part

of Youth Exchange South to South attended their evaluation workshop. We thank all partners and volunteers that helped to render these events successful including the Minister of Gender and Family Promotion and the Mayor of Kigali City. Did I mention that WAGGGS Board Chair was also present along with all Africa Regional Committee members? I must recognize that it was the first time to Rwanda to welcome WAGGGS Board Chair and that it was indeed an honor and pride.

The work by the AGR Board in 2017 has included the release of a new brand identity that reflects our members' needs and preferences in today's world, as well as the launch of the 5 year new strategic plan, our policies and procedures manuals.

Our volunteers are ably supported by the wonderful team in the office. Their skills, support and commitment to the organisation and the people who work in it are without question. With District Commissioners, we have grown into a strong and resilient team that has taken on the challenges presented to us with courage and a determination. We have made sure the decisions taken were always in the best interests of the girls and women we served.

And last, but by no means least, thank you to all our dedicated Adult and Young Leaders who provide a wonderful Guiding experience to girls across Rwanda.

Pamela Ruzigana
Chief Commissioner

Background on AGR

Association des Guides du Rwanda (AGR) is a national non-governmental organization which aims to enable girls and young women to acquire skills leading to their development and autonomy. Our mission is to empower girls and young women to become agents of positive change as responsible citizens. AGR is affiliated to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), the largest voluntary movement dedicated to girls and young women, founded by Lord Baden Powell in 1910.

AGR operates in all 30 districts of Rwanda and currently have more than 15,000 active members.

Our Vision:

All girls and young women will be responsible for their socio-economic development and participate in the positive change of the country.

Our Mission

To enable girls and young women to acquire skills leading to their development and autonomy and to become agents of positive change as responsible citizens.

Goals:

- Equip girls and young women with moral and Rwandan values
- Provide high quality non-formal education for girls and young women
- Develop national and international partnerships
- Improve girls' and women's socio-economic lives

Our Non-Formal Educational Method

AGR uses Girl Guiding unique model of non-formal education to support the development of children and young people in diverse groups.

- Learning by doing
 - Learning in small groups
 - Connecting with others
 - Connecting with my world
 - My path, my pace
-

Part 1: Organizational level

Internal changes

The overall organization structure has shifted greatly since 2017. In the last three years, AGR has seen changes within the leadership structure. In 2016, the General Assembly elected a new board of directors, placing Pamela Ruzigana on the position of the Chief Commissioner. She was elected to take over with other few board members including the National Treasurer.

In conformity of new Local NGO law, other small working committees have been created, these include the conflict resolution committee and internal audit committee. These two committees are entirely independent and they each support the board of directors to mitigate conflict and financial risks as well as advise the staff and board on overall operations.

In 2017, a small committee of five people was nominated among the board members to support AGR executive secretariat on urgent decision-making for issues that cannot wait for the whole board of governance meetings. This committee was put in place to solve urgent issues that may require an entire board member meeting and that are beyond AGR senior staff capacity of decision making, but does not replace the board of governance structure or interfere with its decision making capacity. They will rather report to the whole board after making decisions or consult other board members whenever it is needed. Additionally, a new tender committee was put in place to replace the existing one, as a number of its members were on the new board of governance.

The same year, AGR revised and launched new procedural manuals provide clear guidance and support to the organization operations and resources management. These documents include the Human Resource Policy, Procurement Policy, Accounting Policy and IT Management Policy. Moreover, AGR adopted the new strategic plan for 2017 – 2021, which will deliver across five strategic objectives:

1. Strong and growing membership
2. Dynamic girl guiding programming
3. Brand recognition
4. Financial sustainability
5. Facility management

At the district level, the districts have reinforced their committees through regular meetings that they report back to the secretariat. During the leadership retreat from 17 – 19 November 2017, the district commissioners evaluated their leadership performance, since some have served in governance longer than it's required by the statutes. They all agreed that they will follow what the law says from then onwards. We expect changes in leadership and management of Girl Guiding in the coming years, with more young women being involved in.

Part 2: Summary of results per programme

Association des Guides du Rwanda collaborates with local and international stakeholders to design and implement girl and youth centered programming. These programmes contribute to girls' education, health, leadership and socio-economic empowerment.

a. Girl Guiding Educational Programme

In January, we have refreshed our brand identity to reflect who we are today and to symbolize our dynamic future.

Our new logo incorporates the Trefoil of all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across the globe. The three leaves represent the three-fold Promise as originally laid down by Lord Baden Powell, our Founder; the base of the stalk represents the flame of the love of humanity; the vein pointing upwards through the center is the compass needle pointing to the way; and the two stars represent the Promise and Law. The choice of colors is intentional as well. The white and green are emblematic to Rwandan Girl Guides since 1980 and they represent peace and prosperity.

In order to maintain a meaningful brand for girls, 2017 has been a year of revising the educational programmes for the Bergeronnettes (5 – 12) and Guides (13 – 18) so they can live uttermost experience in Guiding, which will build their character, confidence and courage. Therefore, the National Training Team has worked tirelessly on the new curricula content, asking girls what they would like to learn more, piloting the sessions until we come up with nice, educative material for the girls. We appreciate the funder, IOGT – NTO Movement who sponsored this exercise, so we can also integrate the component of alcohol issues in the programme. The manuals will be launched in 2018 and disseminated widely.

In the same line, AGR has launched an outreach project to promote Guiding among new audiences including women prisoners and refugees, hoping in turn to assist their integration. The pilot phase involved Gihembe refugee camp in Gicumbi and Muhanga Prison under the guidance of the Ministry of Disaster and Refugee Management (MIDIMAR) and Rwanda Correctional Services.

By December 2017, we delivered sessions on sexual reproductive health, body confidence, gender-based violence and financial literacy, which girls and women enjoyed learning while having fun. We hope to expand our programmes to other camps and prisons.

Currently the troop of Gihembe has more than 200 members.

b. Girl Village Representative

The Girl Village Representative (GVR) Initiative is a unique initiative that seeks to provide a platform for girls at the village level to be heard and for critical issues in their lives to be recognized. The initiative is developed through a holistic approach to empower girls with all of the required skills, including building their confidence so they can be able to represent girls in the community and participate in decision-making processes.

After nearly five months, the pilot phase of implementation closed in March 31, 2017 with a positive hope that all 100 girls who took part of the initiative will continue to scale up their learnings and be the voice for other youth.

GVR is an initiative designed by Girl Effect, directed by the Ministry of youth and ICT through the National Youth Council and implemented by AGR. The GVR started with a boot camp of 100 girls elected within the National Youth Council at the village level.



Through Girl Guiding programme such as *Free Being Me* and *Voices against Violence*, girls were empowered to be self-confident, speak out in public and advocate for issues that affect youth, more specifically girls. At the end of this journey, the girls appreciated the support they received from the Girl Guides and promised to keep the momentum going because after all they are change makers.

c. “No to Alcohol and Drugs Abuse” programme

The problem of drug and alcohol abuse in Rwanda is complex and demands a coordinated and highly integrated approach. In 2014 Association des Guides du Rwanda launched an anti-substance abuse programme in the districts of Nyagatare, Rusizi, Rubavu, Nyabihu, Kicukiro and Bugesera where the trafficking of alcohol and drugs is high in these regions.

The ultimate goal was to raise awareness in order to reduce the amount of drugs and alcohol being consumed by youth in and out of schools. For three years, the programme has greatly impacted the lives of thousands youth, children, parents and teachers living in the zone of intervention. Some changes are observable in communities, schools and rehabilitation centers for street children in the intervention sectors.

The youth have adopted a sober life in order to finish their studies and have a decent life. Parents and teachers also have reduced consumption of illicit drugs and alcohol to be able to provide for their families and protect them from violence. We truly appreciate the local government for supporting Girl Guides at the grassroots level to carry out the workshops and roadshows as planned. We are also thankful for the National Police for trusting us to deliver some of the programme’s activities in areas that was necessary and for partnering with us in mass mobilization.

In 2017 we launched the second phase of “No to Alcohol and Drugs Abuse” programme, which will run across the country from 2017 to 2021. Funded by IOGT – NTO Movement, this initiative will now be implemented through Girl Guides troops and youth rehabilitation centers. In 2017, we focused on integrating this programme in the Girl Guiding National Educational Programme, which will roll out in 2018 and scaled up in 2019 and 2020.



Apart from educating our members on alcohol related issues, we will sensitize the community, youth, parents and teachers on the effects of alcohol and drugs while encouraging them to collaborate with the police in stopping the traffic of illicit beverages and drugs. Our districts of implementations are those nearby Uganda including Burera Rusizi, Rubavu, Nyagatare, Bugesera, Kirehe, Kicukiro, Rwamagana and Huye.

d. 12+ Programme

The 12+ Programme is a 10-month mentorship and safe-space programme that enables 11 year-old girls to become informed decision-makers. Through the programme girls participate in fun learning activities and work through a curriculum that covers a range of issues from friendship, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, education and financial literacy.

The consortium of Caritas, AGR and Initiative Don Bosco implements the 12+ Programme in 10 districts of Eastern Province and in Kigali City. Particularly, AGR ensures implementation of the programme in five districts including Nyagatare, Gatsibo, Nyarugenge and Gasabo. The 12+ Programme is funded by DFID through the Ministry of Health from 2014 to date.

The third year of the programme started in September 2016 and has brought up remarkable success stories from the girls. Particularly, the last three months girls have 14 covered different interesting topics that applies mostly to their lives such as topics related to finance, health and violence:

“Our body transformation”, “Taking care of our growing bodies part 1 & 2”, “Myths and facts about sexual relations”, “Cost of a baby”, “Money flow in the home”, “Learning journey of Secondary School”, “Negotiating money in the home”, “Simple budgeting-needs and wants”, “Simple budgeting- prioritizing use of money”, “Keeping Money safe”, “Who to go to in case of threats of violence”, “Preparing to visit a financial institution”.



In most safe spaces, girls who did not go to school were re-enrolled due to the efforts made by their colleagues. Girls have started resolving conflicts within their own families. Most of them even go beyond to do advocacy and mobilization on issues that affect them like raising awareness on the importance of mutuelle de santé, kitchen gardening for healthy diet and sensitizing girls to speak out in case of abuse.

The programme ended its 3rd phase in August 2017, and it is anticipated to resume in 2018 under the management of the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion.

e. Youth Exchange South to South – Girls Movement

YESS Girls Movement means Youth Exchange South to South. It is a flagship project in Africa implemented by nine countries in proud partnership with World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts supported by FK Norway.

Through YESS, African young women have the opportunity to explore and contribute to Girl Guiding in a different country away from their own for six months. The half year experience and interaction with other participants and people, enables the girls and young women leaders to appreciate cultural diversity across Africa and beyond; hence strengthening their spirit of tolerance and respect for cultural differences. They are then able to bring back home best practices at the benefit of the country they represent.



AGR has been in this programme for two years now. In 2016, four young women traveled to Madagascar, Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe. In 2017, Rwanda has sent three young leaders to Kenya, Tanzania and Madagascar and in return we have welcomed four young women from Malawi, Madagascar, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Their jobs mostly consists of collecting data, campaigning about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and girls' issues and recruiting and retaining members in the YESS movement.

After six months, the Rwandan delegates who were in Madagascar, Kenya and Tanzania came back home with a huge package of lessons that they are now using to recruit new members and reinforce existing troops within their districts. For example, they have also organized mass events such as painting "Icyumba cy'Umukobwa" in Ngoma, celebrating International Peace Day with refugees in Gicumbi and International Day of the Girl in Rusizi.

YESS Girls 2018 have also been recruited. They come from various districts such as Nyamagabe, Nyagatare and Kicukiro.

f. Umuhoza Programme



Started in 1996, Umuhoza Programme aims at building capacity of vulnerable girls and women in tailoring and sewing as a way of preparing a better future.

Through UNESCO funding, Umuhoza has been granted more modern machines to support students learn other practical skills in entrepreneurship. Those machines include a knitting machine and a stamping ma-

chine that can also be used to paint on stationaries. UNESCO added eight sewing machines to add on existing ones. We are extremely grateful for UNESCO for expanding this program to a more advanced level, and we hope many women will be able to benefit from it once they graduate. 71 students graduated from Umuhoza programmes in 2017.

g. Ni Nyampinga magazine distribution

AGR has been contracted by Girl Effect Rwanda to distribute the quarterly magazine for girls “Ni Nyampinga”. Through Ambassadors, the magazine reaches to up to a million of girls across the country. Each district is represented by one district ambassador, who is also a girl guide. These ambassadors engage girls in conversations around issues that affect their lives, while sharing content information. They also support Girl Effect to organize on the ground activities and festivities. In 2017, 4 issues of Ni Nyampinga magazine were produced and distributed. Through this partnership, the ambassadors have grown their critical thinking, public speaking, understanding of community issues, and engagement in the community and are now helping districts in delivering some Guiding programmes.

h. Amahoro Amani

Amahoro-Amani Dynamics of Great Lakes Scouts and Guides (DSGGL) is made of eight Scouts and Guides organizations in Burundi, North Kivu, South Kivu and Rwanda

Its vision is to shape “A youth that promotes peace, unity for sustainable development in the Great Lakes Region”. In 2017, Amahoro Amani put more efforts in designing, piloting and disseminating the new educational material for peace promotion.

Throughout the process, each member organization chose clubs to test the curriculum and initiated activities which were rewarded at the regional level at the experimental camp held in Rusizi. The members of AGR Training Team have been trained on the new curriculum and in return have organized dissemination workshop for 150 troop leaders, five in each district.

On 08 December 2017, AGR and the Rwanda Scouts Association (RSA) jointly organized a forum in Kigali with the mission of sharing best practices on how to promote gender equality in scout and guide movements and also from other communities of the three countries of the Great Lakes. The event attracted 79 participants from North and South Kivu, Burundi and Rwanda. During this forum, the creation of a women leaders’ network was created and strategies to maintain its effectiveness were shared by guest speaker, Ms. Jeanne d’Arc Kanakuzwe, the President of Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe. Feedback suggested that such forums should be organized frequently to integrate the gender component in our programmes.

i. Diabetes awareness and prevention

Funded by World Diabetes Foundation, this one-year project will be implemented jointly with Rwanda Diabetes Association in 14 districts Kicukiro, Nyarugenge, Rubavu, Gasabo, Musanze, Ruhango, Muhanga, Rusizi, Nyagatare, Kirehe, Kayanza, Huye, Bicumbi and Burera. The areas of implementation were selected by Rwanda Biometrical Centre as they have a high prevalence of alcohol consumption and obesity.

The programme will kicked off in October 2017 and will be run in each district by three youth: One girl guide (team leader), one diabetes patient and one representative of National Youth

Council. Activities will be run in schools, who will organize community awareness activities, and at the end of June 2018, the best clubs will be awarded at the province level.

j. Right to Water Project with PSG

In partnership with the Girl Guides of Germany (Pfadfinderinnenschaft St. Georg – PSG), AGR launched a program entitled “Right for Water” aimed at raising awareness on the importance of water and ensuring everyone takes action to sustain it. The project funded by official Germany state authorities and the Ministry for Families, Seniors, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) will run for two years and will involve many exchange activities between youth of PSG and AGR.



To start this partnership, 10 participants from AGR competed in essays and oral interviews to travel to Germany from 28 July to 13 August 2017 and participate in the national camp and attend this project’s meetings and activities.

It was a positive and impactful learning journey for the delegation who, not only discovered what the project aimed for, but also tied everlasting friendships with PSG members. After the camp they began delivering the program as planned within their troops in eight districts.

k. AGR Youth Friendly Centre

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Youth, AGR manages youth centre known as “YEGO”, a facility that provides health services, entrepreneurship skills and other opportunities for youth empowerment. More than 36,000 youth have visited the centre seeking out those services. There is a big gap between male and female attendees, thus, 2018 will focus more on increasing number of girls and young women adhering to the centre’s services.



The centre also offers IT skills for youth in partnership with DOT Rwanda and in 2017 has launched a mini library with computers and books to increase reading culture among youth.

With other Girl Guide volunteers, YEGO centre reaches out to youth to educate on male circumcision, Hepatitis B and C and adoption of safe and healthy lifestyles away from alcohol and drugs, protected sex, etc. The centre also seeks more opportunities to gather youth on thematic areas, for example during holidays youth associations/ cooperatives were called to conduct activities under the theme “Isuku Hose, Ejo Heza” and the best innovators were awarded by Kigali City.

Part 3: Events organized

In line with its strategic goals, AGR organizes, hosts and participates in many events, both small and big to give members a platform to grow their skills and knowledge, and to strengthen their engagement in the community as responsible citizens of the world. Below are some of the major events that took place at the national level:

a. World Thinking Day 2017

Each year on February 22, Rwandan Girl Guides join other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across the world to celebrate World Thinking Day. World Thinking Day is a special day to reflect on our global sisterhood in Guiding and to think about issues that are important to girls and young women around the world.

The 2017's World Thinking Day theme was "Growth" – inspiring our members to encourage other girls and young women to experience what it means to be part of the Girl Guiding Movement.

The celebrations took part in different parts of the country. Most girls planted trees to symbolize a personal journey of growth in all aspects of life and more importantly a contribution to increase AGR membership.

As part of the Thinking Day celebrations, we have also hosted a three-day mini-camp in Ngarama, Gatsibo District to reinforce Girl Guiding visibility and recruit more members.

Around 100 girls and young women were recruited and officially enrolled and they committed to introduce our Movement to new members. As usual, this day is also the day that every Girl Guide is required to give back and do "a good return". We had many girls visiting patients in hospitals, cleaning and cooking for old people and performing other good services.



b. Kwibuka 23

The Girl Guides joined the Nation for the 23rd Commemoration of Genocide against Tutsi. The memorial week was kicked off with a series of events including walk to remember, laying wreaths in memory of Genocide victims and other activities meant to maintain solidarity by rallying around Genocide survivors in line with the theme “Remember the Genocide against the Tutsi-Fight Genocide Ideology-Build on our progress”.



At the national level, the Commemoration was combined with a special *Umuganda* to help a genocide survivor whose houses were in a deplorable situation. Girl Guides contributed to rehabilitating their houses, built a kitchen and a garden to provide access to healthy meals and also provided furniture and other home equipment.

We were joined by Honorable Jean Marie Vianney Gatabazi, who urged Girl Guides to look back into their history for them to be able to shape a bright future by ensuring that Genocide will never happen again.

c. “Member Organizations’ Governance and Girls in the Lead” event

From 23 to 28 July 2017, Chief Commissioners from 32 countries and YESS Girls Movement Alumnae converged in Kigali, Rwanda for Africa’s 2017 flagship event codenamed ‘MO Governance and Girls in the lead’.

Organized by WAGGGS Global Programmes Team in collaboration with the Africa Region Committee, the event attracted over 122 delegates to celebrate Intergenerational Complementarity, where young women and Senior Volunteers co-exist and draw upon each other’s strength while cushioning each other’s weaker areas.



The event, which took place at the 2000 Hotel and was officially opened by the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion and the Mayor of Kigali City. Both of them congratulated AGR

for contributing to the Government's vision by educating and raising girls to be independent and responsible in the future.



The summit also brought together representatives from Africa Region Committee, World Board of WAGGGS including the World Board Chairperson, Nicola Grinstead and Ana-Maria Mideros, currently WAGGGS World Board Chair. These leaders took time to visit AGR centre to learn more about about AGR projects. The World Board Chair herself visited the 12+ safe space in Gikomero Sector and joined the girls to draw the Friendship Circle.

The World Board Chair also met important leaders in the country, including the Vice-President of the Senate and the Director General of Imbuto Foundation where they discussed AGR initiatives and impact. As Rwanda is hosting the next regional conference in 2019, the Africa Region received an opportunity to pick the best hotel to host the conference. Lastly, AGR hosted a special dinner at Serena Hotel to honor Friends of Guiding that support AGR on a regular basis. The evening was graced by traditional dances, good food and music.

It was a successful event thanks to the service team, including those who attended the opening ceremonies; it has proved that *"l'union fait la force"* and that other upcoming events will be fruitful.

d. National Young Leaders Camps

In order to offer girls and young women the best Girl Guiding experience, AGR hosted two camps in Byimana Sector, Ruhango District. The first one organized with the Scouts Association took place from 21 to 24 May 2017 and gathered 120 girl guides mostly from the Southern Province, and focused on reinforcing leadership skills for the participants.

The second camp was held from 07 to 11 August 2017 attracted 200 Girl Guides from all districts. We were privileged to be joined by a group of six young women from UK as part of GOLD UK initiative, who kept working with other girl guides two weeks more after the camp.



It was an opportunity for the training team to pilot the new programs for troop leaders so they can make adjustments according to their needs. Other sessions delivered include Free Being Me, Voices against Violence, No to Alcohol and Drugs, First Aid, Leadership.

At the closing ceremonies, the campers were honored to meet

Byimana Sector Executive Secretary, the District Police Spokesperson and the District National Youth Council who thanked the participants for their determination to disseminate lessons learnt for a better world.

AGR is grateful for all the camp's organizers, the trainers and thankful for the National Youth Chaplain, who availed the camp site and supported us throughout the preparations.

e. National Leadership Retreats

From February 04 to 05, AGR conducted the National Leadership Development Programme for the staff and the National Board with the aim of increasing collaboration between the two parties. The participants reviewed what a great leadership looks like, shared what they understand from each one's roles and responsibilities, adopted adequate tools of communication and studied strategies to achieve AGR mission.

We have been honored to benefit from the great experiences from external speakers such as Alphonsine Kabagabo, the Relationships Manager for the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Emma Marie Bugingo, the Executive Secretary of Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe, Claudine Uwanyirigira DeLucco, the RBA Deputy Director and Kiba Muvunyi, the Director of SOS Technical School. All of them stressed on the importance of effective communication and a shared vision for all organization leaders.

The second pool of leadership retreat convened all province and district commissioners from from 17 – 19 November with the objective of training leaders on the new educational programme while reinforcing their leadership capacity in order to deliver the best guiding experiences.

f. Pro-Femmes 30th Anniversary

On 7 July 2017, Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe, the umbrella for nearly 60 organizations celebrated its 30th anniversary, an event that coincided with the launch of PFTH Centre for Women's Leadership Excellence in Gahanga Sector, Kicukiro District.

AGR as co-founder and member of PFTH joined the ceremony, grazed by the presence of Her Excellency the First Lady. All member organizations were given an opportunity to showcase their projects. Here AGR had the opportunity to expose their projects implemented by Girl Guides at the grassroots level. The First Lady was happy to see that Girl Guiding is still active and encouraged us to keep moving at the highest level.



g. International Peace Day 2017

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

AGR celebrated this day in two parts. The first event took place in Gihembe Refugee Camp, in Gicumbi District whereby AGR youth played volleyball with the girl refugees, a game aiming at fostering peace, hope and love.

The second event initiated by Amahoro Amani was held in Centre Cyprien & Daphrose Rugamba (CECYDAR) with the aim of giving hope to former street kids living there. AGR team played games with the kids and distributed material such as balls, stationaries, etc.



h. International Day of the Girl 2017

International Day of the Girl Child (IDG) is celebrated annually on October 11 to highlight issues concerning gender inequality young girl face. In 2017, AGR joined WAGGGS' #TeamGirl campaign – focusing on education. Our goal is to enable girls and young women to develop to their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world. Unfortunately, not everyone has access to formal education in Rwanda despite free education strategy. There are a variety of challenges preventing girls and young women from going to school – including gender-based violence, lack of body confidence, poverty and menstruation.

On this day, we focused on three components:

- Raising awareness on the importance of education in the Nkombo Sector, Rusizi District, by hosting an event that attracts the local community, authorities, girls and their parents.
- Social assistance: various girl guides have organized meetings with parents and local leaders for social reintegration for victims of teenage pregnancy.
- Advocacy: we joined other girl guides and girl scouts on social media to talk about issues that still lag girls behind in education and produced visuals to support the #TeamGirl Campaign.

i. 16 Days of Activism

16 Days of Activism is an international campaign managed by UN Women as part of the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign to end violence against women. Every year WAGGGS launches its' own mini campaign to raise awareness of violence against women and girls and AGR joins in.

In 2017, we have used 16 Days of Activism to highlight the places that girls feel unsafe. Local troops were asked to identify the places where girls are most at risk of being exposed to violence and discuss what they can do to protect themselves. Additionally, the leaders were asked to encourage girls to say no to those who try to abuse them, and report cases of violence they know in their own communities to the police.

At the national level, girl guides joined the Rwandan Government's official campaign launch on 24 November 2017, an event that started off by a march under the theme, "End violence against women and girls: Speak out!"

Part 4: Global opportunities for girls and volunteers

Guiding offers girls and volunteers great adventures. AGR gathers together exciting WAGGGS opportunities for members aged 18 to 30. Members are given the chance to represent what it means to be a girl guide at a range of conferences and seminars all over the world. At these conferences and seminars the focus issues range from the global direction of guiding, leadership, development and social action right to the environment and women's rights. Here are a few international experiences that benefited our girls:

a. Helen Storrow and Arts4Change seminars

The Helen Storrow Seminar gives young people from around the world the chance to connect on issues they care about and take the lead as agents of change in their communities.

This special seven-day programme has been held at Our Chalet, WAGGGS' World Centre in Switzerland, since 1986. The 12th Helen Storrow Seminar took place from March 21 to 28, 2017 at Our Chalet, Adelboden, Switzerland under the Theme, and "Leading Change for a Sustainable Future". It is in this heart of the Swiss Alps that Gilberthe Uwera Benimana, a Girl Guide from Rulindo joined other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to share the environmental issues she encounters in their communities and what she is doing to tackle them through Girl Guiding.



Gilberthe has received brilliant ideas to improve her personal project "Girls for the Greener Future". Alongside with her troop, she is intending to launch a door to door campaign in which she will deliver information about nature protection with much emphasis on the role of a girl in the process. She says, "Through our traditional role of housekeeping, farming and fetching water and firewood, we have a choice to make; avoiding destruction of Mother Nature treating environment so well".

Clementine Umutesi from Kamonyi District attended "Arts4Change" event in Madagascar from 10 to 17 April 2017, where participants had the opportunity to explore the Global Goals for Sustainable Development using the power of arts to change minds, change communities, and change society. Clementine says she has gained experience understanding how different art forms can be used to help end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate change.

b. WAGGGS Volunteers

In order to provide young leaders an opportunity to explore, share and learn, WAGGGS offers different volunteering positions in world centers.



Viviane Ange Hirwa Nyamuhenda traveled to Sangam in India to attend “Be the Change” event from the 4th to 10th March 2017, and for the occasion of the International Women’s Day with theme “Be Bold for Change.” Later on, Viviane went back to Sangam for three months from 2nd June – 31st August 2017 to take part in the short term Monsoon Sangam Volunteer. During her stay in Sangam, Viviane supported the development and delivery of Sangam’s international events.

Sandrine Bwiza from Gasabo District was awarded a scholarship to travel to Our Chalet as a volunteer from from 21 August to 20 October 2017. She participated in planning, facilitation and delivery of sessions, WAGGGS’ global initiatives and campaigns and leading tours with guests around the city.

We, as AGR hope to see these young women contribute to our movement when back home, by also assisting other girls prepare such adventures as most of them don’t even know they exist.

c. 36th WAGGGS World Conference

From Monday 18 to Friday 22 September 2017, all WAGGGS’ member organizations gathered in India for the 36th World Conference, under the theme “For Her World”. The triennial conference is an opportunity for all members to make key decisions regarding the future of the movement.

AGR was represented by the Chief Commissioner and International Commissioner who led a session about impact of community based programmes such the 12+ programme. Both of them also met with different partners and potential leaders that could be interested to tie friendships with AGR.

Rwanda was also lucky to have one young leader among the team of interpreters, Nadia Lorraine Niyonsaba, who competed with other youth across the globe to secure this position!

Also, the conference elected 6 new members and appointed Ana-Maria Mideros as the World Board Chair to replace Nicola Grinstead. AGR is honored to have hosted these two at the same time in the same year.



Part 5: Guiding in the media

AGR has seen lots of media coverage in 2017, from local to international levels. Few highlights include:

- Abagide baratoza umwana w'umukobwa kuzavamo umuyobozi mwiza
<http://www.kigalitoday.com/amakuru/mu-rwanda/article/abagide-baratoza-umwana-w-umukobwa-kuzavamo-umuyobozi-mwiza>
- Umuryango w'Abagide wakiriye inama mpuzamahanga
<https://goo.gl/tZUsnP>
- “Ntangaje ko u Rwanda rubaye umurwa mukuru w'Abagide muri Afurika”, Zoe Rasoaniaina
<http://www.africanpeoplesvoice.com/ntangaje-ko-u-rwanda-rubaye-umurwa-mukuru-wabagide-muri-afurika-zoe-rasoaniaina/>
- Africa: Give Girls 12 Years of Safe, Quality Education. They Deserve It!
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201710120254.html>
- On International Day of the Girl, Rwanda's Girl Guides share their stories: 'Next time I am told I am not allowed to participate, I will speak up'
<https://thelily.com/on-international-day-of-the-girl-rwandas-girl-guides-share-their-stories-deb2ac6dd06b>
- Violence and sexual harassment is stopping girls from getting a safe education, reveals global poll
<https://www.waggggs.org/en/news/violence-and-sexual-harassment-stopping-girls-getting-safe-education-reveals-global-poll/>
- Girl Guides in Rwanda are beating the barriers to education
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mIMkM7njLQ>
- Surviving the Rwandan genocide – a story by Alphosine Kabagabo
<http://www.africaregionwaggggs.org/surviving-the-rwandan-genocide/>
- How Girl Guiding helped me overcome the trauma of the Rwandan Genocide – Pascaline Umulisa
<https://www.waggggs.org/fr/blog/how-girl-guiding-helped-me-overcome-trauma-rwandan-genocide/>

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