



WORLD ASSOCIATION
OF GIRL GUIDES
AND GIRL SCOUTS



THE YESS GIRLS MOVEMENT... JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

The Youth Exchange South to South (YESS) Girls Movement is our international exchange programme, funded by the Norwegian Agency For Exchange Cooperation (NOREC), a Norwegian Government Agency.

From 2015 to 2019 the programme has given 166 Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from 14 different Member Organisations across Africa and the Asia-Pacific region the once in a lifetime opportunity to live and work in another country for six months.





THE JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

 SINCE 2015, THE YESS GIRLS MOVEMENT has become one of our flagship global programmes and a favourite for young women in the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions.

Dubbed the 'journey of a lifetime', the YESS Girls' Movement gives young women aged 18-25 years the chance to immerse themselves into a different way of life for six months.

During their stay they are challenged to undertake six different core initiatives, focusing on the environment, menstrual hygiene, membership recruitment, delivery of a sustainable community project, engaging 'Friends of Guiding' and an annual YESS Girls Can campaign.

 *The YESS Girls Movement has given us a new perspective on working together with young women and of different cultures. We have realised there is a need to give the girls we work with leadership roles in the organisation as they will be able to reach out to more girls and make Guiding more fun at the same time.* 

Mary, Chief Commissioner,
Malawi Girl Guides

WAGGGS AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



5 GENDER EQUALITY



At WAGGGS, we place the ambition of the SDGs at the heart of all our work, particularly **SDG 5 - ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS** – given our vision of a fairer, more equal world.

We believe that to realise this ambition, it is crucial that girls can have a proactive voice on their needs and rights, and that their experiences are reflected in government policy and legislation in all countries around the world.

Through our YESS Girls Movement exchange programme, we aspire to give girls the chance to develop their leadership skills, and have the confidence and self-awareness they need to pursue their dreams and be this voice of change,

 *The YESS programme gave me a platform to showcase my abilities as a young leader.* 
Mbali Mngomezuli, 2015 YESS Girl Participant, South Africa

WHAT THE YESS GIRL EXCHANGE LOOKS LIKE:

The exchange programme runs for nine months in total:

- One month of preparation and training
- Six months exchange of living in a host Member Organisation country
- Two months of mandatory reporting upon returning home to share learnings with their home Member Organisation.

THE SIX CORE INITIATIVES:

Reaching out to the reached, unreached, under-reached and hard-to-reach areas and recruiting girls and young women into girl guiding #WelcomeToMyWorld	The YES! Girls Can Campaign where young people campaign on issues that affect girls demonstrating the positive impact they can have on the lives of others.	The Green Tech Generation Campaign which challenges young women to take responsibility for the environment.
The Good Turn Community Projects where in honour of the Guide Promise, the participants undertake at least one sustainable community support project in their host country every year.	Friends of Guiding Engagement of prominent men and women as Friends of guiding so that they can support (financially and otherwise); speak out and take action on, issues that affect girls.	The Red Pride Menstrual Hygiene Management Education , where girls and young women are properly educated about menstrual hygiene and inspired to take action so that periods don't limit the life chances of others.



Through these activities, the programme helps Member Organisations raise awareness on a national, regional & global scale about the positive impact Guiding can have on a girls' life. By being actively involved and visible in this global programme, all participating Member Organisations can benefit from being part of the world's largest voluntary organisation of **10 million members across 150 countries**.



NOREC facilitates exchanges among like minded organisations in different countries for mutual learning.



ZAMBIA: YESS! GIRLS CAN

The 2019 Zambian YESS Girls decided to run their annual campaign under the slogan;
"SAY NO TO ALCOHOL ABUSE".

In Zambia, the use of alcohol and drugs is a major factor in unwanted pregnancies, violence, and sexual abuse, with many young people dropping out of school as a result. The 'Say no to alcohol abuse' campaign was rolled out at community level to raise awareness amongst young people about the negative consequences of abusing drugs and alcohol.

The campaign launched on Wednesday 20th February 2019 in a primary and secondary school. As part of the campaign girls were encouraged to avoid drug abuse and report anyone who tries to get teenagers to sell and buy drugs and alcohol.

In the first few months the YESS Girls engaged more than four hundred girls before taking the campaign to other parts of the country.

The song of everyone was singing was: *"I Am Clean, Am sober, Am awesome!!!"*

THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

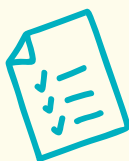
RECRUITED over **125,000 NEW GIRL GUIDES**.

This is expected to reach **150,000 BY 2020**



TO DATE over **20 DIFFERENT CAMPAIGNS** have been undertaken through the annual Yes! Girls Can campaign.

OVER 40,000 TREES have been planted in the different YESS Countries and other environmental campaigns undertaken.



OVER 20 GOOD TURN COMMUNITY PROJECTS have been undertaken in the host countries of the YESS Participants.

There are **OVER 200 FRIENDS OF GUIDING** who have committed themselves to supporting girl guiding financially or otherwise.



AND ALSO...

Leadership and personal development of the young women participating in the programme. Many have taken up leadership roles in their home associations.

- More active and vibrant youth participation in guiding activities
- Networking, cross learning and sharing of best practices among Member Organisations.

"The YESS programme put me in a position where I had to challenge myself, work with people I have never met and also keep people interested in my different campaigns."

Isabelle Namusoke, 2017 YESS Girl participant, Ugandan Girl Guides

..... **THE YESS GIRLS MOVEMENT**

LONGER TERM IMPACT

Our approach to all our global programmes is to make them sustainable in the long term, so they can have an impact on a far wider number of girls than those who have taken part in them directly. We apply this same approach to our YESS Girls exchange programme and work closely with the alumni and their Member Organisations to ensure that the skills and experiences gained through the exchange continue to be developed.

IN KENYA for example, they focus on retaining the new members brought in through the YESS participants, and enable the alumni to utilise their new leadership skills by giving them the opportunity to run community Guiding units.

All the Member Organisations who take part in the YESS Programme run a national young women's conference so returning participants can share their experience with Girl Guides throughout the Member Organisations.



At WAGGGS, we also ensure that the activities and results of all of our programmes – including the YESS Girl exchange – fit into our wider global organisational priorities

THE YESS ALUMNAE GUILD

With an anticipated **200 YESS Alumnae by 2020**, WAGGGS and its Member Organisations will have a strong cohort of International Change Agents to help promote the values of Girl Guiding and Girl Scout and continue the positive difference they made in their host Member Organisation country. In July 2017, the Alumnae decided unanimously to name themselves as the YESS Alumnae Guild.

We need a strong official platform where we can ensure this program never stops for example by raising funds from other organisations similar to FK Norway so that more girls can experience this journey of a life time like us.

Florette (Burundi Girl Guides)

The Alumnae meet once every three years in an Alumnae Summit to plan activities for the following three years. **The first Alumnae Summit was in July 2017, and the second one will be in July 2020, in Kampala, Uganda.**

Member Organisations also work with alumnae members so that they can continue to be role models and inspire other young girls in the Movement.

MY JOURNEY AS A YESS PARTICIPANT,

FROM ZIMBABWE TO BANGLADESH:

"I have always wanted the world to say, 'if you want to see what determination looks like find Tanaka, watch her do anything, she will work tirelessly until it is completed.' This exchange has indeed been a journey of a lifetime with so many leadership experiences.

"I have learnt how to handle my present with so much confidence and face my future without fear, and inspiring other young women to do the same. After this experience of living in a different environment I have learnt to respect and appreciate everyone despite our differences, and to communicate well and value living as part of a family.

"One of the major lessons I have learnt is that life is full of opportunities, some which are difficult and may test me but these are the most important ones as I can grow from them.

"Having my exchange in Asia was one of the eye-openers of the world for me. There is a huge difference from Africa and at first it was really difficult to adjust, including the culture and food and religion. Bangladesh is very rich in culture and they value this.

Despite going through challenges in communication, diets and just general differences, I am a better person now."

WAGGGS is the largest voluntary movement dedicated to girls and young women in the world with 10 million members across 150 countries. For more information please visit www.wagggs.org or call 00 44 207 794 1181.