



Africa Region

World Association
of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts

Association mondiale
des Guides et des
Eclaireuses

Asociación
Mundial de las
Guías Scouts

NEWSLETTER

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10th Africa Regional Conference

The 10th Africa Regional Conference took place this year at "Lagos Airport Hotel" in Lagos, Nigeria from 11 to 17 August 2013. The Conference theme was **'Young women: Soaring towards Excellence'**.

119 delegates were present, including Africa Committee members, the World Board, World Bureau staff members and guests. Out of a total of 31 Member Organizations, 29 were represented at the Conference. Botswana and Sierra Leone did not attend the conference. South Sudan and Ethiopia attended as observers. South Sudan is in the process of working towards membership of the Africa Region while Ethiopia is a prospecting member having started discussions on how to start Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting and work towards WAGGGS Associate membership.

The highlight of the Conference was the presence of the Keynote Speaker, H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson, Africa Union Commission, whose speech focused on women in leadership and women as change agents in the community. She emphasized that girls and young women need to be provided with the opportunity to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens in Africa and soar towards excellence.



"The African Union knows that for us to succeed, we must develop the potential of both men and women. We therefore, pay special attention to the empowerment of young women and girls. If girls and young women are empowered, they develop their self-esteem, build confidence and overcome any obstacles... I believe in the development of the capacity of women. That is why I came to this conference".

She also informed the conference that the AU has launched a consultation on its Agenda 2063 and invited the Girl Guides/Girl Scouts to participate and influence the Africa which they would like to see in 2063.

During the Africa Regional Conference Member Organizations were divided into sub-regional groups and asked to start the consultation on the Africa Union's Agenda 2063 as requested by the Chairperson Dr. Zuma. All feedback was collated and sent to the African Union.

Nadine El Achy awarded the WAGGGS Woman of Outstanding Achievement to H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma in recognition of her outstanding contribution as a distinguished diplomat, politician, medical practitioner, and change agent that ensures the emancipation of women.

Adumea Kumi, a young woman from Ghana Girl Guides Association writes on her experience at the Africa Regional Conference. "All girls are valued and can take action to change the world" this



has been a vision and a driving force of WAGGGS. Because WAGGGS believes every girl can take action to change the world, the Africa Regional Conference took place in Lagos, Nigeria from 10 to 17 August 2013. Both young and old were allowed to participate and deliberate on issues and achieve our mission and vision and I was honoured to be a part of this. At conference we learned a lot especially in workshop sessions. We exchanged ideas and had fun as always.

The conference was very good and fruitful especially with the theme choice. I learnt a lot from the workshops especially the marketing and leadership workshops. I now know how to develop a strategy for my Member Organization to have an increase in membership. I also learned that different programmes should be drawn up for the different age groups and these programmes should be time-bound. This will help us to know at every point what we have been able to achieve since we give ourselves a time-frame within which to accomplish the task. It also allows us to have different and attractive programmes for our members. I also learned the different leadership styles and which leadership style to adopt in what situation. The conference built my team work as I had the chance to sit with other youth to work on reflections, our daily report and some other tasks that were assigned to us. We also shared ideas on the different activities our Member Organizations do. This helped us to learn from other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.”

The Friends of Africa Nigeria Chapter provided financial support to the 10th Africa Regional conference through the Nigerian Girl Guides Association and they hosted the closing dinner event.



International Day of the Girl

Cameroon organizes discussion sessions

The Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Association of Cameroon (AGEC), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, organized discussion sessions in several schools which focused on the promotion of girls’ rights and on strategies which allow girls to become more independent. In Bafang bilingual secondary school located in the West region of the country, the celebration of the International Day of the Girl brought together approximately 386 people.

Discussions on the day’s theme, as well as on reproductive health, encouraged the open participation of the girls. Rhodes Mannesson, a young leader and facilitator of a discussion session, encouraged the girls to love school, as it was a way of showing their values to their families and to the society.

She invited the girls to have good behaviour, to be well informed so they were able to improve their health, and to develop a spirit of creativity. The girls drew 104 pictures with strong messages against violence, which they displayed in the different classrooms

Celebrations in Congo Brazzaville

The Association of Scouts and Girl Guides of Congo officially celebrated the International Day of the Girl from 11 to 13 October 2013. The goal of this activity was to promote the day, which is



not so well known amongst the Congolese people. It was also an opportunity to value the rights of young girls.

The celebrations on 11 October were dedicated to raising awareness in public spaces such as schools, as well as at Brazzaville’s largest market. The message spread by the campaign was to ensure that the rights of young girls were recognized, and also to call on girls to join Girl Guiding to facilitate the education of girls.

The activities on 13 October 2013 were based around three activities: a walk that brought together almost 100 Brownies, Senior Guides and Petites Sœurs Bernadette, a movement of young girls who were invited to the event. After the walk, a mass was celebrated at the Sainte Pierre Claver de Bacongo Church to give thanks to God but also to take the opportunity to launch the call for those present to support the rights of girls. Brochures were also distributed at the event.

A slogan drew the attention of everyone who heard it: “To educate a boy is to educate his family, but to educate a girl is to educate a whole nation.”



The day’s celebrations were followed by a talk and debate on the history of the

International Day of the Girl and on questions relating to young girls. As a result of that event, 500,000 young girls were made more aware in their schools; 500,000 leaflets were distributed; and 50 t-shirts were given out to raise awareness of the event. There was also media coverage on Congolese television.

Large Rally in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

To celebrate this day, the Association of Girl Guides in Congo organized on 13 October 2013 a large-scale event in the form of a major awareness-raising rally around the theme: “Our girls take the lead”. This event took place at the Saint Théophile de Lemba primary school in Kinshasa. The target audience for the day’s celebrations were the Bengali (from 6 to 12 years), Girl Guides (from 13 to 16 years), and Seniors. A brochure was prepared for the occasion, which outlined the current situation of young Congolese girls.

The aim of the event was not to tell the girls that the situation was chaotic in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; but to tell them that progress and efforts were being made particularly in the area of the law, which recognized equal opportunities, a women’s right to work, and the awareness that if a girl herself does not begin to work, i.e. begin to ask for things or sell her image, she will always be marginalized. What she should do is do her best to be at the forefront, and take the lead; that is the world that Girl Guides and Girl Scouts want for our girls. In this regard, the Girl Guides wrote poems, short drama scenes, and invented slogans, along the same theme.

The association also participated in an event organized by the Ministry of Gender, Family and the Child, in partnership with UNDP, UNFPA and African Water Facility. This event was organized around the theme: “Parents, we encourage girls to finish secondary school at least!”. The event took place on 11 October 2013 at the Sainte Germaine de N’djili High School in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo with students from at least 12 schools from East Kinshasa.

Fanilon’i Madagasikara – Girls take the lead
Fanilon’i Madagasikara (Catholic Girl Guides of Madagascar) celebrated this special day on Saturday 12 October. The celebration took place in the Diocese of Tamatave, Madagascar (Eastern Region), attended by National Commissioners.

The Girl Guides of Tamatave came to talk about some of the problems encountered by girls, and to define the world that they want for girls. The most common problems were the lack of



education, forced marriage, early pregnancy and violence against girls, including rape. During the discussions, many girls spoke about cases of rape within the family which

were kept secret, because the person committing the rape was a family member respected by everyone. In fact, speaking out only brings prejudice against the victim reporting the crime. Many girls spoke about girls being obliged to stop school because their parents do not have sufficient resources; they have to get married, work, even prostitute themselves from the age of 14. It is considered normal to beat children, even though it can be excessive. Therefore, girls want a world where they can speak up and be heard, where violence against girls is prohibited, where they can go to school to benefit from a good education, where they can play, and where there is justice. They want a world where the rights of children, including the rights of girls, are respected.

Afterwards, each group of girls prepared an advocacy piece which focused on early pregnancy, violence against girls, and the right to go to school. An ambassador for the 2013 International Day of the Girl was chosen from Fanilon’i Madagasikara, Marine, a 17 year old Girl Guide from Tamatave. She was greatly



moved by her election to the position and expressed her desire to make the world better for

girls. In the afternoon, the Girl Guides were invited to the Tamatave Catholic Diocese radio station for a live transmission, led by the Priest who chaired the call. Three girls represented the Association. They covered various subjects, explaining that the day was the International Day of the Girl, a fact still unknown by the majority of the population, and talking about the celebrations held by the Girl Guides. Then, they

discussed the problems they had discovered, and the world that they want for girls. The advocates then made their final statement, to all girls, parents and authorities. An awareness raising campaign would be brought to all girls living in a village 20km away from Tamatave, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Nigeria focus on Girl Child

The International day for the Girl Child was celebrated in Delta State over three weeks. The youths led by Tosan Ogbe visited three local government



areas where they have Rural Guiding and prominent challenges on Violence Against the Girl Child. On 11 October 2013, the youths and Girl Guides from Okpe L.G.A took to the street with handbills outlining the rights of the Girl Child. Posters were put up in the market square and women from the community assembled at the Town hall to listen to Girl Guides as they were educated on the importance of the Girl Child. On 18 October 2013 there was a market campaign at Uvwe Modern market. The youths cleaned up the market place and told the women that "Today's girl is tomorrow's woman" so the Girl Child should be empowered. On 26 October 2013, the Girl Guides went to a school and during the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) meeting educated parents about the Girl Child.

International Day of the Girl celebrations in Rwanda

For the preparation of the International Day of the Girl the Rwanda Girl Guides Association in partnership with the US Embassy in Rwanda showed a film "Girl Rising" to Girl Guides in high schools and to Rural Guides. They then held group discussions and shared ideas about the world they want and made commitments on what they will do to take themselves and other girls in the lead.



On 11 October 2013 as the world was celebrating the International Day of the Girl, the Rwanda Girl Guides Association organized a special evening with children and their parents. They also invited different NGO representatives and local leaders. Together with Knowles (a well-known female artist in Rwanda) they

celebrated the day by dancing and sharing ideas then they passed on IDG messages, asked girls to give their ideas about the given topic and ended the evening by committing on what they would do to put girls on the lead. They obtained input from both girls and boys who told them what they think they will do in this year to put the girls in the lead. They also took the opportunity to pass their message on to different media such as on national television and through various newspapers.

Training event held by Tanzania

Tanzania Girl Guides Association celebrated the International Day of the Girl Guides in Arusha Region by running a two day seminar from 11 to 12 October 2013. Participants included teachers



from primary and secondary schools, Guiders, new adult leaders from outside the movement, young

members and Girl Guide and Scout leaders from Nairobi, Kenya with a total of 32 participants.

By the end of the sessions the leaders would be able to run a unit, understand three modules of WAGGGS National leadership Programme (NLDP) and understand the structure of the Tanzania Girl Guides Association (TGGA).

Funds to run the event came from Arusha government leaders and Astrid Hareide, International Girl Guide Trainer of Norway.

Stop the Violence Campaign

Active participation by Lesotho in Stop the Violence Campaign

Girl Guides in Lesotho have been actively involved in raising awareness against acts of violence imposed on girls and women through the



"Stop Girls and Women Abuse" campaign. This project was launched on 28 February 2012 for implementation by Girl Guide Units throughout the country. The project was initiated by

findings from reports which showed that people in Lesotho still have inadequate information on issues of abuse and violence to be able to combat it. According to the 2011 statistics on girls and women abuse, only 463 cases had been reported. The campaigns are organized for various groups of people including villagers, and students in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. The most recent activism against girls and women abuse was carried out on 21 August 2013 for teacher trainees of the Lesotho College of Education by Brownies and Girl Guides of Hoohlo Unit in the Maseru district. These Girl Guides generally pass their advocacy messages through drama, poetry, songs and posters. A total of 548 people, consisting of students and lecturers attended the campaign.

The purpose of these advocacy campaigns is to sensitize the community on different forms of violence and abuse experienced by girls and women in Lesotho. The project also aimed to enforce laws that protect girls and women from violence and abuse and make them aware of their rights so that they report violence and educate more girls and women in the act. The high self-esteem and competence of the Girl Guides in their activism has contributed greatly to the increase in membership by 38 new adult leaders joined the Association following the campaign.

‘Intercultural Dialogue to End Violence’ - A partnership with the Green Girl Guides of Denmark and the Kenya Girl Guides Association with support from the North-South Centre Council of Europe

Kenya Girl Guides Association is playing a key role in championing the rights of girls and young women to live a life free of all forms of violence and harmful traditional cultural practices. In July 2011, WAGGGS launched its campaign to “Stop the violence – speak out for girls’ rights,” which will run until 2020. 25 WAGGGS Member Organizations participated in piloting the curriculum. Among them were the Girl Guides of Denmark and the Kenya Girl Guides Association.

Intercultural Dialogue to End Violence is a project that has been proposed to be implemented by the Girl Guides of Denmark and the Kenya Girl Guides Association from Kibera Girl Centre. The project will promote dialogue with the aim of creating awareness and finding solutions to violence targeted at young women in both countries. This will be done through exchanges between the Girl Guides from Europe and Africa who are also members of the

North-South Centre Youth Programme through WAGGGS.

Girl Guides from both regions will join efforts through online and offline platforms such as Skype and Google plus chat to discuss violence issues in their respective countries. Three offline workshops will also be conducted to discuss the impact of violence as well as prevention measures. The project entails bringing young women together to discuss, share and draft strategies that can be adopted to prevent violence targeted at girls and young women in both countries. Two experts from both countries with experience in gender or women studies, human rights or public health will also be invited to play a key role in the project, by supporting the young women to develop community and political advocacy skills that will enable them to raise their voice to speak out against violence and champion their rights as well as the rights of others.

The project activities officially took off in July when the project coordinator organized a planning meeting in Kibera Girls Centre where the workshops will be held, to introduce the project. This was followed by two workshops on 31 July 2013 and 23 August 2013. During the planning meeting, the project coordinator shared with the beneficiaries the need to address gender based violence and speak out against it in the community.



The second workshop provided the girls with an opportunity to discuss their engagement with the

Green Girl Guides of Denmark. This included drafting strategies and developing ideas that both girls can work on together, with the intention of a joint community initiative in the near future.

The project coordinator was privileged to travel to Denmark where she met key members of the Girl Guides Association and also held a mini-workshop with the four young women from the Green Girl Guides of Denmark.

A total of 13 young women participated in the project, 10 from Kenya and three from Denmark. The girls had the opportunity to benefit from capacity building opportunities,

share violence prevention strategies such as speaking out against it on various platforms and developed follow-up initiatives. They vowed to create awareness in their community on violence prevention with the support of their Associations. The project beneficiaries, from Denmark and Kenya Girl Guides Association participants will communicate via online medium by using Viber and WhatsApp as they work towards developing one community project on violence prevention.

The future goal of the project is to expand in order to accommodate more girls and young women from both countries. An exchange programme with the Green Girl Guides of Denmark will be continued where they expect a team from Denmark to visit Kenya in the next project activity. Finally, they intend to work towards a joint community project that will be implemented in Kenya. The North and South Centre Council of Europe will be updated on their progress and future engagements moving forward. We look forward to a fruitful working relationship as we champion the rights of girls and young women to live a life free of violence.

Advocacy

Lesotho advocates on Adolescent Pregnancy on World Population Day

The Lesotho Girl Guide Association took part in this year's World Population Day



celebration in Lesotho on 15 August 2013, at Scott Hospital (Moriya), in Maseru. This year's theme was Adolescent pregnancy as one of the major problems affecting the youth in Lesotho. The Lesotho Girl Guides were involved in pre-event awareness and sensitization on local radio and television stations. The keynote speaker of the day was the Minister of Planning and Development, who noted that the issue of teenage pregnancy is rampant among the youth in Lesotho. It was noted that the issues of HIV/AIDS go hand in hand with unprotected sex which does not only affect their bodies but also impacts on them psychologically due to stigmatization. Girls, young women and the community at large benefited from this sensitization event as the community was educated on teenage pregnancy, its risks and consequences. In addition, a large number of students in their teens, including Girl Guides

were given information about an adolescent corner available at Scott hospital for them to use. As a result of their involvement in this event, Girl Guides learned that most parents still believe that they cannot speak to their children about sexuality because they will be condoning it. Girl Guides and other youths carried posters with messages on teenage pregnancy during the march.

Our voice... the world we want, by Mpanazava eto Madagasikara



20 000 members of the Mpanazava Eto Madagasikara association (Protestant Girl Scouts of Madagascar) share the voice of its members who whisper "I want to live in a world where violence doesn't reign any more" or even "Every human being is

born equal, allow me to express myself like my brothers, and allow me to go to school."

Discussion groups were held with Senior Girl Scouts from the West and East regions of the capital in July and August, within the framework of the post-2015 consultations, which aimed to identify the world that the girls want. During these meetings participants made statements they had previously written. During the Green Branch National Camp from 24 to 28 August 2013 at Ambohitseheno, participants also illustrated their statements with drawings and sketches of the world which they dream of living in. They also participated in the "My World" vote, with their top choices being "protection from crime and violence", "good education", and "gender equality". At each national and provincial meeting and event, as many members of the association as possible participated in the "My World" vote.

Messengers of peace in Madagascar

The celebration of the International Day of Peace was an opportunity for the Federation of



Girl Scouting in Madagascar to demonstrate its commitment to the promotion of peace, particularly as part of the current ongoing campaign to stop

violence against girls and young women.

An ambassador said “It is important for us to be able to go to school, to be able to eat well and learn to stay clean, to be able to play and be able to feel happy at our parents’ side.” Unfortunately, the current lack of security, and increased number of rapes and trafficking, increased unemployment rate following the crisis, health problems, and the various daily problems faced by Malagasy households do not allow girls and young women to have a peaceful life and to grow in the guarantee of a bright future, without having to take on tasks usually reserved for adults from a young age.

The march for peace and democracy held during the morning of Saturday 21 September 2013 was a chance to sound the alarm, break the silence, and to call on everyone to join the cause: education for peace: tolerance, respect and inclusion, fighting violence against girls and women (in particular the rape of young girls), and schooling of children (combatting child labour). During the march, the Malagasy Girl Guides and Girl Scouts formed a human chain. This was not only as a sign for the march, but also testifies to their status as role models in taking responsibility as messengers of peace.

If you want to live in peace, you should first ensure that tolerance, mutual respect, unity in diversity, love and peace should reign, starting in our homes. For a Madagascar in peace.

Nigeria advocates on Stop the Violence Against Girls Campaign

The Nigerian Girl Guides Association has taken up the challenge to stop all forms of violence against girls.



This resolution was made after its participation in the Stop the Violence against girls pilot training for Member Organizations held at Our Cabaña, Mexico.

Following the training at Our Cabaña the Nigerian Girl Guides Association embarked on a series of vital activities to ensure a change and total turnaround of violent practices against women. One such example is the production of the Nigerian Girl Guides Association Child Protection policy after a series of meetings and deliberations with the National Training team. Finally, in November 2012, the draft Child protection policy was produced and submitted at Nigerian Girl Guides Association Executive



Committee and Council meeting, for perusal and amendment. It was finally adopted at the March 2013

Executive committee meeting as the Nigerian Girl Guides Child Protection policy. In April 2013, at Nigerian Girl Guides Association headquarters in Lagos 112 participants from three age groups, younger years, middle years and older years, attended the pilot training on “Stop the Violence” against girls. In attendance were the Chief Commissioner, 15 trainers and National Commissioners as well as five members of staff.

The sessions covered values, decision-making, sexuality and the law, medical implications of violence, amongst others.

The pilot training was a huge success with active participation by all delegates. There was a marked positive difference in participants’ way of reasoning. It was a celebration of victory of self, a total enrichment and liberation of self over conventional and rigid stereotypes.

Awareness on the provision of Child protection in the Nigerian Child Rights Act as captured in Nigerian Girl Guides Association child protection policy was a huge relief and confidence booster. It was indeed a day of witnessing multiple rebirths, made possible by the provision of WAGGGS voices against violence curriculum. Participants felt fulfilled and very happy to be associated with this advocacy and salute WAGGGS’ courage in being at the forefront of this campaign, we are indeed the voice of girls and young women.

Campaign to promote the gender concept in Togo’s primary schools

On 13 and 21 February 2013, talks and awareness-raising sessions on the theme “Promote the equality of the sexes” were organized in primary schools in Togo. More than 1500 primary school children aged from 6 to 12 years, as well as the teachers of Gonvié de Tokoin-Est and EPP Dadzi groups A and B attended. The goal of the awareness-raising session was to make the children understand that girls and boys had the same rights, that they should express themselves when adults take decisions that affect them and that their opinion should be taken into account.

The goals of this campaign are:



- to draw children’s attention to humiliation, discrimination and inequality in the treatment of girls and boys, which constitute a violation of their human rights.
- to make children understand the need to say ‘no’ to the inequality between girls and boys, which are factors of violence.
- to make sure that children and teachers know the rights and responsibilities of the child.
- to make the boys understand that the girls need their help to ensure that they have the same rights.
- that equality between the sexes should become a reality, so that each child – girl as well as boy – can have the same chance of success.

During these awareness-raising sessions, emphasis was placed on the violence that children are subjected to in school:

- physical or psychological violence between students (fights, insults, attacks)
- violence suffered by girls perpetrated by teachers or male students (sexual violence, harassment, abuse, rape), which mean they no longer want to go to school because they are afraid.

At the end of the session, advice was given so that students and teachers could ensure that the school is a safe and welcoming place where children can learn, be informed about their rights, know that violence is not acceptable, and that it is possible to live their life in a non-violent way.

Environment

Girl Guides of Burundi plant trees!

The scene tells the story. At the end of a small valley in the urban district of Mutanga South, a tree stands alone on a mound of earth, which is being eaten away by the waters of the Ntakangwa river. Only its roots prevent the almost-island, on which the tree holds on to life, from being carried away by the waves. It is a soldier on the front line of a war which also threatens the humans living along the edges of the water flow. Despite the fact that humans are partly responsible for this phenomenon, they seem unconcerned by the danger, leaving the fearless lone tree to its silent fight against erosion.



Not everyone is indifferent to the situation, and for a while, a degree of awareness seems to have been spreading among the fringe of the population, as the front line grows dangerously close to the nearest homes. In December 2009, while celebrating the International Day of Volunteers, volunteers were encouraged to make a contribution, by planting 5000 bamboo trees along the banks of the two main rivers that flow through Bujumbura. At the same time, the Movement began acting across the whole country, joining a global campaign, and a total of 5000 volunteers, coming from various associations, managed to plant almost 50, 000 trees. Some said it was just a drop in the ocean. But without a doubt, it was a beautiful demonstration of the volunteers’ capacity to mobilize and act, from all over Burundi.

Leadership Development

Girl Guides of Burundi hold facilitation training

A training on facilitation which was organized for



Burundi participants who attended WLDP events and which has been organized by WAGGGS over

the last four years, came to an end in June 2013. The Girl Guides of Burundi warmly congratulate: Marlene, Darlene, Armelle, Huguette, Happy, Aurore, Nadege, Nina, Luce and Sandrine who have completed the five intensive sessions. They now wear a blue guide pin with three 10cm long ribbons in green, white and red (national colours), that they themselves have folded in half to create their identity. The association has invited Burundi’s Programme and Training Executives to use the talents of this new team to spread the training across the whole country.

Graduation Ceremony held by South Sudan Girl Guides

Central Equatorial State Girl Guides Association Juba, South Sudan

conducted the third graduation ceremony on 10 September 2013 at Juba



One Primary School in Juba. The ceremony was honoured by the presence of leaders from national Government, the state Government, public servants, members of the Girl Guide Association of Central Equatorial State,

teachers and parents. The graduation ceremony was colourful with the police band, songs and cultural dances, demonstrating unity in diversity of the state and South Sudan.

Lucia Sirisio Ero requested the national and state governments to support camping and engagement of the Girl Guides in service as part of their training during the national and state celebration days.

The Girl Guides Commissioner of Central Equatorial State highlighted some achievements of the association in the state which included 300 and 65 Girl Guides during the third and second graduation ceremonies respectively. The Girl Guides were trained in agriculture and tree planting with support from World Vision. She mentioned lack of transport facilities as one of the key constraints to implementation of the training in the remaining three counties in the state.

Hon Mary Elias, Chief Commissioner of Girl Guide, South Sudan thanked H.E the governor for the support of activities of the Girl Guides in Central Equatorial State and indeed South Sudan. The Chief Commissioner noted the theme of the third graduation ceremony, “Empowering Girls and Young Women to achieve their fullest potentials and become responsible citizens, change agents of Republic of South Sudan”.

A number of government ministers emphasized continuous training in order to increase the number of Girl Guides in the state. World Vision were thanked for their support. It was also noted the importance of co-operation of the national and state governments in support of Girl Guide Associations in all the states. They stressed the importance of leadership, management and development through education of girl child through the Girl Guides Association. They were seen as leaders of today and the hope for tomorrow for Central Equatorial and indeed South Sudan.

My WAGGGS Journey in Leadership

Lilian Damie, Chair of the Planning for the Nigerian Girl Guides for the Africa Regional Conference writes on her WAGGGS journey in Leadership. She notes “My WAGGGS leadership journey actually started in 2002 at Our Chalet. I lacked self-confidence then and could not relate much with others. I got on the Africa Committee in 2004 and served for six years, where I got a lot more opportunities to meet with people from diverse backgrounds,

learn a lot: developed myself, acquired lots of leadership skills: team spirit, planning and implementation of projects/programme, delegation, coaching, lobbying/influencing skills. After my six year term, I got many more opportunities; the facilitator’s workshop in Kenya got me inspired and motivated to truly put into practice the knowledge and experience gained as a Committee member and to contribute to the change I wanted to see in my association; getting key leaders to understand the needs of girls and trainers and put in place relevant programmes and take decisions to implement them. Since then, I’ve been actively involved in the planning and implementation in my state as the State Commissioner, at the zonal level as the zonal secretary, at the national level supporting the planning and implementation of national Training events and camps, at Africa Region level as a member of the planning team of some regional and world events. I am mentoring and coaching a number of young women. I feel so indebted to my National Association and WAGGGS for all the opportunities given to me and still being given to me to learn, grow and be the change the world wants to see. “

NLDP Event held at Pax Lodge

Five participants from the Africa Region participated in WAGGGS National Leadership Training Programme (NLDP) at Pax Lodge London in May 2013. They were Karen Jones and Ntuthu Makayi of South Africa, Patricia Mbuya of Tanzania, Abimbola and Oladejo Oluwatoyin of Nigeria. There were 27 participants from 16 Member Organization in total.

Karen noted “The WDLP approach is Connect (we did this by arriving and meeting participants at Pax Lodge);



Extend (we shared our experiences and challenges) ;Challenge (to think beyond the course and our comfort zone, to take risks for ourselves and others) ;Act (to take our knowledge back to Member Organizations).

The emphasis on the course was to ‘facilitate’ and not teach. They were given many opportunities and practical examples to try this as participants, and to also be able to take this back to our trainers. They learnt to look beyond the immediate task; Work together and trust each other ; Give each other what they need (pay attention to the needs of others);

Sometimes good things take time; Don't hesitate to ask for information or help".

Patricia on her return home organized and ran a training of trainers to sensitize them on new methods of training by introducing some of the concepts that she learned with the aim of cascading the knowledge.

WAGGGS Fit For Work – Fit For Life Project

The Ghana Girl Guides Association from 23 to 28 September 2013 were privileged to host delegates from India, Togo, and Ghana and Marie Paule Rafenoarisoa a facilitator from WAGGGS for the Fit for work – Fit for life project. The team of facilitators was assisted by Juliana Ofori, Ghana's Chief Commissioner. This project is a WAGGGS non-formal education programme on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and employment. Sessions dealt with the different sides of financial literacy and understanding the basic principles of financial literacy including budgeting and planning. Participants will make their Member Organizations understand the concept of microcredit and where it developed from. This will cover understanding the use of microcredit for one's own business and gaining a general understanding on how to deal with lenders and follow-up one's initial approach.

Participants visited Nsawam, Aduagyiri in the eastern region of Ghana, a place popularly known for its involvement in the baking and selling of bread. Delegates also visited the National



Headquarters of the Ghana Girl Guides Association, located in the Central Business District of Accra. Here, they had the opportunity to visit the Girl Guide Shop where they bought some souvenirs, the Angelina Laryea Memorial Hall.

A grand, colourful international night climaxed all activities for the training. Delegates showcased their rich cultural regalia and performed to the admiration of all. The Chief Commissioner of the association expressed her delight at being a host at such a grand and impressive training and urged all the delegates to go back to their various Member Organizations and practice what was learnt at the training.

Delegates through the knowledge they gained have created a group on Facebook, where they

exchange ideas on various projects they are undertaking in their Member Organizations.

Women's Training on Income-Generating Activities in Togo

A training on income-generating activities around making liquid soap and jewellery with pearls (earrings, bracelets, necklaces) took place on 6 July 2013 at the headquarters



of the Girl Guides Association of Togo in Lomé. In total, 50 young girls and women aged 25 to 40 who are not able to find work as a result of their schooling, because they were removed from school or were unschooled, participated in this training.

In addition to overcoming being a member of the inferior sex (a distinction conferred upon women by the society) MDG3 "Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women" wants women to take on another challenge, that of being financially independent and being able to combat extreme poverty. The development of income-generating activities is recognized as the key to boosting better socio-economic conditions for women who have not had the right to education in school.

The aim of this project is to train young women to carry out an income-generating activity that does not require large investments and the product of which they will be able to sell quickly.

Overall, the project has grown satisfactorily and each of them returned with the product of their work.

Fanilon'i Madagasikara General Assembly: election of a new Chief Commissioner

The Fanilon'i Madagasikara's (Catholic Girl Guides Association of Madagascar) General Assembly was held from 5 to 7 September 2013. This event followed the National Congress. The last day of this large annual meeting was particularly important because of the election of the new Chief Commissioner, Raharimanana Falinirina who will lead this association for the next five years. She follows Marthe Ravelonirina Lebiria, the outgoing Chief Commissioner. How did she get here? Raharimanana Falinirina has already been part of the national team as National Commissioner in charge of the red branch; girls aged 14 to 16 years known as "Vahindanitra".

"I am ready to respond to the call", said the new Chief Commissioner to demonstrate her will and her commitment. A representative of WAGGGS, Marie-Paule Rafenoarisoa also attended the General Assembly. With regard to the other Congress resolutions, the Assembly voted on new guidelines for educational activities, which are included in the strategic plan and which relate particularly to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Fund Development

Ghana holds Mega Fun Fiesta 2013

As part of the Ghana Girl Guides Association's resource mobilization strategy, the project committee of the Ghana Girl Guides Association organized a fundraiser entitled "Mega Fun Fiesta". This fair was aimed at raising funds to support the Association. The funfair was held at the Training Centre of the Ghana Girl Guides Association and it brought children from all over the country to a thrilling and fun-filled experience. Activities at the fair included face painting, bouncy castles, dancing competition, train ride amongst others. Children paid money and were given coupons which they used to take part in all the activities. There was also a session for the children to unearth their talents; they did so through dance, poems, singing songs, etc.

All activities organized at the fair were not only for fun but were also geared towards helping to harness the cause of an effective and improved maternal and child health care system in the country.

Delicious food was no exception at the fair. Jollof rice, fried rice and waakye were prepared for sale which the children enjoyed greatly.



Kebabs, sausages, popcorn, and candyfloss were not left out since children really enjoy these. Sales representatives from Pepsi Cola Ghana Limited attended with some assorted Pepsi products. The fair was indeed a success and it is hoped to be repeated next year to help support the association purchase more chairs, tables and other equipment that are of much need to the Association's Training Centre.

Partnership

Network of International Youth Organizations (NIYOA)



The Network of International Youth Organizations (NIYOA) in collaboration with the International Movement of

Catholic Students (IMCS PaxRomana Africa) organized a training workshop in Nairobi in September 2013 under the theme "The post 2015 agenda; road map for international youth organizations (IYOS) in Africa". The seminar aimed to explore and learn in depth about the issues of youth rights and to take concrete actions to respond to the challenges and violations of youth rights in the African continent in order to contribute to the realization of the Post 2015 MDGs. The workshop served as a platform for IYOS in Africa to shape the global agenda of post 2015 MDGs with youth perspectives at grassroots. During the workshop it was noted with a lot of interest that most of the participants were not familiar with the post 2015 MDGs consultation process at all levels. The training was conducted by various experts.

Among others, the seminar yielded important outcomes, namely: • All International Youth Organizations (IYOs) that are present commit to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs within their organization and involving strongly in the Post 2015 MDGs agenda process; To strengthen the Youth Voice, IYOs present contributed to the formulation of the Nairobi declaration 2013 towards the Heads of State summit in 2014, both from Africa and Europe to support youth perspectives to the global agenda of post 2015 agenda; More networking and cooperation between NIYOA, PYU and EYF to address youth issues; Establishing action plan by all IYOs present for further follow up.

Lilian Itenya from Kenya is the vice chair of NIYOA who was present with Alice Waweru, Development Executive, Africa Region for English-speaking Member Organizations.

Signature of Partnership in Cameroon

On 24 October 2013 the Cameroon Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Association signed a partnership agreement with the Volunteer Platform established by the Volunteer Directorate of the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education. This Platform brings together 19 youth associations working in a volunteer capacity. The Girl Guides will participate in all the activities to be organized by the Volunteer Platform in the ten regions of the country. This

partnership will allow the Cameron Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Association to become more visible, and as a result, attract new members.

BUFACI Youth Forum 2013 held by Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire

Seeking to strengthen fraternal links and make their associations stronger, the National Girl Guides Association of Burkina Faso and the Ivorian Federation of Girl Scouting developed a south-south partnership known as BUFACI (Burkina Faso/Côte d'Ivoire).

To mark the this dynamic partnership, a youth forum was organized from 8 to 17 August 2013 in Sèmè Podji in Benin around the theme "Youth for a strong and emerging South/South partnership". The main goal of the forum was to strengthen the leadership of the different associations to ensure their young people are capable of undertaking and guaranteeing a successful handover. There were 13 participants from Burkina Faso, 11 from Côte d'Ivoire and four observers from Benin (who came to support the partnership).

Several activities took place during the forum: an opening ceremony, presentations on various themes

(information technology, leadership, violence against women, and succession planning), educational visits



(Songhai centre in Porto Novo, the historical tourist site in the town of Ouidah), a good deed, games and competitions, etc. The youth forum was brought to an end with an international evening.

The BUFACI south-south partnership between Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire has met the challenge of excellence; we have a logo and texts to govern the BUFACI partnership; and finally we have been able to hold a youth forum.

Liberia participates in POST 2015 consultative meeting

A three days international forum was held at the Monrovia City Hall from 28 to 30 January 2013 which brought together over 90 participants from several Western, Asian and African Nations including Liberia, the host country. The Liberian Girl Guides Association was involved in this consultative meeting. The Consultation was jointly organized by the Africa-wide post 2015 working group and the Liberian CSO post-2015

working group in partnership with Beyond 2015 (a global network of CSOs) and the Secretariat Outreach desk. During the third meeting of the High Level Panel (HLP) President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf one of the three co-chairs of the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's high-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda addressed the HLP on Water and Sanitation.

In preparation for the High Level Panel, global CSOs hosted a preparatory consultative forum on the 28 to 30 January 2013 at the Monrovia City Hall. It was an open consultative forum where CSO representatives from all over the world met and discussed National Building Blocks for Sustained Prosperity as they related to the post-2015 development agenda. This provided a platform for CSOs to share regional perspectives on the theme "National building blocks for sustained prosperity" as well as develop common positions on the framing questions presented by the High Level Panel on Economic Transformation.

African Youth Day

Cameroon celebrates the 7th African Youth Day

On the theme "Action of Young People in Cameroon, Interest in a Social Partnership" the Cameroon Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Association was represented by five young leaders at the conference-debate organized by the National Youth Council of Cameroon, in collaboration with the Directorate for Voluntary Activities of the Ministry of Youth and Civic Education. Agenda 2063 was the focus of participants' concerns. A reflection on the preparation of the vision and strategies were organized on subsequent days, in which the Girl Guides will take part. This will allow the Cameroon Girl Guides to improve their participation in the development of the community.

World Centres

Fifth World Centre Pilot Project: Community Action Experience in Kenya

The Fifth World Centre Pilot Project and Kenya Girl Guides Association hosted the Community Action Experience at Shanzu Transitional Centre in Mombasa, Kenya. Eight young



women from the UK, USA, Lebanon, Nigeria, Liberia, Madagascar and Kenya participated in the month long programme. They volunteered

and worked on projects at Shanzu and with other organizations in the local area. You can keep up to date with all the action that happened in your Region by reading this [news article](#) or liking the Fifth World Centre Pilot on [Facebook!](#)

**Sangam
Be the Change**

Member Organizations, this event is your chance to contribute towards the Africa Region Operational Plan! This is a high impact seminar-style event that will develop and build the leadership capacity of your members. Your members will be prepared to come back and make positive changes within their own communities, your Member Organization and the Africa Region. For more information about this event:

<http://www.sangamworldcentre.org/en/programmes/events/bethechange>

To book your space, email guestservices@sangamworldcentre.org.

Sangam’s Community Programme

Come and join us for 12 weeks or 4 weeks in Sangam’s Community Programme. This is a unique



opportunity to live at a World Centre and volunteer in our local community. Learn about community leadership and contribute towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Limited scholarships are available.

For more information log on to:

<http://www.sangamworldcentre.org/en/programmes/cp01>

Arts exChange

Join us in March 2014 for the Arts exChange! Come together to connect, create and share your artistic talent or your passion for the arts. We will explore art in many forms. Special guest facilitators include Girl Scout singer, songwriter Melinda Carroll! To apply for this exciting event, send a creative expression of interest to wcm@sangamworldcentre.org. For more details, [click here](#).



World Thinking Day 2013

Malawi was chosen as one of the five focus countries for World Thinking Day in 2013. Other countries included Republic of Ireland (Europe Region), Jordan (Arab Region), Pakistan (Asia Pacific Region) and Venezuela (Western Hemisphere Region). Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world have celebrated World Thinking Day since 1926. In 2013 all WAGGGS Member Organizations focused on MDG 4 (Reduce Child Mortality) and MDG 5 (Improve Maternal Health). Two activity packs were created to help Girl Guides/Girl Scouts in all Member Organizations to learn about, and take action on, MDGs 4 and 5. One activity pack focuses on MDG 4; Reducing Child Mortality and the other on MDG 5: Improving Maternal Health. In line with the two themes, Malawi Girl Guides Association carried out a project on educating adolescents to prevent early pregnancies and to reduce adolescent pregnancy to zero. The project was carried out with the aim of achieving the following specific objectives: To equip adolescent girls with knowledge and information on reproductive health and premarital counselling for adolescents; To create awareness amongst adolescent girls and community members on the risks and protective factors that can be used to prevent pregnancy; To educate adolescent girls on the benefit of abstinence; To equip adolescent girls with information and knowledge on sexual and reproductive health rights.

World Thinking Day 2014

Each year on 22 February, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world celebrate World Thinking Day (WTD). WTD is an opportunity to celebrate international friendship, learn about and take action on important issues, and fundraise in support of the World Thinking Day Fund.

We have chosen UN Millennium Development Goal 2 (MDG) as the theme for WTD 2014– Achieve universal primary education. Education is a key issue affecting girls and young women around the world. Despite progress, an estimated 250 million children of primary school age lack basic reading, writing and numeracy skills, whether in school or not. Globally, 123 million youth (aged 15 to 24) lack basic reading and writing skills; 61 per cent of them are young women. (MDG Report 2013). This situation can and must be changed. Together, the 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide can help raise awareness and ensure that every girl has the right to learning so she fulfils her potential.

Focus countries

World Thinking Day is a way for girls and young women to learn about life for their peers in other countries and to explore the Girl Guide and Girl Scout experience across the globe. For WTD 2014, the five focus countries are Armenia, Bangladesh, Benin, Egypt and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

With the money you donate to the WTD Fund, WAGGGS will provide grants to the focus countries to take action on MDG 2 in 2014. The WTD Fund also helps girls' voices to be heard globally, delivers leadership training to young women and gives support for Girl Guide and Girl Scout organizations around the world. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.worldthinkingday.org/en/home>

Obituary

Nigerian Girl Guides Association



Late Miss Epebitimi Francisca Ekisah was born on 15 November 1988 at Sagbama town in Sagbama LGA of Bayelsa State Nigeria. She attended Community Primary School, Sagbama from 1994 to 2000. She also attended Federal Government College, Odi, Bayelsa State from 2000 to 2006 where she obtained her SSCE Certificate. She proceeded to Niger Delta University (NDU) Wilberforce Island,

Bayelsa State where she obtained a Bachelor Degree of Arts in English and Literary Studies in July 2011. She studied Computer Craft Practice at Benin City, Edo state, Nigeria and obtained a diploma in word processing from National Business and Technical Examination Board (NABTEB), she had just registered to do a Master in Art in Niger State University. She came into Girl Guiding as a Brownie in 1996 and was her Pack Leader. She went into Girl Guiding in 2000 at Federal Girls College. She was a Patrol Leader and was made the overseer of her company known as the 6th Bayelsa Company. In 2012 she was made the Bayelsa State Secretary. She headed a team in Bayelsa state to research and enlighten parents on the danger of Female Genital Mutilation. She

had attended many National camps and Trainings. She was just elected on 19 October 2013 as the Youth Leader of Bayelsa State and to represent them at National EXCO and was also nominated by the Nigerian Girl Guides Association headquarters to attend CSW in New York. She died on 26 October 2013 after a brief illness.