

NEWSLETTER



march 2024

ACKNOLEGEMENT

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our members, volunteers, partners, and supporters who have contributed to our success over the past months. Your dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm continue to inspire and drive our initiatives forward. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in our communities and empowering the next generation of leaders. Thank you for your unwavering support!



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This quarter, our association has been actively involved in a range of impactful initiatives, showcasing our commitment to youth engagement, community development, and organizational growth. Key activities from the past three months include:

1. **YESS Participants Exchange:** We successfully sent and received participants as part of the YESS (Youth Exchange South to South) program. This exchange has fostered cross-cultural learning, skills development, and strengthened our international partnerships. Our participants had the opportunity to engage in various community activities, gaining insights and experiences that they will bring back to enrich our local initiatives.
2. **Thinking Day Celebration:** Our association celebrated World Thinking Day with a series of events aimed at promoting unity and reflection among our members. The celebration provided an opportunity for the community to come together, discuss global issues, and reinforce our collective commitment to the ideals of friendship, peace, and international understanding.
3. **Annual General Meeting (AGM):** The AGM was a key highlight of the quarter, bringing together members to review our achievements, discuss future strategies, and elect new leadership. Important decisions were made to guide our association's direction, ensuring a focus on growth, sustainability, and continued support for our mission.
4. **YESS Girls' School Visits:** Our YESS participants visited various schools as part of their outreach, engaging with students on topics of leadership, empowerment, and community involvement. These visits sparked interest and inspired many young girls to take an active role in their communities, further spreading the values of the YESS program.

As we look forward to the coming months, our focus remains on expanding our impact through continued engagement, youth development, and strategic planning. This quarter's accomplishments set a strong foundation for the initiatives we will undertake in the future.

JANUARY

SENDING YESS GIRLS 2024

As part of the YESS Girls Movement program, we are excited to announce that this year, we sent five dynamic young women to Zambia, Ghana, Madagascar, Tanzania, and Uganda. This diverse group includes four volunteer participants and one professional participant, each bringing unique skills and perspectives to this transformative exchange experience.

Through the YESS program, these young women will engage with local communities, participate in impactful projects, and exchange ideas with fellow youth leaders. Their work will focus on promoting gender equality, youth empowerment, and community development across the host countries.

We believe that this opportunity will not only enhance their leadership skills but also create a ripple effect, inspiring other young women in our community to pursue impactful change. We look forward to seeing the remarkable impact these participants will make during their journey and the insights they will bring back to enrich our ongoing initiatives.



RECEIVING YESS GIRLS 2024

Every year, as part of the YESS Girls Movement program, we have the pleasure of hosting young women from around the world. This year, we are thrilled to welcome five participants from Nepal, Tanzania, Burundi, Madagascar, and Kenya to our community.

Among them are four volunteer participants who will immerse themselves in our local projects and activities over the next six months, contributing their unique perspectives and energy to implement the YESS program's core initiatives. Additionally, we are excited to have one professional participant who will spend nine months with us, serving as a communication officer to enhance our outreach and engagement efforts.

Their presence brings a wealth of diversity and knowledge, enriching our programs and fostering cross-cultural exchanges. We look forward to the positive impact they will make and the bonds we will build during their stay.



FEBRUARY

THINKING DAY CELEBRATION

World Thinking Day, celebrated annually on February 22nd, is a special day for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world. It is a time to reflect on the global unity and sisterhood that Guiding fosters, as well as an opportunity to explore important themes that resonate with girls and young women everywhere. Established in 1926, Thinking Day is not only a celebration of the Guiding movement but also a chance to take action on key issues affecting our global community. Through activities, discussions, and events, members come together to share ideas, strengthen bonds, and work towards making a positive impact in the world.

The theme for World Thinking Day 2024, "Our World, Our Thriving Future," focuses on the importance of building a better and more sustainable future for everyone. This year, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide will explore how they can contribute to a thriving planet, emphasizing the interconnectedness of people, the environment, and our shared global well-being. Through activities and discussions, members will learn about environmental stewardship, social justice, and the power of collective action, inspiring them to take steps toward creating a world where both people and nature flourish.



Thinking Day celebrations in different provinces

This year, Girl Guides of Zimbabwe celebrated World Thinking Day with enthusiasm and unity across its various provinces. Under the 2024 theme, "Our World, Our Thriving Future," Girl Guides and leaders came together to reflect on their role in building a better, more sustainable world.

In Harare, members participated in workshops focused on environmental conservation facilitated by the YESS Girls Participants in various schools, where they planted trees and learned about climate action. In different provinces; Girl Guides, Brownies; Sunbeams and Guiders gathered together to celebrate the World Thinking Day. The festivities consisted of games, activities led by the YESS Girls, talent contests presented by the young Girl Guides and Brownies, as well as various speeches around this year's theme.

These activities not only celebrated our Guiding spirit but also empowered our young members to take action for a more sustainable and inclusive world. Together, we reaffirmed our commitment to making a difference in our communities and beyond.

MARCH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March marked an important milestone for our association as we held our annual general meeting in Chishawasha, located in the Mashonaland East Province. The gathering brought together leaders, members, and stakeholders to reflect on the work accomplished in 2023 and set the stage for the future.

A key highlight of the meeting was the focus on the campaign launched by the YESS Girls under the inspiring theme, "Yes, Girls Can Do STEM." This campaign aims to empower young girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, challenging gender stereotypes and promoting equal opportunities. Discussions during the meeting emphasized the progress made and the steps needed to further support this initiative.

This annual meeting was a powerful reminder of our collective efforts and the positive impact we continue to create for young women in Zimbabwe.



VISIT OF THE YESS GIRLS IN DIFFERENT SCHOOLS

In March, our YESS volunteer participants took their passion and energy into various schools, implementing key initiatives that are at the heart of the YESS program. These visits aimed to empower students and create a more inclusive environment for young people.

Among the initiatives introduced were "Welcome to My World," which aims to show potential new girl Guides what is Guiding and why they should join our movement, and "Yes, Girls Can Do STEM," an inspiring campaign encouraging girls to pursue opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. The volunteers also led the "Red Pride" program, promoting menstrual health education and breaking down stigmas.

Additionally, they incorporated global WAGGGS initiatives such as "Free Being Me," which focuses on building body confidence, and "Surf Smart," promoting online safety. These programs were well-received, leaving a positive impact on students and paving the way for ongoing empowerment and awareness in schools.

