



UGANDA GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION

2024 - 2025 NEWSLETTER



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UGANDA GIRL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

The Uganda Girl Guides Association referred to as the “UGGA” is a Non-Governmental Organization that is dedicated to the growth and development of girls and women.

UGGA is a voluntary organization, non-political, without any discrimination to creed, race or any other circumstance. The Association is a member of the World Association of Girl Guides and Guides Scouts (WAGGGS) since 1984. WAGGGS is the largest voluntary organization dedicated to girls and young women in the world, supporting over 10million individual girls and young women across 150 countries to realize their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world. We provide non formal education programs and trainings through the core and fundamental principles of guiding.

The Association’s target beneficiaries are girls and young women between the ages of 3 to 35. Girls and young women deserve to live amazing Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting experiences and transform their lives and their communities. We aspire to an increased visibility and impact the world.

The Uganda Girl Guides Association (UGGA), supported by funding from Global Youth Mobilization (GYM) through WAGGGS, is implementing a one-year project titled "Empowering Youth for Climate Action." This initiative is taking place in Isingiro District, with activities centered in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Kashumba, and Rugaaga sub-counties.

EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION



We also held discussions with the District Education Officer, District Inspector of Schools, District Natural Resource Officer, Resident District Officer, Refugee Desk Officer, District Community Development Officer and the Resettlement Commander who all embraced the new project to Isingiro District and they committed to providing technical guidance, collaboration, and facilitating approvals.

Key recommendations included submitting progress reports, preparing school gardens for tree seedlings, attending district meetings, and securing necessary clearances for working in the refugee settlement.

Inception Meeting

Chief Administrative Officer (CAO): The Deputy CAO warmly welcomed the team and expressed support for the project. He clarified that the initiative falls under the jurisdiction of the District Education Officer (DEO), Natural Resource Department, and the Refugee Officer Desk. He shared that the district has eight school inspectors who can assist when approached. The team was advised to establish a Memorandum of Understanding, attend quarterly partners' meetings, and consult the Refugee Desk Officer for guidance.



Visit to the Sub-County Headquarters

Rugaaga Sub-County: The Sub-County Secretary, delegated to coordinate the activity, informed the team that the sub-county was welcome to the program and committed to support the mobilization of young people for a training that had been proposed to them.

Kashumba Sub-County: The Local Council III Chairperson welcomed the team and embraced the project. He committed to assigning a youth counselor to assist with mobilizing young people for the project.

Recruitment & Training of Climate Action Agents

From November, 2024 to date; 162 youth have been trained on the topics listed below to develop their leadership and advocacy skills.

- **Introduction to Uganda Girl Guides Association (UGGA) and WAGGGS:** Participants explore the fundamental values and mission of the Uganda Girl Guides Association and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).
- **Overview of the Global Youth Mobilization (GYM) Project:** The session highlights the goals and anticipated impacts of the "Empowering Youth as Climate Action Change Agents" project, with a focus on youth-led initiatives to combat climate change.



Advocacy and Leadership Skills for Climate Action: This training emphasizes advocacy and leadership development, using group work to engage participants in discussions about effective leadership qualities. Small patrols collaborated to identify traits like communication, vision, and empathy, and explored strategies for inspiring sustainable actions, mobilizing communities, and influencing climate-related policies.

Climate Change, Food Security, and Women's Interventions

This session delves into the connections between climate change, food security, and women-led efforts. Topics trained include climate impacts on food security, gender-specific challenges, community-based adaptation, advocacy, education, and capacity-building efforts.

- **Demonstration of Energy-Saving Stoves:** Participants are introduced to energy-saving stoves through a hands-on demonstration, which includes images of these stoves and a physical sample created by the trainees
- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Workshop:** Participants are trained on creative ways to reuse waste materials. Activities here include crafting dustbins from plastic bottles, flower vessels from wine bottles, and decorative flowers from threads. This encourages innovation and interaction throughout the session.

Project Interventions

Enhancing climate change awareness and project visibility

Awareness sessions are organized in schools and we continuously disseminate Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to spark discussions and promote community-driven action.

Climate awareness campaigns have been carried out in 6 schools so far by project volunteers and the trained youth.



Promoting Afforestation & Re-afforestation

We have received a donation of 600 fruit and eucalyptus trees from the Natural Resource Office of Isingiro District and these have been planted in 13 schools by the project volunteers and school children from environmental clubs.

Integrating Climate Action into school curricula

This was enhanced through climate change advocacy efforts, benefiting over 600 learners across 7 schools. Additionally, a plastic collection point was set up at a primary school in Rugaaga, fostering sustainable waste management practices.

Facilitating collaboration between youth, schools, and climate change stakeholders in Isingiro District

We've held a partnership meeting with Scouts leaders in Nakivale and Red Cross members to deliberate on collaborative climate action strategies, including planning a joint activity for World Environment Day.

Enhanced Girl Guiding efforts within the Community, under the leadership of the District Commissioner.

Actively participated in coordination meetings with partners, fostering improved strategy alignment and strengthened collaborative initiatives.



Pictorial



Various trainings of youth in the community and teachers in schools



Making of Energy saving stoves



**Reduce
Re-use
Recycle**



**Advocacy &
Awareness
Campaigns
in schools**



Afforestation and Re-afforestation



Partnership Meetings



Future Plans

- Formation of 30 youth groups across the three sub-counties under this project.
- Planting of 3,000 trees to promote re-afforestation efforts.
- Promotion of alternative energy sources, such as energy-saving stoves and briquettes, to minimize firewood use and curb deforestation.
- Strengthening partnerships with various community organizations to address and combat climate change.
- Integration of climate education into the school curriculum, while also empowering Girl Guides to take active roles in environmental sustainability.

Closing Notes

Through this project, **162 young individuals** have been **directly empowered** with transformative training. Their **voices and actions** have resonated across the community, **engaging over 1,000 local residents** in advocacy for climate change and fostering meaningful connections with grassroots movements. Remarkably, **40%** of these empowered youth and community members are **refugees**, showcasing the project's commitment to inclusivity and resilience. Together, we are driving change and building a sustainable future for all.

The Uganda Girl Guides Association (UGGA) extends heartfelt thanks to Global Youth Mobilization (GYM) through WAGGGS for funding the "Empowering Youth for Climate Action" project. Through this partnership, we are igniting a movement of empowered youth, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to champion climate action within their communities. It is because of this thoughtful investment in our vision that we are able to turn ambitions into reality.

We also wish to recognize the vital role of our stakeholders, including local leaders, community organizations, and volunteers, whose collaborative efforts and commitment are essential to the success of this project. Your dedication inspires us and strengthens our collective impact. Together, with the generosity of GYM and the engagement of our stakeholders, we are building a sustainable and resilient future.

Thank you for being a part of this journey; your partnership is our driving force.



This a product of
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