

World Centres Annual Report



2025

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World Centres Annual Report 2025

Our Year in Numbers!

2025 was a year of strong results and meaningful impact across the World Centres. Thanks to the continued generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our teams, the Centres expanded access through scholarships and travel grants, welcomed thousands of guests, and remained vibrant places of learning, connection, and global sisterhood.

The figures below reflect not only the reach of the World Centres, but also the care, professionalism, and commitment of the staff and volunteers who bring these special places to life every day.

Impact Area	2025 Results
Girls and Young Women Reached	6884
Scholarships & Travel Grants Awarded	174
Total Funding Awarded	£122,000
Volunteers Hosted	92
Countries Represented	63
Programme Participants Engaged	2,162
Community Members Reached	11,000+
Girl Guiding & Girl Scouting Guests Welcomed	5,967
In-Person Events	57
Virtual Events	2

Bookings Across our Centres

We've also seen impressive numbers in bookings across our Centres:

Bednights	Our Chalet	Pax Lodge	Sangam	Nuestra Cabaña	Kusafiri
2024 actual	8,800	17,569	3,997	2,177	718
2025 target	8,078	17,000	3,001	699	500
2025 actual	6,649	17,597	2,967	3,421	511



Financial Snapshot (Subject to Year-End Process)

2025 was a year of strong results and meaningful impact across the World Centres. Thanks to the continued generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our teams, the Centres expanded access through scholarships and travel grants, welcomed thousands of guests, and remained vibrant places of learning, connection, and global sisterhood.

The figures below reflect not only the reach of the World Centres, but also the care, professionalism, and commitment of the staff and volunteers who bring these special places to life every day.

Center	Income	Expenditure	Surplus
Our Chalet	£802,000	£793,000	£9,000
Pax Lodge	£772,000	£667,000	£105,000
Sangam	£237,000	£203,000	£34,000
Nuestra Cabaña	£353,662	£341,370	£12,292

What to Look Out for in 2026!

Looking ahead to 2026, our focus is on building on these positive results and ensuring the longterm sustainability of the World Centres. This includes running the Centres responsibly, investing in facilities, and implementing new systems and processes to strengthen monitoring, risk management, and facilities oversight. We will also be taking important steps to shape Kusafiri's future, while continuing to promote collaboration, connection, and shared learning across the World Centre network.

World Centres Changing Lives: 2025

"Being a Pax Lodge volunteer was amazing. It changed my life in ways I could have never imagined. From the first time I came to Pax there was something that told me I wasn't finished and even now writing this I know I still don't feel finished with Pax Lodge. There is something to be said about how a place away from your original home can feel like home in a new way. The Brownie in Trinidad in 2009/2010 could have never imagined working at a World Centre and making international friends. I have grown in leadership, grown as a person, gained new perspectives and even changed for the better."

-Jahan (Trinidad and Tobago) June to November 2025, Pax Lodge



RICA'S STORY

From International Volunteering to Leadership Impact in Japan

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Rica Nagashima is an adult member of the Girl Scouts of Japan and a leadership trainer working closely with volunteers and trainers across the country. In 2025, with support made possible through international WAGGGS and OB-PS investment, Rica took part in an extended volunteering experience at Our Chalet World Centre in Switzerland. For Rica, this opportunity was the result of a long-held ambition.

"I had wanted to join the Our Chalet Volunteer Programme for a really long time. I had volunteered internationally before, at Sangam, when I was a student, and that experience stayed with me."

As international opportunities grew, increasingly out of reach. With age limits approaching and life becoming busier, Rica made a bold decision to step away from her job and invest in her own growth.

"I wanted to broaden my perspective internationally. To grow, to build new partnerships, and to learn more about myself."



A Different Way of Working

From her first weeks at Our Chalet, Rica recognised how different the working culture was from what she had experienced in Japan.

"The environment was very open-minded. Communication was really straightforward, it was okay to say 'no'. That was very new for me."

She describes learning, often through daily interactions rather than formal training, about:

- open and honest communication
- work-life balance and boundaries
- diversity, inclusion, and lived experience

"People talked openly about things we rarely discuss in Japan: disability, sexuality, religion. Understanding people's backgrounds helped me understand how diverse the community really is."

This exposure reshaped how Rica thought about leadership, wellbeing, and teamwork.

"Caring about work-life balance made me less stressed and more comfortable. I started to think more about my own wellbeing, something I hadn't done before."



Growth as a Leader

One of the most important lessons Rica took away was the idea that making mistakes is part of growth, and that leadership develops best in safe, supportive environments. *"Even if you feel nervous trying new things, if you have friends around you, you can do it. You help each other find your strengths."* A concept that stayed with her was the idea of not "climbing your ladder of assumptions" and recognising how cultural background and personal experience shape how we interpret situations. *"Communication is the best way to understand your team. That really changed how I think and how I work with others."* These ideas helped Rica develop greater confidence, communication skills, stronger critical-thinking skills, and a more reflective leadership style.

Bringing the Learning Back to Japan

Since returning to Japan, Rica has actively applied what she learned internationally to strengthen leadership development within the Girl Scouts of Japan. In late 2025, she was part of the organising team for a leadership mindset workshop delivered face-to-face in ~~Japan~~ ^{Japan} reaching almost 100 nationwide. One key change she introduced was a stronger focus on self-reflection.

"In Japan, we often reflect on the event with what went well and what didn't, but not on ourselves. At Our Chalet, I learned that self-reflection is essential for leadership growth."

Rica adapted activities she had experienced internationally — such as finding your comfort zone, stretch (learning) zone, and panic zone — translating and contextualising them for Japanese participants.

"These activities helped me to see and realise how diverse our communities really are, even within Japan. Japan is often perceived as a monocultural nation, but it has so many diverse aspects!"





RICA IN SWITZERLAND

Impact Beyond the Workshop

Rica's international experience continues to influence her work in subtle but powerful ways; from how she supports colleagues, to how she encourages reflection and care in daily interactions.

"I don't realise how much leadership can be learned in very small decisions, even asking a colleague if they're okay."

She also recognises the importance of adults modelling these skills if young people are to benefit.

"If adult members don't understand leadership mindset and self-reflection, they can't support young people effectively. That's one of our key challenges, and opportunities, in Japan."

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Contact us: obps@waggs.org

A Message to the Next Generation

For girls and young women considering international opportunities, Rica's message is clear:

"There is so much to learn outside your community and your country. Learning about other cultures also helps you understand your own."

She acknowledges that language can feel like a barrier, but encourages young people not to let fear hold them back.

"When I first applied for the Sangam volunteer program, I was a student, and my English wasn't very good at all. I was terrified. But the experience motivated me to learn, and it changed my life. Jumping out of my comfort zone led me to the opportunity at Our Chalet nine years later, and in just a few weeks I'll be on my way to Pax Lodge to volunteer there."

"Even if you feel nervous, you can do it. And when you come back, you think: 'I did that, so I can do this too'."



01.

Our Chalet

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Our Year in numbers



No. of scholarships and travel grants given

- For guests:
- 32 scholarships
- 19 travel grants
- 19 volunteer travel scholarships



Amount in GBP of scholarships and travel grant given

- Guest scholarships = £20,722
- Guest travel = £10,792
- Volunteer travel scholarships = £12,261

(All conversions from CHF to GBP done on 31 an 26 using xe.com)



Number of volunteers

- 39 (full season)
- 5 (short-term)



Volunteer countries

- 22 (full season), 3 (short-term)
- Countries including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, The Gambia, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Ireland, India, Japan, Peru, Latvia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Spain (Catalan), Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Tunisia, UK, USA, and Zimbabwe.



No. of programme participants

- 635



No. of community members reached

- 0



No. of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Guests

- 888



Our Programmes

In 2025, 635 people took part in our programme events. The majority of participants were Guides and Scouts joining our week-long Summer Youth Events, where they took part in a range of activities from kayaking to rock climbing, from putting on a short play to presenting about their home culture. The WAGGGS Leadership Mindsets are weaved throughout the activities so that all our Guide and Scout participants went home with not only new friends, increased confidence, and connection to the global Guiding and Scouting community, but also an understanding of what the mindsets are and how to apply them in their lives.

Events

In 2025 we ran the following events:

- New Years Break (4 and 6 day options)
- Winter Adventure
- YUNGA Winter Adventure
- Nine Summer Youth Events (4 x Discover, 3 x Explore, 2 x Adventure)
- International Friendship Week
- Autumn in the Alps

These nine Discover, Explore and Adventure events were attended by 540 members from USA (inc. Puerto Rico), Canada, UK, Israel, Denmark, Hong Kong, and Argentina.

Each event provided an action-packed week of programme designed to develop confidence, self-esteem, and leadership skills through outdoor activities making the most of our Swiss Alps location.



Our Volunteer Leadership Programme

Each year, we welcome four teams of 8-14 volunteers in to our Volunteer Leadership Programme.

Each team completes one 2.5 to 4 month season at Our Chalet. All volunteers arrive on the same date and take part in an intensive 2-week training period together before their volunteer work begins.

The day to day work varies by season, all volunteers have opportunities to work in our commercial kitchen, lead programme for guests, staff reception, and undertake cleaning tasks. We also run a number of enrichment sessions where volunteers learn about a range of topics from WAGGGS programmes to first aid.



Number of volunteers: 39 (full season) + 5 (short-term).

Volunteer countries: 22 (full season) + 3

(short-term) including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, The Gambia, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Ireland, India, Japan, Peru, Latvia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Norway, Spain (Catalan), Slovakia, South Africa, Sweden, Tunisia, UK, USA, and Zimbabwe.

In 2025 we were again able to see the benefits of our focus on building diversity in our volunteer programme, with not only 22 different countries represented, but also a range of ages, cultural backgrounds, educational experience, and physical abilities represented. We also ran a oneweek service programme (Ready Steady Go) in Spring where 15 Guides/Scouts from six countries (Canada, Czechia, Slovenia, UK, Ukraine, USA) took part in a week of work to prepare the Our Chalet site for summer. We also run one day programme and a number of evening programmes during the event to add opportunities for fun, friendship, and learning more about WAGGGS and Our Chalet to the event.



Our Volunteer Leadership Programme



"My main highlight was really the social connections I made and getting to feel a part of this global sisterhood and growing socially. I also got to challenge myself quite a bit in my free time and grow in terms of confidence travelling and my physical abilities."

-2025 Guest Services Specialist Volunteer from Australia

"As a young leader, I thought Guiding was just leading and associating with people back in my country but it opened a great door for me to travel alone out of Africa and get to be with people of diverse groups and culture. Most times it felt like a dream for me."

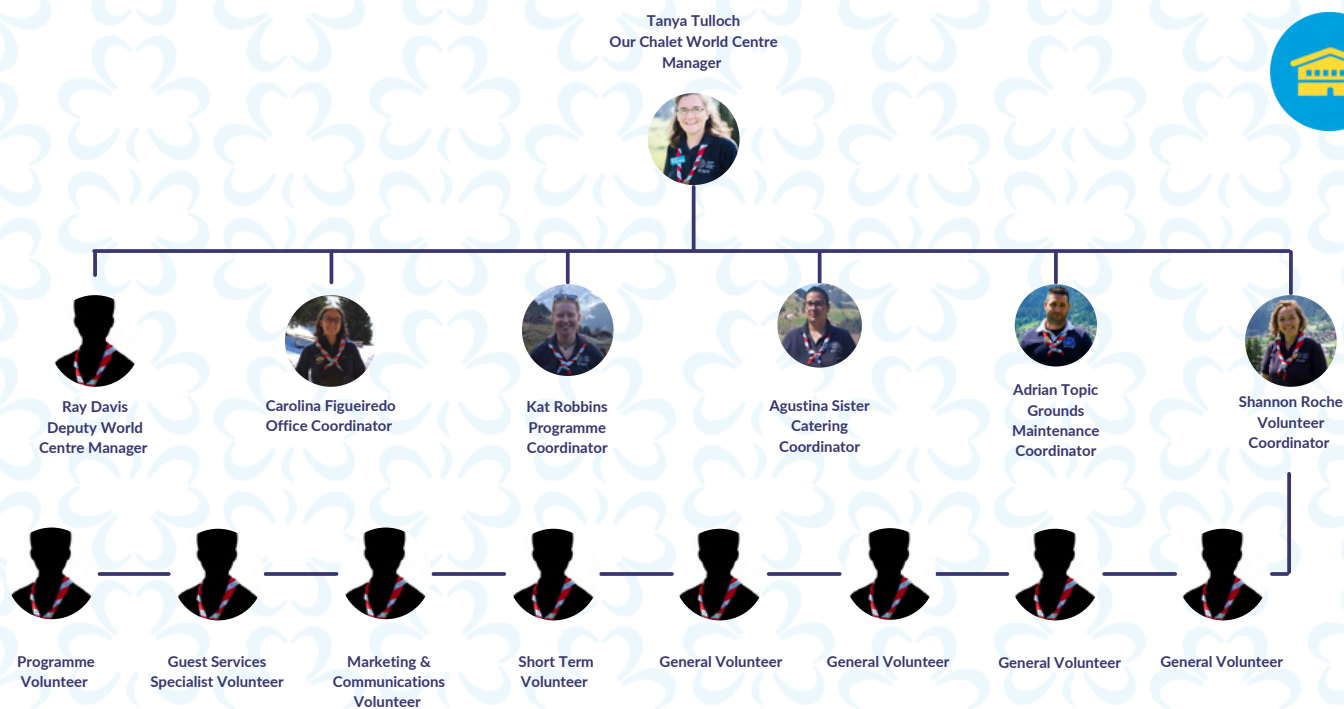
-2025 Volunteer from Malawi



Our Operations

Staffing & Staff Developments

- There were no changes to the Long Term Staff in 2025.
- Staff development happened in many ways in 2025. Some highlights were that a staff member attended the European Outdoor Education Conference and another attended the European Centre Managers Conference. Both opportunities offered opportunities for learning and networking with peers within each staff members' field of work.
- Our Catering Coordinator, Agustina, welcomed a son in March 2025.



Facilities

- In 2025, our maintenance focussed on outdoor areas of the site, including cutting down diseased trees, repairing picnic tables and benches, preparing compost and planting roses, and repairing the outdoor water foundation. We are grateful for the help of long-term volunteer from Luxembourg/Germany, Kristoph, in helping us with all the outdoor work. Indoors, among other things, we insulated heating pipes, repainted bedroom walls, repaired and painted windowsills, installed insect screens, and tested fire hoses and undertook fire training with the local fire brigade.



Our Finances

Income

Source	Amount
World Foundation	£77,000
Event and Programme Fees	£540,000
Independent Guests and Private Hire	£145,000
Donations	£22,000
Shop Sales	£90,000
Other	£124,000
Total	£998,000

Expenditure

Category	Amount
Events and Programmes	£173,000
Volunteer Programme	£95,000
Staffing	£487,000
Repairs and Maintenance	£18,000
Overheads	£174,000
Other	£57,000
Total	£1,004,000

Financial Notes and Observations

Income

- Our bednights were still lower than expected in 2025. This has been the case since COVID. We have tried to keep prices as low as possible for our guests, but due to rises in costs, we have had to make slight increases for 2026.
- Successes - we were able to partner with the Europe Region to host one of their events in 2025 that might have otherwise been held in another location. We are hoping to partner with other regions and WAGGGS departments to increase these types of events where we are the host rather than the facilitators.
- Points of interest/clarification - we received a large donation for HSS 2025 through a larger grant to WAGGGS for leadership programmes. This meant that we could request the funds that World Foundation would normally give for the HSS 2025 programme to be used for the Volunteer Leadership programme instead. This was very helpful in balancing the final budget for 2025 overall and we are very grateful for all of the donors who helped us increase income in the form of donations in 2025.

Expenditure

- Challenges - costs are going up in Switzerland, just as they are going up world wide. It is hard to keep within budget when there are sharp increases on food costs, energy costs, etc during the year.
- Successes -the team did an excellent job of finding ways to buy in bulk, or to fix things within the team to keep costs in areas where we have more control limited.
- Our Chalet uses renewable wood pellets for heating. In 2025 the cost of wood pellets rose by 4.65%.

Our Wishlist

- For groups or larger individual donations, we are happy to share our current larger needs such as cholarship funds, new linens, or technology replacements.
- We are always grateful for donations from our Amazon wishlist, which can be found [here](#), the wishlist is regularly updated to reflect our current, smaller needs.



2026 and Beyond

- We are looking forward to 2026 and the opportunities it will bring to continue to strengthen our guest and volunteer programmes and have ever greater impact on the global Guiding/Scouting community.
- Programme Plans - In 2026 we have added one new event, Spring Mini International Friendship Week. Due to the popularity of our International Friendship Week, we are offering this second opportunity for adult Guides/Scouts to take part in a low-physical activity programme designed to offer a more relaxed pace and plenty of opportunities for chatting with friends old and new.
- 2026 will also see us host a Staff Reunion in September, while this programme is not being organised or run by Our Chalet we are excited to welcome back many former staff and volunteers. The rest of our programme for 2026 remains unchanged, offering the same high quality and popular programming as in recent years.
- Looking further ahead to 2027 we are adding another new event YUNGA Spring Adventure, aimed at offering Guide/Scout groups a similar experience to our summer programmes during the spring season school holidays. This event is similar in content to our existing YUNGA Winter Adventure event. In 2027 we are also changing up the activities in our Summer Youth Events. While these will still be called Discover, Explore, and Adventure, each event will offer new activities, providing new options for units/ troops ready to make return trips to Our Chalet.
- Facilities plans- We are looking forward to using more of the wood from some of the trees on the property to build new furniture and upgrade some areas of the property that need better tables and seating. We will also be making sure that there are additional, flat areas for those tables and benches, to make picnicking with a group easier. The Our Chalet Foundation has plans for a project that will widen the driveway making easier access for larger vehicles.

Our Chalet

2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 29 Dec-5 Jan New Year's -Winter Adventure -Skiing at Our Chalet -Weekend Breaks	 15-21 YUNGA Bagde -Winter Adventure -Skiing at Our Chalet -Weekend Breaks	 8-14 Winter Walking Week 31 Mar-7 Apr Helen Storrow Seminar -Winter Adventure -Weekend Breaks	 27 Mar -2 Apr Spring Friendship Week -Skiing at Our Chalet
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 2-10 Ready Steady Go 1-4 Skiing at Our Chalet	 21-27 Discover 1 28 Jun-4 May Explore 1	 6-12 Adventure 1 13-19 Discover 2 23-29 Explore 2	 30 Jul-05 Aug Discover 3 9-15 Explore 3 16-22 Discover 4
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 6-13 Walking Week 6-13 Hiking Week 19-27 International Friendship Week	 26 Oct-1 Nov Autumn in the Alps 27 Sep-3 Oct Staff Reunion	 CLOSED	 CLOSED TO 13 DEC 29 Dec-5 Jan New Year's Break



Our Chalet

2027 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 29 Dec - 5 Jan New Year's break 11 - 18 Apr Winter adventure 11 - 30 Apr Mini Break (Winter/Spring)	 Independent guest bookings available	 7-13 Winter Walking Week	 3-9 Spring Adventure Yunga Badge 12-18 Spring International Friendship Week
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 1 - 9 May Save the date - ready steady go (service programme)	 21-27 Discover 1 28 Jun-4 July Explore 1	 6-12 Adventure 1 13-19 Discover 2 23-30 Explore 2	 30 Jul-05 Aug Adventure 2 9-15 Explore 3 16-22 Discover 3
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 Independent guest bookings available	 Independent guest bookings available	 Independent guest bookings available	 Independent guest bookings available

Message of Thanks

We would like to give a heartfelt thanks to all our supporters in 2025, especially to the Friends of Our Chalet groups around the world who have continued to work hard to support our programmes and our operations. Individual donors made big impacts in small ways, from funding a Volunteer Day Out which gave our volunteer team a chance to bond as a team and experience part of Switzerland, to donating much needed items from our wishlist.

We are also grateful for the ongoing support of the Cheryl A Watkins Trust, which continues to allow us to welcome long-serving members to our events, helping us not only to fill bednights outside of our peak season, but also to build the intergenerational support network that younger Girl Guides and Girl Scouts need to develop their leadership skills.

Thanks to our supporters we are excited to enter 2026 keeping WAGGGS oldest World Centre a relevant and exciting home in the Swiss Alps for Guides and Girl Scouts of all ages and from all countries.



02.

Pax Lodge

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Pax Lodge

2025 was a strong and rewarding year for Pax Lodge, marked by meaningful connection, vibrant international participation, and solid financial performance. Throughout the year, Pax Lodge continued to fulfil its role as WAGGGS' London World Centre – a welcoming home where Girl Guides, Girl Scouts, volunteers, and guests from across the globe came together to learn, share cultures, and build lifelong friendships. With high levels of participation across our programmes, a diverse and dedicated volunteer team, and a healthy financial surplus, the year reflects the commitment, professionalism, and care of our staff and volunteers, and the continued relevance and impact of Pax Lodge within the global Movement.

Our Year in Numbers



No. of scholarships and travel grants given: 21



No. of programme participants: 564



Amount in GBP of scholarships and travel grant given: \$34,250



No. of community members reached: 0



Number of volunteers: 21



No. of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Guests: 2091



Volunteer countries:

Volunteers from across the globe, including Ghana, UK, South Korea, USA, Malawi, Tunisia, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Nigeria, Pakistan, India, Lesotho, Canada, Sweden and Mexico.



No. of events delivered: 10



Our Programmes

Throughout 2025, Pax Lodge delivered a vibrant and diverse programme of events and activities that brought the global Movement together in London. From World Thinking Day in February to our Global Friendship Event in November, we welcomed over **500 Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of all ages from around the world** to take part in events that celebrated international friendship, learning, and shared Guiding values. Our events and activities offered participants meaningful opportunities to connect across cultures, explore global themes, and experience the international spirit of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting in the city where the Movement began.

Events

Through our events programme, Pax Lodge continues to bring the values of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting to life, offering meaningful international experiences that foster friendship, learning, and connection across generations and cultures – made possible through the ongoing support of our donors and friends.

- **World Thinking Day** was celebrated over the weekend of **22-23 February**, welcoming **over 300 participants** ranging from Rainbows to Trefoil Guild members. Member Organisations represented included the UK, USA, Ireland, Canada, the Maldives, Slovenia, Norway, and Nigeria. Using activities from the WAGGGS World Thinking Day pack, participants enjoyed learning about and celebrating Our History, reflecting on the shared heritage and global reach of the Movement.
- Now in its **fourth** year, **JamBrownee** once again proved popular with Girl Guiding UK members and USA Girl Scouts Overseas Brownie groups. **Thirty-seven girls and their leaders** joined us in total, for a weekend focused on conservation and biodiversity, with activities held both onsite, in the World Peace Garden, and on Hampstead Heath. A highlight of the weekend was a visit from Safari Pete, who introduced the girls to a range of animals – including a green tree frog, a scorpion, a meerkat, and an owl – bringing environmental learning vividly to life.



- During the summer months, we proudly delivered **six Journey Through London events**, welcoming a vibrant mix of participants from **Girl Scouts USA and Girl Guides of Canada**, alongside groups from **Girl Scouts of Japan and Girl Guides New Zealand**. In total, **219 young people (aged 14-18) and adults** spent an inspiring week with us, discovering London, engaging with WAGGGS programmes, and celebrating the international spirit of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting in the city where the Movement began.
- The **Global Friendship Event** provided a dedicated week for adult members to spend time in London, deepen international connections, and form new friendships. Participants came from **Girl Guiding UK, Girl Guides of Canada, Pakistan Girl Guides Association, Girl Scouts of the Philippines** – including one former Pax Lodge volunteer – highlighting the lasting bonds and sense of belonging fostered by the Centre.



This picture is from Journey Through London, our summer programme that runs for a week. The groups visit Hamstead Heath and Parliment Hill to take in all the best views that London has to offer.

Our Volunteer Leadership Programme

Each year, we invite WAGGGS members from across the globe to participate in our Volunteer programme. During their time at Pax Lodge they gain work experience and personal development in an international setting whilst learning more about the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, its mission, vision and themes including leadership and advocacy. Day to day they assist with the planning and leading of day and overnight events for visiting members of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting to London. In addition to tasks which assist with the procedures and smooth running of reception and conference facilities for bed & breakfast, conference and event guests.

In 2025 we welcomed volunteers from from Girl Guiding UK , Girl Scouts of the USA, Girl Guides of Canada, Girl Guides Australia, the Tunisian Scouts, Korea Girl Scouts, the Malawi Girl Guides Association, Girl Guides South Africa, the Girl Guides Association of Trinidad and Tobago, the Girl Guides of Mexico, the Nigerian Girl Guides Association, the Pakistan Girl Guides Association, the Ghana Girl Guides Association, the Girl Guides of Argentina, the Bharat Scouts and Guides, the Lesotho Girl Guides Association, and the Guides and Scouts of Sweden. We have been very lucky to have representation from across the 5 WAGGGS regions.



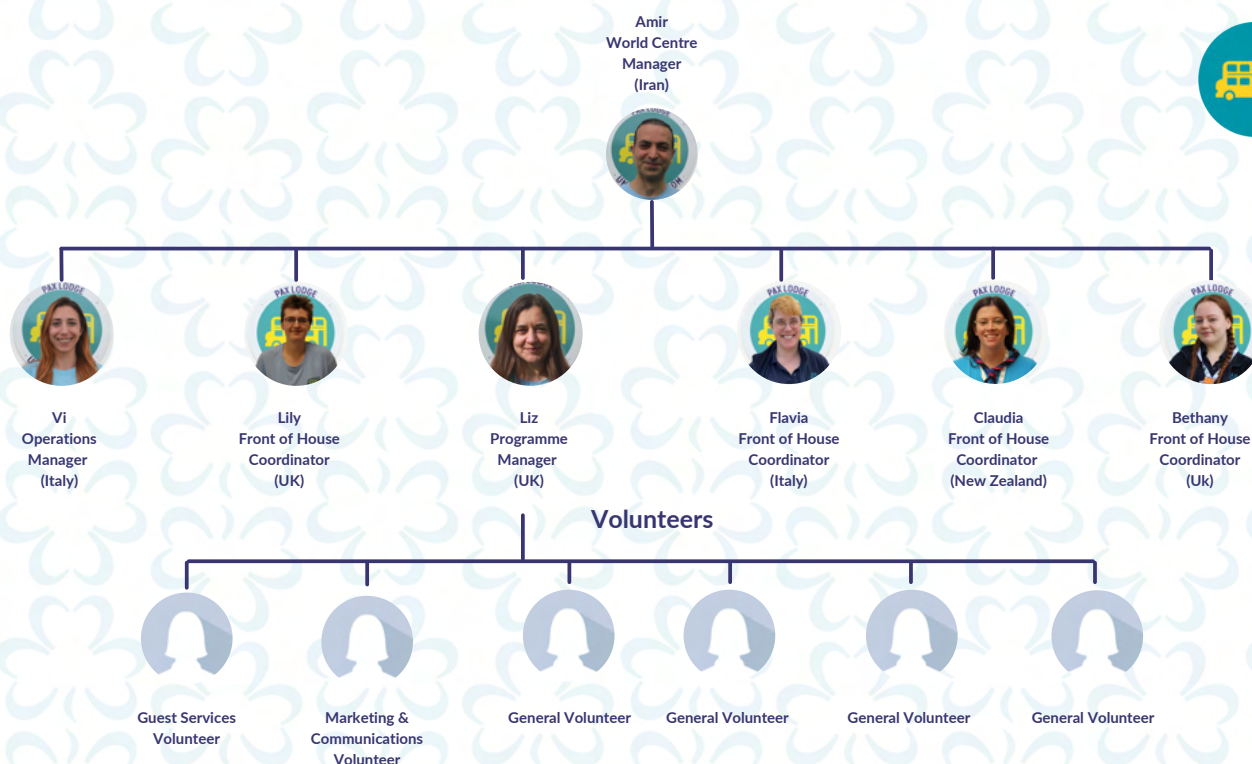
"My Pax Lodge journey has been one of the most transformative chapters of my Guiding life. From beginning with JTL to completing my service during Global Friendship Week, every moment added a meaningful layer of experience and shaped who I am today. I always believed that if it's not fun, then it's not Guiding and Pax Lodge fully lived up to that spirit. My time there was filled with adventure, joy, and rich cultural exposure. I loved interacting with guests from around the world. Organizing Evening Programmes and writing mini-reports quickly became my favourite tasks. This role strengthened my confidence and professionalism, whether I was managing the front desk, making bows, or folding laundry. I arrived knowing almost nothing about cooking, yet I left able to prepare meals with ease. Handling the night phone, completing AM shifts, and finding time for my religious practices made me feel valued and included. Taking on challenges around London and travelling independently by train gave me a new sense of freedom. The managers provided exceptional leadership and guidance, while volunteers and staff offered constant support. Pax Lodge is truly a place where strangers become friends, and it has become my home away from home."

-2025 Guest Services Specialist Volunteer from Australia.

Our Operations

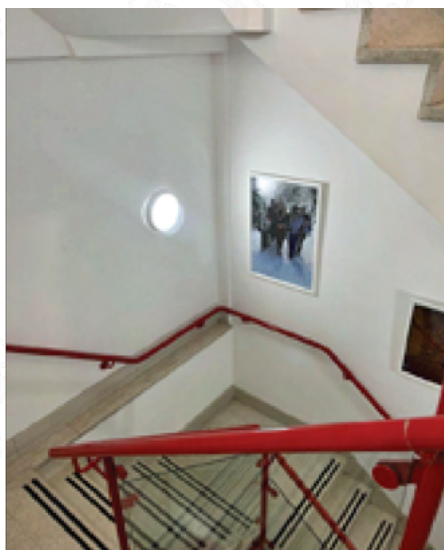
Staffing & Staff Developments

- Pax Lodge continued to be supported by a committed and professional staff team throughout the year. The team consisted of Amir (World Centre Manager), Vi (Operations Manager), Liz (Programme Manager), and Flavia, Lily, Beth, and Mariana (Front of House Coordinators), whose collective dedication ensured the smooth day-to-day running of the Centre and the delivery of high-quality experiences for all guests and participants.
- We were delighted to celebrate Operations Manager Vi's wedding in September, and we extend our warm congratulations. During the summer, Claudia (Front of House Coordinator) left Pax Lodge to take up a role at a prestigious London private school. We thank her for her contribution and were pleased to welcome Mariana to the team, who has settled in well and strengthened our Front of House provision.



Facilities

Throughout the year, we continued to invest in the care and upkeep of Pax Lodge to ensure it remains a safe, welcoming, and well-maintained space for all who visit. Significant works completed this year included the upgrade of all fuse boxes, repainting of a staircase, replacement of the back garden deck, renovation of three showers. These improvements support security, comfort of our guests and the long-term sustainability of the Centre.



Our Finances

Pax Lodge experienced a **strong and successful financial year in 2025**, reflecting effective operational management, high demand for our facilities and programmes, and careful stewardship of resources. The year closed with a healthy surplus, strengthening the Centre’s long-term sustainability and ability to continue delivering high-quality international experiences for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world.

Income

Pax Lodge generated a total income of **£802,060** in 2025, drawn from a diverse mix of programme activity, hospitality services, and generous donor support.

Source	Amount
World Foundation	£25,000
Event and Programme Fees	£218,772
Independent Guests and Private Hire	£449,491
Donations	£40,962
Shop Sales	£66,000
Other	£1,835
Total	£802,060

Income performance exceeded targets, demonstrating strong demand for Pax Lodge programmes and facilities, alongside continued support from donors and partners. While increased visa refusals for some nationalities presented challenges for certain groups, overall participation and income remained robust.



Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was **£691,093**, remaining within the approved budget and reflecting disciplined financial management.

Category	Amount
<i>Events and Programmes</i>	£23,134
<i>Volunteer Programme</i>	£38,497
<i>Staffing</i>	£271,402
<i>Repairs and Maintenance</i>	£75,961
<i>Overheads</i>	£234,049
<i>Other</i>	£44,075
<i>Total</i>	£691,093

Careful planning and improved communication during the budgeting process contributed to effective cost control across all areas. Investment in staffing, maintenance, and volunteer support ensured the continued quality, safety, and sustainability of the Centre.

Financial Performance

The year concluded with a surplus of over £100,000, reinforcing Pax Lodge's financial resilience and providing a strong foundation for future investment in programmes, facilities, and international access. This outcome reflects a balance of ambition and prudence, ensuring that donor contributions are used responsibly while maximising impact for girls and young women worldwide.

Our Wishlist

Click [here](#) for our Amazon Wishlist



2026 and Beyond

Staffing & Staff Developments

- We're excited for 2026 which will see both the Centenary of World Thinking Day and the 35th Anniversary of Pax Lodge.
- In 2026, we will kick off events with World Thinking Day celebrations over the weekend of 21st and 22nd February. Spring will see us host 2 new events - Pax Lodge 35th birthday and our Spring Friendship Event and possibly hosting the Europe Region again. The summer begins with JamBrownee and continues with 6 Journey Through London weeks. With Global Friendship Event to round off the year in November we can't wait to welcome old friends and new to London.
- We also plan to continue improving our facility by renovating the remaining showers, deep-cleaning carpets, installing a digital keycard system for the main wooden entrance door, replacing ceiling panels, fixing 2 faulty staircase key card readers, renovating the back garden, repairing the lobby wall and painting offices.

Message of Thanks

- We are very grateful to all of our supporters this year. Because of them we can ensure that Pax Lodge can offer life-changing international experiences to girls and young women and further the amazing work that our Movement is doing across the world to create a just and equal society for every girl and any girl in the place where Strangers soon are Friends.

Pax Lodge

2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 Independent guest bookings available	 21-22 World Thinking Day Activities	 Independent guest bookings available	 19-24 Spring Friendship Event
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 28-31 JamBrownee	 21-26 Journey Through London One BOOKED 28 Jul-3 Jul Journey Through London Two	 12-17 Journey Through London Three BOOKED 19-24 Journey Through London Four	 2-7 Journey Through London Five 9-14 Journey Through London Six
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 Independent guest bookings available	 29 Oct-1 Nov STEMazing Guides	 Independent guest bookings available	 Independent guest bookings available

Pax Lodge

2027 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 Independent guest bookings available	 Independent guest bookings available	 Independent guest bookings available	 Independent guest bookings available
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 Independent guest bookings available	 3-6 Jambrownee 13-18 London Calling 1 20-25 London Calling 2 27-2 July London Calling 3	 11-16 London Calling 4 18-23 London Calling 5	 1-6 London Calling 6 8-13 London Calling 7
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 Independent guest bookings available	 Independent guest bookings available	 Independent guest bookings available	 Independent guest bookings available

03.

Nuestra Cabaña

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Nuestra Cabaña

2025 was a year of finding our rhythm after the extraordinary energy of 2024, when reopening our doors brought a surge of excitement to Nuestra Cabaña. As things gently settled, participation throughout 2025 remained positive, even while navigating the wider economic and security challenges in Mexico.

Through shared conversations, gatherings, and presence at meetings and conferences, we kept inviting people back to Nuestra Cabaña—and they came. It was especially heartwarming to see Girl Guides of Mexico increasingly recognize the value of having a World Centre close to home, bringing more events and programmes and strengthening the sense of belonging that lives at the heart of our community.

Our Year in Numbers



No. of scholarships and travel grants given: 6



No. of programme participants: 579



Amount in GBP of scholarships and travel grant given: \$28,000



No. of community members reached: 696



Number of volunteers: 12



No. of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Guests: 660



Volunteer countries:
Australia, Canada, Germany,
Mexico, Scotland, Tunisia and
Costa Rica



No. of events delivered: 13



Our Programmes

During 2025, Nuestra Cabaña delivered multiple programmes, including Taste of Mexico, World Thinking Day, Splash into the Spring, Climate Action Summit, Fireflies, USAGSO Overseas, Summer Friendship, Day of the Dead, and Monarch Butterflies, reaching a total of 579 participants. Nuestra Cabaña also launched its new programme called "Her Roots, Her Future" which combines STEAM, Sustainability and Gender Equality in an innovative non-formal educational programme. During this first year, the centre worked with the Guiding and Scouting community attending their events but also worked with 10 other Community Partners, reaching a total of 1,022 participants from April to December. The centre also offered a "STEAM Challenge" for participants to complete while onsite, and 103 Girl Guides and Girl Scouts completed it, obtaining the STEM at World Centres Badge.

Events

- Taste of Mexico, World Thinking Day, Splash into the Spring, Climate Action Summit, Fireflies, USAGSO Overseas, Summer Friendship, Day of the Dead, and Monarch Butterflies.
- **Total participants: 579**

Across 2025, nine key programmes brought 579 participants together at Nuestra Cabaña, creating spaces for learning, connection, and friendship. From climate action to cultural celebrations, each event strengthened leadership, environmental awareness, and the sense of belonging that defines the World Centre experience. Both national and international groups continued to choose Nuestra Cabaña as a place to meet, learn, and grow together.



Our Volunteer Leadership Programme

The Volunteer Leadership Programme is aimed at young members of the Movement looking to develop their leadership skills. By joining the working team at a World Centre and taking part in daily activities, participants can expand their knowledge of international guiding and grow their network within the movement.

In a safe and supportive environment, the programme provides volunteers with the tools and resources needed to navigate future leadership opportunities, both within and outside the organisation. Their time at Nuestra Cabaña is the perfect opportunity for them to challenge themselves, grow, and discover their potential as individuals. They will return to their countries with valuable experience.

Volunteers can stay for a season (three to four months) and also extend their stay for a second season, or even up to a year. The work they do is focused in three different areas: Programmes, Guest Services, and Communications and Marketing.

Number of volunteers and where they were from:

- 12 from Australia, Canada, Germany, Mexico, Scotland, Tunisia and Costa Rica

Impact/highlights from 2025:

- The mural of Nuestra Cabaña is a teamwork piece of art. During the spring of 2025, Carol Álvarez, a communications and marketing volunteer, member of Guías de México and digital artist, led the creation of the 'Nuestra Cabaña Mural'. It now embellishes and brings vitality to one of the walls at the entrance to the centre. Carol was responsible for designing and creating the mural, but the task of transferring a digital image to such a large wall was too challenging for one person alone, so all the volunteers had to work together to make it happen. This experience taught them true teamwork, and they are now part of Nuestra Cabaña's artistic history! Their names are featured within the mural in recognition of the teamwork they displayed in bringing it to life.
- Her roots and her future. Their passions, their creativity. As the centre launched its "Her Roots, Her Future" programme this year, volunteers from all seasons were invited to contribute to the creative process and expand the programme's activity offerings. Volunteers from all departments were invited to contribute ideas, plan and lead non-formal educational activities for groups visiting the centre. One of the things they enjoyed the most was having creative freedom when planning STEAM and sustainability-related activities and seeing them come to life!





"I feel that we knew how to work with each person's skills and enhance them. By working as a team, we built a super team. It's an very fun experience, full of useful experiences for personal life and guiding."

-Sofía, 20 years old, Mexico – Summer Season

"I would recommend it in any case because going out of your comfort zone is a strong step towards success. During this experience, I learned to embrace diversity and accept others."

– Khadija, 21 years old, Tunisia – Summer Season

"It is a very thorough programme and covers many of the foundations of what you will be doing at Nuestra Cabaña. It was a lot of fun as well. Learning about WAGGGS programmes was challenging, as it was not something I knew much about before. I'm very glad I now know more about them so I can implement them back home with my unit."

– Victoria, 25 years old, Australia – Spring Season

I liked having time to carry out the activities without feeling pressured. I also liked that we worked on different aspects of Nuestra Cabaña and volunteering as if we were participants in an event."

-Sofía, 20 years old, Mexico – Summer Season



Our Operations

Staffing & Staff Developments

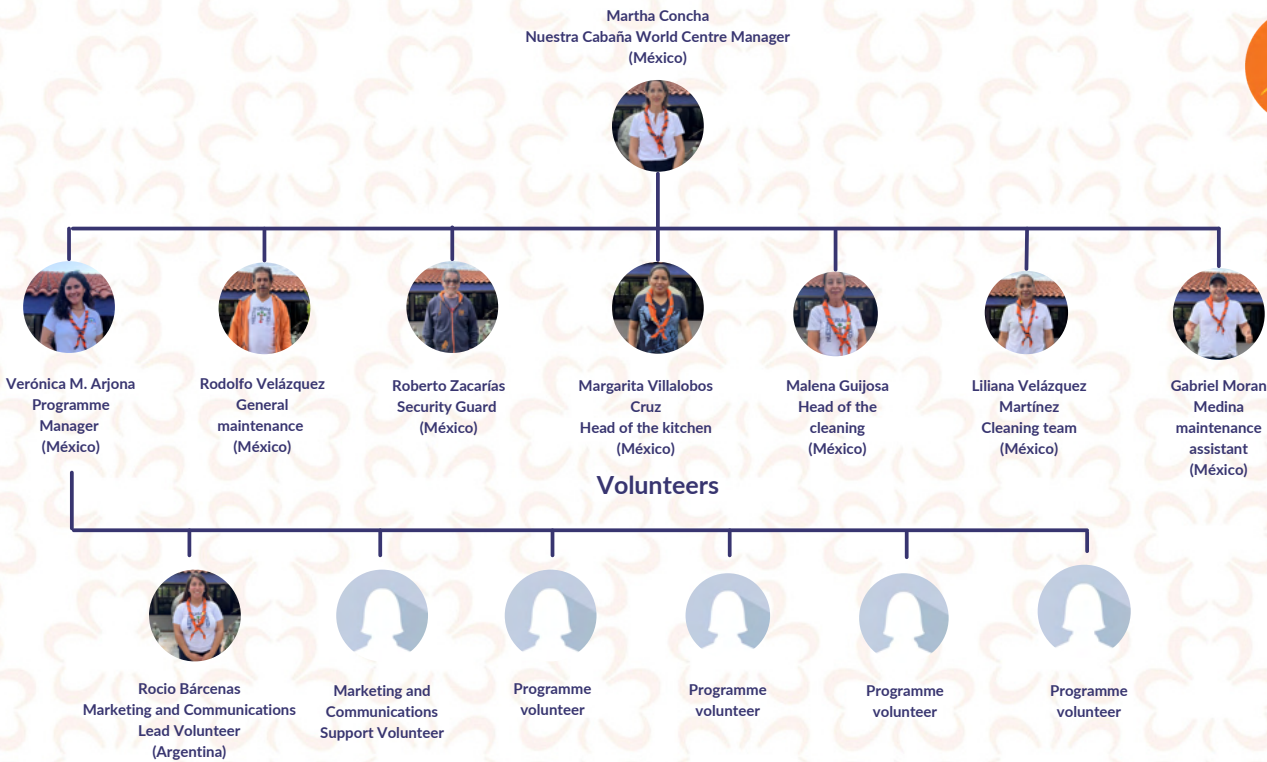
Nuestra Cabaña continued to be supported by a dedicated team of 11 staff members, including the Director and teams responsible for housekeeping, maintenance, kitchen services, and administration. Throughout 2025, a strong focus was placed on staff wellbeing and team cohesion, with shared activities and special moments – including birthdays and holiday celebrations – helping to foster a positive and supportive working environment.

We were especially pleased to celebrate a joyful milestone within the team in December, when Lili from Housekeeping and Gabriel from Maintenance were married, a moment warmly shared and celebrated by colleagues.

Staffing levels remained stable throughout the year, with only one departure from the housekeeping team. Following careful review, it was agreed that no additional permanent roles were required at this time. Instead, outsourced services continue to be used during programme delivery, allowing the Centre to remain flexible while managing operating costs responsibly.



Staffing & Staff Developments



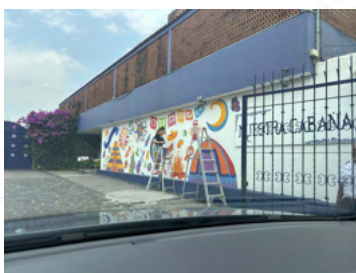
Facilities

Significant work continues across Nuestra Cabaña to address the impact of historic underinvestment and deferred maintenance. As a property now over 65 years old, the Centre faces ongoing and emerging infrastructure challenges, including drainage improvements, waterproofing in multiple areas, bathroom repairs, carpentry, and essential electrical upgrades.



To manage costs responsibly and make best use of available resources, the maintenance team has taken a hands-on approach wherever possible. Major works such as drainage repairs – which would ordinarily be outsourced – have been undertaken internally, with approximately 50% of the work completed in 2025 and the remaining work scheduled for 2026. Other maintenance issues have been addressed progressively as capacity allows, with safety, functionality, and the long-term condition of the Centre guiding all decisions.

This careful, phased approach ensures that Nuestra Cabaña remains a safe and welcoming space for participants and guests, while stewarding donor funds responsibly and planning for the Centre's long- term sustainability.



Our Finances

Income

Source	Amount
World Foundation	£144,120
Event and Programme Fees	£313,560
Independent Guests and Private Hire	£6,640
Donations	£12,960
Shop Sales	£9,080
Other	£19,800
Total	£506,160

Expenses

Category	Amount
Events and Programmes	£76,880
Volunteer Programmes	£19,960
Staffing	£138,680
Repair and Maintenance	£36,000
Overheads	£206,920
Other	£47,320
Total	£525,760

Financial Notes and Observations

Income

Our goal is to increase participation in our programmes despite current challenges, while ensuring our facilities remain in optimal condition to host guests.

Expenditure

Challenges:

- We continue to navigate and align with the country's financial and fundraising systems, which can sometimes present tax-related challenges that impact operational cost control. At the same time, we are mindful and responsible with our spending, taking care of our resources while ensuring the quality and warmth of the experience offered to every participant.

Successes:

- We have put tools in place to better understand and control our costs, while also supporting our staff. Our Finance team has been a key partner in guiding thoughtful decisions and ensuring the responsible and effective use of our resources.

Our Wishlist

Direct transfers and Amazon purchases have streamlined procurement, enabling costeffective local sourcing and on-site delivery.

2026 and Beyond

2026 brings important challenges, influenced by Mexico's political, economic, and security context, which has affected travel decisions from the United States and Canada. Our focus is on strengthening direct, personal relationships with Member Organizations, sharing first-hand experiences that reinforce Nuestra Cabaña as a safe and welcoming place.

We continue to build on our core programmes, while introducing two new events inspired by Mexico's global identity—one centred on culture and history, and another celebrating Latin festivity and joy.

We are caring for and renewing our home, combining essential corrective maintenance with thoughtful updates, modern materials, and gradual improvements that move us toward a more preventive and sustainable approach.



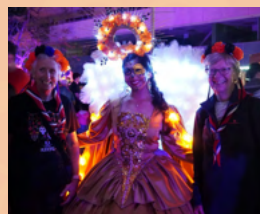
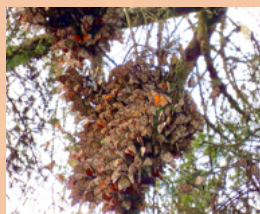
Nuestra Cabaña

2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 18-25 Taste of Mexico 1: New Year New Flavors	 4-8 Friends of Nuestra Cabaña Annual Gathering 16-23 World Thinking Day Activities 	 7-14 Splash into Spring 1 20-27 Splash into Spring 2	 1-8 Taste of Mexico: Celebrating Easter 12-19 Real Mexico: History and Culture
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 Independent guest bookings available	 Independent guest bookings available	 11-18 Adventure Mexico : Fiesta Latina 24-31 Mexico Adventure: Summer Friendship 1	 2-9 Mexico Adventure: Summer Friendship 2 11-18 Mexico Adventure: Summer Friendship 3
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 Independent guest bookings available	 4-11 Taste of Mexico : Tasting Traditions 28 Oct-4 Nov Real Mexico: Day of the Dead	 Independent guest bookings available	 3-10 Natural Mexico: Monarch Butterflies 29 Dec-3 Jan Ringing in the New Year in Mexico

Nuestra Cabaña

2027 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 17-24 Jan Taste of Mexico: New Year New Flavours	 15-22 Feb World Thinking Day at Neustra Cabana	 28 Feb - 7 March Splash into spring 1 14-21 Mar Splash into spring 2	 28 Mar-4 Apr Taste of Mexico - Celebrating Easter
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 Independent guest bookings available	 13-20 Jun Real Mexico: History and culture 27Jun -4 Jul Mexico adventure : summer friendship 1	 18-25 Jul Natural Mexico: Fireflies Forest 1	 1-8 Aug Natural Mexico: Fireflies Forest 2 15-22 Aug Mexico adventure : summer friendship 2
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 29 Sep - 5 Sep Celebrating our sisterhood - Reunion for alumni, Volunteers and Staff	 3 -10 Oct Taste of Mexico: Tasting traditions	 27 Oct- 3 Nov Real Mexico: Day of the Dead 14 - 21 Nov History and culture 2	 5 - 12 Dec Natural Mexico : Monarch Butterflies 29- 02 Jan Ringing in the new year in Mexico

Message of thanks

Our heartfelt thanks go to all the donors, guests, and friends who walked alongside Nuestra Cabaña throughout the year. Your trust and generosity made it possible for programmes to flourish, spaces to be cared for, and girls and young women to continue finding inspiration and belonging at our World Centre.

We are especially grateful to partners such as Friends of Nuestra Cabaña, Friends of the World Centres from UK, the WAGGGS World Foundation and individual donors, whose continued support has had a meaningful and lasting impact. We also wish to recognize the commitment of individual supporters who believe deeply in our mission and quietly make a difference. Each contribution, whether large or small, helps keep the spirit of Nuestra Cabaña alive and growing.

Around every camp fire, stories are shared, friendships are formed, and futures are shaped. Thank you for being part of this circle, for believing in what we do, and for helping ensure that Nuestra Cabaña remains a place where girls and young women continue to gather, grow, and dream.



04.

Sangam

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Sangam

Looking back at 2025, we are extremely proud of everything that has taken place here at Sangam. Around 300 Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, as well as people not affiliated with the movement, joined us for our events. Whether cultural or leadership, we have grown together, created memories and, of course, had fun. Around 1,000 visited us for a day or more, and we hope you will join us for an event next time.

Implementing Global Programmes at World Centres isn't always obvious, but with adjustment, comprehension and support from the Global Programmes team, it is possible. We are proud to have reached over 7,000 Guides and Scouts from Pune and beyond through the STEM Programme, Youth-Led Actions on Climate Change and Plastic Tide Turner – our main focus this year. We are really looking forward to 2026.

Our Year in Numbers



No. of scholarships and travel grants given: 25 Scholarships, 16 travel grants.



No. of programme participants: 315



Amount in GBP of scholarships and travel grant given:

£18,475 Scholarship

£15,251 in Travel grants



No. of community members reached: 10,380



Number of volunteers:

7 Volunteers, 4 Community Programme Participants



No. of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Guests: 374



Volunteer countries: Denmark, Madagascar, Mexico, Malawi, United Kingdom, Portugal, Norway, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Chile



No. of events delivered: 16



Our Programmes

Events

The first event of 2025 was a celebration of Indian culture through Discover Incredible India. We had participants from UK and Australia who got to experience the beautiful blend of the wonderful Indian culture and the joy of connecting through international friendships that Sangam offers. February brought the celebration of World Thinking Day, where Sangam almost had full house, with 67 participants partaking in the programme on the 22nd. We visited the local Bharat Scouts and Guides headquarters and celebrated through songs and games with the local scouts and guides. March followed with the Indian Holi festival, and that should of course be celebrated with an event. We visited one of our community partners, Deep Griha Society - City of Child, a hostel for boys. We wished each other "Happy Holi" with the coloured powder, and engaged in water fight with music, dance and fun.





Indian Summer Flavours in April 2025 was a blast! The participants brought so much joy and energy that made the week incredible and truly special! Engaging with Indian culture, we enjoyed the start of summer in India through various activities: enjoying the refreshing Sangam swimming pool, savouring local seasonal dishes, unwinding with yoga or meditation, having a blast with Bollywood dancing and discovering the outdoors of Pune. All of these contributed to a flavourful experience. "Come Discover Home" in June, launched us into a new season. This event offered participants a unique insight into the Sangam experience, enabling them to discover Sangam, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts "HOME" in India, and forge deep connections with the community and its values. The atmosphere was filled with warmth and enthusiasm as people from different countries came together to explore the meaning of finding a home in a World Centre. We also had the privilege of hosting the STEM Changemakers Training for Master Trainers Event, which was attended by trainers from Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Taiwan. During their time here, they had the opportunity to discover, explore and work on the new WAGGGS STEM curriculum.



Our international events continue to bring Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world together in July, August and September. A range of leadership events, including Brave Space 1 and 2, Arts4Healing, as well as Namaste Sangam and the celebratory event on the occasion of the Ganesh festival, enabled around 100 Girl Guides and Girl Scouts aged between 12 and 75 to have a unique global centre experience, explore and develop their leadership skills, engage in meaningful exchanges with the community, and discover Indian culture from different perspectives.



And as always, October marked the celebration of Sangam's birthday. This year, 23 people from three different countries joined us for "Diamond Countdown Two!".

The event balanced cultural experiences, interaction with the local community, and of course, celebrations. With the support of the Youth Empowerment Fund - Global Youth Mobilisation, we initiated 'SDGs in Action', an initiative focusing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing) and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). As part of it, we brought together Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, as well as Scouts from the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions, and equipped them with key skills in leadership, project management, and advocacy. This has enabled them to deliver projects in their own communities. Back in their own countries, they are now implementing their own projects.

Our Volunteer Leadership Programme

Sangam have 2 leadership programmes: Volunteer Programme and Community Programme. The volunteer programme provides young people between the ages of 18 and 30 with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world centre by contributing to the delivery of our events, whilst practising and developing their leadership as well as other skills. The community programme offers participants a unique, hands-on experience within the local community. Community programme participants spend between 6 to 10 weeks at Sangam. During their placement, they work 4 days a week with our community partners which include NGOs and schools. On the other days, they are fully immersed in the culture and Guiding/Scouting through the various activities organised by Sangam.

Number of volunteers and community programme participants, where they were from:

- 11 from Denmark, Madagascar, Mexico, Malawi, United Kingdom, Portugal, Norway, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Chile



"I had the opportunity to enjoy a variety of experiences through the community programme. While leading and participating in activities with Maher, I developed my leadership skills and learned to communicate Maher's community despite the communication barrier. Despite my limited English, I learned about the strong connections among Girl Scouts and the unique challenges and joys of living with people from different cultures abroad."

-Momoko, Japan (Community Programme Participant or Tare)



"My time volunteering at Sangam enabled me to develop my leadership skills. I was able to reflect on my values and consider how these align with WAGGGS, as well as how those values come through when I am leading. I was able to reflect on what I felt were good leadership qualities, as well as those that I observed but wouldn't practise myself when facilitating. Because of the regular changes to what we were leading, I learnt to adapt quickly to the context. For example, I ran sessions with younger or older children at YLACC, as well as events with older participants, which I would not have been comfortable doing before.

-Trion, UK (Volunteer)

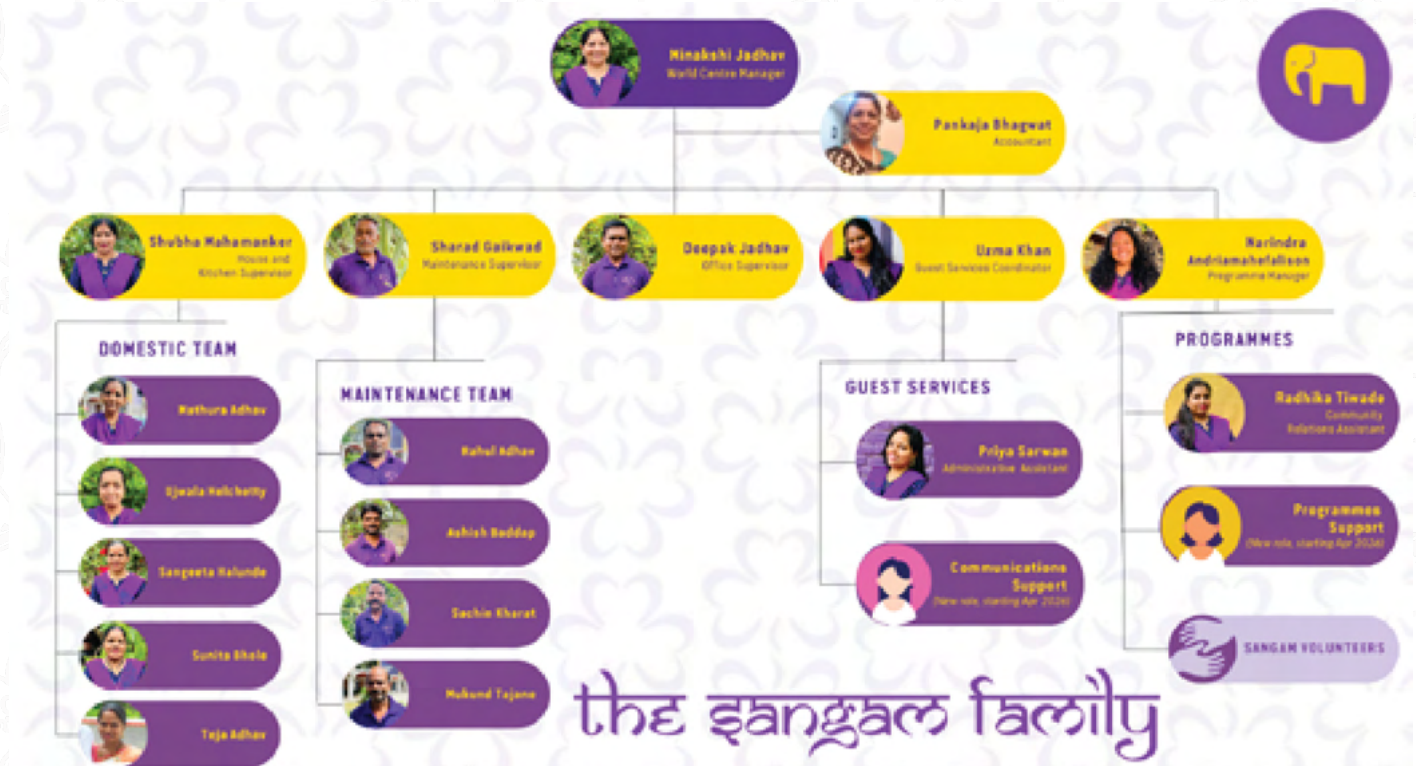


"Volunteering at Sangam wasn't just an experience, it was a transformation. I arrived with curiosity and left with confidence, new friendships, and a heart full of purpose. I'm so grateful for every smile, every challenge, and every lesson. Sangam truly became a second home. The cultural activities were enriching and unforgettable, full of color, meaning, and joy. Every person I met gave their time and heart to train and guide me, and the session manuals were incredibly practical (tools I'll continue using beyond Sangam). The check-ins, training sessions, and family gatherings created a strong sense of support and belonging.

-Anja, Madagascar (Volunteer)

Our Operations

Staffing & Staff Developments



Facilities

Throughout the year, we continued our regular maintenance work, mainly repairing windows and lights, and fixing sections of the fence. However, the most significant development this year was Sangam's Structural Audit. As Sangam approaches its 60th anniversary, and with the property also aging, it was the right time to undertake a comprehensive structural audit.

In line with our commitment to environmental sustainability, Sangam's composting area has undergone a complete renovation through a valuable collaboration with SWaCH, one of Sangam's Community partners, and with the generous support of Premier Foods. This renovation has not only enhanced the composting area's functionality, but it has also ensured that it operates at optimal efficiency.

The playground has undergone repairs and renovations since its last repair in 2015. Additional outdoor gym equipment has been installed to promote physical exercise and health for staff and the local community who use the ground.



Our Finances

Income

Category	Amount
<i>World Foundation</i>	\$43700 approx GBP 29800
<i>Event and Programme Fees</i>	GBP 168458.83
<i>Independent Guests and Private Hire</i>	GBP 23388.80
<i>Donations</i>	GBP 22866.94
<i>Shop Sales</i>	GBP 7631.85
<i>Other</i>	GBP 348.34
<i>Total</i>	GBP 252494.76

Expenses

Category	Amount
<i>Events and Programmes</i>	GBP 41621.12
<i>Volunteer Programme</i>	GBP 12757.29
<i>Staffing</i>	GBP 74495.91
<i>Repairs and Maintenance</i>	GBP 26634.77
<i>Overheads</i>	GBP 28841.64
<i>Other</i>	GBP 23061.78
<i>Total</i>	GBP 207412.51

Financial Notes and Observations

Income

Challenges

- Last minute booking confirmation - Since Covid people no longer book their travel in advance but they are making the booking only few months before. Those who book a year or two before some of them also cancel very last minute.
- Visa issue for people coming on Scholarship and participants - Visa in India starts the day its issued not when people arrive in India. Because of that people can't apply way in advance and its always a risk for someone not to get Visa atleast.
- Word of mouth has played a major role in making people aware of Sangam's programmes. It has allowed us to welcome new people for the event and programme, however it will be beneficial for Sangam to reach to new market but we are still limited by various reasons so need to explore more ways to reaching out to more people. This also includes Community Programme Earning income in Compliance with the current laws in respect to charitable institutions in India.

Successes

- Delivering Global Programmes has been highlight for the programme itself but also has been big support in terms of Income. Having Big group from Sri Lanka was another highlight.

Expenditure

Challenges

- Volunteer visa - Volunteer application consistency, Getting Long term volunteers to ensure giving good and effective programmes, to ensure control over operational cost and the same time not effect quality of programmes and experiences, Increase in cost of maintenance of property

Successes

- Processes are in place so that Staff can utilise the Sangam resources properly and efficiently, Working with budgets and finances to ensure that we are align with cost and income efficiently

Our Wishlist

If you're wondering how you can support Sangam or contribute to the Diamond celebrations and beyond – besides making donations, the biggest help you can give us is spreading the word about Sangam. Share your experiences to encourage others to attend our events in 2027 and 2028, and also start planning your next visit! 2026 will be a wonderful year, but we also want to continue providing amazing experiences for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts beyond that. We would love your support in promoting our programmes.

This year, we are seeking donations to finance a variety of projects, ranging from minor to major, that will improve our equipment and address property maintenance/renovations. If you wish to contribute, please use the donations link on our website or reach out to us via email. We would be delighted to get in touch and provide you with more information about the project.

Donation link on the website [Donate to Support Sangam - WAGGGS World Centres](#)

2026 and Beyond

- We are excited for the year ahead as we are stepping into the big 6-0, and we hope that everyone will be part of the celebrations in some way. On October the 16th 2026, Sangam World Centre will celebrate its 60th birthday - our diamond jubilee! On this birthday we don't just celebrate the occasion itself, but we celebrate 60 years of Bringing Girl Guides and Girl Scouts together and changing lives - 60 years of polishing diamonds!
- Sangam's facilities plan for this year includes general property maintenance and a detailed review of the legal status of Sangam Land. It involves seeking expert legal advice to ensure compliance with all current regulations and standards. Alongside the legal review, essential repairs and upgrades need to be prioritised based on the recommendations of the structural audit. These include waterproofing the exterior of the dormitories and rooms, repainting all outdoor walls, repairing windows and doors and few minor fixing and repairs.

Message of Thanks

I personally want to express my sincere appreciation for everyone's dedication here. Your efforts have made this year also a great success for Sangam and the team here on ground. We couldn't have achieved our recent milestones without the unique contributions each one of you bring and here I include all my staff and volunteers too. Thank you for being the backbone of our team! We as Sangam family are grateful towards World Foundation Grant, Individual donors and SDG funding for this year. This has helped more Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to visit and have life changing experience at the centre. Sangam's Community Partners and Schools in Pune have contributed to our success too. We as Sangam team would like to shout a BIG THANK YOU to each one who walked through our doors and experienced the Sangam journey with us!

Sangam

2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 20 Jan-28 Feb Community Programme 6 Weeks 22-28 Discover Incredible India	 20 Jan-31 Mar Community Programme 10 Weeks 19-25 Celebrating World Thinking Day	 2-8 Celebrate India: Holi Festival	 1-7 Arts 4 Change
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 CLOSED	 4-8 Come Discover 50% OFF Home 18-24 Discover Incredible India	 6-12 Leaders Today 4 Jul-17 Aug Community Programme 6 Weeks 4 Jul-12 Set Community Programme 10 Weeks	 11-17 Brave Space FULLY BOOKED
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 16-22 Spark, Shine & Share I SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE	 9-18 Diamond: Spark, Shine & Share FULLY BOOKED	 16-22 Spark, Shine & Share II	 10-16 Connect, Camp & Celebrate

Sangam

2027 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 20 Jan-31 March Community Programme Weeks 20-3 March Community Programme 22-28 Discover Incredible India	 19-25 Celebrating World Thinking Day	 19-25 Colors of India: Holi Festival	 1-7 Indian Summer Flavours
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 Independent guest bookings available	 4-8 Namaste Sangam 18-24 Spark Shine & Share 1	 5-14 Aug Community Programme 5-11 Set Community Programme 12-18 Spark Shine & Share 2	 Independent guest bookings available
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 1-7 Celebrate India : Ganesh Festival	 Independent guest bookings available	 16-22 Spark, Shine & Share II	 Independent guest bookings available

05.

Kusafiri

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Kusafiri

2025 was a year of consolidation, learning, and preparation for Kusafiri.

The World Centre delivered three events, including two funded programmes and its first open experience available to members, alongside two virtual events, a Volunteer Leadership Programme, and a small number of independent guests. While participation numbers were modest, these activities supported skills development and operational readiness for the team in Ghana. A comprehensive review of Kusafiri was also undertaken, analysing data from the Centre's inception to inform future decision-making. Together, these activities strengthened foundations as Kusafiri prepared for increased programming and transition in 2026.

Our Year in Numbers



No. of scholarships and travel grants given: 36



No. of community members reached: Unknown



Amount in GBP of scholarships and travel grant given: 19,510



No. of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Guests: 86



Number of volunteers: 4



No. of events delivered: 3



Volunteer countries: 4



No. of virtual events: 2



No. of programme participants: 69



Our Programmes

- In 2025, Kusafiri delivered three events: two funded programmes and its first open experience available for members to book. While participant numbers for the open experience were low, it provided valuable learning and up skilling for the World Centre team in Ghana, supporting operational readiness for the anticipated increase in guests in 2026.
- Kusafiri also hosted two virtual events, delivered a volunteer leadership programme, and welcomed a small number of independent guests.
- During 2025, an extensive review of Kusafiri was undertaken, analysing data from the Centre's inception and preparing for the next steps in Kusafiri's journey. The review is available on Campfire.

Events

- The United for Sustainable Development Goals (U4SDGs) gathering was a powerful reminder of what collaboration looks like in practice. Kusafiri welcomed 35 ambassadors, each carrying the hopes and challenges of their community. Representatives came from across Africa and the Asia Pacific and well and one participant from the Western Hemisphere.
- Huduma Utamanduni (HKU): Service in Action events had two participants from the UK and Canada and they joined Kusafiri Volunteers and some independent guests for two weeks of service. They prepared Kusafiri for future events, contributed to daily tasks and contributed to daily tasks and improvements that often go unseen and make all the difference.
- Growth Catalyst Event 2025 was hosted at Kusafiri and was an Africa Region event. It brought together 30 young women leaders from across the Africa Region to look at practical and forward looking ways to strengthen their Member Organisations.



Our Volunteer Leadership Programme

- In 2025, the Kusafi ri Volunteer Leadership Programme engaged three volunteers from Canada, Madagascar and Zimbabwe, who supported the Centre through virtual roles across operations and future planning. Throughout the year, all three participants also had the opportunity to be based at Kusafi ri in person, where they contributed to daily operations, strengthened their leadership skills, and supported the World Centre team on the ground. This blended virtual and in-person approach strengthened capacity at the Centre while providing meaningful leadership development opportunities for the volunteers.
- Number of volunteers, where they were from: 3 - Canada, Zimbabwe, Madagascar
- Impact/highlights from 2025 - While the Volunteer Leadership Programme operated primarily in a virtual format, the most significant impact for all three volunteers was their time supporting Kusafi ri in person in Ghana. Being on the ground allowed them to meaningfully contribute to daily operations, engage directly with the World Centre team, and gain a deeper understanding of Kusafi ri's context, rhythms, and future direction. This hands-on experience strengthened both individual leadership development and the Centre's operational capacity, reinforcing the value of in-person engagement as a core element of the programme.



"My Kusafiri volunteer journey has far surpassed all my initial expectations, and the highlight has been attending the Huduma kwa Utamaduni event at the World Centre in Ghana. It was a platform for personal growth where I had the chance to lead, share ideas, and learn from my colleagues about effective communication, planning, and adaptability. The cultural experience was incredible, from enjoying delicious Ghanaian cuisine to learning about the country's rich history and traditions. This opportunity has truly opened my eyes to a world of possibilities, and I am so grateful for the experience.."

– Mufaro, Zimbabwe

"From Kusafiri, I first learned to immerse myself in an unfamiliar environment, surrounded by diverse cultures and personalities. I've learned to embrace these differences, even when they don't align with my own. I also gained valuable insights into how to conduct a project effectively and even scale it up. The ideas shared by the other girls helped refine my own and opened opportunities for collaboration."

- Kalo, Participant, Madagascar



Our Operations

Staffing and Staff Developments

Kusafiri operates through a collaborative governance and delivery model. Overall strategic oversight is provided by the World Centre Consultant, who is responsible for programme direction, quality assurance, and alignment with WAGGGS priorities.

A dedicated team based in Ghana is responsible for the Centre's day-to-day logistics and operations, including programme delivery, guest services, and site management. This shared approach ensures both strong strategic guidance and responsive, locally informed operations, supporting Kusafiri's sustainability and impact.

Facilities

Kusafiri operates from facilities owned by Ghana Girl Guides, utilising their training centre to deliver World Centre activities. The site includes two large conference-style halls suitable for programmes and events, alongside twin accommodation rooms and dormitory facilities. Shared spaces include a dining room, a reflection space, a computer lab, and a small on-site shop supporting participants and guests.

While the Centre continues to face challenges with electricity and water supply, the team in Ghana is working proactively to address these issues and strengthen the reliability and functionality of the facility in preparation for increased use in 2026.



Our Finances

Kusafiri operates under a shared financial management model that reflects both local delivery and global oversight. **All income and expenditure related to in-person events and day-to-day Centre operations are managed locally in Ghana by the Ghana Girl Guides**, who are responsible for budgeting, payments, and financial administration connected to programme delivery, facilities, staffing, catering, and logistics.

At the global level, **WAGGGS covers the costs associated with the World Centre Consultant role**, including travel and associated expenses required to support oversight, programme development, quality assurance, and strategic alignment. This ensures continuity, accountability, and connection between Kusafiri and the wider World Centre network.

Kusafiri also receives **donations through WAGGGS**, including both unrestricted and restricted funding. Where donations are restricted for a specific purpose – such as volunteer expenses, travel support, or programme-related costs – these funds are allocated and passed on in accordance with the stated restriction, ensuring donor intent is respected. Unrestricted donations support the broader sustainability and development of Kusafiri.

Thanks to funding support from **U4SDGs, the Africa Region, and the World Foundation**, Kusafiri was able to provide **scholarships for participants and volunteers**. We are grateful for their continued support in making these opportunities possible.

This model supports transparency, local ownership, and responsible stewardship of funds, while enabling Kusafiri to operate effectively as a World Centre within the WAGGGS framework.

Our Wishlist

For those travelling to Kusafiri in 2026, we maintain a wish list of donation needs to support Centre operations and programming, and we invite visitors to reach out to learn how they can contribute. While in-kind donations are appreciated, the greatest need is financial support. Donations towards travel grants and scholarships are essential to ensuring that Kusafiri is accessible to a more diverse group of members from across the Movement. We warmly encourage supporters to consider donating to help make this possible.



2026 and Beyond

- In 2026, Kusafiri is scheduled to host seven events, representing a significant increase in activity and engagement for the World Centre. This growth marks an important period of delivery, learning, and consolidation. 2026 will also be the final year that Kusafiri is hosted in Ghana, concluding the current pilot phase.
- As Kusafiri enters this transition point, work is underway to explore future options for the Centre, informed by evaluation findings, operational learning, and strategic priorities. Further updates on the future direction of Kusafiri will be shared as this investigation progresses.



Kusafiri

2026 CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
 Independent guests booking available	 19-25 World Thinking Day	 16-22 Arts4Change	 Independent guests booking available
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
 28 Virtual Red is the New Black (Menstrual Health Matters)	 Independent guests booking available	 9-15 Kusafiri Birthday 19-29 Huduma Kwa Utamaduni	 20-26 Experience Gamashie with Chalewote
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
 Independent Guests bookings available	 1-21 Community Adventures -3 Weeks	 12-17 Camping in the Wild	 Independent Guests bookings available

Message of thanks

We extend our sincere thanks to all those who have supported Kusafi ri throughout the year. We are deeply grateful to Johnson & Johnson, the World Foundation of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and the Friends of World Centres Australia and Friends of World Centres UK for their continued belief in Kusafi ri and its purpose. We also warmly acknowledge the many individual donors who give consistently and generously to the Centre – your ongoing support makes a meaningful difference. Finally, our heartfelt thanks go to the Ghana Girl Guides for their extraordinary hosting energy, commitment, and partnership, which remain central to Kusafi ri's work and spirit.

