

ENA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE

This Month's Theme:

AMPLIFYING WOMEN'S VOICES TOWARDS FULL INCLUSION

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Word from the Group CEO A Catalyst for development



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As we embark on the last quarter of the year we should not forget that this has indeed been a good year- An evidence of God's Grace. We are grateful for the progress and milestones we have achieved this far.

Echo Network Africa continues to focus on initiatives and approaches that empower, position and advocate for women, women with disabilities and women in marginalized areas. The impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic on women and girls has clearly highlighted why societies and governments should invest in efforts aimed at closing gender gaps.

These are real safeguards for the survival of marginalized groups in the society. As an institution we seek to celebrate gains, identify gaps and map out strategies to accelerate full realization of gender equality for women and girls.

There is a dire need to apply a gender lens in addressing all development plans. Currently, women are not involved in the planning or execution of solutions in curbing the COVID-19 menace. This exclusion disempowers and dehumanizes women and girls. As a result, their concerns and development needs are excluded.

In this October issue, we will look at different activities undertaken to ensure that women's voices are heard and their inclusion is made a national agenda.

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Empowering Women into Political Spaces

Positioning Pillar/ Democracy Programme

Echo Network Africa (ENA) hosted its first Training for Trainers (Tft) for the 'Women's Pathway to a successful Campaign' workshop on Tuesday 6th to Thursday 8th October, 2020. The workshop was conducted through a blend of both virtual and physical meetings.

ENA through the Positioning pillar/ Democracy programme seeks to accelerate the participation of women in leadership at all sectors of the Society. The focus area provides mechanisms through which women seeking leadership positions are adequately prepared for effective and successful participation in democratic processes.

The initiative targets women including women with disabilities who intend to run for elective offices in all sectors including university and college student bodies, trade unions, sports as well as National and County elective posts.

'Women's Pathway to Successful Campaign' is a training module designed to equip trainers with the necessary tools in conducting capacity building sessions for women vying for political office. This training program is intended to contribute to the broader goal of increasing the number of women in elective leadership. This will in turn contribute to the bigger goal of bridging the gap in women's leadership not only in Kenya but also in other parts of Africa where ENA plans to establish its footsteps.

Through Democracy Trust Fund (DTF), ENA hopes to utilize its vast experience spanning over thirty years to build a formidable and credible program. To ensure sustainability beneficiaries will be required to actively participate in building their own resource base for use during campaign periods. This participatory approach is what makes DTF unique to other programs of similar nature.



Trainees at the Women's Pathway to a successful campaign workshop taken through an etiquette unit at the Training for Trainers workshop in Kitisuru Manor.



Women's Pathway to a successful campaign trainees celebrate after successfully completing the Training for Trainers workshop in Kitisuru Manor. The workshop is designed to equip trainers with the necessary tools in conducting capacity building sessions for women vying for political office.

Coalition of Women Leaders statement on the BBI report

Positioning Pillar/ Democracy Programme

Echo Network Africa in collaboration with Women Leaders held a press conference on the Report of the Steering Committee on the Implementation of the Building Bridges to a United Kenya Taskforce Report (BBI Report October 2020).

The women leaders recognised that for a fully inclusive Nation, the BBI process should not only focus on building ethnic community bridges but also build on gender bridges. The BBI process marked an important reflection point on the history of our country and hence it was important to seize the opportunity to secure the future of the next generation.

In the preliminary assessment, the women leaders celebrated the many gender gains in the BBI Report, among them:

- (a) The Senate that has a balanced 50:50 representation of elected men and women and offering equal power especially to determine county allocations now set at 35% with 5% going to the Ward Development Fund.
- (b) The Governor and Deputy Governor being of opposite gender with the Deputy Governor assigned a portfolio.
- (c) The Political Parties being bound to provide to the IEBC a list of candidates that

is two-thirds gender compliant and further provides for inclusion of persons with disability and (d) Protection against sexual and gender based violence during elections, teenage pregnancies and early girl marriage.

The statement was read out by Governor Kitui County, Hon. Charity Ngilu, Sen.(Dr.) Inima Musuruve, Group CEO Echo Network Africa, Dr. Jennifer Riria and National Chairperson Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organization, Ms. Rahab Muiu.

The women leaders reiterated their full support on the BBI Process applauding and emphasizing the guarantee on the women gains according to the Constitution of Kenya 2010. They emphasized that the Constitution should not be eroded for both the men and women of this great nation equally deserve shared prosperity.



Joint statement by Women Leaders on the Report of the Steering Committee on the Implementation of the Building Bridges to a United Kenya Taskforce Report read by Governor Kitui County, Hon. Charity Ngilu (2nd from Left), Sen.(Dr.) Inima Musuruve (Left), Group CEO Echo Network Africa, Dr. Jennifer Riria (Center) and National Chairperson Maendeleo ya Wanawake Organization, Ms. Rahab Muiu (Right).

Empowering Girls through Hesabu Clubs

Youth Empowerment

The Youth Empowerment Focus area seeks to grow and strengthen uptake and performance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects among girls in schools.

The initiative seeks to partner with like-minded stakeholders to address the issue of continuous poor performance in mathematics and sciences among girls in schools by revamping and growing the

Hesabu Clubs. The clubs promote individual student reflection, group work and knowledge sharing and internal & external competitions.

In October, the focus area set out to empower girls in Homa Bay County in Litare, Wakula, Kaugege and Mrongo beaches. This was achieved through Hesabu Club training sessions in the four beaches.

The sessions aim to empower the girls to;

1. Develop a positive attitude towards sciences,
2. Think and reason precisely, logically and critically in any given situation,
3. Perform science operations with confidence speed and accuracy,
4. Develop a willingness to work collaboratively,
5. Apply mathematical skills to familiar and unfamiliar situations and to
6. Collect, organize, represent, analyse and interpret data



Empowering girls to improve their scores in mathematics and sciences through Hesabu Clubs facilitated by Echo Network Africa. Participants of the session are drawn from Litare, Wakula, Kaugege and Mrongo beaches in Homa Bay County.



A group photo taken after a mentorship session on the importance of girls participating in STEM subjects. The participants drawn from Litare, Wakula, Kaugege and Mrongo beaches are encouraged to take up STEM subjects •to propel them into spaces of influence and leadership



I WEAR MY MASK IN PUBLIC FOR THREE REASONS

1

HUMILITY

I don't know if I have **COVID** as it is clear that people can spread the disease before they have symptoms.

2

KINDNESS

I don't know if the person I am near has a child battling cancer or cares for their elderly mom. While I might be fine, they might not.

3

COMMUNITY

I want my community to thrive, businesses to stay open, employees to stay healthy. Keeping a lid on **COVID** helps us all.

#komeshacorona