

ENA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020 ISSUE



Women EMPOWERMENT

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Word from the Group CEO

Spearheading Women Empowerment



Dr. Jennifer N. Riria
PhD, EBS, MBS, HRH/
Goodwill Ambassador,
ICON/HP, Chairperson
AWLN Kenyan Chapter

Group CEO, ENA

This year continues to be an Evidence of God's Grace. This month, I was honoured to be appointed as the first chairperson of the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) Kenyan Chapter. In this prestigious role my co-chair is Hon. Josephine Sinyo.

The executive committee is comprised of other members drawn from different institutions such as FIDA, Maendeleo ya Wanawake and Center for Rights Education and Awareness Kenya (CREAW) among many others.

Other committees include the steering and technical teams.

In my role as Chair, I will spearhead the establishment and growth of the Kenyan chapter of the regional network. The regional network comprises of women leaders drawn from African countries under the leadership of Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who served as the 24th President of Liberia.

The African Women Leaders Network is an initiative of women leaders from various sectors, with the support of the African Union Commission and the United Nations. The aim of the network is to enhance the leadership of African women in the transformation of the continent in line with the Africa Agenda 2063.

Further, AWLN is leveraging on existing platforms to amplify women's voices against gender inequality and women's exclusion. This is anchored on the six AWLN pillars; Young Women Leadership, Rural Women Empowerment, Financial Inclusion, Peace & Security, Political Participation, Social Mobilisation and Transformation.

My appointment is a strong statement of confidence on my leadership as well as on ENA's convening capacity to spearhead women's leadership in Kenya. ENA will use this opportunity to position its programs in Kenya as well as establish its regional reach in line with its 2018 – 2021 Strategic Plan.

Dr. Jennifer Riria bags the Lifetime Achievement in Banking Award

Corporate Office

Dr. Jennifer Riria won the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award at the 15th edition of the Think Business Banking Awards Ceremony. The online event took place on Thursday 23rd July, 2020 with the theme, 'Responsible Banking in a New Era.'



Dr. Jennifer Riria celebrates after winning the Lifetime Achievement in Banking Award. ENA staff took the opportunity to appreciate her with a bouquet of flowers.

The objective of the award was to encourage innovation, prudence and stability in the banking sector. This was achieved through recognizing, awarding and celebrating exemplary performance in the sector.

Dr. Riria was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award because of her vast wealth of experience and contribution to the banking industry. She was at the helm of Kenya Women Micro-finance Bank (KWFT) for twenty-five years. She was also instrumental in developing, growing and transforming the institution into a medium sized bank, serving low income women and their families. She still continues to serve at the bank's board and board committees to date in an advisory role.

Kenya Women Micro-finance Bank also emerged as winners in the Think Business Banking Awards. It was feted as the most customer- centric Micro-finance bank, the best Micro-finance bank in Agriculture and Livestock Financing and Outstanding Young Banker of the Year.

The bank also won first runners up position as the Best Micro Finance Bank in Product

Marketing and Best Micro-finance Bank in Product Innovation.

KWFT transformed into a deposit taking institution in 2009 and received its banking licence in 2010. As a result, two institutions evolved namely; Kenya Women Holding (KWH) a development institution and Kenya Women Micro-finance Bank. KWH continued serving the same clientele as the bank that is women (including young women, women with disabilities and women from marginalized communities).

In April 2018, KWH rebranded to Echo Network Africa (ENA) where Dr. Riria is the Group Chief Executive Officer. ENA is a catalyst for development that empowers, positions and advocates for women (including young women, women with disabilities and women from marginalized communities) towards attainment of their full potential.

Dr. Riria continues to serve in the running of both institutions to date.

“Dr. Riria was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award because of her vast wealth of experience and contribution to the banking industry. ”

Scaling up Aquaculture Initiative

Women Empowerment

On Tuesday 28th July, 2020, Echo Network Africa (ENA) was honoured to be invited to a meeting with the Ambassador of Israel to Kenya H.E. Oded Joseph, in Homa Bay County.



Ambassador of Israel to Kenya, H.E. Oded Joseph addressing the audience in Homa Bay County during his tour in the region.

Cooperatives Aguko Juma, CEC Member for Health Prof. Richard Muga, CEC Member for Transport and Infrastructure Akoko Nyaoke, CEC Member for Trade, Dr. David Okeyo and nominated MCA Nereah Oketch also participated in the meeting.

The objectives of the Ambassador's visit were to identify and seek partnership with the County Government of Homa Bay and to identify viable opportunities that the Israel Government could support in scaling up interventions that empower women.

His areas of priority were;

1. Aquaculture
2. Women Empowerment for the underprivileged and far to reach women
3. Support the ideas by like-minded partners
4. Meet up with the Alumni of Israel.

ENA was represented by the Head of Programs, Cohesion and Development, Mr. Joshua Oiro. The Homa Bay Chief of staff, Eliud Otieno, CEC Member for agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and



H.E. Oded Joseph, Ambassador of Israel to Kenya (seated second from right) at the meeting with Homa Bay County officials, ENA representatives and other stakeholders in the aquaculture value chain.

The Ambassador singled out ENA's Aquaculture project as a novel idea and invited ENA to meet up with him later and elaborate on the model with a possibility of scaling up.

Echo Network Africa has a footprint in Homa Bay County through the Aquaculture Initiative. The Initiative is implemented in four beaches namely Litare, Wakula, Kaugege and Mrongo targeting 100 women.

ENA uses anchor cluster model, where women already practicing cage fish farming are identified as the champions to mentor other women engaging in cage fish farming. The project has four clusters comprising of 25 women each in the four beaches.

Recently, ENA launched high density polyethylene (HDPE) cages equipped with fish feeds in the beaches. Each HDPE cage is 10m (diameter) and 7m (Height) with a

stocking density of about 35,000 fingerlings.

ENA collaborates with the private sector in the production of fish feeds and with Homa Bay County on scaling up and security of the initiative.

Each Cage is expected to produce 15 tons of fish which will be harvested after six months.

“ The Ambassador singled out ENA's Aquaculture project as a novel idea and invited ENA to meet up with him later and elaborate on the model with a possibility of scaling up. ”

ENA Takes COWA Dialogues to Counties

Positioning Pillar/ Democracy Programme

Twenty five chairpersons from the Caucus of Women Members of the County Assemblies (WMCAs) attended an inaugural virtual meeting on Tuesday 3rd July, 2020, hosted by Echo Network Africa in collaboration with Family Health International (FHI 360) under the project: Safeguarding Democracy in Kenya (SADES-Kenya).

The aim of the meeting was to discuss the recommendations made by women under the Common Women Agenda (COWA) and to agree on a future partnership towards positioning women in Kenya's political arena. The meeting helped cascade the COWA recommendations to the WMCA's and hence broaden the understanding of the gender concerns in the BBI process.

The webinar was a buildup of activities to maintain engagement of women in the reform process spearheaded by the building Bridges Initiative (BBI).

Through this project, ENA energized women under COWA to remain vigilant, organized and clear about their demands for constitutional, legislative, policy and administrative changes towards attainment of gender equality in Kenya.

At the bare minimum, women are lobbying for full implementation of the 'two thirds

gender rule as provided for in the Constitution of Kenya (CoK) 2010. Additionally, women have made strong recommendations on full implementation through budgetary allocations and prioritization of Article 43 of the CoK on economic and social rights of water, food, health, education, housing and social security.

Through the two months project, ENA not only raised awareness of the COWA recommendations among Kenyans but also built capacity for women leaders, journalists and WMCAs to articulate the common concerns by women on the reform agenda.

ENA plans to continue building on the networks established with Government Ministries and agencies, women rights organizations, women leaders, male champions, journalists and WMCAs to continue positioning women and lobbying for full inclusion of women in political leadership and decision making processes.

The full range of recommendations made by COWA and translated into Kiswahili can be accessed through:

<https://enafrika.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/COWA-Booklet-2.pdf>

“ The meeting helped cascade the COWA recommendations to the WMCA's and hence broaden the understanding of the gender concerns in the BBI process. ”

Summary of COWA Recommendations

Implementation through budgetary allocations and prioritization of Article 43 Rights of Economic and Social Rights: Water, Food, Health, Education, Housing and Social Security.

Anchoring the Proportional Representation Electoral System and ensuring it has protective ratios and formulas for women, youth and Persons With Disability (PWDs).

Full implementation of the not more than two-thirds gender principle in Parliament (Senate and National Assembly) and the Executive.

Entrenching protection for women and girls against sexual and gender based violence and denial of bail in child sexual abuse cases.

Application of the Opposite Gender Rule in the Devolved Government and Legislature.

Establishment of the Health Service Commission and providing for its functions to professionalize and standardize the services of all health workers.

Leverage on the current COVID-19 crisis to chart an inclusive and sustainable path for the Country that address the emerging issues of social and economic vulnerabilities of women.

Girls in STEM initiative going virtual

Youth Empowerment

A journey of a thousand miles starts with one step. During this unprecedented Covid times, the Youth Empowerment focus area has been able to connect online with the students from Kithangari Girls Secondary school. The team organized, conducted and streamlined the start of WhatsApp groups in the school to be used as an alternative learning platform.

Following the recent Government guidelines, schools have been advised to put a hold on the 2020 school's curriculum as all students will be repeating their current classes next year. ENA has thus shifted her gears and is using the WhatsApp platforms as mentorship channels to engage the young students.

The pilot began with the form four class and out of 114 students a total of 85 students have registered and completed the tasks presented to them by their teachers. This is a win for STEM as students have access to reading materials as well as one on one interactions with their teachers during this pandemic.

The Youth Empowerment focus area aims to propel young women and girls into spaces of influence and leadership in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.

The program also seeks to collaborate with like-minded stakeholders to address the issue of continuous poor performance in Mathematics and Sciences among girls in schools by starting/revamping and growing Hesabu Clubs in public schools.

Mental Wellness during Covid

Talent Development

Wellness has emerged as one of the most important component to aid in coping during the Covid pandemic. This global outbreak has necessitated far greater restrictions on where we work in terms of location and changed how we interact with each other.

A number of issues plague workers well-being especially now with the current work from home culture. The virus has brought with it great anxiety in the world especially on when the pandemic will end and the unforeseen future of job security.

ENA values the welfare of its personnel. For this reason, staff were trained by AAR Healthcare on how to cope with anxiety and depression during this Covid period. The training covered how to identify signs, symptoms and sources of stress, depression and anxiety.

ENA recognizes the need for talent retention and continued work place productivity. It is in this view that ENA will continue empowering staff on how to cope during this period.

“A number of issues plague workers well-being especially now with the current work from home culture.”

EVENTS IN AUGUST

1. International Youth Day on 12th August.

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The 3Cs approach to Combat Covid-19



Avoid CLOSED spaces



Avoid CROWDED places



Avoid CLOSE-CONTACT

#ENACares #Flattenthecurve