

This Months Theme:

EMPOWERING WOMEN TO TAKE UP THEIR RIGHTFUL SPACES

IN THIS ISSUE

- Word from the Group CEO
- Women in National Resource Sharing and Budget making process
- Empowering The Girl Child on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights
- Girls In STEM Initiative in Homa Bay County

Word from the Group CEO The Future is Youth



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

Group CEO, ENA

Echo Network Africa held its 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) this month. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the AGM was held virtually and had over 100 participants present.

The AGM was the third to be held since we took the bold move to re-brand the institution and embrace the new approach as a catalyst for development in Africa. I am pleased to inform you that since then, we have continued to clarify our programmatic direction and are set to drive the vision and mission of our institution in line with our 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan.

I thank the Board, Management and staff for their relentless efforts that have seen ENA solidify its position as a strong catalyst for development and the go-to institution on matters of women leadership in the country. The Chairperson also addressed members and explain ENA’s overall intention to the region – to create a fair, just and equitable society where women participate in all issues that affect development.

Some of the highlights that were captured include ENA successfully acquiring a partner to support women empowerment in Homa Bay. Currently, HDPE cages have been launched and are meant to enable women enhance sustainable livelihoods.

This has increased women’s incomes enhancing women’s voices and reducing women rights violations. The initiative has also empowered 100 women in the fish value chain. On top of that we also see that, ENA made efforts to ensure that women are not left out in both political and economic spaces.

This was aided by developing an approach that enables the institution to identify gender gaps. ENA was also able to participate in National dialogues on matters that affect gender inclusion.

“ I am pleased to inform you that we have continued to clarify our programmatic direction and are set to drive the vision and mission of our institution in line with our 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan. ”

Empowering women in National Resource Sharing and Budget Making Process

Positioning Pillar / Democracy Programme

On 16th September 2020, Echo Network Africa in partnership with Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA), Common Women Agenda (COWA), Kenya Pipeline Company and KEPSA Foundation hosted a workshop on “The Space for Women in National Resource Sharing and Budget Making Processes”.

The objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of women Members of Parliament at the National level.

The workshop aimed at enhancing the representation, participation and inclusion of women in resource allocation and management; strengthening the capacities



Panelists of the Space for Women in National Resource Sharing and Budget Making Processes.



Distinguished participants of the Space for Women in National Resource Sharing and Budget Making Processes.

of KEWOPA Members to influence policies and development of the budget-making process; strengthening the partnership of Women Parliamentarians and Women Leaders in championing gender-related budgetary allocations; ensuring women’s political representation is linked to resources and economics and engendering the Budget Process and in particular the Covid-19 Economic Recovery Stimulus Programmes.

ENA Group CEO, Dr. Jenifer Riria; spoke on the inclusion of women in budget making processes as a great initiative for women and that they should take advantage of such forums. Also present at the forum were Prof. Margaret Kobia, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Public Service and Gender, Senate Deputy Speaker, Prof. Margaret Kamar, Country Director of UN Women, Ms. Anna Mutavati; County Representative at UNICEF Kenya, Ms. Maniza Zaman; Chairperson of Commission on Revenue Allocation, Dr. Jane Kiringai; Director at Centre for Parliamentary Studies and Training, Prof. Nyokabi Kamau; Women Senators, MPs and Members of County Assemblies and Representative of Kenya Pipeline Company.

Empowering the Girl Child on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights

Advocacy

The Advocacy focus area seeks to prevent and reduce teenage pregnancies and enhance menstrual hygiene management.

This is achieved through supplying girls with menstrual hygiene materials. The focus area aims to reduce the sex for pads menace, which leaves the girls exposed to diseases and deprives them of their innocence at a tender age.

Menstrual Hygiene Management trainings and sessions are also carried out by the focus area to empower the girls.



Teenage mothers and expectant teenage mothers from Mrrongo beach after a successful advocacy session on transitioning back to school after delivery.

On 28th August 2020, Echo Network Africa in collaboration with The Bold Phase Initiative, Nivalishe Pad Initiative, Youth For Health, Women For Women, Girls Health ED and Maisha Youth distributed 100 ENA dada packs to vulnerable girls. This activity was done in Kinayango, Eastleigh at California Hall and targeted 100 girls. The girls were also taken through sessions on menstrual education to enhance their menstrual hygiene management.

This deliberate process was informed hugely by the struggles the adolescent girls in the area are suffering especially now during this Covid period.

Echo Network Africa plans to scale up the initiative to other counties with support of like-minded partners both regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Girls In STEM Initiative in Homa Bay County

Youth Empowerment (STEM)



Teenage mothers in Homa Bay County empowered on the benefits of the Girls in STEM initiative and encouraged to take up STEM subjects

The Covid-19 pandemic brought with it the closure of schools as students now pursue their studies online. The season has seen a high rate of teenage pregnancies, less learning (especially by students in the rural areas) as well as high use of drugs, alcoholism and high crime rates. For the longest time schools were considered safe spaces for the students especially the girl child.

Due to the pandemic the Girls in STEM Initiative extended its target reach to Homa Bay County.

The focus area undertook a pilot Hesabu Club session which targeted 120 teenage girls inclusive of pregnant teens and teen mothers.

The girls are based at the four beaches of Homa Bay County namely Kaugege, Litare, Mrongo and Wakula where Echo Network Africa already has a footprint.

The initiative sought to first find out the perceived perception towards Mathematics and Sciences by the girls in the region.

It was discovered that there was dismal performance topped by poor attitude towards these subjects.

With this information at hand, the focus area sought to address these challenges and gaps among these girls by holding Hesabu Club sessions to counter these challenges. Six sessions will be held concurrently in the four beaches in October and November, 2020, using volunteer teachers identified. The sessions include teaching in a group setting as well as assessments to gauge understanding. However, the students are encouraged to read for themselves and engage in their groups to support peer learning.

ENA believes that through this intervention among others, more girls will grow their confidence in tackling Mathematics and Sciences leading to improved performance and more young women taking up STEM courses and career paths.

EVENTS IN OCTOBER

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

We are a
click away!



@ENAFrica

Follow us on twitter



@en_africa

Visit our website



www.enafrica.org