

# ENA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2021 ISSUE



## ANCHORED UNDER GOD'S PROVIDENCE

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### Word from the Group CEO

#### Anchored under God's Providence



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AWLN committee.

Group CEO, ENA

Reflecting back on the past six months, Echo Network Africa (ENA) continues to be Anchored under God's Providence. ENA has maintained its catalytic role to empower, position and advocate for women (including young women, women with disabilities and women from marginalized communities) towards attainment of their full potential.

This year, we chose to be anchored under God's providence guided by our spirit which is upholding our lasting legacy and influence, catalysing partnerships, servant leadership, resilience, endurance and working to completion in order to sustain respect and enhance human dignity.

The past six months have sustained an upward trajectory of growth as milestones have been achieved both at the corporate and programme areas of ENA.

Some of the key highlights include; launching of the second incubation, Girls Excel Initiative (Catalyzing acceptance and commitment by communities in the target areas towards the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation, Period Poverty, Teenage Pregnancies and Early Marriages and accelerating the performance and uptake of STEM subjects), hosted the International Women's day celebrations at Kenya School of Government in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service and Gender, awarded Hon. Raphael Tuju, Jubilee party Secretary General with the Gender Warrior award, presented the newly appointed Chief Justice, Her Ladyship Hon. Martha Koome with a seven point agenda that is expected to serve as an accountability document to accelerate gender justice in Kenya and held webinars on Sexual and Gender Based Violence, just to mention but a few.

These and many other engagements crowned Dr. Riria's and ENA's first six months of 2021.

This issue will highlight ENA's mid-year achievements



ENA Group CEO addresses participants of the International Women's Day Celebration at Kenya School of government and encourages women to embrace sisterhood globally.



**HONGERA!** Hon. Raphael Tuju (2nd Left) receives a Gender Warrior Award from Dr Jennifer Riria Group CEO ENA (Center). Looking on ( L-R) is Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Chief Administrative Secretary , Ministry of Public Service and Gender), Phyllis Obonyo ( Chief of Party SADES-K) and Elizabeth Odongo.



# EMBRACING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH LOCAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

## Program, Cohesion & Development

ENA's focus is to be a catalyst for development that propels the empowerment agenda. This is achieved by collaborating with stakeholders to develop and innovate viable initiatives that enable women to advance their security and prosperity.

In the past six months ENA has embraced partnerships through working with Local Implementing Partners (LIP's). Working in partnerships is central to ENA's Theory of Change and the catalytic approach of reaching the beneficiaries through the local community-based organizations (CBOs). Working through the local implementing partners has catalysed breakthroughs in the way the programs are implemented especially now during the Covid travel ban restrictions.

The catalytic approach aims to achieve immediate and lasting change to the beneficiaries through interventions executed by the local CBOs.

ENA believes that a greater impact will be realized through working with organizations with different strengths and perspectives. ENA defines partnership as a long-term relationship between two or more organizations/institutions with a mutually agreed set of principles and accountabilities, working towards defined objectives that facilitate lasting change for the people we serve especially women, women with disabilities and the youth.



**Strategic Collaborations;** ENA'S Gender Mainstreaming Head of Focus Area, Ms. Margaret Mbugua briefs Local Implementing Partners based in Homa Bay County on their expected deliverables for the initiative.



## ENA EMPOWERS WOMEN IN THE REGION

### Women Empowerment (Aquaculture and Revolving Loan Fund)

The second phase of the Aqua culture cluster model began this year. Echo Network Africa successfully implemented the first phase of the project in Homa Bay County with support from Open Society Foundation.

To achieve this, ENA leveraged on its past experience in aquaculture by enhancing sustainable livelihoods and increasing meaningful participation of women in the aquaculture value chain. ENA then developed Gender responsive charters at the Beach Management Units and conducted community dialogue to reduce human rights violations along the aquaculture value chain.

The initiative has supported 83 women organized in four groups in Litare, Kaugege, Mrongo and Wakula with technical training, extension services in fisheries, installation, and stocking of four HDPE cages in Homa Bay County. The women harvested a total of 11.2 tons of fish thus contributing to food security and sustainable livelihoods and incomes. ENA projects women to harvest 40 tons in 2021/2022. ENA has also invested Kes. 7.1 Million through the revolving loan fund to provide accessible and affordable finances for the women to set up cages, fingerlings stocking and purchase of fish feeds.

In the past six months the initiative has expanded its reach to empower women in the marginalized communities in Wamba in Samburu County and Kalacha and Maikona in Marsabit County. Most of the women in these two counties lack access to finance facilities and have to travel long distances to access these facilities.



One of the women beneficiaries at Litare Beach showcasing the groups fish harvest. Proceeds from the sale of the fish will go along way in enabling us achieve our goal of sustainable livelihoods and empowerment of rural women and their families.



ENA trained over 30 women groups on business management and empowered them with idea generation on income. This was to help the women improve their livelihoods and enhance meaningful participation of women in wealth creation. ENA also brought together financial institutions such Kenya Women Micro Finance Bank, Solutions Sacco and Transnational Sacco to deliberate on possible financial solutions for the women.

This is attributed to the fact that women in marginalized communities are more disadvantaged than women in urban communities. This is due to lack of education, access to information and financial resources to necessitate them to compete competitively. Echo Network Africa will continue collaborating with likeminded partners to improve access to finance and empower the women in the hard to reach communities.

Additionally, Through the support of the EU, ENA trained 13 women groups on business management and entrepreneurship and this has

contributed to improved quality of goods and services offered by the women. Some of the end products produced by the women include; animal skins converted to wall décor and use of sisal to make souvenirs for tourists etc.

Leave no one behind is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It represents the unequivocal commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity as a whole.

ENA aims at linking women with affordable funding and inculcate the saving culture among women in marginalized communities and contribute to the SDGS goals by leaving no one behind



A cohort of 30 trained women pose for a group photo in Marsabit County after completion of their Business management training facilitated by Echo Network Africa.

# CELEBRATING WOMEN'S GAINS

## Positioning

History was made in Kenya when Hon. Lady Justice Martha Koome was appointed as the first woman Chief Justice in Kenya. The newly appointed Chief Justice was congratulated for this honorary achievement in a Luncheon hosted by the Ministry of Public Service and Gender and Echo Network Africa.

A memorandum with priority actions towards making the judiciary gender responsive was presented to the Chief Justice by ENA, the Democracy Trust Fund (DTF), Common Women Agenda and the African Women Leaders Network.

The Memorandum is an accountability framework driven from the need to have priority action areas for the new Chief Justice to set her agenda toward having gender responsive actions aimed at promoting women's rights and enhancing access to justice for women and girls.

## PRIORITY ACTIONS

1

### **Institutionalize Gender Integration /Mainstreaming in the Judiciary through**

- a) Development and adopting a Gender Action Plan to provide the road Map of implementation.
- b) Establish the position of Gender Advisor to facilitate action of gender mainstreaming, formulating policies and monitoring implementation of gender actions appropriately.

2

### **Revamp the Office of the Judiciary Ombudsperson**

and make it gender responsive to deliver on its mandate and provide an open accountability process toward access to justice for all and especially for special interest groups including girls and women.

3

### **Facilitate capacity building/training, knowledge sharing and management and communication**

to improve skills and capacities promoting partnership with media, Women Rights Organisations (WROs) and the Judiciary.

4

### **Promote gender balance and meaningful participation by women**

to improve skills and capacities promoting partnership with media, Women Rights Organisations (WROs) and the Judiciary.

5

### **Facilitate establishment of Special Courts to timely dispense**

with matters of Sexual and Gender Based Violence including in electoral processes. Make available the Register of sexual offence's convicts as per the Sexual Offences Act.



6

### Gender Responsive Budgeting, Monitoring and Reporting by the Judiciary

Consider facilitating availability of budget / resources for implementing Gender Action priorities by improved tracking of implementation and reporting on gender. Prepare and release an annual gender and inclusion progress report and provide sex disaggregated data and gender statistics to aide policy making, accountability and reporting and advocacy, and;

7

### Include in the Annual State of the Judiciary Report

a comprehensive report on the State of Gender Justice in the country

In the past six months ENA and DTF also joined women globally to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) with the theme "Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID -19 world."

The world over was encouraged to 'choose to challenge' gender bias and inequality and celebrate women's achievements. Echo Network Africa in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service and Gender with support from UN Women hosted International Women's Day celebrations at the Kenya School of Government.

The event was officiated by Her Excellency, Margaret Kenyatta, First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Chief guest Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth who delivered the keynote speech, Prof. Margaret Kobia, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service and Gender and Dr. Jennifer Riria. On this important day, women were celebrated and recognized for their unique and diverse achievements.

ENA in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Service and Gender invited VVIP Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth who addressed participants of the International Women's Day Celebration where she urged women rights organizations and movements to work together and prevent and respond to Gender Based Violence.

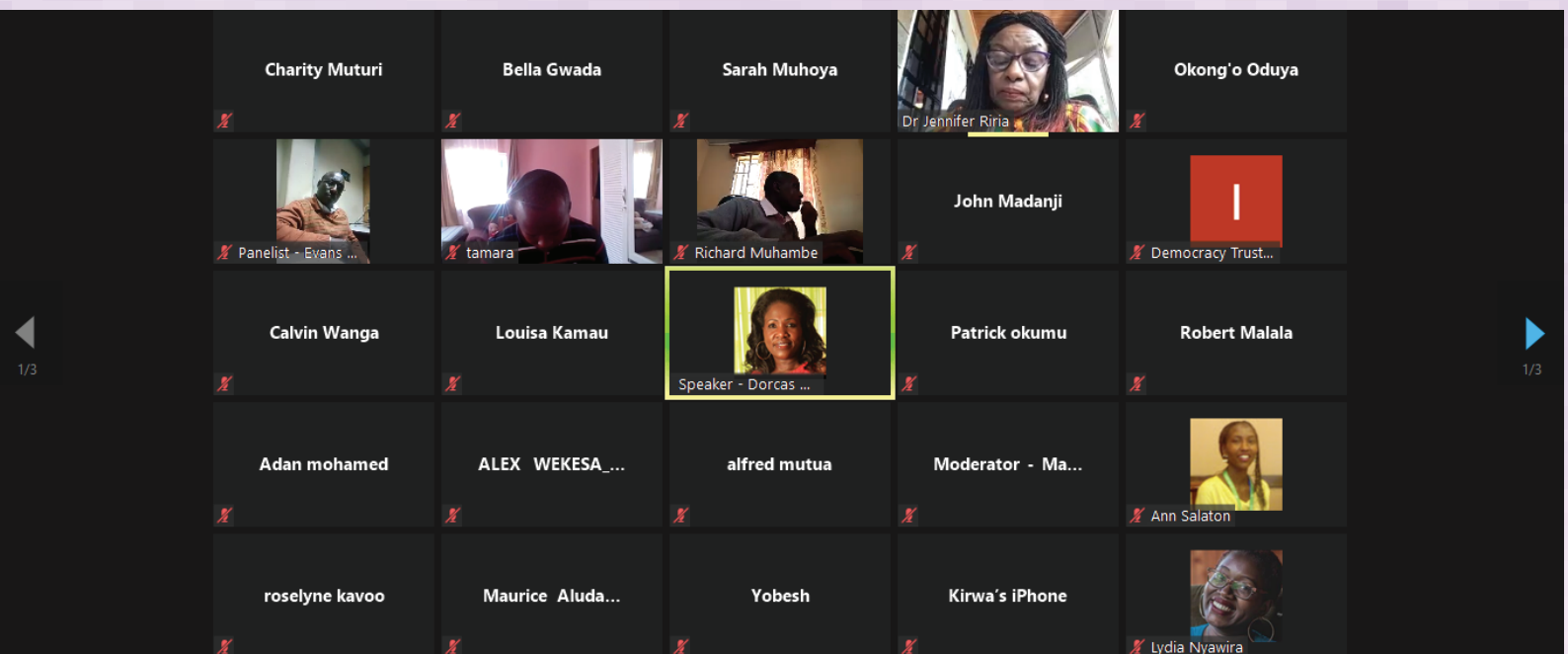






Graduates of the first cohort of the Running to Win – Women’s Pathways to Successful Campaigning program take a group photo in celebration of their graduation with Rt. Hon. Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth (seated at the center), Prof. Margaret Kobia, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Public Service and Gender (seated third from left) and ENA Group CEO, Dr. Jennifer Riria (seated third from right).

Other key highlights in the past six months include journalists’ forum on deepening reporting on gender issues challenging the world. It was noted that in order to bridge the gap in gender reporting; editors must have a good understanding that gender issues require more prominence, there should be balanced representation of both men and women in news items and that women should be reported in the male dominant fields.



ENA educates over 60 journalists on deepening reporting on gender issues challenging the world on 27th May 2021

Echo Network Africa also carried out a media campaign condemning Sexual and Gender Based Violence. ENA will remain vigilant and put in place initiatives for community education addressing Gender Equality Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) issues including Sexual and Gender Based Violence and highlight the role that each one of us can play to make our society safer for all.



# EMPOWERING THE GIRL CHILD

## Girls Excel Initiative

This year, Echo Network Africa launched its second incubation Girls Excel Initiative (To catalyze acceptance and commitment by communities in the target areas towards the eradication of Female Genital Mutilation, Period Poverty, Teenage Pregnancies and Early Marriages through accelerating the performance and uptake of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects among girls.) The incubation is set to run for the next one and a half years.

In 2018, ENA through the Girls Excel initiative set out to address the twin problems of teenage pregnancies and poor performance in Mathematics and Sciences subjects among girls in schools. Through a rapid survey to establish the status of uptake, retention and performance in STEM subjects as well as the rate of teenage pregnancies, the initiative identified Kithangari Girls Secondary School as the pilot for the initiative. A Hesabu club was also launched in the school to help address the poor performance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects.

The initiative has evolved over the years to be ENA's second incubation. In the past six months, the Initiative began implementation of its activities in Narok County. This is attributed to the fact that the County is continuously being affected by retrogressive cultural practices. 44% of teenage girls born and living in Narok County are likely to drop out of schools due to teenage pregnancies, Female Genital Mutilation, early marriages and high poverty levels.

It is for this reason that the initiative was developed to contribute to the broad objective towards gender equality and women's empowerment in Narok County. Gender-based violence is a significant women rights violation that is widespread across the country and indeed the globe.

According to WHO, approximately one-third of women have experienced SGBV in their lives. It is widespread and mostly socially tolerated despite being a human rights violation and indiscriminately cuts across nationality, race, class, ethnicity, and religion.

The Girls Excel Initiative is at the tail end of the survey conducted at Narok County to determine the status and prevalence of FGM, teenage pregnancies, period poverty, child marriages and performance in STEM subjects by girls in this county. The data collected and findings will hugely determine the stakeholder engagement envisaged in implementing workable solutions to reduce this prevalence.

'The Girls Excel initiative set out to address the twin problems of teenage pregnancies and poor performance in Mathematics and Sciences subjects among girls in schools.'





**Say No to FGM and Early Marriages:** Girls and boys from Oloropil, Narok County are taught on the importance of rejecting early marriages and Female Genital Mutilation during one of the Mentoring sessions at Oloropil Baptist church facilitated by ENA.



**Success in STEM is possible;** Girls at Mrongo beach, Homa Bay County are taken through a Hesabu Club session to help them boost their STEM subjects.



# ENA ENGAGES COUNTY ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ON COUNTY GENDER POLICY

## Gender Mainstreaming

Over the years, Echo Network Africa (ENA) has been at the forefront on the women empowerment agenda through working with various stakeholders to achieve its mandate.

On top of that, ENA seeks to mainstream gender in all its focus areas to ensure that men's and women's specific needs, vulnerabilities and capacities (e.g. in the context of class, ethnicity, race and religion) are recognized and addressed.

The commitment of ENA to attain gender equity and equality is underlined in various National and International legal and policy documents. This is because gender equality is an explicit internationally recognized human right and ENA seeks to promote equal realization of dignity and human rights and the elimination of poverty and injustice for both women and men.

In the past six months, Echo Network Africa has addressed Gender inequality in Marsabit and Samburu Counties in partnership with Amref Health Africa and Kenya Women Parliamentarians Association (KEWOPA), through funding from the European Commission. The project aims at strengthening the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs') role in including empowered women and girls in decision making process and

addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV) in both Counties.

The initiative calls for adequate representation of women and girls in leadership and governance positions. This is aimed at catalyzing effective and accountable health, education, economic and political systems in public institutions while reducing the high prevalence of GBV.

This year the initiative has also involved CSO's in Gender Policy Development with support from European Commission through AMREF. The initiative embarked on building the capacity of CSOs to ensure that they can effectively advocate for gender equality policies and gender mainstreaming in all governance systems and practices in the Counties of Samburu and Marsabit.

This is in a bid to ensure that the capacity of the CSOs is enhanced to effectively engage with the County Governments on county policies to ensure they are gender responsive. The collective action of the CSOs is to ensure that the county policies are not gender blind while ensuring that the bill of rights is upheld by the County Governments including economic and social rights.

**‘Gender equality is an explicit internationally recognized human right and ENA seeks to promote equal realization of dignity and human rights and the elimination of poverty and injustice for both women and men.’**





A total of 22 participants representing 18 local organizations were trained by Echo Network Africa on gender Mainstreaming and integrating gender perspectives into county policies in Samburu County.



Participants of the one-day residential workshop convened by ENA aimed at sensitizing Samburu MCA's on the Gender policy pose for a group photo at the end of the workshop.





The Jennifer Riria Hub is an ultra-modern, state of the art facility developed by Echo Network Africa (ENA). Located at the junction of Tom Mboya and Kipchoge Keino road in Nakuru County. The Hub has 400 shops and 210 parking slots (187 internal parking slots and 23 external parking slots) making it the perfect and hustle free place for shopping, business, indoor and outdoor events.

#### ANCHOR TENANT SPACE AVAILABLE

15,700.05 Sqft (GROUND FLOOR)  
&  
7,640.29 Sqft (Upper GROUND FLOOR)

#### OTHER SPACES AVAILABLE

Offices, Banking Hall,  
Food Court- Restaurants,  
Speciality Stores, etc.

#### KEY FEATURES

24 hrs CCTV security system, Ample parking, Standby generator, Sufficient water supply, Lift access to all floors, Easy access & exit  
Ample toilet facilities,  
Good access roads

**Book Now**

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