

# ENA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022 ISSUE

## Scaling Up to Greater Heights



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### Word from the Group CEO Scaling up to greater heights!



**Dr. Jennifer N. Riria**

PhD, EBS, MBS, HRH/  
Goodwill Ambassador,  
ICON/HP, Chairperson  
AWLN Kenyan Chapter,  
Group CEO, ENA  
& Patron DTF

This month, Echo Network Africa (ENA) held its 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) with over 50 members in attendance.

The AGM was the fifth to be convened since ENA took the bold move to re-brand 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. I am also grateful to 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 girls and women empowerment in the Country.

The impact of the COVID- 19 pandemic on girls and women has clearly highlighted why societies and Governments should invest in efforts aimed at closing gender gaps. The Board Chairperson, Ms. Damaris Gitonga also addressed members and explained ENA's overall intention to the region – to

create a fair, just and equitable society where women participate in all issues that affect development.

Over the years ENA's Board has given the Management leeway to innovate and implement initiatives expecting transparent and timely reporting. We will surely miss the Chairperson, Mrs. Damaris Gitonga and Director Emma Gituku who retired at the AGM in compliance with the institution's Articles and Memorandum of Association.



**Annual General Meeting 2022:** Winnie Jumba, Company Secretary (left), Ms. Damaris Gitonga, ENA Board Chairperson (Center) and Dr. Jennifer Riria (Right) address members during ENA's 2021 virtual AGM.

## NEWS

### ENA GCEO TO RECEIVE THE MODEL AFRICAN WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

#### Corporate Office

Dr. Jennifer Riria, Echo Network Africa Group CEO, is this year's recipient of the Model African Woman of the Year award. Dr. Riria has travelled to Ghana to receive the distinguished award conferred to her as an astute African woman for her contribution towards women empowerment for both national and global impact.

The day of the ceremony is specifically named after the distinguished woman proposed to be celebrated at the specific congress. The **"Jennifer Riria Day"** will highlight the achievements of Dr. Riria while celebrating her for her inspiration to

the young women of Africa. The event is set to take place on 4th October at Cedi Conference Hall in Ghana under the theme, ***The African Woman: Taking Charge.***

The Model African Woman Award presents a shift that tells the story of an achiever whose exploits can ignite the passion of young African women towards change and development.

Participants of the congress will have an opportunity to hear different aspects of Dr. Riria's success story in her journey towards empowering the women of Kenya and Africa and most importantly interact with her.



## PRESERVE, EXPAND AND GROW!

### Corporate Office

ENA's Board and Management convened a meeting this month to strategize on the road to expansion to the region for the next five years.

The scale up is intended to create a fair, just and equitable society where women participate in all issues that affect development. Also in attendance at the meeting were the two new Board members Ms. Verity Mbaka and Ms. Joyner Okonjo who bring with them a vast experience and expertise in the development world.

Throughout the Global challenges occasioned by the COVID 19 pandemic, ENA has continued to amplify the voices of girls and women and ensured that gender perspectives have been factored in all interventions. It is largely recognized that despite progress made across the continent in terms of

gender equality and women empowerment, the picture remains mixed as implementation continues to fall far below levels that would allow transformative participation of women.

Over the years, 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.

Our clarion call has been to leave no one behind. This year, our driving spirit is: Preserve, Expand, and Grow. (PEG). As an Institution, we will strive not to be a square peg in a round hole but to be the perfect peg that fits the size.



Dr. Jennifer Riria hands over Chagua Mama merchandise to ENA's new Board Member Ms. Verity Mbaka.



Dr. Jennifer Riria hands over Chagua Mama merchandise to ENA's new Board Member Ms. Joyner Okonjo.





ENA Board Members pose for a group photo after a successful Board meeting to strategize on the road to expansion to the region.



ENA Board Members, Management and Staff pose for a group photo after a successful Board meeting to strategize on the road to expansion to the region.



## SAY NO TO FGM!

### Girls Excel Initiative

Over 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in 30 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where FGM is practiced (Ref; WHO Fact sheet report 2022).

The harmful practice directly affects the health, education and economic advancements of girls and women in the society. This is a dangerous practice that must be stopped to safeguard our future generations.

To promote the elimination of female genital mutilation, coordinated and systematic efforts are needed, and they must engage whole communities and focus on human rights, gender equality, sexual education and attention to the needs of women and girls who suffer from its consequences.

ENA seeks to catalyze acceptance and commitment by communities to eradicate and abandon FGM through the Girls Excel Initiative! The focus area promotes the learning of Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects as an alternative rites of passage.



Eunice Sarite, a community champion sharing her experience on the community engagement.

Currently, the Girls Excel Initiative has set up a pilot program in Narok which was highlighted as one of the 22 FGM hotspot areas in Kenya. To guarantee effective community engagement, the initiative identified community champions drawn from religious leaders, the Maa council of elders and other opinion shapers in the community.

The identified Champions who are also the community gate keepers will steer monthly community conversations which will seek to address the issues of FGM, Child early forced marriage and teenage pregnancies through co-creation and monitoring of score cards that outline desirable behavior.

This month, the champions held discussions at family level, regarding enrolment of girls to school, and made follow-ups to ensure that all children of school going age were enrolled. As a result, 15 children were enrolled into Early Childhood Development (ECD) in September.

One teenage mother has also been re-enrolled back to school after delivering her baby and two children who had dropped out of school due to lack of school fees have also been re-enrolled.

**“ To promote the elimination of female genital mutilation, coordinated and systematic efforts are needed, and they must engage whole communities and focus on human rights, gender equality, sexual education and attention to the needs of women and girls who suffer from its consequences. ”**





**Girls Empowerment:** community Champions pose for a group photo with ENA team after a successful induction meeting to address the issues of FGM, CEFM and teenage pregnancies.

## ENA IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS OF WOMEN IN HOMA BAY COUNTY

### Women Empowerment

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 undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity as a whole.

Despite the adverse challenges affecting girls and women among them; cultural norms, limited resource allocation, lack of opportunities and underrepresentation, women have continued to strive in their businesses.

The second phase of the Aqua culture cluster model began last year. ENA leveraged on its past experience on aquaculture by enhancing sustainable livelihoods and increasing meaningful participation of women in the aquaculture value chain.

This month ENA in collaboration with MEDA Kenya through the Maendeleo Sawa (M-SAWA) project have enhanced SMEs fish production through capacity building. Fish Farmers in 4 beaches (Wakula, Kaugege, Mrongo and Litare) have acquired fish production technological equipment including: Solar freezers for fish Preservation, Fish feeds processing machines, Engine Motor boats for fish feeds and harvest transportation and Solar flood lights.



This is all in an aim to scale up and enhance fish production among women to; Increase revenue stream, reduce cost of procuring expensive fish feeds from local suppliers, and reduce the cost of transportation & fuel during fish feeding. 79 women have benefitted from this initiative.

“ Despite the adverse challenges affecting girls and women among them; cultural norms, limited resource allocation, lack of opportunities and underrepresentation, women have continued to strive in their businesses.



Litare women group inspecting the Engine Motor Boat donated by ENA



Mrongo women group board their Engine motor boat to test its functionality.



# FEMALE DECISION MAKERS HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON THE EMERGING SCENARIOS FROM THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS.

## Positioning & Democracy Programme

Echo Network Africa (ENA) in partnership with Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) convened a High Level Meeting this month for 97 Female Decision Makers on emerging scenarios from the 2022 General Elections.

The forum was a unique platform to; Reflect on emerging scenarios/patterns, lessons learnt and opportunities women candidates confronted from the 2022 General Elections; thereby providing information on the status of women's political participation in Kenya.

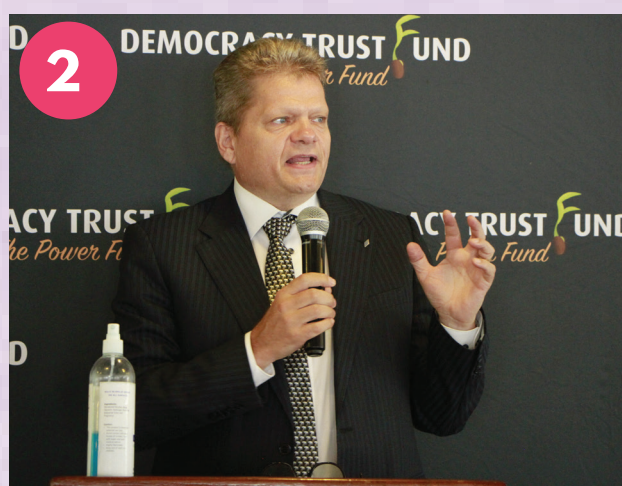
The high level meeting also provided a platform to chart the way forward for women's political participation ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

It was noted that for women to participate effectively and have a say in decision-making processes, political spaces must be taken, and not given.

The female decision makers also agreed that there was a need for a sustainable avenue for public policy making and training for women as leaders. That, in turn, would help in advancements towards achieving gender equality.

ENA acknowledges the willingness by more women to seek political leadership. During the just concluded 2022 general elections, more women ran for political office compared to previous elections. Echo Network Africa and her Local Implementing Partner, Democracy Trust Fund (DTF) are amongst the key political and civic actors who provided strategic support to women seeking political leadership through various initiatives to strengthen their candidacy.

These included trainings, savings, development and distribution of campaign materials to strengthen their candidacy and enhance their visibility through the Chagua Amani, Chagua Mama Campaign amongst other activities.



1. Ann Nderitu the Registrar of Political Parties addressing members during the meeting.

2. Daniel Seiberling – Resident Representative HSF Kenya & Ethiopia addressing women during the meeting.

3. Hon. Sarah Korere, MP Laikipia North sharing her experience during the panelist discussion.

4. Prof. Elizabeth Pantoren sharing her experience during the panelist discussion, the other panelist from (L-R) are Hon. Mumbi Ngaru, Hon. Sarah Korere and Wambui Kimathi.



# TO LET



## ***The Jennifer Riria Hub***

is an ultra-modern, state of the art facility developed by Echo Network Africa. Its design is inspired by the strength, character and gait of the African woman. The hub is located at the heart of Nakuru City at the junction of Tom Mboya and Kipchoge Keino road. It's strategically positioned to provide a serene environment for its clientele.

The hub is the perfect and hustle free place for shopping, business, dining, banking and hosting indoor and outdoor events. Key features include good access road, 24 hours CCTV surveillance, ample parking spaces, sufficient water supply, lift access to all floors, easy access and exit to the mall and ample clean sanitary facilities.

We are currently looking for an anchor tenant. Other spaces available to let include; food court spaces, banking hall spaces and specialty stores just to mention but a few. Don't be left out!

**To Book a Space Call:**  
**0722 54 61 24**