

# ENA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022 ISSUE



## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

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### Word from the Group CEO ENA Embracing Strategic Partnerships



**Dr. Jennifer N. Riria**  
PhD, EBS, MBS, HRH/  
Goodwill Ambassador,  
ICON/HP, Chairperson  
AWLN Kenyan Chapter,  
Group CEO ENA &  
Patron DTF

Engaging stakeholders is crucial for Echo Network Africa (ENA). ENA embraces stakeholders in order to listen to, collaborate with, or inform existing stakeholders on any institutional achievements and developments.

This process entails identifying, mapping and prioritizing stakeholders to determine the best tactics for effective communication while making the best use of available resources to foster connections, trust, confidence, and buy-in for ENA's key initiatives.

As an institution, our 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 livelihoods, security and prosperity.

Over the years, ENA has continuously embraced partnerships through working with Local Implementing Partners (LIP's) as this is central to ENA's Theory of Change.

This is the catalytic approach of reaching the beneficiaries through the local community-based organizations (CBOs).

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

In this Issue, you will read more on how ENA strategically engages stakeholders to realise her vision.

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## NEWS

### International News

#### **Dr. Jennifer Riria, the Model African Woman of the Year** Corporate Office

The Young African Women Congress (YAWC) honored Dr. Jennifer Riria, Echo Network Africa Group CEO with the Model African Woman of the Year Award in Ghana.

The awarding ceremony took place on 4th October at Cedi Conference Hall in Ghana under the theme, **Network for Empowerment: Refueling a Continent on the Rise**. Participants of the congress were drawn from different walks of life and included Dignitaries, Civil Society organizations and students within the Country in an effort to inspire them for greater possibilities.

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.

The distinguished award was conferred to Dr. Riria for her contribution towards women empowerment both Nationally and Globally.

Dr. Riria was recognized as an astute woman who has defied the odds, stayed consistent and continues to make significant impact to the Girls and Women of Kenya.

In the same vein, the 2022 edition of the Young African Women Congress was dubbed “Jennifer Riria day” highlighting the achievements of Dr. Riria while celebrating her contribution and inspiration to the young women of Africa.



The auspicious event crowned Dr. Riria as a gender champion inspiring the YAWC participants to step up to foster change in their environment. The Invited guests also had an opportunity to hear different aspects of the icon Dr. Riria's success story and most importantly interacted with her.

To date Dr. Riria has received over 37 national, regional and international awards recognizing her efforts in empowering, positioning and advocating for Girls and Women towards reaching their full potential.



**Hongera:** Dr. Riria, ENA GCEO crowned as the Model African Woman of the Year by the Young African Women Congress at a pompous event in Ghana. She was also presented with a portrait to honor her efforts in women empowerment.



**Strategic Partnerships-** (L-R) Ms. Sarah Muhoya, Head of Positioning and Democracy Program, Dr. Jennifer Riria, ENA GCEO, H.E Eliphaz Barine, High Commissioner of Kenya to the Republic of Ghana and Ms. Jane Bundi pose for a group photo at the Kenyan Embassy in Ghana after a successful courtesy call meeting.



## ENA GCEO feted at the Female Led, Female Made Enterprise event by KCB Group

Corporate Office

This month also saw another win for Echo Network Africa when Dr. Jennifer Riria ENA GCEO was recognized at the KCB Group Female Led, Female Made Enterprise event dubbed **Fan your Flame**. The event recognized that women are running some of the most transformative business enterprises in Kenya which is seen as the conglomerate of the future. The Fan your Flame Campaign is a leap of faith that will see KCB Group Invest in Women led enterprises. Dr. Riria was recognized for her efforts in leading the way for women inclusion in the financial sector and enhancing their capacity to transform the way the world works for them and their families.





# Programme Highlights

## ENA's Journey to ending the Jaboya Practice

### Women's Resilience & Livelihood

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.

On 31st October 2022, ENA GCEO Dr. Jennifer Riria together with Mr. Jacob Obonyo from National Affirmative Action Fund representing Governor Homa Bay County H.E Gladys Wanga officially launched the Aquaculture Fish Production technological equipment.

This was in collaboration with MEDA Kenya through the Maendeleo Sawa (M-SAWA) project to enhance 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 to enhance security.

The equipment is meant to enhance fish production for women to increase their revenue streams, enhance food security and improve their livelihoods. To date, 79 women have benefitted from this initiative.



Beneficiaries from the Aquaculture Initiative pose for a group photo with ENA GCEO Dr. Jennifer Riria (center) together with Chief Guest Mr. Jacob Obonyo from National Affirmative Action Fund and MEDA Programme Manager Mr. Walter Tinega (2<sup>nd</sup> right) after the launch of the Aquaculture technological equipment.



## Pictorials



ENA Board Member Ms. Joyner Okonjo (left), Chief Guest Mr. Jacob Obonyo from National Affirmative Action Fund (Center) and ENA GCEO, Dr. Jennifer Riria (2nd Right) walk down with Government officials to the official site of the Aquaculture equipment Launch

Stakeholders, invited guests and beneficiaries from the Aquaculture Initiative symbolically row one of the launched engine motor boat back into the lake.



An engine motor boat that was handed over to the Litare women group to aid in fish feed and harvest transportation



# ENA empowers women in Narok County through Financial Literacy Trainings

## Girls Excel Initiative

74 women drawn from 8 groups in Narok County were this month trained by Echo Network Africa on Financial Literacy, Management skills and Group dynamics. This was preceded by group assessment and vetting to identify the legitimate and creditworthy groups.

A total of 18 women groups were mapped, 15 groups were assessed and 8 groups selected for the training and access to credit. To ensure that there were no language barriers, the women groups were trained in Maa Language as most of them were illiterate and could only speak in their mother tongue.

To guarantee the sustainability of the project, the women have since applied for small loans from ENA's revolving loan fund to enable them start their small businesses. The women from the selected groups have particularly shown keen interest in investing in livestock rearing, which is their economic mainstay.

Beneficiaries from the initiative have registered their sincere gratitude for the opportunity to be empowered and one of the women groups is proud to be the first in their village to receive formal financial literacy trainings.

“To guarantee the sustainability of the project, the women have since applied for small loans from ENA's revolving loan fund to enable them start their small businesses.”



Women from Olopor Olee village listening keenly as they consume financial literacy training provided by Echo Network Africa



Women from Osupuko oirobi village in a group discussion planning how they will prepare a good business plan.

# Chagua Mama; More Women Leading after 2022 General Election

## Women's Leadership, Political Participation & Governance

On 18th October 2022, Echo Network Africa (ENA) in partnership with UN Women Kenya convened a monitoring mission in Kisumu County with nine women beneficiaries and one male champion. Kisumu was one of the eight target counties during the implementation of the Accelerating Attainment of Gender Inclusive Leadership in Kenya in the 2022 General Elections Project.

The project which was dubbed the Chagua Mama; Chagua Amani Campaign seeks to strengthen the collective voices of women leaders as agents of societal change and increase the number of women of all ages to participate in decision making processes and in political leadership.

This was achieved by increasing the pool of women participating in the 2022 General

Elections and competing for all elective positions including the non-affirmative action positions at the National and County levels.

Ms. Marceline Nyambala, Programmes Manager, Positioning and Democracy Program at ENA opened up discussions and shared the roles ENA and her LIP Democracy Trust Fund played towards building the capacities of women and providing campaign support (Chagua Mama lesos, Badges, T-Shirts, caps, Bags, dignity packs and booklets) to women candidates in the build up to the 2022 General Elections.

She noted that through the strategic partnership with the UN Women, there had been an increase in the number of women elected in the 2022 General Election compared to previous years as illustrated below:

Elective Office	Elected in 2013	Nominated in 2013	Elected in 2017	Nominated in 2017	Elected in 2022	Nominated in 2022
Governor	0	N/A	3	N/A	7	N/A
Senate	0	18	3	18	3	18
N/Assembly	16	5	23	6	30	6
MCAs	91	680	96	650	105	-

Highlighted experiences and recommendations from the monitoring mission will inform areas of future programming required to build up and strengthen capacities of women candidates accessing leadership spaces in the future.





*Round table discussions between ENA, UN Women Kenya and the women beneficiaries from the Accelerating Attainment of Gender Inclusive Leadership in Kenya project*

## Institutional Outlook

### **Preserve, Expand and Grow !**

#### **Corporate Office**

ENA's Management and staff convened a meeting this month to strategize on 2023- 2027 Strategic Plan.

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 continues to maintain 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 guided by our driving spirit: Preserve, Expand, and Grow. (PEG).

As an Institution, we strive not to be a square peg in a round hole but to be the perfect peg that fits the size.

# ENA's Presence in Nakuru City



## ***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!



# Jennifer Riria Hub Features



Lift access to all floors



Entry point detection system



CCTV surveillance



Ample fire response equipment



Ample parking spaces



Good access roads



Ample clean sanitary facilities.



Water heating solar panels



Sufficient water backup



**TO LET**



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