

ENA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023 ISSUE



STOP

Cyber Bullies

NOW !

DigitALL : Innovation and Technology
for Gender Equality

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Word from the Group CEO Promoting Women's Online Safety



Dr. Jennifer N. Riria

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

Echo Network Africa (ENA) joined women globally on 8th March 2023 to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) with the theme - **Digitall: Innovation And Technology For Gender Equality.**

Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. The online space and information revolutions have brought numerous opportunities, especially for women leaders to gain visibility and networking

platforms making communication easy within a borderless world. However, this has come with its own disadvantages, especially with online attacks. Women occupying public spaces suffer the brunt of online bullying, threats and abuse.

Technology-assisted violence against women include public shaming, hate speech, online harassment, cyberbullying, trolling, defamation, cyberstalking, identity theft, and hacking amongst others.

It is for this reason, that Echo Network Africa on 28th February, 2023 launched the **Stop Cyberbullies Now Campaign** to promote women leaders' online safety.

The campaign also aims at creating awareness and mobilizing public support towards calling out cyberbullying for the crime that it is and appealing for more action from policymakers in making cyberbullying a costly crime to commit.

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NEWS

[International News]

Dr. Jennifer Riria Crowned Overall Female Advocate in the African Women Awards!

Corporate Office

Echo Network Africa Group CEO Dr. Jennifer Riria was awarded the prestigious **African Woman Achiever** in the “**FEMALE ADVOCACY**” category of the 2023 African Women Awards in Ethiopia on 31st March 2023.

The African Women Awards, an initiative of the Diversity Advancement Network, is a Leadership platform that celebrates and mentors exceptional women across the globe.

This year's event focused on the theme -The role of women in business in propelling Africa's renaissance. The award ceremony attracted a host of notable African figures among them

Heads of states, ambassadors, and selected members of the diplomatic corps. Dr. Riria's outstanding contribution to female advocacy in Africa earned her this coveted award, Over the years, she has dedicated herself to empowering women through financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.

Her exceptional leadership skills have inspired and transformed many African women's lives, paving the way for a gender-equal society.

This recognition is a testament to her unwavering commitment to the advancement of women in Africa.



The Most Outstanding Female in Advocacy Award and certificate presented by the African Women Awards.

Dr. Riria is congratulated by Hon. Gergogie Tesfaye, Minister of Women and Social Affairs, Ethiopia (c) and Ms. Awa Ndiaye Seck, Social Representative to AUC (AU) and ECA (UN).

[Local News]

ENA feted with a Gender and Inclusivity Award Corporate Office



Echo Network Africa was crowned the overall winner under the category: Best Gender Lens Development Programs during the 5th Edition of the National Diversity and Inclusion Awards & Recognition (DIAR Awards). The award ceremony took place on March 3rd, 2023 at the Sarit Expo Centre and attracted over 150 institutions in different fields.

The National Diversity and Inclusion Awards & Recognition is an initiative that recognizes employers, institutions, organizations, and individuals who champion Diversity, and promote Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB), in the workplace and society.

DIAR Awards are organized annually through a process of nomination, applications, and self-submissions, from individuals and organizations working in Kenya, to promote Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging, through their ground-breaking initiatives, programs, and services.



ENA's Head of Programs, Cohesion and Development, Ms. Grace Wangechi (Center) and ENA's Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Mr. Herbert Kere (Right) receive the Gender and Inclusivity award on behalf of ENA.

(Programme Highlights)

Empowering All Women to Reach Their Full Potential

Communities Resilience and 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.

To this end, Echo Network Africa (ENA) has been collaborating with Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) through the Maendeleo Sawa (M-SAWA) project to enhance SMEs fish production through capacity building.



Mr. Kimani MEDA's representative from the Canadian High commission viewing harvested fish from Litare Womens Group HDPE cage on Lake Victoria.

Women beneficiaries from four beaches (Wakula, Mrongo, Litare and Kaugege) in Homa Bay County have been furnished with fish production technological equipment. The equipment have enhanced fish production for women to increase their revenue streams, and improve their livelihoods.

This month, the MEDA team led by a representative from the Canadian Embassy and MEDAs Assistant Country Director visited one of ENA's beneficiaries, Litare Women Group to assess the initiative.

The women were eager to show off their skills and explain their engagement in ENA's initiative.

They demonstrated how they use equipment such as weighing scales, solar freezers, scoop nets, fish feeds processing machines, solar lamps/lights, and motor boats to generate income.

The development partners were inspired by the women's dedication and commitment to their work, and the positive impact our partnership has had.

Women Leaders Call for Unity & Peace amid Political Grand Standing

Special Projects

This month, Women Leaders under the auspices of African Women Leaders Network Kenya (AWLN) and Women Mediation Network Kenya (WMNK) raised their concern over the ongoing Political grandstanding in the country and the impact it has on vulnerable groups.

The women leaders emphasized that it is essential for all stakeholders to put aside their differences and work towards a common goal of building a better country.

“Mothers of this country are concerned about the ongoing grandstanding between Government and the Opposition.

Ultimately, it is the women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable groups that suffer the most. Our economy is already suffering and cannot afford further strains. As women of Kenya, we are calling on Kenyans of goodwill to pull together and not tear the country apart” said Dr. Riria, Chairperson AWLN and GCEO ENA.

Dr. Riria added that the women leaders were concerned about the safety and security of thousands of families most of whom are women and children currently displaced from their homes and camping in tents, especially in the bandit-stricken Counties.



Dr. Jennifer Riria, Chairperson AWLN (center) flanked by Women Leaders call for Unity and Peace amid political grandstanding .

“Some women are giving birth in the camps and children have stopped going to school. We urge the Government and other humanitarian agencies to move swiftly and provide decent accommodation, food, medicines, and other critical services to these families and help curb further suffering,” she said.

The women leaders thanked the President for appointing more women into leadership and specifically for appointing young women.

They however noted that Kenya is still lagging far behind in the pursuit for gender equality.

ENA Restoring the Girl Child's Dignity

Girls Excel Initiative

The current drought situation in Kenya has affected many livelihoods, especially in the ASAL counties, and Narok has not been spared. Families have continued to face numerous challenges including loss of livestock, lack of food, and inadequate supply of basic commodities.

Drought-led migration has also been rampant, with families moving in search of pasture for their livestock. This has led to girls and women being exposed to Gender Based Violence, abduction and forced marriage, while the girls are forced to drop out of school to concentrate on household chores.

In response to the dire situation, ENA, with support from United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) supported 568 girls with dignity kits and sanitary towels. The girls were drawn from six schools in Narok South Sub-county namely; Osupuko Oirobi primary school, Olosirua Primary, Olgilai Primary school, Olepolos primary school, Kuntai Primary school, and Naroosura Secondary school.

In addition to the supplies, the girls were engaged in a mentorship session that aimed to create awareness on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Protection from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Gender-Based Violence.

The sessions were also used to promote menstrual hygiene management amongst the girls.

In Naroosura Secondary school, the head girl gave an emotional message thanking the partners for the support. “This is the first time we have received such support and we are very grateful.”

She noted that the students enjoyed the open conversation that was held discussing sexual reproductive health and encouraged the team to visit again to hold subsequent talks with the girls.

In Kuntai Primary school, a young eloquent and confident fourteen-year-old girl shared the plight of girls and highlighted the negative effects of FGM. She noted that they are now equipped with the information on what to do when they are at risk.

It was clear that there was a lot of misinformation among the girls in all the areas of discussion and that such interventions were important to empower the girls and the community. Life skills, resilience building and linkages to information and services were noted as priority areas for the girls and women.

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ENA's Head of Programs, Cohesion and Development, Ms. Grace Wangechi (2nd from left) poses for a group photo with the girls and teachers from Naroosura Secondary school in Narok County after handing them dignity kits.

ENA's Head of Programs, Cohesion and Development, Ms. Grace Wangechi presents a menstrual hygiene pack to one on the girls.



ENA DADA PACK



Did you know?

1. That lack of pads drives 1 in 10 girls aged 15-19 to 'sex for pads'
2. A girl misses 4 days of school per month due to lack of sanitary towels which is associated with shame and stigma?

By donating Ksh. 650 you can help a girl get an ENA Dada Pack and keep her in school for a whole year.

The ENA Dada Pack Contains:

12 packets of Sanitary Towels

2 Panties

3 Cakes of Soap

Donate Ksh 1000

Through

Mpesa
Paybill

>>

972800 >>

Account:
Dada Pack

ENA Empowers Women in Meru County With Financial Literacy

Financial Inclusion

The majority of the poor in society are women due to cultural norms and values, gendered division of assets and power dynamics between men and women. Indeed, women and girls bear an unequal burden of unpaid domestic responsibilities and are overrepresented in informal and precarious jobs.

Women also possess inherent agency and knowledge that is overlooked by policy-makers as they form and implement poverty reduction plans. Development interventions continue to be based on the idea that men are breadwinners and women are dependents.

We also see that women in marginalized communities are more disadvantaged than women in urban communities. There are many reasons why financial access remains difficult for rural women: illiteracy, lower levels of education, lack of land ownership, lower income levels, lack of tangible assets or collateral, legal constraints, time and mobility constraints, socio-cultural constraints, inter-role conflicts from juggling

domestic and professional roles and a lack of market exposure. Accelerating women's financial inclusion thus requires bold and sustained action to advance women's economic opportunities and rights and to ensure that they can meaningfully participate in the economy without undue constraints and barriers that limit their progress.

It is in this regard that ENA through the Financial Inclusion Focus Area trained two women groups of 40 members, in Meru County on financial literacy, entrepreneurship skills, & Loan management. This was to help the women improve their livelihoods and enhance meaningful participation of women in wealth creation.

The women were also trained on the utilization of loan funds to boost their small businesses. On top of that, they were trained on best group practices to excel and position them to repay their loans and be eligible to apply for more funds in the future.



Members from the Bidii Women group in Meru County listen keenly to the financial literacy class.

Promoting Peace at the Community Level

Peace and Conflict Resolution

In the coastal region of Kenya, the women peace actors have been making impressive strides towards promoting peace in their Community. Trained by Echo Network Africa with support from UN Women, these women have been working tirelessly to lead peace processes in their community.

In Mombasa County, the women peace actors organized several trainings that brought together different audiences, including some of the youth from Ziwa La Ngombe constituency who were active members of local gangs and involved in illegal activities.

Some of the young men and women who participated had recently been recruited into gangs, and the women peace actors were

about the gang practice of using young ladies as bait for unsuspecting individuals. To combat this issue, the women peace actors embarked on activities to interest the youth in productive work and help cease their criminal activities.

They met with the mothers of the youths who had cut ties with the gangs to offer counseling services and support in rehabilitating and reintegrating them back into the community.

The women peace actors also emphasized that peace campaigns begin at a personal level before spreading to the community at large. Members of the community were encouraged to embrace the 'Peace Starts with Me' campaign to ensure there is no violence and conflict at the community.



Women peace actors holding a meeting to discuss peace interventions

Youth peace actors from Ziwa La Ng'ombe constituency, Mombasa County pose for a group photo after a successful training.



Institutional Outlook

International Women's Day Highlights!

Echo Network Africa (ENA) this month showcased at the International Women's Day celebrations at Kenyatta International Convention Center where H.E Hon. William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya officiated the ceremony. The exhibition provided a platform for ENA to showcase her different initiatives and achievements and increase her brand visibility.



Visitors at the International Women's Day celebrations held at KICC are taken through ENA's various interventions by ENA staff.

ENA also showcased at Homa Bay County's Pre- International Women's Day Commemoration Event under the theme: Endless Potential; Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality.

The event was graced by Mama Ida Odinga and H.E Hon. Gladys Wanga, Governor of Homa Bay County. The exhibition served as a platform to showcase the Women Empowerment and Community Resilience interventions in Homa Bay County to the visiting guests and potential partners. Both leaders hailed the great work ENA is doing with the communities.



ENA's aquaculture initiative women beneficiaries showcase their equipment and value addition products.

ENA's Head of Programs, Cohesion and Development, Ms. Grace Wangechi (left) explains our aquaculture interventions to the chief guest Mama Ida Odinga (right) and H.E Hon. Gladys Wanga, Governor of Homa Bay County. (center)

ENA's presence in Nakuru City

TO LET



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 City. The Hub has 108 shops and 184 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

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