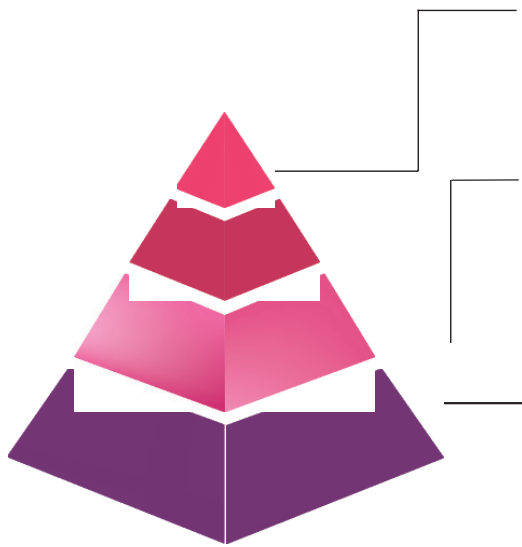


ENA FOUNDATION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024 ISSUE



VISION

An inclusive society where girls and women enjoy full rights and participate fully in the life of society.

MISSION

A Pan-African organization which works with like minded partners to catalyse development towards positioning, empowering and advocating for rights for girls and women to attain their potential and enjoy the full rights as members of the society.

ENA'S SPIRIT

Upholding our lasting legacy and influence is anchored on catalyzing, partnership, servant leadership, resilience, endurance and working to completion in order to sustain respect and enhance human dignity.

GUIDE

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WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

SCALING OF ECHO NETWORK AFRICA

At ENA Foundation we shall focus on mobilizing, managing and sharing resources while our implementing partners will concentrate on delivering of development initiatives. This sharing of roles will ensure that each agency plays to their strengths. Our legacy of professionalism, catalysing, innovation and commitment to welfare of girls and women spanning over 40 years is our bond.

It is often said that 'Poverty has a woman's face.' While this statement may be true of many other countries around the world, it is more intense for majority of girls and women in Africa. They continue to face widespread poverty, gender-based violence, heavy labour burden and caring for their families. The situation is aggravated by their exclusion from mainstream leadership among other challenges which deprives them of a voice. It is sad that while men have gone to the moon and back, women are still at the same place they have always been-bottom of the pyramid. Women have been trying to sensitize the world to the unwarranted and unacceptable marginalization which deprives them of their human rights with limited success.



Dr. Jennifer N. Riria

PhD, EBS, MBS, HRH / Goodwill
Ambassador, ICON/HP, Patron DTF,
Chairperson AWLN Kenya Chapter, &
President & CEO, ENA Foundation

Majority of girls and women living in Africa remain at the bottom of the social hierarchy, with poor access to the necessities of life including affordable health care, clean water, credit, health and education. Data on the status of women in Africa indicates that the continent is facing her worst economic recession in 25 years. Unfortunately, the devastating effects of COVID-19 made matters worse. It is projected that the economy of the most countries in the continent is expected to shrink by 2.6% and that an estimated 29% of people may be pushed into extreme poverty (Moyo Matilda, November-December, 2020). Moreover, those affected by these developments are girls and women. Worse still, the gender gap in leadership is expected to widen. In fact, it is now estimated that it will take more than 133 years for most countries in Africa to attain gender equality.

It is this reality that has compelled ENA, a development institution founded by women for women in 1982 to embrace innovative approaches to address the challenge of resource mobilization and sharing. At the core of this shift lies the need to sustain development initiatives to enhance impact, growth and sustainability of both the institution and its initiatives as well as create opportunities and synergies for connecting women in Africa.

During the ceremony, Dr. Riria unveiled a significant organizational transformation.

In a bold move, Dr. Riria announced that Echo Network Africa Foundation is set to go beyond national borders. The foundation is gearing up to establish offices across Africa, demonstrating a commitment to expanding its reach and impact on a continental scale.

The inauguration of a new Country Director under the overarching Echo Network Africa Foundation mark the beginning of an exciting chapter for the organization. With a vision to extend its presence across Africa, the Foundation is poised to play a more significant role in empowering girls and women; making a positive impact beyond borders.

ENA's Monitoring Session in Kirinyaga County

Democracy Trust Fund

NEWS

Inauguration of New Country Director and Foundation Transformation



Inauguration of the Country Director (right)

On the 8th of January, Echo Network Africa marked its first devotion of the year with a momentous event, the inauguration of Mrs. Lizzie Chongoti as the new Country Director for the Kenya Country Office. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Jennifer Riria, President, and CEO of the entity.



Stephen Njugu and Mildred Nzau from UNWomen leading a Monitoring Session

On the 23rd of January, 2023, ENA's Democracy Trust Fund held a pivotal Monitoring Session at Maya Gardens in Kirinyaga County, led by Stephen Njugu and Mildred Nzau from UNWomen. The session was part of the Women Political Leadership and Security: Protecting and Scaling the Gains Project, generously funded by UNWomen.

Notably, Honourable Lucy Njeri, the Nominated MCA and Minority Leader in the Kirinyaga County Assembly, took center stage, sharing her profound experiences, challenges and insights on women's leadership during this gathering. Her reflections shed light on the ongoing efforts to empower and advance women in leadership roles within the county, contributing to the broader mission of the UNWomen project.



Honourable Lucy Njeri - Nominated MCA, Minority Leader Kirinyaga County Assembly sharing her experiences

Empowering Futures: ENA Inspires on Education Day Girls Excel Initiative

In a significant move, the Girls Excel Initiative marked the sixth International Day of Education with their inaugural mentorship session on 24th January, 2024. The theme, "Learning for Lasting Peace," set the tone for a transformative day at Kithangari School in Meru and Ongeti School in Homabay.

Collaborating with the LIPS Stem Centre Africa - Homabay and the Young Women Advocacy Network in Meru, the initiative unfolded its short and long-term goals for 2024. Their immediate aim is to conduct widespread mentorship sessions, laying the foundation for a network of empowered young girls contributing positively to their communities in the long run.

The mentorship session, a beacon of empowerment, delved into critical issues such as children's rights, gender equality and the prevention of violence against children. Facilitators engaged participants in discussions on life skills; emphasizing decision-making, communication, and resilience.



Mentorship Programme at Kithangari School in Meru on International Education Day

In addition, another spotlight was on the importance of healthy friendships, encouraging girls to cultivate relationships grounded in mutual respect and support.

Addressing Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) with sensitivity, Girls Excel Initiative broke taboos, providing practical guidance for a healthy and informed approach. The collaborative efforts of partner organizations underscored a commitment to shaping a future generation empowered to navigate challenges and contribute meaningfully to society.



Students of Ongeti School keenly following the Mentorship Programme

Empowering Women in Narok: ENA and Juhudi Kilimo Spearhead water tank initiative

Financial Inclusion

In a commendable effort to empower women in Naroosorwa sub-county- Narok county, ENA and Juhudi Kilimo have joined forces through the Financial Inclusion Programme Centre. January marks a crucial phase in their collaborative initiative as they planned a visit to meet 13 conscientious women groups, comprising of 173 members. These groups have undergone extensive training in preparation for acquiring water tanks through affordable loans, with the overarching goal of providing not just water solutions but also affordable and accessible financial and non-financial services for women and their families.

During a pivotal meeting held in Naroosorwa, representatives from Juhudi Kilimo and ENA actively engaged with the women groups.

The focus was on evaluating the groups' readiness to acquire loans for water tanks, a vital resource for the community. This dynamic collaboration extends beyond a one-time event; it seeks to establish a sustainable framework for financial inclusion and women's empowerment.

The team verified the savings records of each group during the meeting, underlining the commitment to transparency in fiscal transactions. Notably, the women were informed that this process would be a continuous practice in future meetings, emphasizing the long-term nature of such an impactful collaboration. The initiative represents a beacon of hope for the women of Naroosorwa, promising not just water security but also a pathway towards economic independence and a n attainable bright future for the entire community.



Group members attentively listening to the officers of ENA & Juhudi Kilimo.



Group members being addressed by the LIP (Shekinisho CBO) and ENA Staff.



Members paying attention to instructions during loan forms signing



Stakeholder Engagement for AWLN Strategic Plans Development

In a groundbreaking virtual assembly, more than 60 participants hailing from over five counties in Kenya convened for a Peace Mediators Meeting on 31st January 2024. The focus of the gathering was threefold:

- To disseminate the Gender Responsive Mediation Guidelines recently developed by AWLN-K.
- Reflect on existing working strategies on peace and mediation.
- Deliberate on strategies for fostering impactful engagement.

A key highlight of the meeting was the introduction and dissemination of the Gender Responsive Mediation Guidelines, a comprehensive framework developed by the African Women Leaders Network - Kenya Chapter (AWLN-K). These guidelines aim to instill gender sensitivity and inclusivity in mediation processes, recognizing the unique perspectives and challenges faced by women in conflict resolution.

Beyond the core agenda, the Peace Mediators Meeting also served as a vital stakeholder engagement session for Chapter IV programs. This consulting firm is actively involved in crafting the strategic plans for AWLN, seeking to gather diverse views and ideas from participants on shaping the organization's future

Participants engaged in thought-provoking discussions, reflecting on current strategies employed in peace and mediation efforts. The meeting provided a platform for an exchange of ideas, best practices and challenges faced in the field. The focus on impactful engagement underscored the commitment to not only develop strategies but to ensure they translate into real-world positive outcomes.

The virtual Peace Mediators Meeting emerged as a collaborative effort where stakeholders, guided by the Gender Responsive Mediation Guidelines, came together to strategize, reflect, and contribute to the shaping of AWLN's future plans. This event served as a testament to the dedication of diverse communities towards fostering sustainable peace and gender-inclusive mediation practices in Kenya.

THE END

TO LET



The Jennifer Riria Hub is an ultra-modern, state of the art facility developed by Echo Network Africa. It's design is inspired by strength, character, gait of the Africa Woman. The hub is located at the heart of Nakuru City at the Junction of Tom Mboya and Kipchoge Keino road. It is 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 hour CCTV surveillance, ample parking space, 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 speciality stores. Don't be left out!

To Book a Space Call: +254 722 546 124