

ECHO NETWORK AFRICA NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024



HAPPY INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024 Investing in Girls and Women

GUIDE

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— HIGHLIGHTS —

ENA joins forces to tackle conflict triggers in Nairobi Communities

Peace and Conflict Resolution



Kibera: Two sessions were held with one session reaching 200 young people aged between 15 and 25 years.



Mukuru Kwa Njenga: A single-gender dialogue was held reaching a total of 92 women.

On 1st of March, Peace and Conflict Resolution Programme Center embarked on a transformative journey with their newly onboarded Local Implementing Partner (LIP), Amani Kibera. With a focus on Peace and Education, their collaboration promises innovative solutions to address the pressing challenges facing Nairobi's marginalized communities.

In a move towards fostering understanding and reconciliation, the ENA's Programme, in tandem with Amani Kibera, initiated Community Dialogues in the vibrant informal settlements of Kibera and Mukuru kwa Njenga. These dialogues, pulsating with energy and determination, aimed to unearth the root causes of conflict and devise actionable responses tailored to the communities' needs.

In Kibera where youth empowerment takes center stage, two dynamic sessions convened, engaging 200 spirited individuals in candid discussions. From the scourge of substance abuse to gender-based violence, the community voiced its concerns, shedding light on the multifaceted challenges hindering peace and prosperity.

Meanwhile in Mukuru, a single-gender dialogue resonated with 92 women, highlighting the profound impact of recent

The aftermath of these demolitions, including increased gender-based violence and economic instability, underscored the urgent need for holistic interventions.

As the dialogues unfolded, a common thread emerged; a sense of neglect and marginalization by authorities and civil society organizations. This realization calls for inclusive and sustainable peace-building efforts in the region.

Moreover, the Community Dialogues validated the Programme's strategic approach of targeting informal settlements as conflict hotspots within counties. Yet, a glaring disparity remained evident: inadequate representation of women in peace mechanisms at both local and national levels; a gap that must be bridged for lasting change.

As Peace and Conflict Resolution charts its course, the insights gleaned from these dialogues will inform future initiatives, ensuring that the voices of Nairobi's marginalized communities are heard and their needs addressed effectively. With unity and determination, a more peaceful future beckons for all.

UNFPA Partners with Echo Network Africa to empower the youth in Narok villages

Girls Excel



Echo Network Africa distributes essential supplies donated by UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in Narok County.

On 3rd of March, a heartwarming initiative unfolded in Narok villages as the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) joined hands with Echo Network Africa to address pressing issues affecting young people.

In a generous gesture, Echo Network Africa distributed crucial humanitarian supplies aimed at combating gender-based violence, harmful practices whilst promoting awareness of sexual and reproductive health. With the support of local authorities and partners who included Narok South Assistant County Commissioner Mr. Kimani and the Area Chief together with Shakenisho, these supplies were distributed to both boys and girls during the school mid-term break.

This endeavor reached 300 females and 150 males across several villages, ensuring they had access to vital resources and education. During the distribution, students received essential pointers focusing on reporting violations, resisting peer pressure and maintaining menstrual hygiene.

Girls were provided with dignity packs designed to last them for six months; equipping them with the necessary supplies and knowledge to manage their feminine health with dignity.

This initiative marks a significant step in empowering young people to take control of their health and well-being. By addressing such issues, we move closer to creating a safer, healthier and more equitable world.

Echo Network Africa and its partners remain committed to this cause, urging others to join in supporting the vital mission of empowering youth in Narok villages.



“Empowering Change”

M-SAWA Project empowers Women in Mbita with Aquaculture tools for Financial Independence

Community Resilience & Livelihoods/Financial Inclusion



M-SAWA Project in Mbita aimed at enhancing women's participation in the Aquaculture Value Chain.

On 6th March 2024, the Mennonite Economic Development Associates of Canada (MEDA) in collaboration with Global Affairs Canada (GAC), made a pivotal visit to the Kaugege Women BMU Group in Mbita.

This marked a crucial milestone for the M-SAWA Project aimed at enhancing women's participation in the Aquaculture Value Chain. The project has been instrumental in equipping four women groups with essential resources and knowledge, propelling them towards financial independence.

Kaugege Women BMU Group, the beneficiaries of the M-SAWA Project have been diligently working towards mastering aquaculture value chain practices, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. Through a Revolving Fund mechanism, these women have been provided with aquaculture equipment, empowering them to actively engage in the aquaculture industry.

This not only fosters economic growth but also promotes gender equality and women's empowerment in Mbita. It is a testament to the power of collaboration and targeted investment in community development.

Witnessing the tangible impact of the M-SAWA Project on these women's lives serves as a reminder of the transformative potential of empowering women and communities, as a whole.

Echo Network Africa hosts Pre-International Women’s Day event

Democracy Trust Fund



Right, Ms. Ursula, Vice Chair ENAF Board, Dr. Jennifer Riria, President/CEO ENA Foundation and Ms. Magdaline Kipkenei, Guest of Honour.



Official launch of ENA’s book “Women Changing the way the World Works”

Echo Network Africa hosted a momentous gathering on 7th March 2024, ahead of International Women’s Day celebrations.

Dr. Jennifer Riria, President and CEO of Echo Network Africa Foundation set the stage with an engaging interview on KBC Television where she shared her extensive knowledge and thoughts in alignment with the theme “Investing in Girls and Women”. She further stressed the importance of financial inclusion in empowering women, nationwide.

Prior to International Women’s Day on March 8th, Echo Network Africa has established a tradition of hosting an event the day before each year. This year’s which was held at the headquarters along Muchai Drive, welcomed guests who included the Guest of Honour-Cabinet Secretary Hon. Aisha Jumwa K. Katana-represented by Ms. Magdaline Kipkenei, Deputy Director Gender, State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action.

Ms. Kipkenei commended Echo Network Africa for the relentless efforts in promoting gender equality and women’s rights, emphasizing the importance of women taking on leadership roles.

Dr. Jennifer Riria echoed this sentiment, advocating for resource allocation to promote women’s empowerment.

Echo Network Africa, through Democracy Trust Fund launched the book “Women Changing the Way the World Works” Volume II, while Hans Seidel Foundation (HSF) presented a report titled: an Abstract of the Assessment of HSF’s Gender Equality Work 2019-2022. The research was officially presented by Mr. Daniel Seiberling-Resident Representative of HSF Kenya and Ethiopia and Dr. Jennifer Riria, President/CEO of Echo Network Africa Foundation.



Dr. Jennifer Riria and Mr. Daniel Seiberling at the center Awardees: Hon. Rose Waruhiu and Hon. Jael Mbogo



Dr. Nyambura Koigi presents an award to Hon. Rose Waruhiu. Guests in attendance



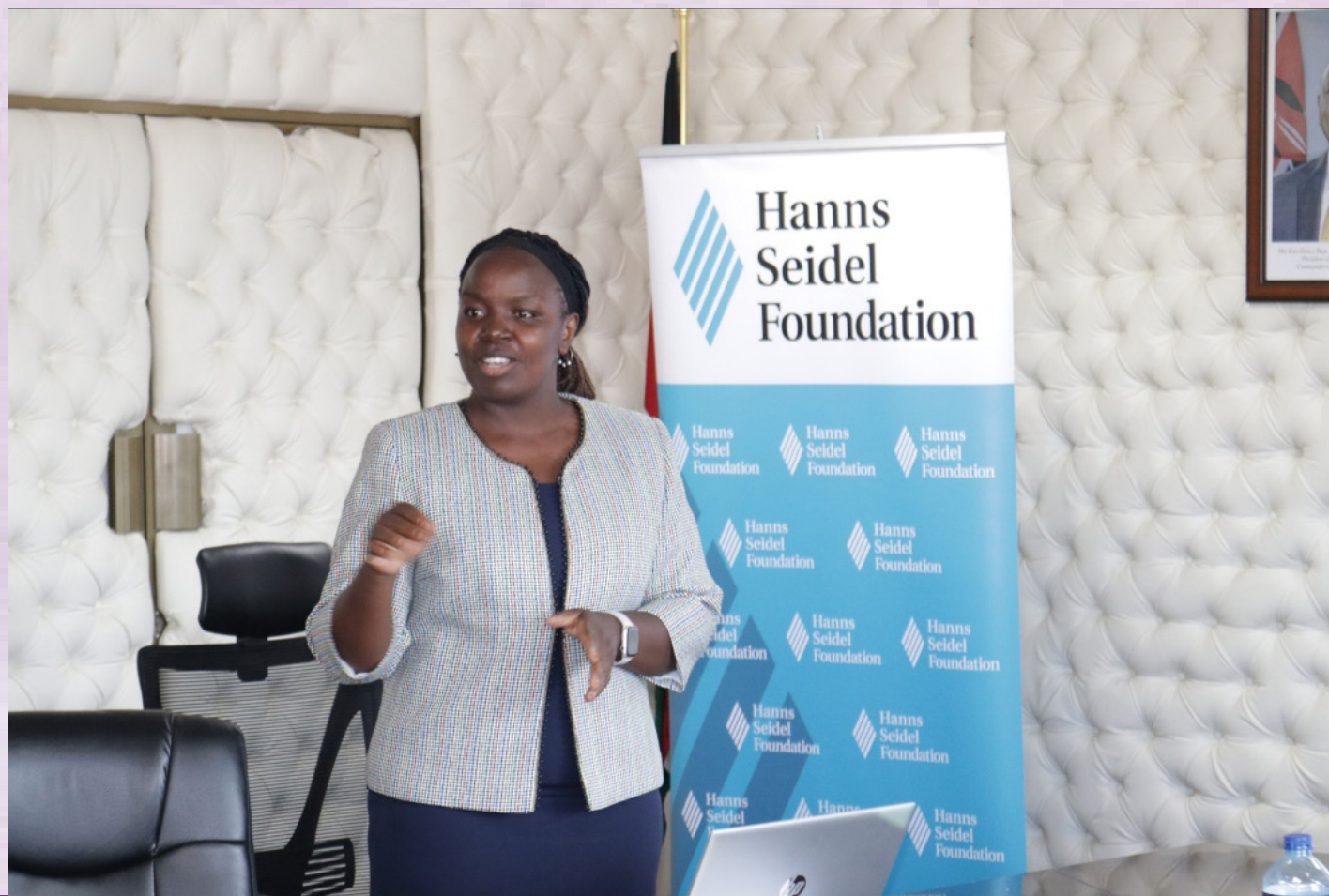
Ms. Magdaline Kipkenei, Guest of Honour rep, ENA Board Chair Dr Nyambura Koigi and Mr. Daniel Seiberling, Resident Representative of HSF Kenya and Ethiopia Awardees



ENA Kenya Country Director, Mrs. Lizzie Chongoti Dr. Nyambura Koigi presents Hon. Aisha Jumwa’s award which was received by Ms. Magdaline Kipkenei

Women's Leadership Center champions climate advocacy at NGECC meeting

Women's Leadership, Political Participation & Governance



Women Leadership, Political Participation and Governance Programme Centre, through the invitation of Hans Seidel Foundation (HSF), participated in a meeting organized by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC).

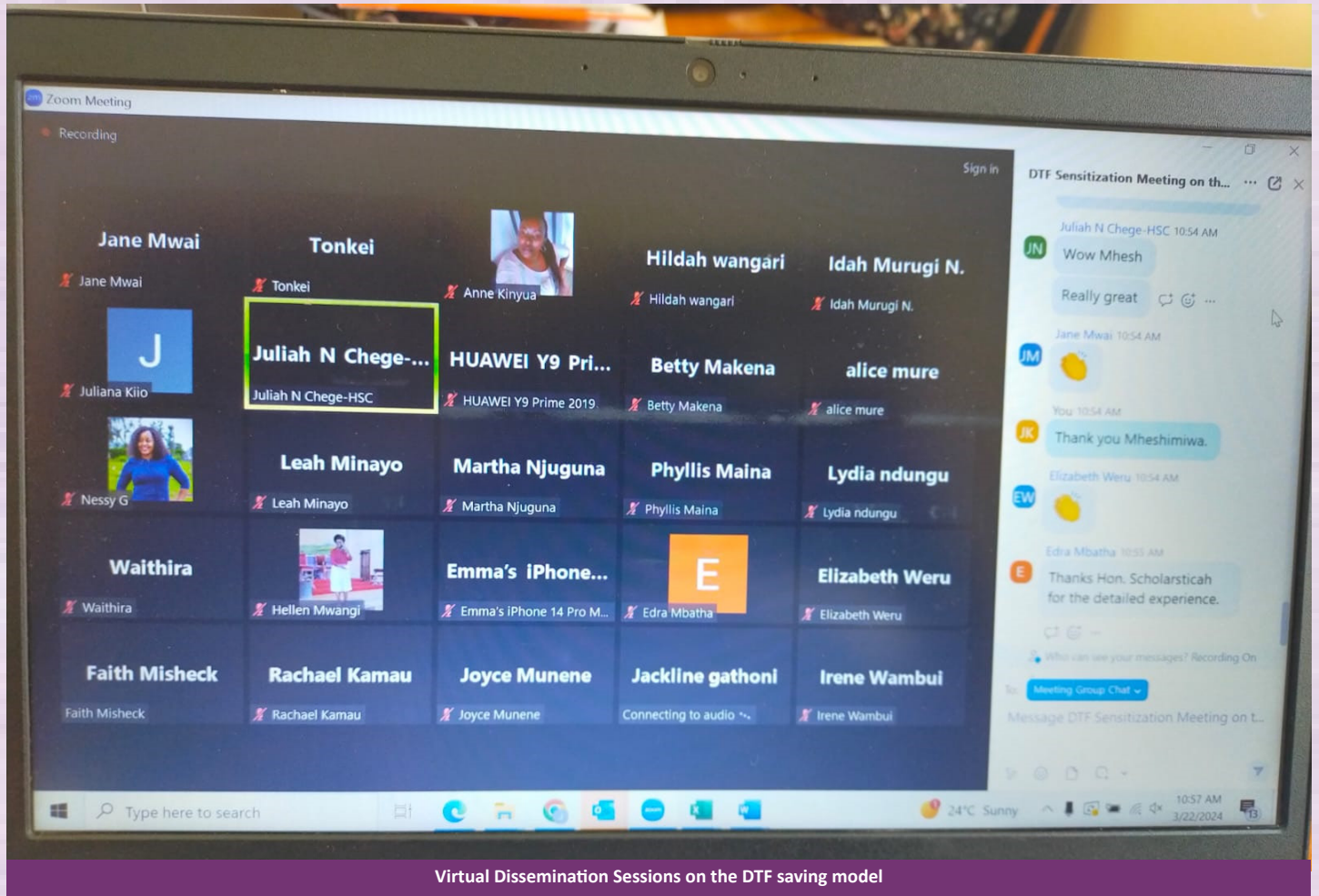
On 20th March 2024, the Women's Leadership, Political Participation and Governance Programme Centre took a crucial step in climate advocacy, as they participated in a high-profile meeting convened by the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC).

Joined by an unwavering partner HSF, the Programme engaged in discussions aimed at designing strategic approaches to ensure the inclusion of Women and Youth in advocating for the implementation of government commitments made during COP 28 and Africa Climate Summit - 2023. With a focus on addressing climate change, the meeting highlighted the crucial role Women and Youth play in shaping climate policies and initiatives.

As the meeting unfolded, it became clear that there are numerous opportunities for advocacy and programming to further advance the involvement of women and youth in combating climate change. The foresight and collaboration by the Women's Leadership Programme Center continues to ensure that Women's and Youth voices are heard and heeded in shaping a sustainable future - true championing of climate action!

ENA drives financial empowerment with Savings Model across eight counties

Special Projects



In a bid to empower women on their journey to leadership, Special Projects and Women Leadership, Political Participation and Governance Teams held Virtual Dissemination Sessions on the DTF saving model across eight counties from March 21st to 22nd, 2024.

The sessions which are strategically designed to rally and empower aspiring women leaders, aim to build a substantial pool of women aspirants saving with DTF, with plans for further expansion. On 21st March, participants from Nairobi, Kajiado, Kiambu and Tharaka Nithi engaged in the discussions, while attention shifted to Kirinyaga, Muranga, Embu and Nyeri the following day.

Post-session, the teams are committed to following up on new memberships, with a countrywide WhatsApp group created to connect potential women aspirants. Those who register will have the opportunity to join the DTF Running-to-Win group, further enhancing their chances of success in leadership roles.

With financial empowerment at the forefront, Special Projects together with Women's Leadership, Political Participation, and Governance programmes continue to pave the way for women's active participation and representation in governance and leadership, across Kenya.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY PICTORIAL



Dr. Jennifer Riria, President & CEO ENA Foundation



Ms. Magdaline Kipkeni, Deputy Director Gender, State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action.



Mr. Daniel Seiberling, Resident Representative of HSF Kenya and Ethiopia



Mrs. Lizzie Chongoti-Kenya Country Director, ENA.



Dr. Nyambura Koigi, Board Chair-Echo Network Africa Foundation



Ms. Damaris Karuki- Programmes Manager-Gender Equality Head, HSF



Dr. Nyambura Koigi presents an award to Hon. Rose Waruhiu.



Right Dr. Jennifer Riria and Mr. Daniel Seiberling at the center: Launch of HSF Research



Guests



Official launch of the ENA's book "Women Changing the way the World Works"



Awardees



Dr. Nyambura Koigi presents an award Hon. Jael Mbogo



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 JR Hub is located in the heart of Nakuru City at the junction of Tom Mboya and Kipchoge Keino roads. It is strategically positioned to provide a serene environment for its clientele.

The JR Hub is the perfect and hustle free place for shopping, business, dining, banking and hosting indoor and outdoor events. Key features include good access roads, 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 and speciality stores. Don't be left out!

To Book a Space Call: +254 722 546 124