

ECHO NETWORK AFRICA FOUNDATION JUNE NEWSLETTER

INSPIRING GREATNESS:

Dr. Jennifer Riria recognised by Africapitol as one of the 50 Most Influential Women in Kenya - 2024



GUIDE

Pg 1-6.....Highlights

Pg 7.....The Jennifer Riria Hub

HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Jennifer Riria receives multiple awards for her consistency in the overall Development & Gender Agenda



ENAF President/CEO Dr. Jennifer Riria in a delightful disposition after being awarded as one of the most influential women in Kenya

On 21st June 2024, Dr. Jennifer Riria was acknowledged and awarded as one of the 50 Most Influential Women in Kenya - 2024. The event was held at The Tin Tin Restaurant - Kenyatta International Conference Centre and was hosted by Africapitol Ventures. The firm seeks to celebrate Africans across the globe, as its primary mission.

ENAF President/CEO graced the event accompanied by members of her large family - both blood and chosen. Among these were her daughters, nieces and even grandson! Members of Echo Network Africa Kenya Country Office, led by the Country Director - Mrs. Lizzie Chongoti were there to witness this highly anticipated event.

The evening took an unexpected but pleasant turn, when it was revealed that the particular day happened to be Dr. Riria's birthday, as well. She was presented and showered with gifts, culminating with a cake cutting session. The joy and warmth of ENAF was evident to all other guests.

This event had closely followed one held in Harare, Zimbabwe where Dr. Riria was awarded as one of 100 Most Influential Persons in Africa by the Business Executive, Ghana.



Dr. Riria making her remarks at The KICC, Nairobi. She is flanked by Dr. Esther Muchemi.

Dr. Riria, in her remarks was cognizant of the collective support she has been accorded throughout the years to where she presently is and thanked everyone in her life who continues to do so, including the Board Members who attended and those in absentia.

She encouraged the other awardees to keep on keeping on as formidable women and right standing members of society.



Dr. Riria being presented with the Award by Mr. Simon Kabu

Global Peace Leadership Conference (GPLC) - 2024



All smiles: ENAF Peace Champions from Nairobi, at the conference

Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) through Peace and Conflict Resolution Programme Centre was privileged to participate in the Global Peace Leadership Conference 2024 at The Raddison Blu Upper Hill, from 25th to 27th June.

The conferences are strategic multi-sector convenings of the Global Peace Foundation and partners, bringing together leaders from government, business, academia, the non-profit sector and faith communities to address pressing regional challenges and work towards collaborative solutions within a framework of moral and innovative leadership.

GPLCs have been held in Tanzania, India, South Korea, Nigeria, Mongolia, Northern Ireland, Uganda, Brazil and the United States of America.

Despite the unforeseen political circumstances in Kenya and consequent disruption of scheduled activities, the conference went ahead to provide a platform for the different organizations and individuals to converge, network and strategize towards peace and development under a unified vision of One Family Under God.

The different thematic areas of Ubuntu, Education, Family Unity, Environment & meaningful Youth Participation and Empowerment resonated strongly throughout the conference.

ENAF supported forty women drawn from across the country to participate in the conference, fully engage and draw valuable lessons which will be used to enrich the work of Peace and Conflict Resolution docket across the informal settlements as well as conflict-prone areas and hotspots.

A highlight during this time was ENAF's Peace Champion, Ms. Wanjira (pictured below) who was instrumental in advocating for inclusion of women with disabilities in peace processes.



Ms. Caroline Wanjira, one of ENAF's Peace Champions keenly following a session.

Commemoration of International Day of the African Child - 2024

The International Day of the African Child, also known as Day of the African Child has been observed on the 16th of June every year since 1991.

It was first initiated by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

Bravery and Valour



Some of the students proudly displaying one of the day's thematic messages

The day pays homage to the estimated 176 children who died during the Soweto Uprising in 1976 where peaceful protests and demonstrations by 20,000 participants were met with police brutality. It holds an important significance in our shared history, immortalizing the bravery and resilience of these children.

Peace and Conflict Resolution Programme partnered with Kibera Gender Advocacy Network underpinning children's unwavering commitment to justice and equality; themes that remain deeply rooted in our communities today.

"Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardour and diligence."

Abigail Adams - Former First Lady of
The United States of America

Quality Education: The Time is Now!



Students providing entertainment during the Memorialization

The remembrance revolved around the theme: "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century - Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality and relevant learning in Africa."

The aim was to reaffirm ENAF's dedication to the well-being and empowerment of children, particularly those from informal settlements.

Attendance and active involvement was from school children, community members, civil society organizations working with children, the Area Chief, County Government Officials, the Children's Department and representatives from National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC).

A march across Kibera not only honoured the memory of the past but also strengthened the resolve to create a brighter future where every African child can thrive and meaningfully contribute to society. Children proudly held the event banner with the Day's Theme, with a Kenyan Flag raised to symbolize unity and solidarity.

The launch of AMANI Clubs in 32 schools within Kibra Sub-County was a fruitful end to the day.

Women's Leadership, Political Participation & Governance



Lively engagement by the women being trained

On Friday 14th June: elected, nominated and aspiring Women Leaders from Kisumu, Homa Bay, Migori and Siaya Counties assembled for the second series of the 'Running to Win' training.

Hosted in Kisumu City by Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) and the Democracy Trust Fund (DTF) with support from the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF), this training aimed to enhance women's positioning in political parties, improve their preparedness within the electoral cycle and lay the groundwork for developing comprehensive Personal Political Leadership Plans.

'Running to Win' Training emphasizes the importance of women's participation in politics and seeks to continually equip women aspirants with the necessary skills and strategies needed to succeed in political leadership roles, ahead of the 2027 General Elections.



Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Analysis

Data collection for a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Analysis commenced in June, where Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were conducted in Turkana County. The other target Counties are: Tana River, Marsabit, Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Wajir and Samburu.

Preliminary findings on GESI in Turkana County indicate the following:

- 1.) Regarding cultural norms and beliefs, women are limited in taking on leadership roles in their households unless the husband is deceased.
- 2.) Regarding work, women traditionally handle house chores although in recent times, may be assisted by their husbands; but with exceptions.
- 3.) Regarding decision-making, women and indigenous people are allowed to contribute to decision making and leadership; except within their own households.
- 4.) Regarding property, men have power over women.
- 5.) Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) are treated equally in the community.



Above and Below: Single Gender Focus Group Discussions in Turkana



Community Resilience and Livelihoods: Various Activities Undertaken



As the T-shirt aptly puts it: 'Climate Justice is Gender Justice'

I. WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2024 CELEBRATIONS

The Programme Centre supported nine Local Implementing Partners (LIPs) from Siaya, Busia and Homa Bay Counties to observe World Environment Day which is marked on 6th June every year.

The day, whose theme was: 'Our Land, Our Future' was observed across the Counties with various activities such as tree planting and environmental clean-up drives.

A major highlight of the day was by Stepping Stone Community-Based Organization (CBO) in Rachuonyo North, Homa Bay County that supported Mirengo Primary School to commemorate the day. Led by the Chief of Kanjira - Mr. Eli Ojijo Obuya, Forester Tom Odede and Teacher James Obia, the stakeholders present resolved to support the school to purchase a much-needed Water Tank that will sustainably have the school access consistent supply of clean water.

II. TRAINING OF TRAINERS (ToT) IN HOMA BAY COUNTY

ENAF conducted a ToT session in partnership with the County Government - Directorate of Fisheries, Local Implementing Partners and Leadership from the grass root. 11 Women Groups involved in Aquaculture Value Chain across Homa Bay County were taken through: Group Formation & Dynamics; Entrepreneurship; Financial Literacy & Digital Skills. Value Addition included:



Attendees from various Women Groups who took part in the Training

Food handling techniques, Safety & Hygiene as well as Soya & Black Bean Soldier Fly (BSF) Farming as aquaculture practices. Subsequent to the capacity building and strengthening sessions, the 55 participants are now expected to reach out to the other group members and train them in a bid to improve women group dynamics, operations and food handling techniques in the Aquaculture Value Chain.

III. PERTINENT CONSULTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

A strategic advisory forum with National Government and County Officials from the Directorates of Gender, Fisheries, Aquaculture, Business Development, LIPs and Beach Management Units (BMUs) Chairpersons was convened in Busia County. The stakeholders identified Mukobe and Buumbe Beaches to be supported under ENAF Aquaculture interventions such as: BMU Advocacy to mainstream gender considerations in governance & leadership and emerging gender issues & tackling of cultural barriers e.g. GBV matters, within jurisdictions.



Group Photo after Gender Responsive Planning & Budgeting Session

Girls' Excel Initiative



Above: The students holding their mathematical sets gifted after a full day of experiential learning which included visits to the science laboratories

HESABU CLUB ACADEMIC TOUR AND MENTORSHIP

On 14th June 2024, Hesabu Club Academic Tour was held at Tom Mboya University in Homa Bay County.

One of the key aims of Girls' Excel Initiative is promotion of Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), particularly as concerns girls and young women.

The activity started with a tour of the university with structured visits to various faculties, namely: Education, Business and Economics, Arts and Social Sciences as well as the Science Laboratories and the Library.

Different members of Faculty and Staff engaged the students who were appreciative of the exposure and learnings. They got the practical experience and saw the relevance and importance of taking up STEM subjects and career lines. The tour included mentorship and provision of mathematical sets to the students.

Financial Inclusion

Echo Network Africa Foundation through Financial Inclusion Programme Centre in collaboration with Jitegemee Trust Ltd held a Financial Literacy and Chama/Group Empowerment Workshop in Samburu County.

The training which targets first time learners - women and girls - focused on addressing the fiscal education gap, with concern of a high rise of 'Pay Later' services in the community, leading to unnecessary debt and stress.

Vital sessions on budgeting, savings, investing, maintaining financial records as well as leadership and entrepreneurship skills were conducted over three days with a record 329 participants. The women were also trained on Group Dynamics and Disciplines, in addition to identification and accessing various sources of funds.

There was high engagement and active participation including role play and drama, which left the women empowered to take full control of their financial lives for greater wellness; both at personal and societal levels.



TO LET



The Jennifer Riria Hub is an ultra-modern, state-of-the art facility developed by Echo Network Africa Foundation. 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, elevator 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