

# ECHO NETWORK AFRICA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

**FINISHING STRONG:** ENAF's Spirit of *working to completion* is evident as the year comes to a close



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# HIGHLIGHTS

## Validation - Sexual & Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection Policies in Vihiga County



County Assembly Committee for Gender, Culture, Youth, Sports and Social Services - Vihiga

On 2nd October 2024, Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) through the Democracy Trust Fund (DTF) and with the support of UN Women Kenya and Irish Aid brought together 17 members of Vihiga County Assembly Committee comprising of nine women and seven men at Sosa Cottages.

This review and validation meeting was built on four public participation forums held earlier on in February during which ENAF engaged over 200 stakeholders from the four sub-counties in Vihiga to gather feedback on the policies.

The validation session by the County Assembly Committee for Gender, Culture, Youth, Sports and Social Services marked a significant step in ENAF's Policy Formulation process, representing a noteworthy achievement in the institution's collective efforts. Once finalized these policies will pave way for the operationalization of the County SGBV Rescue Centre in Wodanga. This will be a sanctuary for survivors of GBV; providing a safe space for recovery, support and empowerment.

## Official Launch and Training of Trainers (ToT) at the Women Leadership Academy in Bungoma

In mid-October, ENAF through the Women's Leadership, Political Participation & Governance Programme Centre brought on board representation from trainers as follows: 10 participants from academia - two lecturers from Kaimosi and Kibabii Universities; Members of County Assemblies, Two aspiring women leaders, Assistant County Commissioner from Vihiga County; A woman leader with disability, Business Sector representative and Gender Advisor, Office of the Governor Bungoma County.

The workshop sought to strengthen capacities of the trainers to be local resource persons that shall translate to empowerment of women leaders in Vihiga and Bungoma through trickle-down training and mentorship.

With support from UN Women and Irish Aid, this culminated into an Intergenerational *Empower-Her* Women Leadership Summit on 17th and 18th October 2024 which was graced by Her Excellency Deputy Governor, Bungoma County - Pastor Jennipher Mbatiany who issued Certificates of Participation. She encouraged the women to profile themselves, show up for themselves and support each other in the journey of women leadership and governance.



H. E. Hon Jennipher Mbatiany (R) issuing certificates to the fully equipped women



## **Customer Service Week at ENAF Head Office & Jennifer Riria Hub, Nakuru**

ENAF had the honour of a surprise and timely visit from Cooperative Bank Relationship Manager, Government & Public Sector Banking - Mr. Samson Metto who came bearing gifts, in the spirit of 'Customer Service Month'.

While sharing her words of gratitude, Dr. Riria invoked the bank's support and engagement in ENAF's initiatives - which Mr. Metto was happy to embrace and promised to follow up on, for the success of both entities.



Dr. Jennifer Riria (centre) cuts cake with Mrs. Muhoya (R) and Mr. Metto (L)

Ms. Elina Mutuku - Head of Financial Resources Management & Granting gave an account of the long-standing relationship between Co-op Bank and ENAF, noting that the financial institution had gone the extra mile in appreciating its clientele - no other bank had done so in the past CSW week. The session culminated with cake-cutting and sharing amongst staff members.

On the other hand, JR Hub's commitment to ensuring that its novelty in Nakuru and its environs is sustained saw Ms. Joanne Marangu, the Facilities Manager visit tenants throughout the week with cake, appreciating their support and seeking feedback; in addition to exploring areas of partnership.

The establishment looks forward to hosting a long-term anchor tenant and greater patronage in the coming year and beyond.

The CEO and Principal Officer of AAR Insurance Kenya Mr. Justine Kosgei paid a courtesy call to ENAF in celebration of Customer Service Week.

Accompanied by Ms. Angela Wanga - Business Retention Manager and Mr. Leonard Mwebia- Relationship Manager, Mr. Kosgei acknowledged and appreciated ENAF as one of the long-standing and committed partners.



Dr. Jennifer Riria (R) and Mr. Justine Kosgei when he paid a courtesy call to ENAF Head Office - Muchai Drive

ENAF's President/CEO Dr. Riria shared key moments that were profound in regard to AAR's exceptional health service provision over the years.

Mrs. Sara Muhoya, ENAF's Chief of Party underscored the importance of going over and above a transactional corporate relationship to one of collaboration - particularly in the quest to supporting girls, women and the vulnerable in society.

The visit culminated with a cake cutting session, in the presence of ENAF and Kenya Women Microfinance Bank (KWFT) staff members Ms. Dolly Nyambura and Ms. Madrine Muchangi. ENAF looks forward to achieving great milestones with AAR Insurance as they celebrate 40 years of operation this year.



**Training of Fire Marshals and First Aiders at Echo Network Africa Foundation**



Mr. Justus Ngari putting out fire at the training

The Talent Development and Administration team held training sessions in a bid to ensure that staff safety and general welfare are looked into with the importance that they deserve.

The double trainings took two full days in a span of two weeks, for both First Aid responders and Fire Marshals.

Staff were not only taken through the theoretical principles but were also actively engaged in experiential sessions that saw them put out real fires, set up as mock ups and simulate exercises such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on dummies.

Certificates were issued to the participating staff who are now well equipped to handle any sort of emergency that may arise not only at ENAF premises but also any other place that they would be stationed at any given time.





## ENAF's YISA County Staff Workshop



ENAF's YISA County Project Staff receiving their work tool kits at Nairobi Safari Club - Lilian Towers

Echo Network Africa Foundation hosted the staff based in counties where the Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture project is being implemented, i.e. Kisumu, Kamamega, Busia, Siaya, Homa Bay and Kilifi.

The two day workshop held at the Nairobi Safari Club - Lilian Towers in the Central Business District kick-started with presentations from the Senior Management Team on the various dockets within ENAF such as Talent Development and Administration, Internal Audit, Risk and Compliance, Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL), Financial Resources Management & Granting and the Chief of Party who represented ENAF President/CEO.

A refresher training in Gender Equality & Social Inclusion (GESI) and Gender Action Learning (GALS) methodology was part of the programme; with renowned Gender & Development Expert Dr. Regina Mwathi taking the team through pertinent information that would prove useful in the project, particularly regarding ENAF's role.

The team received laptops, ENAF merchandise and YISA-branded items to enable them perform at their best and optimum levels. The County Project Assistants were appreciative of this workshop and are now well equipped to represent ENAF at their work stations, communities and areas that they serve - out of Nairobi.

## Kuza Jamii/FCDO Trainings



Attendees keenly following one of the training sessions

ENAF has been undertaking various trainings for local leaders including chiefs, religious leaders, Nyumba Kumi elders & members, village elders and key opinion leaders in the regions where the Kuza Jamii Economic Inclusion Project is currently taking shape. The counties are Isiolo, Garissa, Tana River, Marsabit, Samburu, Wajir, Turkana and Mandera.

The sessions on Gender Equality & Social Inclusion messaging - in particular, the *happy family tree* - have continued to be a major source of inspiration; eliciting healthy debates & discussions around: cultural norms & beliefs, gender roles, responsibilities & time use, patterns of power and decision making and access to & control over assets and resources.



Participant taking part in the practical session of GESI/Happy Family Tree



## **ENAF President/CEO Dr. Riria represents East Africa in West Africa**



All Smiles! Dr. Riria (L) at the Intergenerational Women Retreat

Dr. Jennifer Riria was in Liberia for four days in the capacity of Chairperson of the *African Women Leaders Network, Kenya & East Africa Chapters*.

The twin function which served as an intergenerational women retreat was also in honour of the former President of Liberia - Hon. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Dr. Riria presented a gift to Hon. Sirleaf, that had messages of best wishes and goodwill from the AWLN Chairpersons of Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Ethiopia.

The following were the issues that were the basis of dialogue throughout the four days:

1. Young women getting the space for their voices to be heard.
2. Approaches to closing the generational gap.
3. How to get young women to lead.
4. What mentorship is required for young women to lead.
5. The role of partners - local and global - to make the above, happen.
6. Older women to walk off the stage and allow the next generation to provide leadership.
7. Young women should get on stage and provide leadership of integrity and accountability.

*"Older women have done their part. Young women should get into the space and fill the gaps that older women have left undone - which includes political leadership gaps in all spheres of African societies."*





# 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**