

ECHO NETWORK AFRICA FOUNDATION

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Dream STEM:

Science, Technology, Engineering and
Mathematics (STEM)- is *HER FUTURE!*



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Highlights

The Jennifer Riria Hub

Girl Excel Initiative - Collaboration with Partners



In the spirit of breaking barriers and building dreams, Girl Excel Initiative continues to **inspire and empower young girls to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.**

Partnering with Education Officials, Local Implementing Partners, Mentors and other like-minded stakeholders, the activities of Girl Excel have a clear goal: that girls are not left behind in the rapidly evolving world that requires agility and know-how in matters technology and sciences.

On April 10th, Olepolos Junior Secondary School - which has a Hesabu Club - hosted a mentorship session for both boys and girls from around the community of Naroosura, Narok County. One of the mentors, a Curriculum Support Officer (CSO) from the Ministry of Education, discussed the importance of students advocating for themselves, staying in school and pursuing STEM Subjects - the latter being buttressed by a teacher whose background is in STEM.

A health official discussed Gender-Based Violence and the importance of reporting this vice that continues to permeate society, yet it is destructive and should not be tolerated in whichever form it takes.

An all-important matter that was not left off the table was menstrual hygiene management, which a member of an implementing partner took the students through. Demonstration of the use of sanitary towels, disposal and maintaining high standards of hygiene were well articulated to the students. **Over 400 packets of feminine hygiene products were distributed, in addition to take-home flyers encouraging girls to pursue STEM.**

Still on matters Girl Excel, a virtual workshop was held on 17th April where a Ministry of Education Official illuminated the National Strategy and the critical role of ENAF, which supports MoE through policy making and implementation. Girl Excel LIPs and other potential ones from Kilifi, Migori, Elgeyo Marakwet, Tana River, Marsabit, Bungoma/Mt. Elgon and Muranga were in attendance.

Moreover, LIPs in Busia, Narok and Samburu are in the process of identifying girls that have dropped out of school - who shall with the support from ENAF - be enrolled back to school. Uniform, books, stationary and feminine hygiene products shall be provided; but more importantly, multi-sectoral committee meetings will delve deeper into the issue of school retention. This will ensure that this undertaking - through Hesabu Clubs - continues to gain support and advocate for students via community members, school administration, elders, parents and students alike.



CA 750 Strategy Implementation Action Plan



"Vote Party-less! Women's leadership that creates lasting impact is when women put aside their differences and fully support each other - with inclusion of those from rural areas"

These were the words of Dr. Jennifer Riria - ENAF President/CEO during the *Multi-Stakeholder Forum on the Implementation of the 750 Strategy* held at Villa Rosa Kempinski, Nairobi on Friday 11th April 2025.

ENAF through DTF and with the support of Hans Seidel Foundation convened this full day session whose strategy is to increase the number of women elected at the county level from the current 115 to 750, in the 2027 General Elections. There are still notable gaps in women representation at the county level, despite political leadership beginning at this base.

Validation of the strategy development fell on the backdrop of crafting an implementation plan; a process that begun in December 2024, enabled by UN Women Kenya Country Office.

In attendance were different stakeholders including: representation from HSF, Registrar of Political Parties, Council of Governors, Uraia Trust, Kenya Women Parliamentary Association (KEWOPA), Kenya Women Senators Association (KEWOSA); in addition to other Women Rights Organizations (WROs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture (YISA) Webinar

Empowering Youth for Sustainable Aquaculture Markets (funded by Mastercard Foundation) held a live webinar on 17th March 2025. Moderated by Lead Partner - Farm Africa, the highly interactive session drew participants from the six counties where the project is being implemented, namely: Busia, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Kilifi, Kisumu and Siaya.

The line up of presenters consisted of participants who joined the programme and have already started bearing bearing fruit in the different **aquaculture** nodes that the project offers; including **mariculture**, **Black Soldier Fly (BSF)** and **soybean production**.

The goal of the five-year project is to facilitate 150,000 meaningful, inclusive and dignified jobs, specifically targeting young women and men between the ages of 18 & 35 - including Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

The key interventions are:

*increase **quality of fish** in the aquaculture value chain that includes mariculture; **entrepreneurship development** along the value chains through trainings to increase opportunities for financially disadvantaged young women and men; growth of enterprises through **markets and finance linkages** and **promotion of gender-transformative approaches** - deliberate linkages and training young women on leadership & governance, while addressing gender gaps and **promoting gender equality**.*



Women Peace Champions

On April 11th, The Nairobi Women Caucus was officially established with a training session was held to **strengthen the capacity and engagement of women peace champions**. A total of 57 women participated and committed to joining the movement, which is being spearheaded through ENAF's Peace & Conflict Resolution team: Milkah Kariuki and Kenedy Nyamai.



Mapping out and conduction of due diligence was done for three Local Implementing Partners namely: Uasin Gishu Women for Peace (UWP-CBO), SMARTKEY CBO, Eldoret Champions for Peace (ECP-CBO). The Uasin Gishu Women Caucus brought together 53 women peace champions from across the county.



In Kisumu, the due diligence and mapping out of LIPS took place on 24th & 25th April. These were: Community Action Group (CIAG-K), Women Concern Centre (WCC), Nyando Social Justice CBO. 50 women Peace Champions and actors from various parts of the county participated.

Board Directors' Farewell



"You have a permanent ENAF membership number – You'll always be family!" These were the words of Dr. Jennifer Riria, ENAF President/CEO on 24th April 2025 during a Farewell Luncheon held in honour of former members of the board – Director Elizabeth Mang'eni and Director Jeniffer Nyambura Kamande.

Directors and Staff alike had nothing but kind words for both of them who have served their two three-year terms. Ms. Jeniffer who was in the Board Audit Committee had provided invaluable insights and direction in the Finance and Accounting Docket - as a professional - without mincing words. She recounted how the Board of Directors had not only worked together in concert regarding ENAF governance but were also friends, in and out of season. Ms. Elizabeth, a formidable champion of Persons with Disability (PWDs) was praised for her advocacy efforts and always showing up as the high-spirited and unshakable Development Expert she is, whenever the Executive Team got together. The function ended with cake-cutting, gift giving and a luncheon.



Thank you for your service to the women of Kenya through ENAF as a Board Member from 2018 to 2024
Ms. Elizabeth Mang'eni

Training of Women at the Grass-root level in Climate Smart Agriculture and Clean Cooking Technology



ENAF supported Naitum Tum CBO (LIP) in Samburu County which undertook a one-day training session each, with: Naitubulu Youth Group (20), Jerusalem Women Group (20), Daughters of the Moon Women Group (15) on **Climate Smart Agriculture practices** that include drought-resistant crops, kitchen garden set-up and food preservation.

Moreover, each of the three groups will identify one member who will provide a portion of land in their homesteads to set up a simple demonstration plot for learning. The rest of the group members will also receive drought resistant seeds to set up their individual kitchen gardens in their homes. Mr. Francis Lechakwet, the Samburu Sub-County Agricultural Officer will lead the trainings as well as support the three women groups each set up Kitchen Gardens after training, in addition to supporting the LIP to have follow up sessions. One member in each of the three target groups volunteered their home backyards to be used as demonstration plots and subsequently, each of the 52 group members will be provided with capsicum (hoho), sweet potatoes, tomatoes, spinach and sukuma wiki (kale) seedlings to set up their individual kitchen gardens in their respective homes.



ENAF has joined hands with COMPE CBO (LIP) and Improved Stoves Association of Kenya (ISAK) who are subject-matter experts in **Models of Clean Cooking Technology**. The partnership intends to facilitate training of 42 members of Yamo Oloko Women Group from Siaya County on local/household level production, installation and fabrication of clean cooking products.

COMPE CBO, one of ENAF's implementing partners in Siaya County will be fully engaged and transfer knowledge to these women on *'fire-less' and solar cooking*. There will be follow up and collation of success stories from individual group members who have shown interest in installing the cooking stoves in their homes. ISAK will then link the women group to suppliers of clean cooking materials for purchase. The training will culminate in a demonstration of Stove Installation (in one of the group members homesteads) to ensure that participants practically apply the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the process, in their respective households.



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.

Spaces available *TO LET* include: food court spaces, banking hall and specialty stores. Don't be left out! <https://jenniferririahub.co.ke/>

To book a space, call: +254 722 546 124