



2026

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

The ENAF I Dreamt of

Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF)

VISION

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

MISSION

A Pan-African organisation 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.

Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF)

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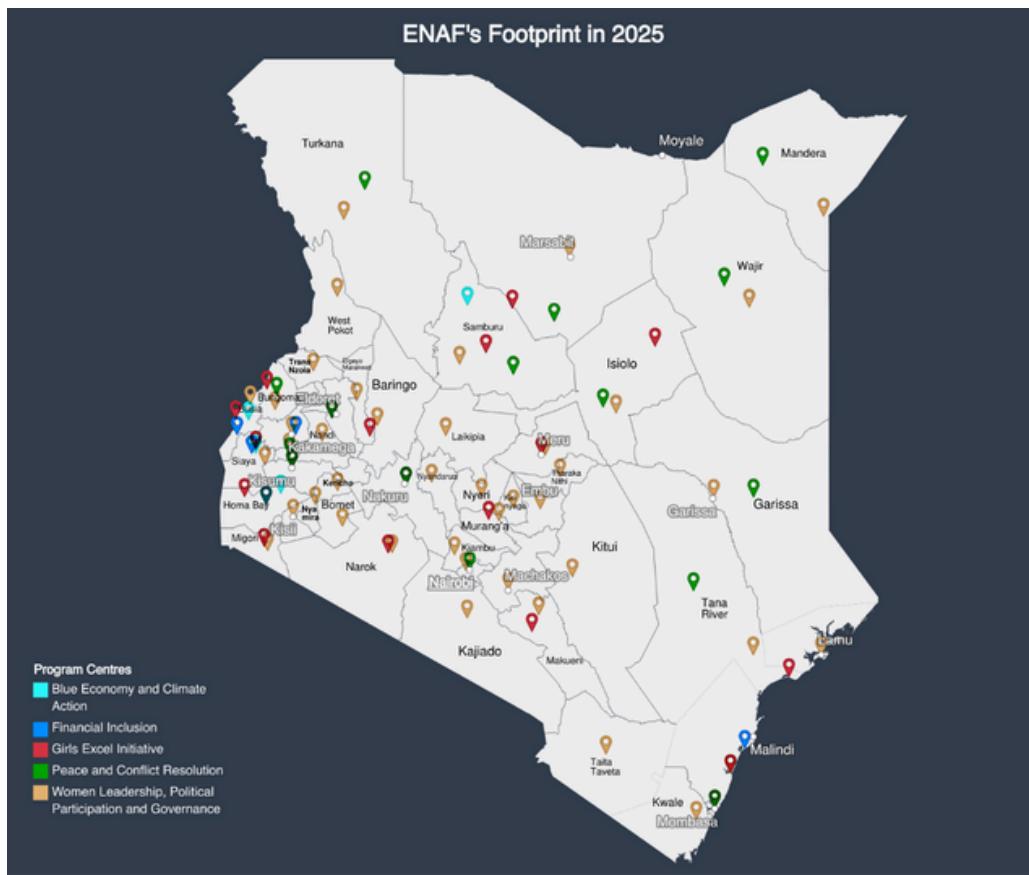
The ENAF I Dreamt of

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Dr. Jennifer Riria
President / CEO - ENAF

I have deliberately titled my Annual Address as 'The ENAF I Dreamt of' for the simple reason that 2025 will go down as the Year when I witnessed what I dreamt about more than forty years ago when I joined ENAF, then Kenya Women Holding (KWH) – a small micro-credit organization that was on its deathbed at the time. As we reflect on the Year 2025, I am proud to say that not only has the organization survived the vagaries of the times – and they have been quite a number – but has also grown to reach every part of Kenya albeit in different degrees.



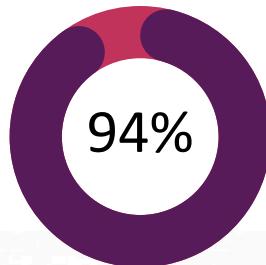
Subsequently, diverse program initiatives and the impact of ENAF is now spread and is firmly established in all of Kenya's 47 Counties. We are grateful to God and our Partners for their collaboration, dedication, and most of all for believing in the vision and mission of ENAF. Through the partnerships, ENAF was able to directly reach over 89,917 girls who benefited from the institutional initiatives in 2025 alone. Indeed, this is what many of us, I included, dreamt of – a day when ENAF would be at the doorstep of every girl and woman in Kenya. Support from all our Partners helped turn the vision into impact.



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Furthermore, I am happy to report that, as in other years, in 2025, we focused on achieving results based on our Work Plan for 2025. Through a multifaceted approach that encompassed strategies such as the catalytic approach, clear objective setting, strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, overall risk assessment and mitigation, as well as prudent utilization of resources, among other strategies, ENAF achieved an impressive cumulative result of 94%, the highest mark attained in the 43 or so years of the organization. Although some Program Centres achieved more than others, the institution is on course to reach the targets set in the Strategic Plan 2023-2027. Sustaining and surpassing these results, standards, and impact will be the foremost challenge. In 2025 alone, the institution reached over 89,917 women directly and millions more indirectly.



94%

Cumulative Result:
The highest mark in
our 43-year history



89,917+

Women & Girls directly
reached in 2025

In addition to having a dedicated Board of Directors and a professional staff team, ENAF has been blessed to have won the confidence and support of sincere and committed development partners including Mastercard Foundation through Farm Africa; UNWomen, Hanseidel Foundation, URAIA, MEDA, BOMA and Village Enterprise among others. Technical and financial support from these development partners have propelled ENAF to the level that we are at – a nationally respected institution impacting on hundreds of thousands of women who in turn continue to transform the lives of their families across the country. I thank our Development Partners for believing in ENAF and for walking the journey with us.

On our part, we commit to maintain the highest levels of accountability and to remain intentional in serving girls and women in line with the vision and mission of our institution.



WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP, POLITICAL PARTICIPATION & GOVERNANCE

Running to Win – Advancing Inclusive Democracy



GIRLS EXCEL INITIATIVE

Protecting girls' rights and tackling systemic barriers like GBV and FGM.



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CHALLENGES

As most of us are aware, 2025 was a very difficult year for many of us individually, collectively, and certainly globally. Indeed, the world in 2025 has been labeled as the most conflict-ridden period in history, even being termed 'The World at War.' This description is not just a mere reference to a world in turmoil; it is a sobering and unsettling reality. From multiple large-scale armed conflicts such as the Gaza war between Hamas and Israel and the devastating civil unrest, to the Russia-Ukraine war and the tensions between India and Pakistan, to name but a few, the impacts were profound. Although Kenya itself was not at war, the effects of the global turmoil and heightened security challenges were nevertheless felt through scarcities in various products, declined export markets, an influx of refugees, and emotional trauma, among others. Consequently, the envelope for development was thinner in 2025, as resources were channeled toward alleviating the humanitarian crisis in various parts of the world. As an institution, we have had to make do with meager resources and an emphasis on the strategy: 'low budgets, high impact.'



BLUE ECONOMY & CLIMATE ACTION

Sustainable Livelihoods for a Greener Future

Unfortunately, vulnerable populations such as women, pregnant and lactating mothers, children, persons with disabilities, and the elderly, among others, suffer the most, not because they fight more or work less, but because, by their very nature, global challenges tend to magnify existing inequalities and expose women to unique forms of challenges, including violence and other hardships. In Kenya, for example, incidents of gender-based violence (GBV), including femicide, hit an all-time high, with at least one woman being killed every day (UNESCO, October 2025). According to Africa Data Hub, the majority (77%) of the victims were killed by intimate partners. Despite numerous calls from Human Rights Organizations and development institutions, including Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF), killings, especially of young girls, continued throughout 2025, prompting H.E. the President of the Republic of Kenya to constitute a special Task Force to assess, review, and make recommendations for strengthening a national response to femicide. The country is yet to receive the report from this Task Force, even though the slaughter of women, especially young women, continued throughout the year 2025!



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Not surprisingly, 2025 was also characterized by a surge in youth-led uprisings led by Gen Z (those born between 1997 – 2012). The uprisings were charged in part by various frustrations with the status quo and other challenges, including inequalities, unemployment, corruption, poor public service, and in Kenya, the failure by the ruling class to listen to the demands of the youth. Using social media as their main tool for organizing, hundreds of thousands of Gen Zs took to the streets across countries such as Nepal, Morocco, Madagascar, Togo, Mexico, Kenya, and more recently, Tanzania. Throughout these protests, Gen Zs used technology as their means of organizing and made it clear that they were not going to stand by and watch their countries being ruined through bad governance and ill-informed policies.

In Kenya, the Gen Zs forced the President to dissolve the Cabinet and reconstruct a broad-based government with opposition parties playing key roles. Both the Gen Z phenomenon and the heavy utilization of technology changed the way civil protests are organized and managed.

In short, 2025 was quite an eventful year socially, economically, politically, and otherwise. As many of you know, I suffered a personal loss with the sudden demise of my daughter - I am still healing from that loss, but God is helping me through.

All the above issues impacted the running and operations of ENAF in diverse ways, including reduced and unstable funding for program initiatives, disruption of work schedules, and increased operational difficulties due to heightened political crises, among others.



LOOKING AHEAD

As the curtains fall on the year 2025 and a new year 2026 begins, I am indeed most grateful to God and all our stakeholders for making our mutual dream come true. ENAF is now a national institution transforming the lives of girls and women across the country. The groundwork is now firmly set to expand to other countries in Africa. Indeed, this remains the ongoing challenge: to scale the work beyond the Kenyan borders. In 2026, we intend to exercise our faith and venture into at least one or two countries in Africa and replicate the program models and approaches that have been successful in Kenya. To enable this ambitious move, ENAF will have to continually re-engineer its structures, policies, and financing models to accommodate these changes.



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I view the plan to move to the rest of Africa not just as a strategic decision but as a legacy issue. I have no doubt in my mind that with God and all the support from the Board, management, development partners, and other stakeholders, ENAF shall exceed our dreams. The expectations are high, and so is our dream for the girls, women, and families in Africa. ENAF will not wait for 130 years to see women, especially in Africa, attain gender equality; we shall do our little bit to make the world a little more equal, a little more inclusive, and certainly closer to attaining Sustainable Development Goal number Five on Gender Equality. We invite people of goodwill to partner with us in making this dream come true.



On my own behalf and that of the Board of Directors, Management, Staff, and all our Participants, I wish to sincerely thank all those who stood with us throughout the year 2025, including the girls and women who participated in our initiatives, our Local Implementing Partners (LIPs), individuals, and groups, as well as our Development Partners for believing in the dream of ENAF and entrusting your resources to us. Your trust, collaboration, and dedication remain the foundation of the work we do and the reason that transformation, especially for our girls and women, remains a reality.

As we look ahead to 2026, we remain committed to building on the gains of yesteryear, learning from our experiences, and advancing inclusive societies in which all of us - women and men, girls and boys - take our rightful place in society and enjoy a life of hope, dignity, and endless opportunities for all.

I thank you most sincerely for standing with ENAF in the year 2025 and look forward to an even greater 2026. From all of us at ENAF, we wish you a prosperous and purposeful 2026 filled with good health, hope, and new possibilities.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Jenifer Riria - PhD, EBS, MBS, HRH/Goodwill Ambassador, ICON/HP
President & CEO
Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF)



Programme Centres

Blue Economy & Climate Action

Financial Inclusion

Girls Excel Initiative

Peace & Conflict Resolution

Women's Leadership, Political Participation & Governance

Anchor Centres

Communications & Public Relations

Financial Resources Management & Granting

Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

Legal

People & Culture

Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation

Procurement

Property Management & Investments



ENAF BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ms Verity Nyagah
Board Chair



Ms Joyner Okonjo
Vice Chair



Dr. Jennifer Riria
President & CEO



Dr. Barrack Oliver Waindi



Ms Fatuma Mohamed



Mr. Ibrahim Lande



Ms Juliana Rotich



Ms Rose Mwenda

NON-VOTING MEMBERS



Ms Sarah Muhoya
Chief of Party



Ms Elina Mutuku
Head of Financial
Resources
Management &
Granting



Located in Nakuru, The Jennifer Riria Hub seeks to enhance ENAF's institutional sustainability and expand development initiatives for women in Africa.

Support ENAF and The Jennifer Riria Hub by taking space within the hub.



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