



January 2026

ENAF SPOTLIGHT

ENAF Performance Hits Record High as 2026 Vision Takes Shape

A Message from Leadership

At the dawn of January, we shared a foundational document titled "The ENAF I Dreamt Of." It was a bold declaration of our aspirations: to be a Pan-African catalyst for change that remains deeply rooted in the dignity of the individuals we serve. As we conclude our first month of the year, this January Spotlight serves as the first progress report on that dream. We are not just dreaming; we are delivering.

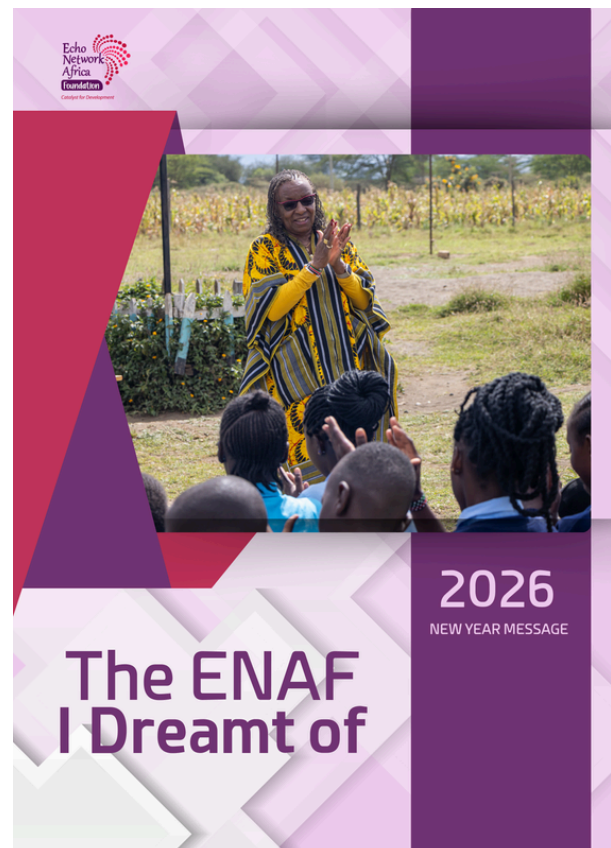
The 2025 Performance Audit

Our commitment to this vision is validated by our latest internal and external audits. ENAF has achieved a 94% cumulative performance result across our primary project portfolios. This is the highest efficiency rating in the foundation's history.

- Total Impact: 89,917+ women and youth have been directly reached through our economic and social programs.
- Operational Integrity: We have successfully transitioned our internal systems to support "ENAF Without Borders," ensuring that our infrastructure is as expansive as our vision.
- A Promise to Stakeholders: This 94% achievement is your assurance of stewardship. It confirms that the resources you entrust to ENAF are being converted into measurable, life-changing impact with minimal wastage.

Dr. Jennifer Riria

President & Chief Executive Officer



Women Leaders Demand Action on National Security and Education Crisis

In late January, Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF), in partnership with the African Women Leadership Network (AWLN-Kenya) and the Democracy Trust Fund (DTF), issued a landmark press statement addressing the critical issues currently facing the women and citizens of Kenya.

Defending Sacred Spaces

As a foundation committed to peace, ENAF voiced a stern condemnation of the worsening state of security. We specifically decried the recent disregard for civility in places of worship—sacred spaces where women, children, and persons with disabilities should always find solace. We urge law enforcement and judicial bodies to act with sincerity and strict adherence to the rule of law.

Navigating the Education Crisis

The statement highlighted deep concerns regarding the transition within the Competence-Based Education (CBE) system. To ensure no child is left behind due to financial or infrastructural hurdles, the women of Kenya proposed a strategic consolidation of all bursaries into a single, managed basket.

A National Disaster: Standing Against GBV

In a unified voice, we welcomed the recommendations of the Presidential Technical Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (GBV). ENAF stands firmly with the recommendation that H.E. The President proclaims GBV a National Disaster. We remain committed to supporting the full implementation of these recommendations to end the scourge of femicide and technology-facilitated violence.



Dr. Jennifer Riria addressing the press

[Click to read the statement](#)

Mentorship Drive Equips 700 Students to Defy Social Barriers



On January 24th, Echo Network Africa joined the global community to observe the International Day of Education by turning the theme of youth co-creation into a tangible mentorship drive across 15 schools. Through our Girls Excel Initiative, we coordinated a synchronized regional effort that successfully engaged 700 Junior Secondary students in a single day. This exercise demonstrated ENAF's unique ability to mobilise large-scale, high-impact interventions that move beyond mere celebration to tackle real-world challenges.

Our facilitators led deep-dive sessions focused on building resilience against social barriers such as FGM and Gender-Based Violence while providing students with specific information on reporting mechanisms to ensure they have the agency to protect their right to stay in school. A core objective of the drive was narrowing the gender gap in technical fields by championing Hesabu Clubs and Mobile Labs as essential platforms for academic mastery. We are actively encouraging our girls to take up STEM pathways, positioning them to shape their own economic futures through science, hard work, and collaboration.



Mentorship Session at SabaSaba Primary School (Murang'a County)



Mentorship Session at Ngurunit Primary School (Marsabit County)



Mentorship Session at Dadachabasa Primary School (Isiolo County)

Mandera Women Transform Local Economy Through Social Uplift and Strategic Grants



Entrepreneur Adey Mohamed Abdi at her fully stocked grocery in Mandera, a result of the Kuza Jamii project and Echo Network Africa Foundation's social uplift initiatives.

In the arid expanse of Mandera County, development is being propelled by the resilience of women turning sustainable livelihoods into a reality. As a key partner in the Kuza Jamii consortium, Echo Network Africa Foundation is working with the Slaughter Village Savings and Loan Association in El Wak to facilitate this transformation. Comprising twenty-six women and four men, this group represents a significant move toward women taking active roles in shaping their family's financial future.

Central to this progress is the Gender Action Learning System methodology, which Echo Network Africa Foundation uses to empower women socially. Through tools like the "Happy Family Tree" training, families are guided toward shared decision-making. By visualizing a household as a tree that requires balance between its roots and branches, the training ensures that as women launch businesses, their standing in the home rises to match their economic contribution.

The success of this model is best seen in entrepreneurs like Adey Mohamed Abdi of the Nihma Business Group. After receiving a Business Savings Group grant, Adey revitalized her grocery business and now manages a fully stocked shop that secures her children's future. Her victory demonstrates that when social empowerment is paired with targeted capital, the entire family unit thrives, proving the scalability of the Echo Network Africa Foundation model across Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands.

ENAF STEM Initiative Reaches 1,200 Students as Phase One Concludes



Echo Network Africa Foundation has officially marked the successful conclusion of the first phase of its Mobile Science Laboratory initiative, a strategic effort that has transformed science education across 12 counties. This milestone has seen the delivery of fully equipped mobile laboratories to 14 schools, providing over 1,200 students with immediate, hands-on access to microscopes, burners, and burettes. By finalizing this initial rollout, the Echo Network Africa Foundation has moved beyond theoretical teaching to ensure that Junior Secondary learners in underserved regions are equipped with the practical tools necessary for modern scientific inquiry.

The impact of this completed phase is particularly evident in schools such as Tunzanani Primary in Kilifi and Kipini Primary in Tana River. At Tunzanani, the handover provided the first dedicated laboratory facilities since the school's inception in 1983, while in Kipini, the mobile lab has replaced improvised teaching aids with professional-grade scientific equipment. These units now serve as permanent regional hubs, allowing neighboring institutions to share these specialized resources and fostering a sustainable culture of academic excellence and discovery.

In tandem with the technical equipment, the Echo Network Africa Foundation integrated the "Girls Excel" program to provide holistic support for female learners during this first phase. Alongside the laboratory handovers, the foundation distributed over 4,450 dignity kits to help girls remain in school consistently and with confidence. These events were characterized by powerful mentorship from local female leaders, including headteachers and chiefs, who stood at the forefront to demonstrate that STEM careers are attainable for every student, regardless of gender or geography.

With Phase One now successfully established, the Echo Network Africa Foundation is leveraging the momentum and data gathered to prepare for a major expansion. The foundation is currently seeking partnerships to scale this success to an additional 98 schools nationwide. Leadership has emphasized that the completion of this first stage is only the beginning, as the Echo Network Africa Foundation remains dedicated to ensuring that every child in Kenya has the opportunity to explore science, innovate, and succeed in the global economy.



Leading by Example:

Tunzanani Primary School Headteacher Doris Jeza (L), Area Senior Assistant Chief Halima Hammad (C), and Science Teacher Caroline Kache (R) celebrate the handover of the Echo Network Africa Foundation Mobile Science Lab.



Students interact with the Mobile Labs in their Schools

Phase One: 14 Schools Equipped Across 12 Counties

County	School
Muranga	Saba Saba Pri.
	Thirikwa Pri.
Makueni	Mung'etheele Pri.
Kilifi	Tunzanani Pri.
Tana River	Kipini Pri.
Narok	Olgilai Pri.
	Victory County
Migori	Anjengo Pri.
Busia	Budala Pri.
Mt. Elgon - Bungoma	Kapsika PEFA
Elgeyo Marakwet	Kiptabach Pri.
Samburu	Wamba CCM
Marsabit	Ngurunit Pri.
Meru	Gangara Pri.

Interest-Free Capital Converts Job Seekers into Employers in Homa Bay



The YISA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is driving a significant wave of economic resilience across Homa Bay County by providing young entrepreneurs with the capital needed to transition from casual labor to business ownership. Implemented by ENAF in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation and Farm Africa, this transformative interest-free facility is designed to remove the financial barriers that often prevent youth from entering the aquaculture value chain. By utilizing a unique co-guarantee mechanism, the fund allows registered groups to access capital without the burden of traditional high-interest debt.

Addline Atieno, a member of the Umoyo Self-Entrepreneurship Group in Sindu, serves as a powerful example of the program's ability to foster dignified employment. Before accessing the fund, Addline worked as a casual laborer, often struggling with the instability of working for others. After securing a Ksh 25,000 facility through the YISA program, she launched her own fish frying business. This initial injection of capital did more than just start a business; it shifted her status from a job seeker to a job creator.

Today, Addline's enterprise is thriving, and she has already employed three other young women from her community. Her success is a micro-level victory for the broader YISA program, which aims to create 150,000 dignified and fulfilling jobs for young people aged 18-35. By offering interest-free capital to those who were previously excluded from the formal financial system, ENAF is proving that when the right financial tools are provided, the youth of Kenya are ready to lead the country's economic transformation.



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+254 727 910 000 / +254 738 910 000



Muchai Drive (Off Ngong Rd) P.O. BOX 55919, 00200 Nairobi, Kenya



info@enafrika.org



www.enafrikafoundation.org



[@ENAFrikaFDN](https://twitter.com/ENAFrikaFDN)