

February 2026

ENAF SPOTLIGHT

Caroline Kache, a Science teacher at Tunzanani Primary School, conducts a practical lesson using the ENAF Mobile Science Lab.
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ENAF's Transformation Model Gains World Stage Recognition



As Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) enters the threshold of March, the focus has shifted from internal strategy to demonstrating the scalability of our Pan-African model. This month, our mission reached an international audience through the BBC World Service, providing a powerful validation of our commitment to the economic agency of women and youth. We are no longer just setting a vision; we are leading a global conversation on dignified development.

BBC SPECIAL FEATURE: The Architect of Inclusion

In a featured interview on the BBC's Meet the Founder, President and CEO Dr. Jennifer Riria detailed the professional journey of building a world-class model for financial and social inclusion.

- **Shattering the "Non-Creditworthy" Myth:** Dr. Riria reflected on the early 1990s when systemic barriers excluded women from the economy, and how her leadership redefined creditworthiness for millions.
- **The "Micro-Capital" Revolution:** The feature highlighted ENAF's success in using targeted capital to transition individuals from casual labour to becoming sustainable job creators.
- **Beyond the Balance Sheet:** The broadcast emphasised that for ENAF, financial access is inseparable from "Social Uplift," ensuring that a woman's standing in her home and community rises alongside her income.

"In the early 90s, nobody thought a woman could borrow a loan in this country and repay. We changed that story." — Dr. Jennifer Riria

This international spotlight reinforces ENAF's record-breaking 94% cumulative performance result across our project portfolios. Through the "ENAF Without Borders" infrastructure, we continue to convert entrusted resources into measurable, life-changing impact with maximum efficiency as we scale our operations into the new month.

Dr. Jennifer Riria

President & Chief Executive Officer
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[Listen to the Full Interview](#)

ENAF Shatters The Silence on Kenya's Youngest Inmates



Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) has moved to the front lines of judicial reform with the launch of a high-stakes intervention designed to rescue infants from the shadows of Kenya's correctional facilities. On February 19, 2026, the Foundation unveiled a strategic program focused on protecting the fundamental rights of children under the age of four who are currently living behind bars due to their mothers' legal status.

While current statutes allow infants to stay with incarcerated mothers, the reality is that Kenyan prisons were engineered for punitive measures rather than early childhood development. ENAF is bridging this systemic gap with a comprehensive "Triple-Impact" model that transforms the environment for the child, the mother, and the facility staff.

As part of this rollout, the Foundation is distributing "Dignity Packs" containing essential hygiene items to help mothers maintain self-worth and physical health during their sentences. Simultaneously, infants are receiving specialized "Children's Packs" featuring nutrient-dense weaning foods, diapers, and protective clothing to combat the harsh conditions of concrete cells.

The cornerstone of the initiative is the "Legacy Project," which involves the construction of vibrant prison crèches. These dedicated zones allow children to escape the main cells and engage in play and education in a safe, colorful environment. To ensure the sustainability of these changes, ENAF is also providing gender-responsive training for prison wardens to foster empathy and child-friendly management within the facilities.

"A child should not serve their mother's sentence," stated Dr. Jennifer Riria, President and CEO of ENAF, during the launch. **"We are here to provide these families with a second chance".**

Despite the successful establishment of 12 "model" daycares in partnership with the State Department for Correctional Services, a staggering 32 of Kenya's 44 women's prisons remain without basic facilities for children. ENAF is now calling for a unified national response to reach "forgotten" facilities in remote regions like Wundanyi and Siaya, where young mothers and their children are most isolated.

The Foundation is inviting the private sector and individual stakeholders to join this movement. Whether through funding a crèche or sponsoring individual care packs, every contribution is a direct investment in breaking the cycle of systemic trauma.

Stakeholders can support the mission by funding a Dignity Pack for KES 1,000 or sponsoring a full Children's Pack for KES 50,000. Direct contributions can be made via Lipa na M-PESA Paybill 972800, using the account name "Mother & Baby".



Margaret Mutuma, Director at the State Department for Correctional Services, at the launch of the Mothers & Babies Behind Bars Programme.



Jennifer Riria, President and CEO of ENAF, addresses the audience during the launch event.



Andrine Bacco from ENAF presents the contents of the Dignity Packs.



Participants at the Launch listened intently to stories shared by formerly incarcerated women, who spoke about the challenges they encountered with their babies while behind bars.

ENAF Mobile Labs Spark Academic Revolution in Rural Schools



Caroline Kache, a Science teacher at Tunzanani Primary School prepares for a lab lesson for her students

A new era of scientific discovery is sweeping through Kenya's rural classrooms as Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) reports a dramatic surge in STEM performance following the deployment of its mobile laboratory units. Recent field assessments across Murang'a, Makueni, Kilifi, and Tana River have confirmed that transitioning from theoretical "dry practicals" to hands-on experimentation is fundamentally altering the career trajectories of young learners.

For years, the lack of infrastructure forced teachers in underserved regions to improvise classroom experiments using cut-up plastic water bottles in place of beakers. Since the delivery of specialized ENAF Mobile Science Labs to 16 schools across 14 counties, these makeshift tools have been replaced by professional-grade test tubes, tripod stands, and microscopes, igniting a newfound passion for discovery among students.

The data-driven impact of this intervention is becoming increasingly visible in local examination results. At Mung'etheele Primary School, the number of students achieving top scores in Integrated Science rose from zero to four within a single term of the lab's arrival. Beyond academic grades, the labs are acting as a powerful tool for student retention; at Tunzanani Primary School, dropouts fell significantly in 2025, a trend teachers attribute to heightened student motivation and the distribution of ENAF Dignity Packs.

The shift in student aspirations has been one of the most profound outcomes of the initiative. Learners who previously limited their career goals to traditional paths are now setting their sights on becoming doctors and specialized science educators. "I can touch these test tubes live," one student remarked, noting that the physical access to equipment has made daily school attendance a priority. These mobile units have also evolved into regional innovation hubs, with neighboring institutions increasingly seeking access to the facilities for their own practical sessions. The labs, which remain in excellent condition and are maintained with immense community pride, are proving to be a scalable solution for narrowing the gender and geographical gap in technical fields.

While ENAF celebrates these proven results, the Foundation warns that thousands of students still wait for similar opportunities. The success of this first phase has laid the groundwork for a nationwide expansion, provided that further support is secured to reach the next tier of underserved schools



Students at Kipini Primary School engage with the mobile laboratory equipment available at their school. Click the button below to view a documentary that explores the impact of mobile labs on educational institutions.

[Watch The Documentary](#)

ENAF Mobilises Nationwide Offensive to Eradicate FGM



On the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) launched an expansive grassroots campaign across fifteen counties to dismantle the cultural foundations of a practice that continues to threaten the dignity of the girl child. Shifting the focus from mere legal prohibition to community ownership, the Foundation's "dual-pronged" strategy targeted both the classroom and the most remote villages in Kenya to ignite a collective breaking of the silence.

In a specialized effort under the Girls Excel Initiative, sixteen Hesabu Club schools engaged Junior Secondary students in structured dialogues. Facilitators utilized the ENAF 2025 Abridged FGM Policy Booklet to demystify legal frameworks while exposing the grim reality of how the practice fuels school dropouts, child marriage, and teenage pregnancy. These sessions moved beyond discussing health risks to addressing the systemic theft of a girl's future and agency.

Simultaneously, the Kuza Jamii Project brought the message to Kenya's most isolated regions, including Marsabit, Isiolo, and Turkana. These forums were defined by a youth-led approach, utilizing performance art and skits to tackle complex gender-based violence issues. In Turkana South, over 1,200 participants gathered at the Lotiya Tree to witness a powerful dramatization by the Ngikonei Youth Group, which underscored the necessity of family strengthening and gender equality.

The impact of the youth-led movement was mirrored in Marsabit's LogLogo community and Isiolo, where the Napoki and Nasib Youth Groups reached over a thousand people. Their performances challenged long-standing gender roles and the tradition of child marriage, emphasizing a global theme of sustained investment in prevention.

While acknowledging that FGM remains a criminal offense in Kenya, ENAF President and CEO Dr. Jennifer Riria issued a compelling appeal for a deeper community commitment. She asserted that legislation alone is insufficient to protect girls from the devastating physical and emotional trauma that leads to life-threatening childbirth complications and long-term mental health challenges.

"Ending FGM is a shared responsibility," Dr. Riria noted, emphasizing that the eradication of this harmful tradition allows girls to finally grow in dignity and pursue their dreams in safety. As the campaign concluded, the Foundation urged citizens to utilize the national toll-free hotline, 1195, to report cases and ensure no girl faces these consequences alone.



In Meru County, a multi-stakeholder event was held bringing together health workers, development partners, and county and national government representative to mark the day.



Dr. Jennifer Riria Calls for "Sustained Commitment" to End FGM

ENAF President and CEO Dr. Jennifer Riria issued a compelling appeal for collective action to end FGM, asserting that legal prohibitions alone are insufficient to protect the girl child. In a powerful video message Dr. Riria emphasized that while the practice is a criminal offense in Kenya, its eradication requires a deep-seated community commitment to move beyond harmful traditions.

She highlighted the devastating physical and emotional trauma inflicted by FGM, noting that it leads to life-threatening childbirth complications, long-term mental health challenges, and in some cases, death. Dr. Riria further explained that the practice severely disrupts a girl's education limiting her future opportunities and dignity. By fostering community-led abandonment of FGM, Dr. Riria maintains that society can finally give every girl the chance to stay in school and pursue her dreams in safety.



JSS students at Dadachabasa School in Isiolo County celebrated the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

[Watch the Video](#)

ENAF Strengthens Environmental Stewardship with ESG and Emissions Strategy



Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) has achieved a significant milestone in environmental leadership following a specialized sustainability workshop designed to align its high-impact projects with global climate standards. Organized by MEDA and held last week in Kisumu, the intensive training focused on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions accounting. The sessions have equipped ENAF leadership with the technical expertise required to manage environmental impacts and social responsibility with greater precision. By integrating GHG emissions monitoring and ESG reporting frameworks, the Foundation is now better positioned to align its operations with international ISO standards. These metrics are increasingly recognized as vital criteria for effective donor engagement and regulatory compliance.

A primary focus of the training involved climate risk management and the direct integration of sustainability standards into project design. This specialized knowledge will be funneled into the Blue Economy and Climate Action Program Centre, which operates under the mandate of "Sustainable Livelihoods for a Greener Future". By embedding ESG considerations into the core of its strategy, ENAF ensures that its initiatives in aquaculture, agriculture, and clean energy achieve measurable reductions in environmental footprints while bolstering food security.

The impact of this technical advancement extends to ENAF's network of local implementing partners and women-led enterprises. The Foundation is now uniquely positioned to guide these businesses in adopting sustainable practices and reducing their own environmental impact. This move reinforces ENAF's commitment to inclusive, responsible development that protects both local livelihoods and the planet for the long term.



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

info@enafrika.org

www.enafrikafoundation.org

@ENAFrikaFDN