



Number 1 in Top 30 Executives

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ENAF

SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Jennifer Riria and ENAF were both recognized at the National Diversity and Inclusion Awards & Recognition (DIAR Awards).
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Double Victory for ENAF & Dr. Jennifer Riria at the 8th Edition DIAR Awards



Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) and President and CEO, Dr. Jennifer Riria, have been accorded top national honors at the 8th Edition of the National Diversity and Inclusion Awards & Recognition (DIAR Awards) held at the KICC.

In a standout recognition, Dr. Jennifer Riria was honored with the prestigious DIAR Board Leadership Taifa Patron rank, placing Number 1 out of Top 30 Executives. This marks the second time the DIAR Awards have recognized Dr. Riria for her transformative leadership, following her previous recognition for National Diversity and Inclusion. This distinguished honor is reserved for executive leaders who have demonstrated exceptional governance and visionary leadership in shaping Kenya's future through inclusion, equity, and sustainability.

Further cementing its impact, ENAF was ranked 13th among the DIAR Top 100 Taifa Organizations. This high-level national ranking validates ENAF's journey as a catalyst for development and its relentless work in dismantling systemic barriers for marginalized groups across all 47 counties.

This dual recognition at the DIAR Awards 8th Edition reinforces ENAF's position as a national leader in social transformation. With a presence in every county, the foundation remains committed to creating sustainable impact. For Dr. Riria and the entire ENAF team, these awards celebrate a legacy of ensuring that marginalized voices are leading Kenya's development agenda.

Dialogue is the Only Way: ENAF Champions Peace at #CSW70



Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) participated in the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW '70) in New York City. As the United Nations' largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, the CSW brings together global leaders, NGOs, and activists to agree on policies that advance the rights of women and girls worldwide.

During a high-level parallel event, ENAF President and CEO, Dr Jennifer Riria, joined global stakeholders to address the rising social costs of militarisation. Alongside experts in gender equality, legal aid, and fiscal policy, Dr Riria advocated for re-balancing military spending in favour of conflict resolution. Her message was clear: "Dialogue is not just a way. It is the only way!"

The session was hosted by the Baha'i International Community, the TAP Network, and the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF). The deliberations concluded with a collective agreement that re-balancing global budgets is essential to achieving lasting peace and social stability.

Dr Riria was accompanied to the commission by ENAF's Chief of Party, Mrs Sarah Muhoya. Throughout the event, the two met with various international partners to discuss matters of mutual interest and advance the foundation's mission of empowerment and sustainable development on the global stage.

ENAF Joins Global Leaders to Accelerate the End of FGM



During the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW '70) in New York City, Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) reaffirmed its commitment to the global movement against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). As the United Nations' premier gathering for gender equality, the CSW provides a vital global platform for policy-making and advocacy to protect the rights of women and girls.

Representing ENAF, President and CEO Dr Jennifer Riria joined anti-FGM champions from across the globe under a joint UNFPA-UNICEF initiative. This high-level gathering advocated for a zero-tolerance approach to FGM and focused on the essential protection of survivors. The event featured powerful insights from keynote speakers, including H.E. Giorgio Marrapodi, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, and Ms Fozzia Aden, a Kenyan-born FGM champion and survivor currently based in New York. The deliberations reached a stirring conclusion: while the challenge remains significant, the eradication of FGM is both possible and urgent. Dr Riria emphasised that ENAF remains convinced that the most effective approaches must be both multi-pronged and survivor-centred to ensure lasting change.

In line with the discussions, ENAF committed to strengthening its community-based strategies to end all forms of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). This includes tackling FGM, period poverty, early marriages, and teenage pregnancies, alongside promoting the uptake of STEM among girls to foster long-term independence and empowerment on the global stage.

A Legacy of Inclusion: How Kuza Jamii is Leaving Behind a New Social Fabric



Akuwam (L) reflects on how the Happy Family Tree has helped him transform decision-making in his family

Following the successful conclusion of the Kuza Jamii II project this past March, the social landscape across Kenya's ASAL counties reflects a profound evolution. In thousands of households, a quiet but deep revolution in gender roles, decision making, and cultural norms has taken root. This transformation is now a permanent fixture of these communities as they transition into a new chapter of self reliance.

Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) led the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) agenda within the Kuza Jamii project, working in partnership with Village Enterprise, GENCAD International, Smart Regional Consultants (SRC), and CHASP Advisory. Together, this consortium has reached a remarkable 31,985 participants with transformative GESI messaging to break the cycle of poverty through household unity.

From Isolated Survival to Collaborative Planning

The heart of this success lies in the Happy Family Tree, a diagnostic tool that Echo Network Africa Foundation deployed to help families move away from isolated planning toward a model of collaborative prosperity. For participants like Akuwam from the Ngamanat VSLA, the project provided the practical skills needed to transform household governance into a true partnership.

"Together, as a family, we sit down with my wife and our children to discuss everything that happens in our home," Akuwam reflects. "I used to manage our affairs alone, but I have learned that a home without a woman's voice is like a tree without roots. Now, we plan our finances and our children's education together."

Dismantling Cultural Barriers

The impact of Kuza Jamii is also seen in the shifting of rigid cultural norms. For Loljuk, a member of the Atalakaros Business Group, the project helped fade the cultural lines that once confined women strictly to domestic duties. By learning to work as equal partners, Loljuk and her husband have secured a more stable future for their business and their children.

"My husband now shares the weight of our home, feeding our child so that I can lead our business," Loljuk says. "We no longer see the shop as just my work, but as our family's future, and that unity has given us a stability we never thought possible."



Loljuk at her shop in Isiolo



Veronica at her shop in Isiolo

Building Intergenerational Resilience

This shift in gender roles is creating a permanent change in community values that spans generations. Veronica, an entrepreneur from the Echami Business Group, shares how this new mindset has empowered her despite physical challenges.

"My husband broke long standing cultural norms to build my shop as an extension of our home so I can work safely," Veronica notes. "Even my children and their spouses have learned to share the household chores, ensuring that our progress is something the whole family owns together."

A Sustainable Future

While the initiative officially closed in March, the legacy of Kuza Jamii II remains clear. It has moved beyond traditional economic aid to address the core of household governance, including access to and use of resources. With the support of UK International Development and the Government of Kenya, these 31,985 participants are now equipped with the tools to ensure that the next generation values inclusion as a cornerstone of community strength.

The journey of Kuza Jamii proves that when every family member is empowered to contribute to a shared vision, the entire community moves forward toward a more equitable and sustainable future.

Beyond the Pond: How GALS Training is Fostering Household Harmony in Siaya



"For years, I was walking in the dark. I would wake up, hawk my fruits, and come home not knowing if I had made a single shilling in profit or if I was just wasting my breath. My children were suffering, and we even had to send some away to relatives just to ensure they were fed. I felt like I was failing as a mother." These are the words of Beryl Atieno, a 34-year-old mother of five from Alego-Usonga whose life has undergone a radical transformation. What began as a desperate struggle to survive has turned into a thriving business at the Siaya Modern Market, proving that when women are empowered with the right tools, the ripple effect reaches the very heart of the home.

Beryl's journey is a testament to the impact of the Youth in Sustainable Aquaculture (YISA) program. The program is a strategic collaboration between the Mastercard Foundation, and a consortium of partners led by Farm Africa. Within this consortium, Echo Network Africa Foundation (ENAF) is responsible for establishing a gender-responsive revolving fund to ensure value chain actors have equal access to finance, moving them from subsistence to sustainable livelihoods.

Before joining the program, Beryl's family lived on the edge of poverty, relying on her husband's unreliable income as an informal hustler. The turning point came when she joined the Siaya Fish Cage Traders Group, a collective that allows members to bypass exploitative middlemen and access fish at subsidised prices.



Beryl interacts with a customer at her stall

While the program provides technical aquaculture skills, its most profound impact often lies in its focus on social inclusion and gender equity. Through ENAF, Beryl was equipped with specialised training in Business Development Skills (BDS) and the Gender Action Learning System (GALS).

GALS is a community-led empowerment methodology used by ENAF to help individuals and households negotiate for more equitable relationships and joint visioning. For Beryl, this wasn't just about fish; it was about the peace and stability of her household.

"I learned how to plan for my family and business. My husband and I now discuss our goals and work together, which has helped us use our income better and reduce conflicts at home," Beryl says. "The GALS training helped us align our goals and reduce household conflicts over money."

The results of this holistic approach are evident in Beryl's ledger. By applying financial literacy skills, she grew her initial investment of KES 1,500 into a stable enterprise. She has now graduated from selling omena (cyprinids) to high-value tilapia, bringing in a consistent daily profit of KES 1,000.

With the support of a KES 200,000 revolving loan fund facilitated by ENAF, Beryl is no longer just a trader; she is a visionary leader in her community.

"My vision is to grow my fish business so that I can supply large amounts of fish to big hotels and markets in towns like Nairobi and Mombasa," she explains. "I want my children to go to school comfortably and for my family to live a better life."

Through the YISA program, Echo Network Africa Foundation continues to demonstrate that sustainable aquaculture is not just about food security; it is a powerful vehicle for gender equality, economic independence, and stronger, more harmonious families.

Boda Boda Sector and Women Peace Champions Unite for Peace



In a strategic move to bolster community safety, 100 Boda Boda riders and their leaders from Kibra, Mathare, Dagoretti, Kamukunji, and Ruaraka joined Women Peace Champions to launch a new alliance against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). This Tuvuke initiative engagement transforms the transport sector from passive observers into active protectors within Nairobi's informal settlements.

The activity focused on equipping riders with technical knowledge to move from bystanders to first responders. By establishing clear referral and reporting pathways for GBV, the riders are now positioned as a vital link in the safety chain for women and girls. Participants also adopted an Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) framework, empowering them to identify and de-escalate potential conflicts on the ground before they arise.

A major milestone of the event was the introduction of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) guidelines. These mediation tools prepare riders to handle emerging peace issues within their ranks and the wider community. This capacity building culminated in the formal creation of ENAF Boda Boda Peace Champion Groups across all five sub-counties, ensuring the transport sector remains a permanent partner in progress.

The session concluded with a formal linkage meeting where the Women Peace Champions and the newly formed Boda Boda groups pledged to work in tandem. This partnership ensures that the message of Peace is carried into every household. As the riders returned to their stages, they did so with a renewed commitment to a singular mission: Peace Starts With Me.



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