

NEWSUPDATE

July - August 2025 Newsletter

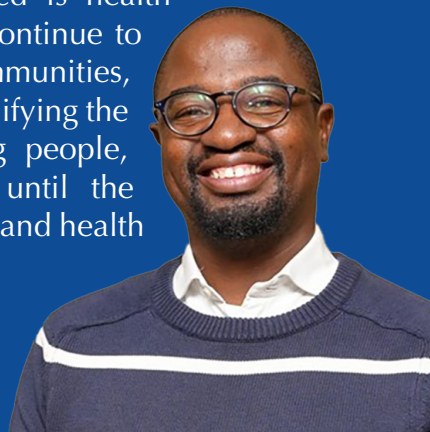


Message from the Executive Director

Every story we've shared in this edition carries one truth: rights must move from paper to people's lives. From courtrooms where reproductive justice is contested, to communities fighting for stronger health systems, to young people demanding a say in their future, our work shows that progress is possible when voices come together.

At KELIN, we remain guided by a simple conviction: justice delayed is health denied. That is why we continue to stand in courts, in communities, and in policy spaces, amplifying the voices of women, young people, and vulnerable groups, until the promise of dignity, equity, and health for all becomes reality.

Allan Maleche
Executive Director



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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Communities Leading the Fight Against DR-TB in Kenya

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Amplify survivor stories, End Obstetric Violence

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15 Years On: How Women's Voices Are Transforming Health and Governance in Kenya

Communities Leading the Fight Against DR-TB in Kenya

On July 2, KELIN launched Kenya's leg of the [COMBAT DR-TB project](#), a Global South-led push to cut drug-resistant TB deaths by harnessing community power. The project aligns WHO's new shorter, all-oral treatments with grassroots-driven demand, stigma reduction, and accountability.



From donor dependence to self-reliance

With donor funding shrinking, Uganda faces a \$500 million gap in its health commodities budget, putting HIV, TB, and maternal care at risk. At a National Dialogue on Access to Affordable Medicines in Kampala, leaders called for a bold shift from dependency to sustainability. [Read more](#)



Communities at the heart of the fight against TB

In August 2025, KELIN and TB Europe Coalition brought together partners from six countries for the [MAF-TB Interregional Meeting in Mombasa](#). At its core, MAF-TB turns global commitments into real, community-centered action, ensuring prevention, diagnosis, and treatment reach those who need them most.



Amplify survivor stories, End Obstetric Violence

On 31st July 2025, KELIN joined a national dialogue on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, convened by NANHRI. The discussions spotlighted obstetric violence, the triple threat of new HIV infections, adolescent pregnancies, and SGBV, as well as the urgent need for respectful maternity care. [Read more here](#)





15 Years On: How Women's Voices Are Transforming Health and Governance in Kenya

The 2010 Constitution transformed Kenya's governance, guaranteeing women a stronger role in Parliament and public life. In the past 15 years, they have championed health laws, shaped policies, and amplified community voices. Public participation has become a cornerstone of responsive governance. Yet, structural and political barriers still limit their full impact. [Full article](#)

Kenya's UPR Journey: From Strategy to Advocacy on the Right to Health

In July 2025, civil society conveners under Kenya's UPR Secretariat met to [strategize on advancing government commitments](#) from the country's 4th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle in Geneva, with KELIN participating as convener of the Right to Health Thematic Group.

Later that month, KELIN joined fellow CSOs under the Right to Health Thematic Group to [press for stronger accountability on Kenya's health-related obligations](#), following Kenya's reception of 339 recommendations, some accepted, others merely noted. While commitments on maternal health, UHC, and HIV were welcomed, gaps remained on issues like SRHR, decriminalization of abortion, and protection for marginalized groups.



Youth Voices at the Heart of Health Policy

Kenya's policies may outline ambitious goals for adolescent sexual and reproductive health, but real progress depends on how meaningfully young people are engaged in shaping them. At the 8th Pan-African RHNK Scientific Conference in Mombasa, KELIN amplified the call for stronger adolescent participation in shaping Kenya's sexual and reproductive health agenda. [Read More](#)



Responsible Media for SRHR

The media, often, shapes how society sees the world. Its framing often defines public perception, and with that power comes responsibility. To strengthen accurate, inclusive, and rights-based storytelling on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), KELIN, in partnership with Journalists for Human Rights (JHR), convened a roundtable bringing together journalists and civil society organizations for dialogue and collaboration. [More on this here.](#)



Challenging the Criminalization of SRHR in Africa

Across Africa, women, girls, and even healthcare providers face growing threats in accessing sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with anti-rights narratives increasingly targeting critical issues like safe and legal abortion. At the [8th Pan-African Adolescent and Youth SRHR Scientific Conference](#) in Mombasa, KELIN joined Afya na Haki (AHAKI), ICRW, and IPAS Alliance in a powerful panel discussion to spotlight these challenges and push back with evidence, solidarity, and rights-based



From Commemoration to Action: Protecting the African Child

The Day of the African Child is more than remembrance, it's a call to responsibility. In Kilifi, KELIN and partners marked the day with music, dialogue, and community engagement, turning awareness into action. Together with government and local voices, the commemoration highlighted barriers children still face in education, safety, and health while strengthening grassroots protections. [Read More](#)





Court Defers Ruling on Controversial Reproductive Health Policy

The fight for reproductive justice in Kenya is at a critical juncture. On July 25, [the High Court in Nairobi postponed its judgment](#) on a case challenging Kenya's National Reproductive Health Policy (2022–2032) to September 30. The petition argues the policy was rushed without meaningful public participation and contains exclusionary language that limits women and girls from fully realizing their reproductive health rights. As the country awaits the court's decision, the outcome could significantly shape the future of sexual and reproductive health in Kenya.

When Justice Waits, Lives Hang in the Balance

Court delays may look procedural on paper, but for families in search of justice, they reopen wounds and prolong accountability. The ongoing Bomet case on failures in emergency healthcare is a stark reminder that every adjournment is not just a legal pause, it's a setback for the constitutional right to life-saving treatment. As the hearing shifts to October, the fight extends beyond one family's tragedy to a national demand: that no Kenyan should ever be denied dignity or emergency care when it matters most. [More on the case.](#)



Thank you for your continued support and trust in our work. As we navigate the year ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing #Justice2Health.

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