

NEWSUPDATE

March - April 2025 Newsletter



Message from the Executive Director

During the past two months, we have walked alongside communities, partners, and institutions in advancing health and justice. From dialogues on reproductive health and maternal care, to celebrating women's leadership and calling for digital health equity, these moments have reminded us that progress comes from listening, learning, and working together.

We have also raised important questions, about accountability in health financing, access to justice through community-led approaches, and the need for inclusive policies that protect the most vulnerable. At the international and regional level, our collective voice has continued to highlight the gaps that must be closed to ensure dignity, equality, and care for all.

What gives me hope is the growing participation of young people, women, and communities who are leading change in their own spaces. Their voices inspire us to keep creating platforms where rights are not only spoken about but lived. Together, step by step, we are building a future where health and justice truly belong to everyone.

Allan Maleche
Executive Director

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Yes, we can achieve health justice

Health is a vital part of human life, and without proper healthcare, day-to-day living is severely impacted, especially for people living with HIV and those affected by TB.

On World TB Day, under the theme [“Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver”](#) KELIN confronted the Judiciary for failing to hold the government accountable over HIV and TB drug shortages. This followed the High Court of Kisumu’s dismissal of a 2023 petition filed by women living with HIV. Despite the setback, KELIN reaffirmed its commitment to stand in solidarity with all vulnerable Kenyans whose lives depend on an efficient and accountable healthcare system.



For Women, By Women

On 7 March 2025, KELIN joined women in Kilifi South to mark International Women’s Day under the theme [“Accelerate Action.”](#) A procession and dialogue brought together diverse generations to reflect on the journey toward equality and the urgent need to address gaps in leadership, healthcare access, and GBV response.

On 8 March in Mareneni, Kelin joined CSOs in engaging Kilifi County leaders, who acknowledged CSOs’ advocacy and highlighted investments in ambulances and health centers.



Safe and Accessible SRH Services

Unsafe abortion is a leading cause of maternal deaths in Kenya, yet stigma and systemic failures continue to deny women their constitutional right to care.

On 26 and 28 March 2025, Kelin held dialogues in Nairobi and Kiambu to confront barriers to sexual and reproductive health services. While Article 26(4) permits abortion in specific circumstances, many women are still denied post-abortion care and forced into unsafe options. More on this article [here](#).

Local solutions to a resilient health system in Africa

Between 5 - 7 March 2025, KELIN participated in the 16th NEAPACOH Meeting in Dar es Salaam, where parliamentarians, policymakers, and partners from 23 African countries explored how local solutions can strengthen health systems.

On a pre-conference panel, KELIN highlighted the role of strategic litigation in holding governments accountable for reproductive health violations and called for judicial victories to be translated into concrete legislative and budgetary reforms. [Find out more.](#)

Reproductive health for minors

Life-changing decisions are difficult even for adults, yet in Kakamega, two minors were given contraceptives without parental consent. Their guardians filed a petition challenging this practice, now referred to the Chief Justice for the appointment of an uneven-numbered bench of judges to hear and determine the matter. KELIN has joined the case as a 3rd party. While Petitioners claim the issue is of broad public interest, KELIN and other respondents argue that restricting minors' access to SRHR services would undermine their best interests and violate constitutional rights to health and information. The matter now awaits further directions once the bench is appointed. [Full article here.](#)

Justice on trial?

Between 24–26 February 2025, the High Court in Kericho heard a case seeking to bar the nomination and election of the intended Tegat Tea factory Director, John Chebockok, accused of failing integrity standards under Chapter 6 of the Constitution.

At its heart, the [Petition](#) highlights the widespread sexual harassment and violence endured by women in Kenya's tea farms, and questions the role of industry leaders in protecting workers. Testimonies revealed systemic failures and ongoing abuse, with the Court set to rule on key applications in March before hearings continue in May. More on the case [here.](#)

Dying to give birth



In Kenya, pregnancy can be a deadly journey, 594 mothers die for every 100,000 live births, many from preventable emergencies like hemorrhage, sepsis, or unsafe abortion. Though the Constitution guarantees the right to health, systemic neglect and failing emergency care, especially in rural areas, continue to turn childbirth into a life-threatening risk. [Read more here](#)

594 mothers die for every 100,000 live births in Kenya. Maternal healthcare is not a privilege to be rationed, it is a necessity!



Redefining Equality: Challenging Discriminatory Property Laws in Kenya

Divorce often leaves women economically worse off, as their non-monetary contributions, childcare, domestic work, caregiving, remain invisible in property disputes. At the heart of a [petition](#) now before the Court of Appeal is Section 7 of the Matrimonial Property Act (2013), which requires spouses to prove contribution before property can be divided. Petitioners argue this provision entrenches gender inequality, while the State maintains the law is neutral. [The case](#), which has faced repeated delays, was finally heard on 2 April 2025, with judgment expected on 26 September 2025.



Digital health revolution

Women's health is a nation's wealth, yet many in Kenya remain locked out of digital health solutions due to limited access, exclusion, and online violence. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed just how costly this digital divide can be. Through the Transform Health Kenya Coalition, women across Nairobi, Kisumu, Narok, and Bungoma are changing that story. From community dialogues to training Digital Health Champions, they are demanding e-Health laws, holding leaders accountable, and [shaping solutions that meet their realities](#).

In February 2025, KELIN joined partners in Geneva to brief the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the risks of Kenya's rapid digitalization in health and social security.

Through the Transform Health Kenya Coalition, Women have begun demanding for e-Health laws, holding leaders accountable, and shaping solutions that meet their realities.

Digital Health in Kenya: Addressing human rights concerns

The joint submission highlighted gaps in digital health laws, weak data protection, surveillance risks for women and girls living with HIV, and flaws in national ID systems that could entrench exclusion. Partners urged Kenya to adopt a human rights-based framework for digital health, ensure privacy safeguards, and guarantee safe access to sexual and reproductive health information. [More of this blog here.](#)



Ctrl + Alt + Reform: Digital health rights



In March 2025, KELIN joined civil society partners in a Digital Governance Survey and training led by Mzalendo Trust and Oxfam, focused on safety, frameworks, and emerging trends. With Kenyans spending nearly four hours daily on social media, well above the global average, the need for stronger digital rights protections is urgent.

[Findings revealed](#) persistent gaps: gender disparities in internet access, weak regulation of digital health, and limited inclusivity for marginalized groups.



Audit Report Exposes Billions Lost in SHA Scandal

On 5 March 2025, KELIN raised alarm over the Auditor General's report revealing irregularities in the Ksh. 104 billion Social Health Authority (SHA) system. The findings expose illegal single-sourcing, lack of public participation, and opaque fund management, with deductions from members' contributions funneled into undisclosed escrow accounts. This just highlights the sad reality on how health services are not inaccessible due to lack of resources but because of misappropriated resources. Read more [here](#).

Strengthening Alternative Justice Systems in Kisumu

On 13–14 March 2025, KELIN partnered with the Judiciary and civil society actors to train 20 practitioners on the [Alternative Justice System \(AJS\) Policy](#) and Kisumu County Action Plan. The workshop built capacity, fostered synergies, and prepared champions to roll out AJS models at community level. AJS offers communities quicker, restorative paths to resolve disputes, especially for women, children, and other vulnerable groups.



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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