

NEWSUPDATE

May - June 2025 Newsletter



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

+ Promoting physical activity

+ Carrying Voices to WHA78

+ A Push for Human Rights Progress after Kenya's 4th UPR

+ KELIN Champions Health Rights at UN Review in Geneva

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Partner,

The past two months have reminded us why our work remains urgent. From the tragic denial of emergency care for Diana Chepng'eno to Kenya's missed opportunities in its UPR commitments, it is clear that systemic failures continue to cost lives and undermine rights. Yet, even in the face of these challenges, our resolve grows stronger.

This newsletter reflects our collective action: from advocating at the World Health Assembly, to supporting adolescent mothers, empowering youth, and advancing critical SRHR reforms across East Africa. We are also highlighting and challenging harmful Intellectual Property deals, while working to shift healthcare provider attitudes to ensure that care is delivered with dignity and compassion.

Let this issue serve as a reminder: the fight for health and human rights is far from over. But through collective action and solidarity, change is not only possible, it is happening. As we move forward, may we do so with courage, clarity, and conviction.

Allan Maleche
Executive Director

A Life Lost, A System Questioned

Emergency healthcare is a constitutional right in Kenya, yet systemic failures continue to cost lives. [KELIN is supporting Petition E002 of 2025](#), seeking justice for Diana Chepng'eno, who died after allegedly being denied emergency care at Longisa County Referral Hospital. Despite adjournments, the High Court has warned against further delays, and the case is set to continue on 16 July 2025.



Promoting physical activity

In May, the Ministry of Health, supported by KELIN and partners, [launched the Physical Activity Policy Brief](#). The brief emphasizes physical activity as a shared responsibility for preventing non-communicable diseases, improving mental well-being, and ensuring equitable health outcomes.



Carrying Voices to WHA78

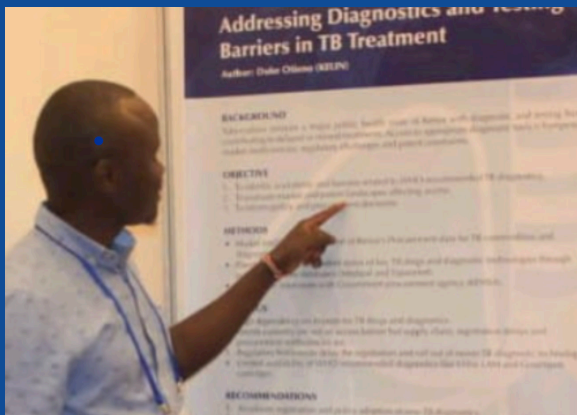
KELIN and the Kenya Community Advisory Team member were present at the 78th World Health Assembly, where [Cindy Amaiza amplified Kenyan youth voices](#), challenging corporal punishment, championing people-centered UHC, and launching the *Paying the Costs of Connection* report. Her call was clear: global health must be built with communities, not just for them.



The Hidden Costs of Health Care

Our latest analysis warns that the proposed Kenya–UAE Free Trade Agreement risks raising the cost of medicines by introducing TRIPS-plus provisions. With rising costs and shrinking aid, Kenya cannot afford to compromise affordable access to generics. [Read the full article here](#).





Tech Meets TB

The 2nd Conference on Innovations in TB 2025 showcased Africa's leadership in redefining the TB response. KELIN's role in presenting data underscored how research must drive policy and procurement to save lives. Duke Otieno, a program officer in the HIV, TB thematic area presented an abstract on the 12th of May 2025 in Windhoek Namibia. Read all about it [here](#).

Local Solutions to Inaccessible treatments

As donor support declines, Senegal faces critical vulnerabilities in its health system. In Dakar, KELIN and partners shared findings urging locally driven solutions to sustain access to HIV, TB, and cancer treatments amid shifting global funding. [Read more here](#).



Stronger Protections for Adolescents

Meaningful progress in protecting adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Africa requires bold legal reforms, inclusive education policies, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. KELIN supported the [validation of a regional Policy Brief on adolescent SRHR](#). The brief emphasizes reforms to reduce teenage pregnancy, HIV, and defilement, marking a vital step toward strengthening protections across Africa.

Support That Secures the Future

In Nairobi's informal settlements, adolescent mothers face multiple barriers. KELIN joined a civil society workshop convened by the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), exploring interventions such as conditional cash transfers, subsidized childcare, and mothers' clubs, promising holistic support for young mothers and their children. Read the full update [here](#).

A Score for Health

In Kisumu, KELIN partnered the Ministry of Health and civil society organizations in commemorating the International Day of the African Child with a basketball tournament that engaged over 200 adolescents and young people, linking sports with SRHR education, mental health awareness, and career guidance. The event focused on promoting mental and reproductive health among young people. [Read more here.](#)



A Push for Human Rights Progress after Kenya's 4th UPR

On June 4, 2025, KELIN joined fellow civil society organizations under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Thematic Group to advocate for stronger accountability on Kenya's human rights commitments, especially in the area of SRHR. During its 4th Universal Periodic Review, Kenya accepted key human rights recommendations but failed to commit to critical SRHR reforms. [Read the full update here.](#)

Political Will: The Missing Link in East Africa

Commitments alone are not enough. KELIN continues to push for sustained political will and enforcement of SRHR frameworks in East Africa. KELIN hosted a regional dialogue on advancing SRHR in East Africa where discussions highlighted the need and importance of regional collaboration and accountability. [Read more here.](#)





No One Way to Be a Family

Families today are diverse; from single-parent households to blended homes, and beyond. KELIN affirms that all families deserve recognition, protection, and support, and laws must reflect this reality. To emphasize this, we issued a press statement to commemorate the International Day of Families, [calling for more inclusive policies.](#)

KELIN Champions Health Rights at UN Review in Geneva

While Kenya accepted 232 UPR recommendations, implementation remains the true test. Health financing, access to SRHR, and support for marginalized communities must move from commitments into concrete action. KELIN addressed these concerns during the 4th cycle UPR in Geneva. [Here is a full update.](#)



Advocating for Just, Safe and Respectful Healthcare for Women and Girls

Healthcare providers' attitudes profoundly affect SRHR services. Through training and values clarification, KELIN continues to work toward reducing stigma, ensuring care that is rights-affirming, empathetic, and dignified, particularly for women and girls in vulnerable situations. Read about our Values Clarification and Attitudes Transformation (VCAT) session [here.](#)



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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