

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

From Law to Lived Reality: Advancing
Health and Human Rights







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Our 2025 feature – Rhoda's story

Rhoda's Story: From Silence to Strength



When Rhoda Wekesa lost her husband, she did not just lose a partner. She was suddenly thrust into a battle for her dignity, her safety, and her right to remain on the land she called home.

In the days that followed his death, members of her husband's family descended on her with demands rooted in deeply harmful traditions. She was told she had to be "inherited"—forced into a sexual relationship in the name of ritual cleansing.

"They wanted to cleanse me through forced sex," Rhoda says quietly. "I refused."

Her refusal came at a cost.

One Sunday, she went to church seeking comfort and prayer. When she returned, her house was gone—razed to the ground. Everything she owned lay in ruins. The message was clear: comply, or be erased.

That moment could have broken her. Instead, it became the turning point.

Through a referral, Rhoda found her way to KELIN. What followed was not just legal support, but solidarity. KELIN walked with her through both formal legal processes and Alternative Justice Systems that engaged

traditional elders, challenging injustice without abandoning culture, and insisting that dignity and rights must come first. Step by step, her case was heard. Her land was restored. Her voice grew stronger.

Justice, when it finally came, was not quiet.

It came in the form of reclaimed land, public accountability, and a woman who now stood taller than before. Rhoda did not simply survive; she rose. With knowledge of the law, confidence in her worth, and the backing of her community, she became a widow champion, standing beside other women facing the same threats she once endured.

Her journey inspired [The Widow Champion](#), a short film that captures what happens when courage meets collective action, and when justice systems, formal and traditional, are reshaped to serve people, not punish them. Rhoda's story proves that Alternative Justice

Systems can work when they are grounded in human rights, community accountability, and the unwavering belief that women belong: on their land, in their homes, and in leadership.

Today, Rhoda is no longer a woman fighting alone against dispossession. She is a voice for widows' rights, a defender of women's property and inheritance rights, and a living testament to what people-centred justice can achieve.

KELIN is proud to have walked alongside Rhoda and many other widow champions whose courage continues to ripple through their communities. Their victories remind us that justice is not abstract—it is lived, defended, and claimed. And when one woman wins, the ground shifts for many more.

To stay updated on our work in women land and Property Rights, follow: [Securing Your Family's Future](#)



Fig 1: (From Right to Left) Rhoda Nafula Wekesa, Director Zippy Kimundu, Elder Kasuku and Allan Maleche at the Widow Champion Premiere in Nairobi

Message from the Board Chair



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to present KELIN's 2025 Annual Report, which reflects a year of strategic engagement, institutional resilience, and sustained commitment to advancing the right to health and health-related human rights.

The year 2025 unfolded within a challenging and evolving policy and civic environment. Amid shifting legal, political, and public health dynamics, KELIN remained steadfast in its mission to promote accountability, equity, and meaningful participation in health governance. The organisation continued to provide principled leadership, grounded in evidence, partnerships, and community realities.

During the year under review, KELIN strengthened its role as a trusted voice in health and human rights advocacy. Through research, policy engagement, strategic communications, capacity strengthening, and support to advocacy and accountability processes, the organisation contributed to shaping national and regional conversations on health justice. These efforts reaffirm KELIN's conviction that sustainable change is achieved through collaboration, informed advocacy, and strong institutions.

As Board Chair, I commend the KELIN Team for its professionalism, dedication, and integrity in delivering on KELIN's mandate. The team's commitment ensured effective programme implementation, prudent financial management, and adherence to high standards of governance and accountability. I also extend sincere appreciation to our partners, networks, and funders whose continued trust and collaboration are central to our work.

Looking ahead, the Board remains committed to strengthening KELIN's governance, institutional sustainability, and strategic focus. We are confident in the organisation's ability to navigate emerging challenges and seize opportunities while remaining anchored in its vision of a society where everyone enjoys the highest attainable standard of health.

I invite you to read this report as a reflection of our collective efforts and shared responsibility, and I look forward to continued collaboration as we advance KELIN's mission in the years ahead.

Ambrose Rachier

Message from the Executive Director



The year 2025 was a defining one for KELIN. It reaffirmed the power of sustained advocacy, strategic litigation, and community-centred engagement in advancing health and human rights in Kenya.

Throughout the year, KELIN remained steadfast in its mission to promote accountability, equity, and access to justice within the health system. At a time of shifting policy landscapes and persistent systemic challenges, our work focused on ensuring that laws, policies, and practices respond to the lived realities of individuals and communities.

One of the most significant milestones of 2025 was the strengthening of legal and policy accountability through strategic litigation and advocacy. Our engagements contributed to important judicial outcomes that reaffirmed constitutional protections, upheld access to reproductive health information and services, and clarified the obligations of state actors. These victories were not only legal successes, but critical affirmations of dignity, autonomy, and the rule of law.

Our impact in 2025 was made possible through strong partnerships locally, regionally, and globally. We are grateful to our partners, funders, and allies who continue to believe in a people-centred approach to health governance.

As we move into 2026, KELIN remains committed to building a health system that is just, inclusive, and accountable. The lessons from 2025 reinforce our resolve to advocate boldly for a future where everyone can access quality health care without discrimination or fear.

Thank you for being part of this important work.

Allan Maleche

Introduction

In 2025, KELIN continued to advance its mission of protecting health and human rights through strategic litigation, advocacy, research, and community engagement. Operating in an increasingly complex policy, funding, and social environment, KELIN strengthened accountability for the right to health, expanded access to justice for marginalized communities, and challenged structural barriers that undermine sexual and

reproductive health and rights, access to medicines, and equitable healthcare delivery.

This report highlights KELIN's key interventions and impact during the year, reflecting a sustained commitment to people-centered, rights-based solutions that place dignity, equity, and justice at the heart of health systems in Kenya and across the region.

We Litigate!

We use the courts strategically to clarify state obligations, challenge unlawful practices, and drive long-term systems change.



Figure 2: RH policy petitioners in court after submissions

KELIN used strategic litigation to safeguard constitutional protections, strengthen accountability in public health governance, and advance long-term systemic change for marginalized communities. Across reproductive health, HIV, and healthcare accountability, litigation remained a critical tool for clarifying state obligations, challenging unlawful practices, and setting rights-affirming precedents.

“This decision sends a clear message that public authorities cannot police reproductive health through unlawful directives. Regulation must be grounded in law, due process, and respect for constitutional rights especially where women’s health and lives are at stake.”

—Catherine Namulanda, Advocate, KELIN, commenting on the judgment in Petition No. 428 of 2018

Advancing reproductive justice through constitutional clarity

On 2 October 2025, KELIN and partners secured a partial but significant victory in the case challenging the National Reproductive Health Policy 2022–2032. By striking down a provision requiring consideration of the “health of the unborn child,” the High Court reaffirmed the supremacy of Article 26(4) of the Constitution and strengthened legal protections for women’s reproductive autonomy. Although questions on adolescent access and inclusive public participation remain unresolved, the decision curtailed the use of vague policy language to restrict lawful abortion care.

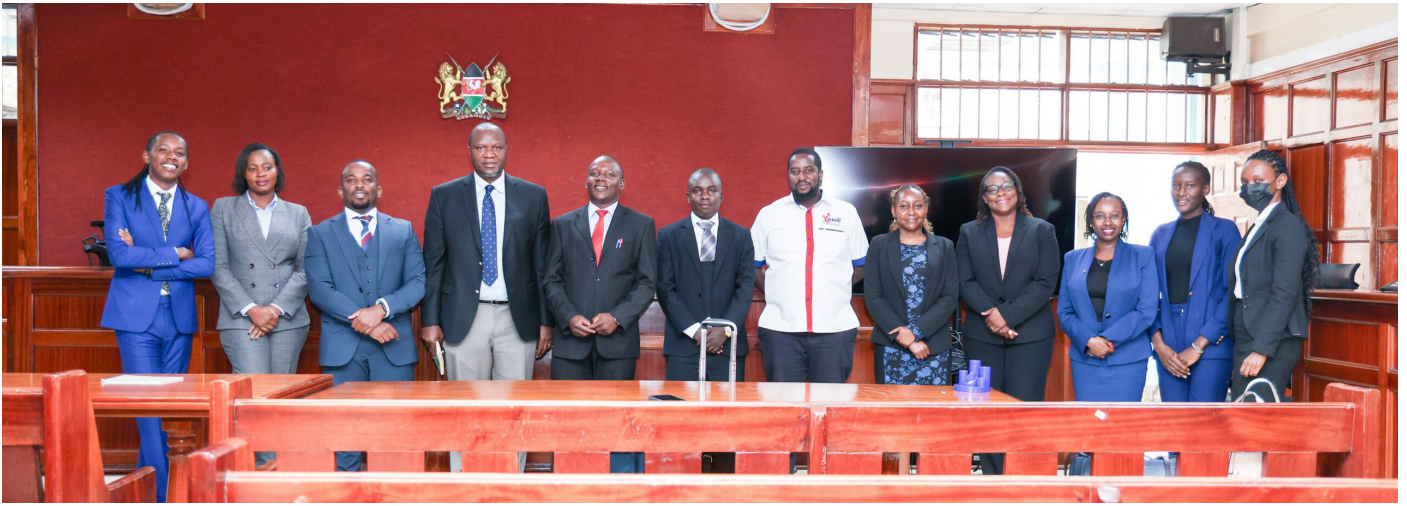


Figure 3: Petitioners in court after judgement

This momentum was reinforced on 18 December 2025, when the High Court issued a landmark judgment quashing unlawful directives that restricted access to reproductive health information, abortion, and post-abortion care. In [Petition No. 428 of 2018 - Network for Adolescents and Youth of Africa & Another v Attorney General & Others](#), the Court reaffirmed that reproductive health regulation must comply with constitutional standards, due process, and the rule of law. KELIN's participation as the 6th Interested Party underscored the centrality of access to information and services to the right to health and set an important precedent against executive overreach.

KELIN also sustained strategic engagement in ongoing SRHR cases, reflecting a long-term commitment to shaping jurisprudence, including:

- Admission as amicus curiae in [Attorney General & Others v PAK & Another](#) to support constitutional access to safe abortion
- Interested party in [R.F. & Another v Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health & 7 Others](#) challenging parental consent requirements for minors accessing contraceptives
- Petition [E006 of 2024](#) addressing sexual harassment and violence against women on tea farms, with judgment expected 18 December 2025

Protecting the rights of people living with HIV

Strategic litigation also exposed persistent accountability gaps in HIV service delivery. In [Petition E008 of 2023 \(Kisumu\)](#), women living with HIV—supported by KELIN and other civil society actors—challenged chronic antiretroviral shortages arising from donor dependency and weak supply systems. Although the High Court dismissed the petition, the case documented systemic failures and highlighted the limitations of progressive realization where essential medicines are concerned, reinforcing the urgency of sustainable, rights-based HIV treatment frameworks. The matter has been appealed.



Figure 4: Team of Litigators representing the petitioners outside the Kisumu Law Courts

In contrast, [Petition E028 of 2022](#) delivered a landmark anti-discrimination ruling when the High Court found that the Kenya Defence Forces unlawfully dismissed a recruit on the basis of HIV status. The judgment affirmed constitutional guarantees of equality, dignity, fair labour practices, and fair administrative action, and ordered the KDF to develop and publish a compliant HIV policy—setting a critical precedent against institutional discrimination.



Figure 5: Petition E028 of 2022 press release

Strengthening accountability in healthcare systems

KELIN also advanced litigation aimed at structural reform within healthcare systems. As the 1st Interested Party in [Petition E002 of 2025](#) Independent Medico-Legal Unit & Joan Cherotich v Longisa County Referral Hospital & 4 Others, KELIN is pursuing accountability

for a preventable child death linked to systemic emergency care failures. Despite procedural delays, the case seeks structural orders to compel the development and implementation of emergency care policies, referral protocols, and standard operating guidelines; measures essential to preventing future loss of life. Judgment is scheduled for 18 March 2026.

Collaborations for Health Justice

KELIN leveraged strategic partnerships to advance systemic change in health and human rights, using collaboration as a means to strengthen accountability, expand advocacy reach, and anchor community-centered approaches within health systems.

At the national and regional level, KELIN formalized a strategic partnership with the Zamara Foundation through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at advancing health-related human rights in Kenya and the wider region. This partnership goes beyond



Fig 6: Team KELIN and Zamara during the signing of the MoU

programmatic collaboration to create a shared framework for long-term impact in joint advocacy, institutional strengthening, digital health rights, and the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). By integrating KELIN's legal and policy expertise with Zamara Foundation's resources and networks, the partnership strengthens community-led initiatives and enhances access to information, contributing to more equitable and rights-based health systems.

At the regional and global level, KELIN strengthened its leadership in tuberculosis (TB) accountability by [co-hosting the MAF-TB Interregional Meeting](#) with the

TB Europe Coalition under the Unitaaid-supported COMBAT-TB project. This strategic collaboration convened partners from Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia, reinforcing KELIN's role as a bridge between regional movements and global accountability processes. The partnership enabled cross-country learning on multisectoral TB accountability, elevated community perspectives in policy discussions, and demonstrated that coordinated political commitment, strong governance, and community engagement can drive equitable access to TB prevention, diagnosis, and treatment across diverse contexts.



Fig 7: Combat DR-TB consortium partners inception meeting

We Advocate!

We shape policy and public discourse by centering evidence, community realities, and human rights in decision-making spaces.



Figure 8: COMBAT DR-TB Consortium members at the Union World Conference on Lung Health 2025

KELIN advanced its role as a regional and global convener by strategically co-hosting and shaping advocacy spaces that influenced policy discourse, strengthened accountability, and amplified community and rights-based perspectives within health and human rights agendas.

At the Union World Conference on Lung Health 2025 in Copenhagen (18–21 November), KELIN co-hosted and convened the COMBAT DR-TB Consortium alongside the TB Europe Coalition (TBEC), Global Health Partnerships Plus (GHPP), and Jointed Hands. The engagements positioned community leadership and human rights at the center

of global responses to drug-resistant tuberculosis, reinforcing the importance of sustained investment in community systems as a prerequisite for effective biomedical innovation. By elevating evidence from Kenya and other high-burden settings, the convenings contributed to greater recognition of shorter treatment regimens, community-based care, and accountability mechanisms as essential to equitable TB outcomes. The advocacy reinforced collective commitments to people-centered strategies and strengthened cross-regional solidarity in the fight to end TB.

KELIN also co-hosted and actively shaped advocacy engagements at the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), advancing gender justice, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Through strategic convenings with partners, KELIN contributed to the launch of Lives on the Line, a documentation initiative exposing human rights violations against sexual and gender minorities in Kenya, and facilitated dialogues on state obligations for prevention, accountability, and redress. The engagements elevated critical issues including health financing barriers, obstetric violence, and survivor-centered justice, while



Figure 9: Team KELIN at the 85th ACHPR session

amplifying marginalized voices within continental human rights processes.

The Silent Labour Pains, a documentary produced by KELIN in partnership with Katiba Institute was premiered during the session.

At the 8th Pan-African Adolescent and Youth SRHR Scientific Conference, KELIN engaged as a strategic advocate to advance meaningful youth participation in policy-making and access to comprehensive SRHR services. The convening provided a critical platform to link adolescent SRHR to broader development outcomes and to challenge the continued criminalization of SRHR across Africa, including colonial-era legal frameworks that drive unsafe abortion and maternal mortality. KELIN emphasized the role of evidence-based advocacy and Afro-centric reproductive justice litigation in advancing legal and policy reform and protecting adolescent rights.



Figure 10: Team KELIN after an interactive session at the RHNK conference

At the 16th NEAPACOH Meeting in Dar es Salaam, KELIN provided strategic leadership in high-level advocacy dialogues with parliamentarians and health experts from 23 African countries to advance the ICPD agenda and Universal Health Coverage (UHC). KELIN shaped discussions on the role of strategic litigation in advancing reproductive justice, emphasizing the responsibility of parliaments to translate judicial decisions into concrete legislative, budgetary, and oversight action. Through this leadership,

KELIN contributed to strengthening political accountability, addressing persistent ICPD implementation gaps, and centering the rights and health needs of women and girls. The meeting culminated in the adoption of the Dar es Salaam Call to Action (2025), committing participants to integrate reproductive justice into national frameworks, increase investment in primary healthcare and SRHR, and accelerate progress toward UHC.



Figure 11: Participants posing during session marking World Contraceptives Day and International Safe Abortion Day

KELIN continued to champion sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) by combining legal advocacy with community-centered engagement to address stigma, misinformation, and systemic barriers to care. In partnership with the Reproductive Health Champions Organization (RHCO), KELIN marked World Contraceptives Day and International Safe Abortion Day through

inclusive dialogues that brought together young people, parents, and religious leaders. These conversations confronted silence and misconceptions surrounding pregnancy, contraception, and abortion, while highlighting the importance of rights-based, inclusive, and compassionate maternal healthcare.

Advancing Health and Human Rights through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 2025



Figure 12: KELIN and CSO partners at the Geneva Kenya Mission with the Ambassador

In 2025, KELIN leveraged the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as a strategic advocacy platform

to strengthen state accountability for Kenya’s human rights obligations, with a focus on the right to health and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Through active engagement in Kenya’s 4th UPR cycle, KELIN helped elevate priority health concerns within international human rights scrutiny at a time of increasing fiscal and donor pressures.

At the UPR pre-session in Geneva, KELIN engaged diplomatic missions and UN agencies alongside 23 Kenyan civil society organizations, grounding advocacy in the Right to Health CSO Stakeholder Report submitted in October 2024. The engagement amplified six priority areas—health financing, HIV prevention, TB treatment, SRHR, mental health, and digital health—ensuring these issues were reflected in recommendations directed at the Kenyan government.

KELIN’s advocacy emphasized the urgency of increasing health financing to at least 5% of GDP and ensuring equitable, transparent implementation of the Social Health Insurance Fund, particularly in the context of shifting global donor support. Direct engagement

with Kenya’s Permanent Mission to the UN strengthened government responsiveness to concerns on donor dependency and reinforced commitments to uphold health rights through sustainable, domestically anchored financing.

Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in 2025

Sexual and reproductive health and rights are foundational to dignity, equality, and well-being across the life course. In 2025, KELIN advanced SRHR through sustained legal advocacy, community dialogue, policy engagement, and capacity building, with a focus on informed choice, bodily autonomy, and equitable access to quality health services.

At a national multi-stakeholder meeting on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive

Health and Rights (ASRHR), convened by NANHRI, we engaged civil society, duty bearers, media, and interfaith leaders on challenges such as obstetric violence, the “triple threat” of adolescent pregnancy, HIV, and gender-based violence, and the intersectionality of these issues with mental health. KELIN’s advocacy emphasized the need for African human rights mechanisms to guide CSO engagement and policy reforms. Complementing this, a workshop with journalists promoted responsible, rights-based reporting on SRHR, highlighting the media’s role in shaping public discourse and addressing misinformation, especially on safe abortion.

Advocating for Adoption of the Kenya Nutrient Profile Model

Creating healthier food environments is essential to the realization of the right to health and the right to food and the prevention of diet-related diseases. In 2025, KELIN intensified advocacy efforts to support the adoption of the Kenya Nutrient Profile Model, focusing on strengthening legal, policy, and civil society capacity to advance evidence-based nutrition regulation and accountability.

In 2025, KELIN strengthened advocacy for healthy diets and the right to food through a series of national and international capacity-building and advocacy initiatives. KELIN provided technical support for a Nairobi-based workshop on the Right to Food, bringing together consumer rights lawyers, civil society



Figure 13: Participants during capacity building on the rights to food posing after workshop

actors, and legal experts. Participants explored comparative lessons from South Africa and India, focusing on principles such as reasonableness, progressive realization, and continuing to hold governments accountable for ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and adequate food.



Figure 14: 1st Pan-African Litigation Symposium

These efforts complemented KELIN’s ongoing work to equip civil society actors with the knowledge and skills to monitor, influence, and implement nutrition policies. At the 1st Pan-African Litigation Symposium in Morocco and the Cross-Regional Civil Society Forum in Kampala, participants received targeted training on legal, ethical, and human rights frameworks guiding healthy diet promotion, regulation of ultra-processed foods, and protection against predatory marketing.

Additionally, the “Ultra-Processed Food Wars” webinar provided 45 advocates with practical tools to identify, document, and litigate violations of food environment policies, enhancing evidence collection, legal advocacy, and stakeholder engagement. Collectively, these initiatives reinforced KELIN’s mission to promote healthier food environments, prevent non-communicable diseases, and translate constitutional and human rights guarantees into tangible outcomes for all Kenyans.



Figure 15: Cross-regional forum for civil society

We Hold Accountable!

We push institutions to meet their legal and ethical duties by demanding transparency, equity, and people-centred health systems.



Figure 16: Pauline Omoto giving closing remarks at the Roadmap to 2030: Health for All in the Digital Age Conference

Accountability in Health, Access to Medicines and Digital Health

In 2025, KELIN exercised leadership in holding health systems accountable to their obligations to deliver equitable access to medicines, protect digital rights, and uphold health sovereignty. In the face of growing legal, financial, and technological pressures, KELIN shaped policy and advocacy agendas that centered rights, transparency, and community participation—ensuring that innovation and reform translated into real and lasting health outcomes.

Transform Health Kenya

Through its leadership within the Transform Health Kenya Coalition, KELIN strengthened accountability in Kenya’s digital health transition by supporting the validation of the Roadmap to 2030: Health for All in the Digital Age. This work anchored digital health expansion within clear governance and oversight frameworks, reducing the risk of exclusion, misuse of data, and weak accountability. By convening county-level actors around practical governance tools, KELIN built the capacity of public institutions to deliver digital health systems that are inclusive, transparent, and responsive to community needs.



Figure 17: DHRP consortium members at the WHA

Digital Health and Rights Project

At the global level, KELIN advanced accountability in digital health governance through strategic advocacy at the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA78), elevating youth and community voices in debates on Universal Health Coverage, health financing, and emerging public health challenges. Through the Digital Health and Rights Project, KELIN reinforced that digital health strategies must respect privacy, ensure equitable access, and enable meaningful participation. The engagement contributed to shaping global discourse toward people-centered and rights-based digital health frameworks.

KELIN held governments and regional actors accountable for ensuring sustained access to essential medicines and protecting public health interests in trade and financing

decisions. In Kenya, KELIN led civil society advocacy challenging TRIPS-plus provisions in the Kenya–UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), highlighting the risks such provisions pose to affordable generics and progress toward Universal Health Coverage. While the agreement was ratified without safeguards, the advocacy elevated public health considerations within trade discourse and strengthened scrutiny of future trade negotiations.

KELIN advanced policy advocacy on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR) by shaping the validation of the Policy Brief on the Guiding Principles of Children’s Rights and ASRHR. Through this engagement, KELIN pressed for adolescent access to contraceptives and comprehensive sexuality education, while reinforcing the need to harmonize domestic laws with continental and international human rights standards.

We Convene!

We bring together communities, policymakers, and allies to break silos, build shared agendas, and advance collective accountability.



Figure 18: Access to medicines partners during dialogue session in Senegal

Regionally, KELIN convened strategic dialogues in Senegal and Uganda to confront structural vulnerabilities linked to donor dependence and fragile supply chains. By bringing together policymakers, civil society, and technical experts, KELIN reinforced accountability for domestic investment, local production, and legal and policy reform as essential to health sovereignty. These engagements advanced collective commitment to resilient, equitable access to HIV, TB, and other essential medicines across the region.

KELIN further demonstrated convening

leadership at ICASA 2025 by co-hosting a satellite session with the DHRP Consortium and youth advisory teams from Kenya and Ghana, placing youth leadership at the center of digital health governance within the HIV response. Grounded in evidence from the multi-country Paying the Costs of Connection study, the dialogue exposed how weak digital governance fuels privacy violations, stigma, and exclusion. By amplifying youth-defined priorities, including enforceable data protection and privacy by design, KELIN helped drive accountability for rights-respecting digital health systems across Africa.



Figure 19: Group photo of CAT members, DHRP members and some delegates during a session at ICASA 2025

KELIN also exercised its convening power to strengthen regional accountability for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) by bringing together policymakers, independent experts, and advocates across the East African Community. By convening a high-level multi-stakeholder dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health and Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, KELIN created a critical space for aligning legal and policy responses to persistent SRHR barriers. The dialogue underscored the urgency of harmonized regional frameworks, inclusive legislation, and effective enforcement mechanisms to advance SRHR and uphold the right to health across East Africa.



Figure 20: Participant and members of the East African Legislative assembly posing during Regional Dialogue on Advancing SRHR in East Africa

We marked International Women’s Day 2025 in Kilifi County, engaging women across generational groups to reflect on persistent inequalities, gender-based violence, and gaps in access to health services. The events featured dialogues with county leadership, emphasized inclusion of intersex persons, and showcased KELIN’s ongoing advocacy through IEC materials and campaigns promoting equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services.



Figure 21: Community members during IWD 2025 in Kilifi

Through the Unitaid-supported COMBAT DR-TB project, KELIN utilized its convening leadership to drive a coordinated, rights-based response to drug-resistant tuberculosis. By bringing together policymakers, County Assembly members, correctional authorities, civil society, affected communities, and technical partners, KELIN broke silos that undermine TB responses and centered accountability for equitable access to care. These convenings strengthened policy and oversight frameworks and advanced improved access to DR-TB diagnostics, treatment, and care, including for people in high-risk and underserved settings such as correctional facilities.



Figure 22: TB champions during community workshop

KELIN steered high-impact engagements to accelerate the adoption and scale-up of DR-TB innovations, including all-oral treatment regimens, rapid molecular diagnostics, and digital adherence tools, while confronting systemic barriers related to financing, supply chains, and implementation. By elevating community leadership and survivor voices and driving county-level domestication of DR-TB frameworks, KELIN strengthened multi-sectoral collaboration across health, justice, education, and social protection sectors. These convenings reinforced accountability and helped sustain momentum toward a people-centered, equitable, and durable DR-TB response aligned with Kenya's Universal Health Coverage commitments and national TB targets.



Figure 23: Government, civil society, community representatives and TB champions during advocacy workshop to reflect on progress and chart the next steps in the fight against DR-TB.

Kenya received 339 recommendations during the session on 1st May 2025 from 122 countries, covering a wide spectrum of human rights. While the government accepted several key recommendations including improving maternal health, SRHR access, HIV responses, and advancing digital health, other critical proposals were noted, such as decriminalizing abortion, increasing SRHR investment, integrating comprehensive sexuality education, and prioritizing marginalized populations including adolescents, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, and SOGIESC minorities.



Figure 24: KELIN's Elsie Milimu and partners during peer States review in Geneva



Figure 25: Convening of CSOs under UPR Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Thematic Group

Following the Geneva session, KELIN provided strategic leadership in post-UPR coordination by working with the UPR Secretariat of Kenya and thematic group conveners to drive implementation of recommendations. KELIN helped shape monitoring and documentation priorities and sustain advocacy momentum beyond the review cycle. Through convened multi-stakeholder engagements, KELIN facilitated structured dialogue between state ministries, departments, agencies, and civil society, strengthening accountability for the implementation of accepted and noted recommendations, particularly on SRHR, HIV, and health financing.

KELIN convened and coordinated national advocacy through the Right to Health and SRHR thematic groups to strengthen collective accountability for government commitments. These engagements played a pivotal role in aligning civil society analysis, tracking progress on the implementation of recommendations, and identifying persistent gaps requiring sustained advocacy, particularly around equitable access to SRHR services, protection of vulnerable populations, and reforms in health policy and financing. By anchoring advocacy in shared evidence and strategy, we foresee coordinated action and amplified civil society influence on health governance.

We Build Capacity!

We strengthen the ability of communities, health providers, and institutions to translate rights and laws into lived outcomes.



Figure 26: Healthcare providers in Nakuru County posing after a VCAT exercise

KELIN invested in building the capacity of both healthcare providers and communities to translate constitutional guarantees into lived health outcomes. Through Values Clarification and Attitude Transformation (VCAT) engagements in Nakuru County, KELIN supported healthcare providers to confront stigma, strengthen legal and clinical understanding, and adopt empathetic, rights-affirming approaches to safe abortion and broader sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). These engagements were critical in shifting attitudes that often undermine access to lawful care and in fostering compassionate service delivery within public health facilities.

Complementing provider-focused interventions, KELIN convened community dialogues in Nairobi and Kiambu counties to strengthen rights awareness and demand-side accountability. The dialogues equipped community members with knowledge of constitutional protections under Articles 26, 43, and 53, enabling them to identify violations, engage health facilities, and hold government actors accountable. Together, these capaci-

ty-building efforts strengthened both service provision and community oversight, reinforcing a health system that is more responsive, lawful, and centered on dignity and equity.

KELIN strengthened professional capacity in health and research settings by advancing practical, rights-based application of bioethics and health law. Through the Fundamentals of Bioethics Certificate Course organized by the CBEC–KEMRI Bioethics Training Initiative, KELIN led sessions that deepened understanding of the intersection between ethics, law, and human rights.

Participants from hospitals, research

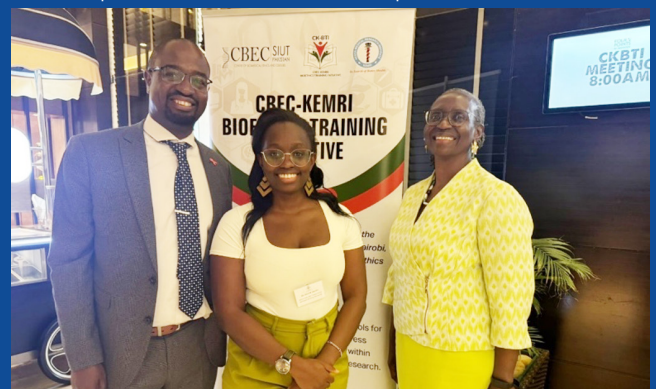


Fig 27: Allan Maleche and Pauline Omoto and Prof. Elizabeth Bukusi at the Fundamentals of Bioethics Certificate Course training

institutions, and universities across Africa examined Kenya’s constitutional and statutory protections—including the Health Act, Data Protection Act, and the HIV & AIDS Prevention and Control Act—and applied these frameworks to real court cases on medical negligence, informed consent, and data privacy. The engagements equipped participants to navigate complex clinical and research dilemmas while upholding dignity, accountability, and legal compliance.

Complementing institutional capacity-building, KELIN strengthened community capacity to understand and claim the right to health through targeted outreach programs. Through workshops, webinars, and community dialogues, KELIN translated constitutional guarantees into practical knowledge on access to reproductive health

services, nutrition, and HIV care, empowering communities to recognize violations and seek redress when services are denied or compromised.

At the county level, including Homabay, Kakamega, and Kilifi, KELIN’s legal officers built local capacity by engaging leaders, health providers, and youth groups on available accountability pathways such as complaints mechanisms, petitions, and strategic litigation. These engagements were reinforced through community-based monitoring initiatives that tracked access to maternal health services, contraception, and adolescent sexual and reproductive health services, strengthening grassroots oversight and demand for accountable healthcare delivery.

Advancing Women’s Land and Property Rights

Women’s secure access to land and property remains central to dignity, economic security, and equality, yet deeply rooted social norms and informal justice systems continue to limit women’s rights. In 2025, KELIN strengthened efforts to advance women’s land and property rights by working directly with communities to challenge discriminatory practices, build legal knowledge, and support pathways to justice that are both accessible and culturally grounded.

In 2025, KELIN advanced women’s land and property rights via community work, training, and gender-transformative advocacy. From January to March, we trained 80+ women and men in Siaya County with the SYFF curriculum on land, inheritance, and property laws. Sessions promoted male and female collaboration to dismantle harmful norms and boost equitable decisions. We focused on peaceful dispute resolution, local networks, and grassroots capacity for monitoring or referring violations.



Fig 28: Participants posing during, training, and gender-transformative advocacy training

We Generate Evidence!

We document lived realities and produce credible evidence to inform advocacy, litigation, and policy reform.



Throughout the year, KELIN undertook research and documentation initiatives to capture the lived experiences of communities, with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health, HIV, and adolescent health rights. The studies employed both qualitative and quantitative methodologies, including interviews, focus group discussions, case documentation, and surveys, to generate comprehensive and credible evidence. The initiatives focused on identifying barriers to accessing health services, gaps in legal literacy, and the influence of social norms on health outcomes.

Key publications included:

- [Impact of Free Trade Agreements on Access to Medicines in Kenya](#)
- Market intelligence studies in [Kenya](#),

[Malawi](#), and Uganda to support prioritization of HIV, TB, cervical cancer, and STI commodities.

- Policy brief on TRIPS provisions in FTAs and their threat to access to affordable medicines
- Obstetric violence litigation strategy
- [Obstetric violence documentary](#)
- [Physical activity policy brief](#)
- [Paying the Costs of Connection](#)

The findings generated a robust evidence base that informed advocacy campaigns, guided community-level interventions, and supported strategic litigation efforts.

Overall, this has expanded local ability to identify violations and use formal accountability pathways.

Conclusion



The year 2025 affirmed KELIN's role as a steadfast defender of the right to health and health-related human rights, even amid complex legal, political, and fiscal challenges. Through strategic litigation, evidence-based advocacy, regional and global convening, and sustained community engagement, KELIN translated constitutional and human rights guarantees into tangible protections for individuals and communities. From courtrooms to community dialogues, and from national policy spaces to continental and global forums, our work consistently centered dignity, accountability, and equity.

The stories, outcomes, and partnerships reflected in this report, including the transformative journey of community

champions like Rhoda Wekesa, demonstrate that justice is most effective when it is people-centred, rights-based, and grounded in lived realities. They also underscore the power of collaboration, resilience, and collective action in advancing systemic change.

As we look ahead to 2026, KELIN remains committed to deepening accountability, strengthening institutions, and amplifying marginalized voices to ensure that health systems serve everyone without discrimination or fear. Guided by our mission and values, we move forward with renewed determination to build a just, inclusive, and responsive health system where the highest attainable standard of health is not a promise, but a lived reality for all.



NAIROBI OFFICE

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