

Empowering Communities: KELIN and Partners Launch Public Sensitization and Title Distribution Initiative in Homa Bay County

By Trevor Mwangi - Program Associate, WLPR



For over 15 years, [KELIN](#) has been at the forefront of advocating for land and property rights, particularly for women and vulnerable groups. From 3rd to 7th March 2025, KELIN, alongside its partners (Ministry of Lands, National Land Commission, and the County Government of Homa Bay, ActionAid, and Habitat for Humanity), carried out an integrated public sensitization and title distribution initiative in Homa Bay County aimed at ensuring equitable land ownership.

A joint study¹ conducted in 2024 by KELIN and the [National Land Commission](#) (NLC) revealed that 18,180 land titles remain uncollected in Homa Bay's land registry, an issue that directly undermines efforts to secure land tenure. The statistics highlight a stark reality: out of the 18,000 title deeds issued in Homa Bay County, only 588 belong to women. This disparity,

¹Note: This study is still ongoing, and it is expected to be concluded by 28th March 2025

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as noted by NLC's principal advocacy officer Stephen Chebii, underscores the urgent need for gender-sensitive land policies. As Dr. Peter Ogola, County Executive Committee Member (CECM) for Lands pointed out that land is a valuable asset that should be protected and not sold hastily.

The event focused on educating communities about the importance of succession planning and acquiring vital legal documents such as title deeds, marriage certificates, and birth certificates to safeguard their rights.

Speaking on behalf of KELIN's Executive Director- Allan Maleche, KELIN's WLPR Program Officer Kenneth Otieno delivered opening remarks, emphasizing the importance of dismantling discriminatory social norms and laws against women's right to access and own land. He further noted that through such collaborative efforts on promoting equitable rights, we can safeguard women's right to land. Additionally, the land registrar of Homa Bay County, Mr. Edward Bosire,

urged residents to secure their land, conduct periodic land searches, and embrace joint registration to ease succession processes.

The impact of this initiative is already being felt on the ground. Community member Grace Osewe shared her transformative realization: "I now know that I have the right to own land and that I am a next of kin after my husband. Unlike what I previously believed, that only male children inherit property, I now understand that I also have a right to ownership."

With over **12,015 title deeds** also being issued in Ndhiwa and Rangwe, this initiative is a crucial step toward economic empowerment, land security, and community development. Through policy advocacy, awareness campaigns, and legal aid, KELIN and its partners remain committed to challenging discriminatory norms and policies that hinder land ownership for women and vulnerable groups.

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