

AFRICA CENTRE
FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS
AND GENDER JUSTICE

MOMENTS THAT DEFINED OUR 2025



We didn't just grow—we upgraded.

In 2025, we onboarded five purpose-driven team members working to turn our mission into action: advancing gender-just economic power, building leadership and knowledge, and amplifying innovations that create equitable, resilient, and just health systems across Africa.

Our first Strategic Plan: a compass forward

CATALYSE	EQUIP	AMPLIFY
We are catalysing gender-just economic power by investing in community-led financing solutions that redistribute power, expand access to resources, and strengthen the economic influence of grassroots women and structurally marginalised communities for healthcare equity.	We are equipping women, communities, and health and economic system actors with the inclusive knowledge, skills, and leadership authority to drive gender-transformative change; by strengthening women's leadership and expanding their influence, we will build inclusive governance, create accountable institutions, and ensure that economic and health decisions are equitable, responsive, and grounded in community realities .	We are amplifying the innovations and lived experiences of women and structurally marginalized communities , centering diverse identities and recognizing how overlapping inequalities shape health and economic outcomes, to disrupt dominant narratives, and transform harmful gender norms, laws and practices in health systems, as well as the ways we invest in women's economic strength.

In a rapidly changing world, we developed our first Strategic Compass to guide the choices required to remain relevant, resilient, and effective. It sharpens our priorities, strengthens our organisational foundation, and charts financially viable pathways—while staying anchored in our core purpose: amplifying the voices of women and structurally marginalised communities advancing just, inclusive, and resilient health systems.

Our vision is an Africa where women, girls, and structurally marginalised communities build economic power, leadership, and voice to shape equitable and just health systems.

Our mission is to reimagine economic systems as catalysts for health equity.

The Strategic Compass translates this vision into action through three interconnected pathways. We **catalyse** gender-just economic ideas, movements, and partnerships that challenge inequitable norms. We **equip** grassroots leaders and organisations with the tools, resources, and financial readiness to sustain and scale their work. And we **amplify** community-led solutions, ensuring lived experience shapes policy, funding, and systems change.

A New Home for the Work



We gave our digital home a bold upgrade. We've launched a refreshed website that's cleaner, faster, and purpose-built to reflect the scale of our mission, the depth of our work, and the ambition driving it forward. Take a look: <https://healthsystemsgenderjustice.org/>

And keep an eye out, our new rebrand is rolling out next.

How we shaped change

Investing in grassroots power through HerConomics



Women entrepreneurs in low-income informal settlements face entrenched barriers to sustaining and growing their businesses. Limited access to capital, weak savings practices, low financial literacy, and poor bookkeeping and planning constrain income stability and growth. These gaps increase vulnerability to economic shocks and restrict women's ability to invest in their own health, nutrition, and household wellbeing, reinforcing health and economic inequities at both household and community levels.

This is the gap HerConomics closing.

Moving beyond short-term capacity-building, HerConomics focused on shifting power and resources directly to women-led grassroots organisations. We equipped seven local partners with the technical skills, financial tools, and strategic clarity required to design community-rooted interventions.

The completion of our first subgranting cycle marks a decisive transition from potential to power. HerConomics directly resourced local leadership to implement solutions anchored in lived experience and community trust.

Our partner organisations—Feminist for Peace Rights & Justice Centre, Badili Africa, Zamara Foundation, Mathare Social Justice Centre, Usikimye, Queer Republic Limited, and Women Collective Kenya are advancing menstrual justice, digital livelihoods, teen mothers' economic resilience, survivor-centred economic empowerment, LBQ+ creative industries, Dhobi women's labour rights, and women-led microenterprises. Together, they are translating economic agency into tangible improvements in health and long-term community wellbeing.

Ubuntu health leadership



Women remain underrepresented in health systems leadership and policy decision-making, despite being the backbone of health service delivery and community wellbeing. Too often, emerging women leaders lack structured opportunities to build leadership competencies, policy influence skills, and strategic networks limiting their ability to shape equitable health systems and advance gender-responsive reforms.

Ubuntu Health Leadership changes that equation.

We are equipping 30 emerging women leaders with a strong grounding in health systems, gender justice, and policy engagement. Through a blended model of structured learning and mentorship, participants are building the confidence, technical knowledge, and strategic influence needed to lead.

Beyond training, the programme connects women to mentors and peer networks that anchor their leadership journeys over time. These leaders are being prepared to advocate, organise, and amplify community voices in policy spaces ensuring that health decisions reflect lived realities and advance equity.

Care4Equality



Frontline health systems continue to reproduce gendered power dynamics that undermine equitable care, restrict women health workers' leadership, and weaken accountability across clinical and professional spaces. Addressing these structural barriers requires more than visibility; it demands deliberate inclusion in how health knowledge, policy, and funding are shaped.

This is where Care for Equality comes in.

Building on this momentum, Dr Jacqueline Kitulu represented the Centre during the Uganda Medical Association Conference, in a high-level panel advancing the inclusion of women in health research and development. The panel emphasised a critical shift away from token representation toward structural inclusion, ensuring women meaningfully influence research design, funding priorities, and policy decisions, strengthening cross-regional dialogue and leadership for gender-responsive health systems.

Pictured on the far left is Dr Jacqueline Kitulu, a leading champion of the Care for Equality programme, alongside Dr Nelly Bosire of the Kenya Obstetrics and Gynaecologists Society and Dr Elizabeth Gitau, Vice Chair of the Kenya Medical Association (KMA).

Mobilising Medical Leadership to Shape SRHR in Kenya



Despite growing medical evidence and legal grounding, many medical practitioners in Kenya still lack institutional backing, confidence, and safe professional spaces to openly advance sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as essential healthcare. Professional bodies and regulatory institutions had not consistently legitimised practitioner-led advocacy, leaving providers isolated and limiting collective voice and action.

ACHGJ responded by convening and mobilising a coalition of medical practitioners who believe in ethical, rights-based SRHR care and professional accountability.

The Interdisciplinary Network for Abortion Rights and Ethics (INARE) is a practitioner-led collective grounded in medical ethics, legal clarity, and evidence-based care. INARE brings together health professionals committed to advancing SRHR, challenging stigma, and asserting SRHR as legitimate healthcare within clinical practice, public discourse, and policy spaces in Kenya.

Through INARE, practitioners will continue organising, learning, and speaking together, strengthening professional confidence, building collective voice, and positioning themselves as credible advocates for rights-based care.

Scaling Gender-Transformative IPV Prevention in East Africa



Intimate partner violence (IPV) remains deeply rooted in harmful gender norms, unequal power relations, and women's economic dependence undermining safety, health, and long-term well-being. Too often, evidence-based interventions fail to translate into scalable, survivor-centred action that reflects local realities.

To address this gap, we convened women-led grassroots partners from Kenya and Tanzania alongside LSHTM to translate evidence into practical, adaptable approaches to IPV prevention. Anchored in women's economic empowerment, the Maisha rollout strengthened regional capacity to design and implement gender-transformative interventions grounded in lived experience.

The result is a coordinated, East Africa-wide pathway to shift harmful norms, improve relationship dynamics, and reduce intimate partner violence at scale, enabling women to strengthen economic independence, exercise greater agency, and access critical resources.

Raising Our Voice Across Borders and Global Spaces

Feminist Funded 2025



We brought our voice to the global stage this year. Through WFN's Global Leadership Forum, ACHGJ joined women leaders from across regions to assert that struggles for health, rights, and justice do not stop at national borders. Dr. Stellah Bosire's message was clear and unapologetic: [advocacy must connect across borders if it is to shift power where it matters.](#)

Dr. Stellah Bosire was also selected as a Global Leadership Forum fellow, marking a significant milestone for ACHGJ's global influence. Her participation places Kenya's reproductive justice agenda in elite international leadership spaces, positioning ACHGJ not just as a regional actor, but as a contributor to global thought leadership shaping gender equity and health systems worldwide.

UNGA 2025



At UNGA 2025, we participated in the Goalkeepers Awards and contributed to two high-level sessions, ensuring our work and the voices and realities it represents were situated squarely within global decision-making spaces.

By engaging directly with policymakers, funders, and global health leaders, we advanced community-rooted perspectives on gender justice, economic power, and health systems reform, bridging the gap between global agendas and lived experience.

Our presence at UNGA 2025 reinforced our role as a credible actor shaping conversations beyond the local level, while holding global actors accountable to solutions led by women and structurally marginalised communities.

Celebrating Our Rising Star!



Dr. Stellah Wairimu Bosire was recognised as a Rising Star by FIDA-Kenya, an honour that underscores her leadership and strengthens ACHGJ's institutional credibility within Kenya's legal and gender justice landscape.

This recognition reflects not only individual excellence but also the growing influence of ACHGJ in advancing rights-based policy, legal accountability, and gender-transformative advocacy.

The award signals increasing trust in ACHGJ's thought leadership and its ability to bridge health, law, and gender justice in ways that shape public discourse and policy outcomes. It further positions the organisation as a credible partner for legal institutions, civil society, and policymakers working to advance equity, justice, and systemic reform.

Beijing at 30



As part of the 30-year commemoration of the Beijing Platform for Action, we participated in the NXT HER Summit convened by Nation Media Group. Dr. Stellah spoke on a high-profile health panel, positioning gender-just health systems squarely within Kenya's evolving equality and development agenda.

Feminist Funding Futures



At Feminist Funding Futures in Spain, we elevated the Debt to Health paper as a critical intervention, linking global debt structures directly to shrinking fiscal space for public health and gender justice. The platform positioned the paper as a call to reframe financing debates through a rights-based, feminist lens.

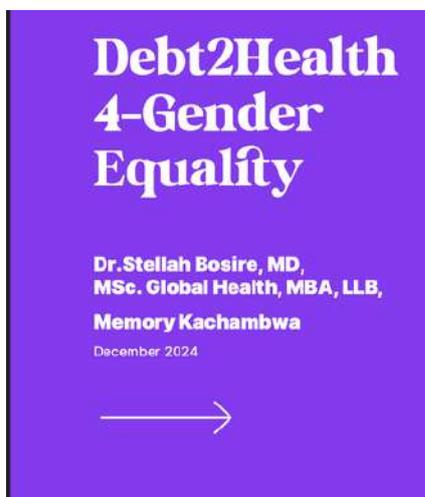
Advancing Africa-Led Global Health Reform



At the Global Health Reform-Africa Regional Dialogue, we shaped Africa-led thinking on the future of global health architecture, advancing the case for linking economic empowerment with health outcomes through mechanisms such as debt-for-health swaps and equitable financing.

The dialogue reinforced a strategic shift: Africa must define and drive its own health priorities, with the next phase focused on translating partner commitments into concrete, sovereign, and resilient health system reforms.

Research Launched in 2025



In response to the escalating debt crisis across African nations, we commissioned research that exposes how sovereign debt and austerity measures deepen gender inequality by undermining public health systems and eroding women's rights. It makes a clear case for feminist-driven debt relief, prioritising social justice and calls for redirecting debt savings toward gender-responsive health systems and community-led solutions. Read here [Debt2Health 4-Gender Equality](#).

-In collaboration with the Global Social Norms and Agency Learning Collaborative, we brought together global evidence synthesis and in-country deep dives, which revealed a far richer ecosystem of [social norms programs than the published literature suggests](#).



Where Our Ideas Travelled



Our work continued to shape public discourse beyond programmes and convenings, reaching wider audiences through strategic media engagement. By placing rights-based analysis in mainstream platforms, we amplified conversations on health equity, accountability, and the lived realities of communities navigating unjust systems.

We featured here:

- [The New York Times](#) with a powerful spotlight on our work.
- <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/ideas/articles/ki-bera-womens-health-advocate>
- [Greater Than the Sum: Women's Health](#)
- [National Spotlight on the Cost of Health](#)

Thank You for Powering Our Work

We extend our sincere gratitude to our partners for the trust, solidarity, and support you offered throughout 2025—through funding, collaboration, and shared commitment. Your belief in our work made it possible to move ideas into action and to back community-led solutions with real resources and influence.

We are deeply appreciative that you stand with us in the conviction that economic systems can and must work in the service of health equity. Your partnership affirms our collective commitment to reshaping power, centring lived experience, and advancing gender-just, accountable health systems.

Thank you for believing in the vision, backing the work, and walking this journey with us. We look forward to continuing to build, challenge, and deliver impact together.

From a Defining Year to a Clear Direction Ahead



As we close 2025, one truth is unmistakable: health justice in Africa will not be delivered by systems that exclude the very people they are meant to serve, and it will not be achieved without struggle.

As we step into 2026, we do so with resolve. This is the year we move from groundwork to consequence; from ideas to implementation. Through our Strategic Compass, we will catalyse, equip, and amplify change by connecting movements to money, evidence to power, and communities to decision-making spaces. We will work with funders willing to be bold, policymakers willing to listen, and allies—old and unexpected, willing to disrupt the status quo.

To the women and communities who trust us with their stories, to the partners who stand with us, and to the builders of a different future: this work belongs to all of us. The vision remains clear—an Africa where women, girls, and structurally marginalised communities build economic power, leadership, and voice to shape just and equitable health systems.

The work continues. The pressure continues. And together, so do we.

Get in Touch



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