



EVERYDAY WE BELIEVE

MISSION: WE BELIEVE IN THE URBAN POOR – IN THEIR STRENGTH, RESILIENCE AND CAPACITY TO CREATE A BETTER FUTURE.

Through grassroots leadership and a model that links free education for girls to integrated services for all, we build vibrant, healthy, gender equitable communities where everyone is able to realize his/her full potential.





Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) is changing the lives of thousands in the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya. Our approach is a comprehensive solution to the challenges of urban poverty.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Growing up in Kibera, I dreamed of many things: food to eat, clean water to drink, safety from the violence, and relief from the oppression that surrounded me. When I was 18, I had a job in a factory. As the oldest of eight children, I worked this dangerous labor job for \$1 per day so I could take care of my family.

One day when I arrived home after work, I was horrified to discover that my friend Alvin had hung himself – tired of living a life confined to poverty with only one possible goal: survival. This was a moment that changed me. With 20 cents of savings, I bought a soccer ball and started a movement of young people fighting for social justice. I never gave up believing in what my community could accomplish if only we believed in our own potential.

Ultimately, this is not my story, it is a story of hope – of what people in Kibera and those living in poverty around the world can do for themselves. I never imagined that a small initiative started by a group of young people in Kibera would one day become one of the slum's largest organizations, transforming an entire community. As I watch Shining Hope for Communities grow, I never forget the struggle and sweat so many people in my community passed through as we built this movement--never giving up because we knew that despite the challenges we could make a difference. Thanks to your continued partnership and support, we are now changing thousands of lives.

There are so many daily triumphs: at The Kibera School for Girls, when a parent watches proudly as her daughter learns to read and write – something that she herself never got the chance to do; at our clinic when a mother breathes a sigh of relief; or in our community programs when a young man gets a loan to start a new business – the possibilities of tomorrow are bright.

I am honored to share with you these stories about hope. These are the lives you have changed. I deeply appreciate your involvement in making our work possible – thank you for believing in the people of Kibera.

With your continued partnership, the promise of a better life will be possible for so many more.

Thank you,



Kennedy Odede

President & CEO

Shining Hope for Communities



Kennedy Odede
President & CEO

Faith
Kindergarten
student at the
Kibera School
for Girls

The Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya, is one of Africa's largest slums — where more than a million people live without sewage systems, roads, running water, or access to basic rights like health care and education.



THE KIBERA SCHOOL

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a bright blue wall. On the right side, there is a red door. The wall is decorated with numerous colorful handprints in shades of red, yellow, green, and blue, arranged in a pattern that suggests a line of children holding hands. The ground in front of the wall is dry and sandy.

THE KIBERA SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The Kibera School for Girls, the slum's first free school for girls, gives the most disadvantaged and brightest girls the education they deserve to become engines of social and economic change for their community.

FOR GIRLS



I AM ME

Vanessa

2nd grade student at Kibera School for Girls

I am Vanessa
I am as brave as a lion
I work hard to achieve my dream of
becoming a doctor
I am a flower
I make your garden full with beautiful colors
I am the happiest girl in The Kibera School
for Girls
Whatever I am, I am always happy because
I know
Even if I am by myself
There is somebody who cares for me and
loves me
I am beautiful
I love how I was created
I am the Grumpy Bear
I always know your feelings
I make your dreams come true
I am brave because I look forward to my
education success
I am enormous because everyone in
The Kibera School for Girls knows me
And even there are some people around the
area who know me
I am a little angel
I fly to help other people survive
I am the wind
I give you fresh air
I am the sun
I make your crops grow
I am special
I work hard for my teachers and parents
I am as brown as the sun
I am shining
I am a human being





WHAT A GIRL CAN DO

I was born in Kibera. I left school in 8th grade because my parents did not have enough money for me to continue. My stepmother told my father that there is no need to pay money for school because girls have other ways of making money. I had to go to the streets or marry. So at the age of 14, I was forced into marriage. Now I am twenty-four years old and have four children.

I want Vanessa's life to be different, that's why I took her to the Kibera School for Girls. When I was young I wanted to be a doctor—and now, Vanessa wants to be a doctor. If she reaches her dream, it will be like she reached mine too. She tells her dad

everyday how much she loves school. I love to tell my neighbors where Vanessa goes to school. Through SHOFCO, I've gotten a loan to start my own business. I am selling kale, avocado, and tomatoes. I like this business because I can support my family and can pay for my other children's school fees. SHOFCO is showing the community what my stepmom did not know: girls are important. They can do so well with their lives. They can become doctors like my Vanessa—or start a business like me. Now, for the first time, I think I am doing all right to make my life better.

Esther Irago

*Mother of Vanessa
and Group Savings
& Loans Program
participant*

TEACHING MORE THAN ABC'S

Julia Alubala
Kindergarten Teacher

I am proud to say that I have been a teacher at The Kibera School for Girls since the very beginning. From the first moment, I always believed something special was happening here.

In Social Studies, the girls recently learned about family composition, family needs, roles and responsibilities, and family traditions. We talked about how all families look different. Discussing their families, they decided that a family was a group of people living together who take care of each other. The girls who stay in Margaret's Safe Place, the boarding facility for our most at-risk students, said they were a family. Each girl explored what

her family looks like, including roles her family members take on. Each one was different. Some mothers cook and clean; some are breadwinners. Some fathers are breadwinners; other fathers cook and clean. Students learned that there is not one role for mothers or fathers or in life for girls or boys.

The girls are starting to understand about gender roles and the expectations of society. We are encouraging them to think for themselves. Everything that boys can do girls can do as well, and boys can do the things girls can do. We want them to believe that they can do anything, because I know that they can and will.

SOMETHING GOOD

Baba Diana
*Chairman of the
Parents Committee*

The family that has an educated child, their home has been built. Without education there is no future. My work is to repair shoes. I have a stall in Makina Market. Most days I don't even have 50 cents in my pocket, but in the evening, I'm the one that needs to bring food in this house. Everyday, I believe in my heart that we will eat. And I will bring food to this house.

Everything I do, I do for my children. So, it's like the way somebody uses a shoe until it's worn out. Until it hurts. If they can use me like that, until I'm all finished, then that's alright. But they should be elevated. Each one of them to a point where they are alright. That is why I want to continue with this life in Kibera.

If Diana gets a proper education, I am certain she will do something good. And she will help me. That is one thing in my life that I know. I don't believe that this child of mine will ever forget about me. The Kibera School for Girls has helped me educate my daughter. And that is big because it would have been hard for me. I wouldn't have been able to pay for her education.

I look forward to seeing Diana have a good life.

A woman with short dark hair, wearing a red sweatshirt with a white logo that reads 'St. Joseph's School', is holding a young child. The child is wearing a white t-shirt with a red and orange graphic and is smiling broadly. They are standing in front of a red wooden structure, possibly a door or wall. The text 'STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH GENDER EQUALITY' is overlaid on the left side of the image in a green, outlined font.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH GENDER EQUALITY

SHOFCO is eradicating gender-based violence in Kibera through health services, community outreach, and legal advocacy. We support victims in their recovery from abuse, and are dedicated to creating a more equitable society through education and community empowerment.





STRENGTH TO MOVE ON

Theresa Wanjiku

*Gender Violence
Community Counselor*

When I was 17, my parents died and I moved to Kibera as an orphaned girl. I was forced to marry, as no one had any other use for me. My husband was drunk and abusive. I endured this for nine years. What I went through is too much to say.

One day, I came home to find him drunk, and all my belongings thrown out of the house and into the street. I was tired – too tired of this – so I took my two children and left him. It has been very hard. I fought to get a restraining order as he came to find me, and tried to take my children away.

Now, as a SHOFCO Gender Violence Community Health Worker, I help other women who are experiencing what I went

through. I tell them about their rights, their freedom. I talk about how people should live together and respect each other. The misery I experienced motivates me to share my strength with others, and by helping others I am able to move on with my life. Sometimes when I lead support groups there are other women living in silence – in Kibera it is not easy for a woman to stand up for herself. But when I talk about my story, other women open up about theirs. Sometimes women are even scared of going to a hospital to get the help they need – but I have helped them feel brave. It is my hope that together we can bring all of this violence to an end. Women are coming to speak, and that is the first step.





Johanna Justin-Jinich
Community Clinic



COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE

“The integrated approach to public health taken by Shining Hope reflects the cutting edge of development thinking...”

- Samuel Lowenberg, *The Lancet*







HEALTHY AND FEELING PROUD

Mildred Achieng

*Community member &
mother of four*

I first came to know SHOFCO because my child was sick. We had no food, so my baby became too thin, like a skeleton. When I brought her to SHOFCO, they put her into a feeding program for children, and she became strong again. I have also safely delivered two babies through SHOFCO's program for mothers. They help us when we are pregnant and then pay for delivery in a hospital, which I could never afford. Without this, I would have been forced to give birth at home although

I know it is not good. The clinic protects us. They treat us with dignity. We receive good medicine and they are kind to patients. I no longer have to worry about my life. There was a time before this clinic when I could not afford health care and I worried we would die without treatment. Now I am healthy too, along with my children. I even had enough strength to start my own business, so I am feeling proud and happy. Now we are not vulnerable.



INSPIRING COMMUNITY ACTION

Our innovative approach to combat urban poverty and improve gender equality invites both men and women to participate in the solution. We are bringing groundbreaking and measurable change to Kibera: our beneficiaries hold greater gender-equitable attitudes and have greater access to economic opportunities.





“WITH KNOWLEDGE WE ARE POWERFUL”

I was born in Kibera and have experienced so much living here. Since I was a child I remember looking at my parents and thinking that I wanted to do something good to help my family get out of this place. I always wanted to help those around me. Sometimes when I hear what others have gone through here, I no longer think I have a sad story to tell.

When I finished going as far as my family could afford in school, I joined SHOFCO's youth group. I love the theatre department and being a reporter for the Kibera Mirror. Through theatre, we get to know each other's ideas and opinions—it keeps us focused and away from things that can ruin our lives. I am

learning leadership. With my new skills, I try to empower other youths to get involved so they can gain as I have.

At SHOFCO, I have become a Youth Peer Educator. Now I talk to other youth about family planning, protecting ourselves, safe sex, respect, and how to navigate challenges. Other youth consult with me, and people even seek me out at home. It is amazing because I can see that people respect me. My dream is to educate young people across all of the slums in Nairobi to empower girls and prevent early pregnancy and HIV.

The biggest challenge the youth face in the slums is ignorance – without information your life is not your own. I write for the Kibera

Mirror to empower the community with information about things that impact them. Last month I wrote about untrained midwives and the consequences of giving birth at home. I write because I know I can save lives. Many women have told me they come to our clinic because they read my articles. I do my work with all the passion that I have. Now I can provide for myself, without my parents' help because of my job with SHOFCO. I know many girls like to ignore things, and don't have information that can keep them safe. When you give them information, they also give others – and then we can stand together to make a better future.



Nancy Akinyi
*Youth Empowerment
Program*

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

\$250

Treats 10 patients in our HIV care program, providing testing and holistic care to those impacted by the virus

\$5,000

Provides 200 people with business training and economic empowerment through our 'Group Savings and Loans Program'

\$18,000

Provides every student at the Kibera School for Girls with 2 nutritious meals a day for 1 year

\$30,000

Runs our women's health program: pre and post-natal care, cervical cancer screening and family planning

\$200,000

Builds an entire school for girls (22 classrooms, art studios, computer rooms and meeting hall)

In 2011, we served 8,488 people. In 2012, we will reach over **36,000** beneficiaries through our innovative health services, clean water, economic empowerment and education initiatives.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

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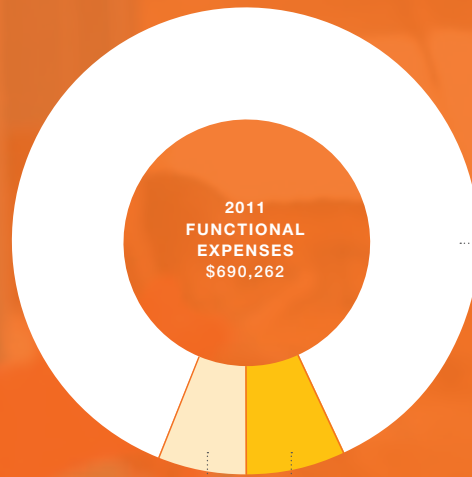
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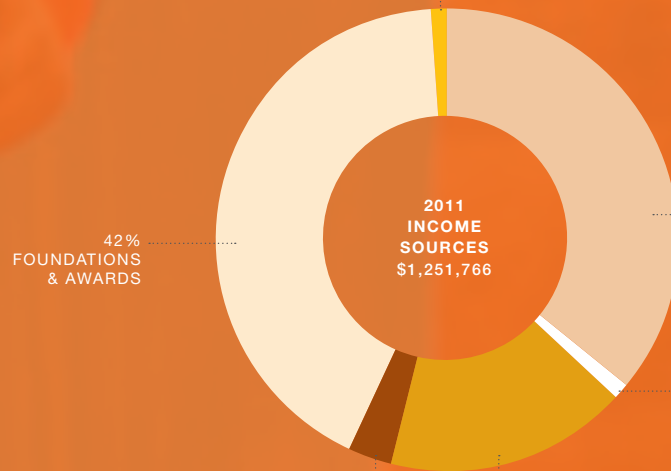


6%
DEVELOPMENT
& STRATEGIC
GROWTH

7%
PROGRAM
MANAGEMENT

87%
PROGRAM
SERVICES & CAPITAL

1%
PROGRAM REVENUE



42%
FOUNDATIONS
& AWARDS

36%
INDIVIDUAL
GIFTS

1%
OTHER

3%
SPONSORSHIP
PROGRAM

17%
MAJOR GIFTS
(OVER \$5,000)

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We are deeply grateful for your involvement and support. Thank you for believing in the people of Kibera – **together, we are a movement** making the promise of a better life possible for so many.

\$100,000 and Over

Mother's Day Movement
Newman's Own Foundation

\$50,000 – \$99,999

The Morris Family Foundation
The Starr International Foundation

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