

Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) Field Visit Notes

- Two Focusing Philanthropy team members, Jason and Larry visited SHOFCO in Nairobi on June 22, 2015. The morning was spent at the Kibera slum (believed to be the largest slum in Africa with ~1,000,000 residents) and the afternoon at the Mathare slum (~5-600,000 residents).
- SHOFCO was founded by Kennedy Odede who was born and grew up in Kibera, where the majority of its historical operations have been conducted. The program was expanded to another Nairobi slum, Mathare, in 2014.
- Kennedy (CEO), his wife Jessica (COO) and various other senior managers of SHOFCO participated in the Kibera visit. Kennedy and the head of the Mathare program participated in the Mathare visit.
- In Kibera, we visited SHOFCO's school for girls (its flagship program in Kibera), the health clinic (pediatric and separate adult, pharmacy, laboratory, medical records), newspaper (The Ghetto Mirror), a computer training center, potable water system, free public toilets, library, youth empowerment office, women's empowerment / vocational training program, and savings/lending group office. In each case we heard from the individual who ran the program. Each presenter was notably articulate, poised and clear about program goals and activities. Kennedy was obviously highly respected by all program managers and slum residents alike. At the same time, it was clear that he was not directly running or overseeing any of the programs and that an organization was in place that was executing on Kennedy's and Jessica's vision but without their detailed involvement. This was impressive and confidence inspiring, and reinforced the idea that SHOFCO has developed an institutional capacity to materially scale its operations.
- An enlarged water system is being built in Kibera with a second large overhead tank and overhead distribution pipes supporting multiple spigots. This will reduce the requirement of many Kibera residents to walk to the single existing water tank. Commercial water providers sell water by the litre in Kibera but at prices that are variable but almost always higher than the consistent price charged by SHOFCO.
- All Kibera programs collect detailed metrics on the service usage (frequency, times of day, volume, etc.) and user (gender, age) that support impact analysis and program refinement. The key to this data capture is a unique identification card that each participating family is given (separate card for adolescents with individual usage patterns). An advanced data management system records all program activity, which is later compiled and analysed for program effectiveness and impact reporting.
- SHOFCO's entry into the Mathare slum is its first attempt to replicate the model that is being successfully deployed in Kibera. In Mathare Godfrey Waka, a local young man (who grew up in that slum), became aware of Kennedy and SHOFCO's programs in Kibera by reading a copy of what was then called the Kibera Mirror newspaper (now the Ghetto Mirror). After 2 years of trying, Godfrey connected with Kennedy and appealing to him to expand SHOFCO into Mathare. Kennedy responded by saying Godfrey had to demonstrate commitment and initiative on his own before SHOFCO would agree to help launch a program there. In due course, Mathare organized a local clean-up group, a

- youth empowerment group, assembled land and raised money for a building. SHOFCO then agreed to embrace the Mathare initiative as part of SHOFCO.
- Mathare now has a new three story, substantial SHOFCO main building that houses a girls' school, community room, computer lab, youth empowerment office, vocational training center and library. Adjacent land has been acquired so that a significant expansion of SHOFCO's Mathare programs can be undertaken on a single campus location (residents were persuaded to move into SHOFCO-built homes nearby in exchange for agreeing to move). The range of services provided and the ability of program managers to describe their work was impressive considering the recent launch of the Mathare program and the fact that apparently no managers were transferred from Kibera.

Jason and Larry met on July 1 with Jordyn Wells, Chief Program Officer and Patrick Konihi, Kenya Country Director. Patrick has been with SHOFCO for about a year, joining after working at larger non-profits and in the Kenyan government. Jordyn has been with SHOFCO for several years, working in Nairobi until relocating to the U.S. a year or so ago. Jordyn is the senior executive beneath Kennedy and Jessica and, it appears, she and Jessica are the two operating executives with Kennedy providing overall leadership and vision. Patrick has all the in-country program heads reporting to him. Patrick reports to Jordyn as do finance, development and HR. Jordyn now works from New York but is in Nairobi several times a year. Both Jordyn and Patrick were highly competent and confidence inspiring leaders. .

Pictures





The view of Kibera from SHOFCO's medical clinic roof near the center of the slum.



Life in the slums is high paced and dynamic. The streets are dirty and it can be dangerous at night, particularly for women.



There is no waste system public utilities in the slums, so sanitation and clean water are real issues.



SHOFCO starts with a girls school, which they believe is the keystone to SHOFCO's long term success. These girls will become community leaders and SHOFCO advocates in the future.



SHOFCO's medical clinic waiting room is packed. The facility is basic, but offers slum residents medical services for the first time.



Clean water is provided at a SHOFCO kiosk. This is by far the least expensive way for residents to get safe and clean drinking water.



Kennedy stops by the library as he gives us a tour of SHOFCO's programs in Kibera.



Women empowerment is a key component of SHOFCO's community services. Women learn professional skills and are given access to credit facilities to start a business.

MAGIC WALL **GROUPS SAVINGS & LOANS** **WITH SHOFCO** **MEMBERSHIP**

VILLAGES	NO. OF GROUPS	NO. OF REGS	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	SAVINGS
GATWEKERA	15	13	273	43	266	672 300
RAILA	8		70	55	125	720 500
KIANDA	16	7	242	133	352	712 80
SOWETO-W	16	14	272	48	320	440 500
KISUMU/NDORO	22	12	236	78	314	689 778
LINDI	20	16	232	124	356	2495 479
MAKINA	14	3	191	85	276	775 185
KAMBIMUNI	17	11	201	105	306	311 1375
LAINI-SABA	20	15	188	121	309	522 290
MASHIMONI	13	9	147	194	341	916 550
SILANGA	12	7	185	103	288	859 720
SOWETO-E	15	5	229	77	306	673 490
TOTAL	193	114	2393	1166	3559	9229 047

SHOFCO encourages a community savings and loan system to provide needed capital to entrepreneurs who can't access traditional bank financing. The scorecard on the wall shows various lending groups that have saved enough to make possible Kibera's first credit union.



SHOFCO is new to the Methare slum. The distinctive blue community center and girls school is the first permanent structure that will serve as a launchpad for SHOFCO's programs here.