



**SHOFCO**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT** 2022

“I am in awe of the continued growth SHOFCO sustained this year.”

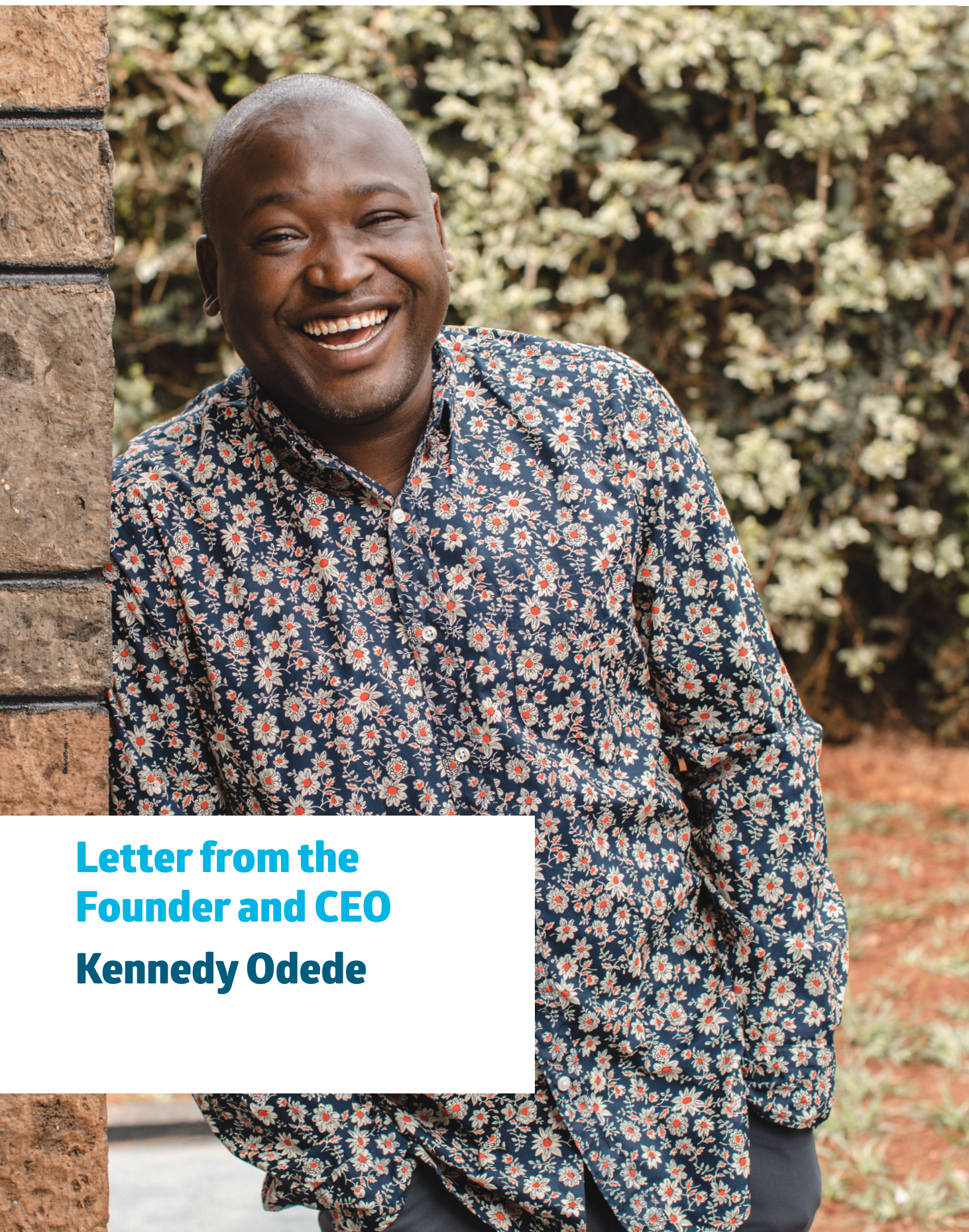
Kennedy Odede

SHOFCO is a grassroots movement that catalyzes large-scale transformation in urban slums by providing critical services for all, community advocacy platforms, and education and leadership development for women and girls.

# Welcome to our 2022 Annual Report

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**Letter from the  
Founder and CEO  
Kennedy Odede**

Dear Friends,

**SHOFCO is growing faster than ever. In 2022 we reached 2.4M individuals across 32 counties, up from 18 the year before. As we have grown, we have continued our commitment to community-led development, keeping individuals and communities at the center of our work.**

This expansion is a testament to the power of community-led development and the desire for marginalized communities across Kenya to come together and unite in support of an agenda for and by the people.

Young people across Kenya, from urban slums to rural communities, are faced with an economy that lacks enough jobs to sustain them and feel shut out from the very decisions that impact their lives. As Kenya’s youth population booms, it is critical that youth are empowered and have sufficient voice to organize and ensure their needs are met. By addressing the employment needs of the youth, SHOFCO fosters their participation in Kenya’s economy and empowers them with a sense of dignity and hope for the future. The SHOFCO Urban Network (SUN) and Sustainable Livelihoods program worked in conjunction throughout 2022 to ensure that Kenya’s youth had access to vital employability services, reaching 12,827 youth, a 77% increase from 2021.

SUN, SHOFCO’s community organizing and advocacy platform, continued to be a source of optimism and power for young people and their families. In 2022 alone, 22 new SUN sites were opened, raising the total number of sites to 56. Utilizing the power of community organizing, SUN members have been able to successfully advocate for the provision of greater resources from their local governments, benefitting the well-being of hundreds of thousands of individuals living in these communities. SUN members are best placed for this work because they know first-hand the challenges they face and understand what their communities need — in

2022, SUN advocated for more paved roads to Kibera, because they knew the community wanted space, access, and a cleaner, healthier environment.

With SUN’s country-wide growth, and the engagement of young people throughout Kenya, SHOFCO has been able to expand its suite of services to hundreds of new communities. This growth has connected communities with valuable life-saving services, encouraged new local partnerships, and promoted community-led development manifested in the 52% increase in gender-based violence cases handled, partnerships with six new healthcare facilities across three additional slums, and reaching a total of 1.4 million SUN members this year.

2022 has truly displayed the importance of localized development, as Kenya’s informal populations continue to be a beacon of hope for each other and the future.

It is my honor to share with you more details about the individuals and families we have impacted in 2022. Thank you for believing in the power of hope and community.



# 2022 was a year of sustained growth across all programs

## SHOFCO Urban Network

1.4m<sup>+465%</sup>

SUN members

56<sup>\*</sup>

SUN sites

32<sup>+146%</sup>

Counties where SUN is active

## Education

85<sup>\*</sup>

Future Education students

656<sup>+4%</sup>

Students in KSG and MSG

94.8%<sup>\*</sup>

Parents/caregivers participating in school meetings

## Sustainable Livelihoods

12,827<sup>+77%</sup>

Beneficiaries

1,746<sup>-0</sup>

SWEP members

3,065<sup>+16%</sup>

Employability training

411<sup>\*</sup>

Business grants provided

## Health

342,087<sup>+252%</sup>

Total outreach

89,791<sup>+273%</sup>

Primary healthcare visits

59,552<sup>\*</sup>

MCH visits

188,033<sup>\*</sup>

Nutrition screenings

12<sup>\*</sup>

Number of partner facilities

## WASH

13.6m<sup>+428%</sup>

Liters of water distributed

28,000<sup>+70%</sup>

Water users

## Gender

4,635<sup>+52%</sup>

GBV cases handled

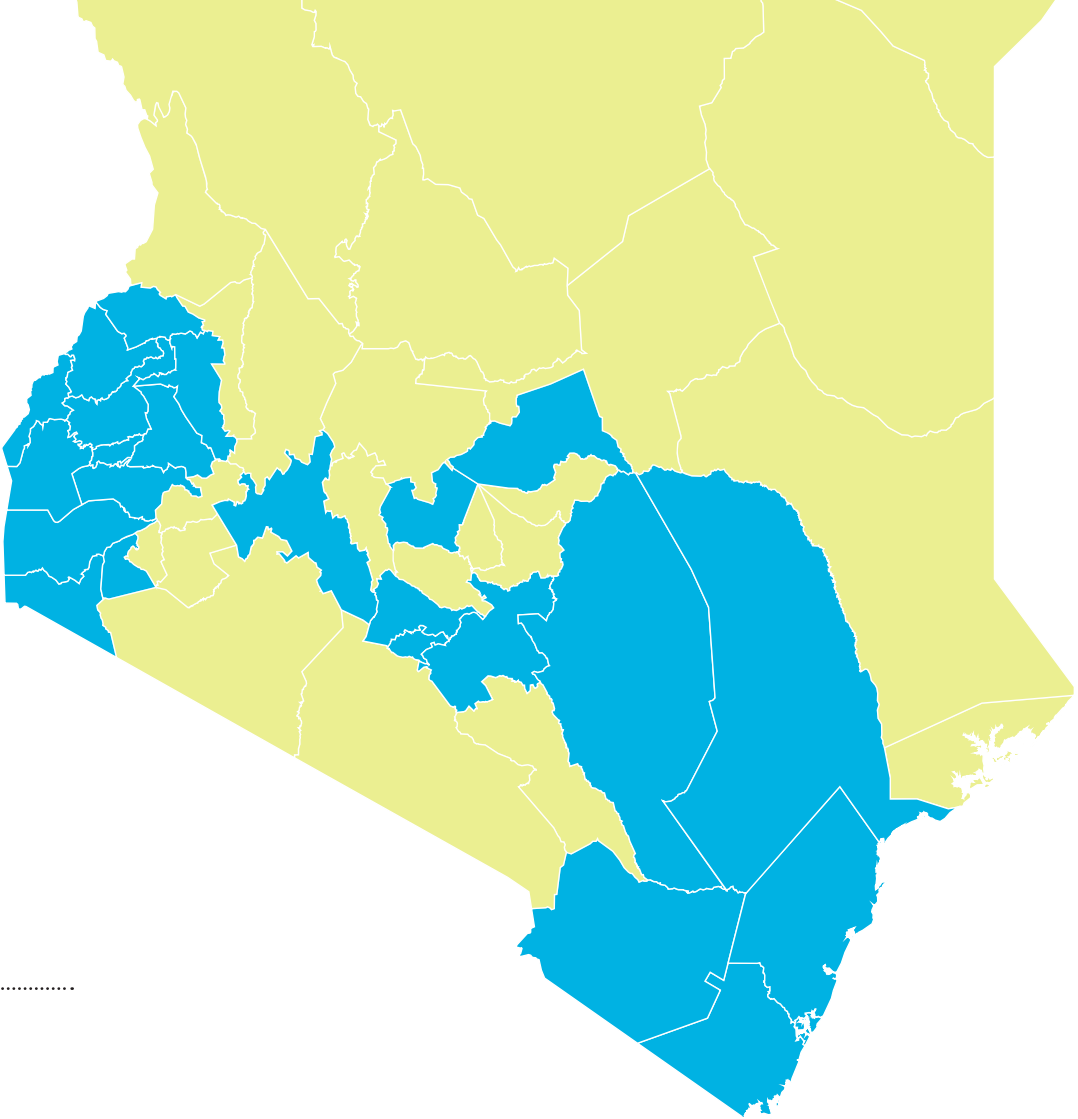
42<sup>\*</sup>

SUN-Gender trainings

## Library

241,370<sup>+91%</sup>

Library users



Our presence grew from 13 to 32 counties and we impacted the lives of **2.4 million people** almost five times the number we reached in 2021

<sup>\*</sup> 2021 comparative data unavailable

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**SHOFCO is a grassroots movement that catalyzes large-scale transformation in urban slums by providing critical services for all, community advocacy platforms, and education and leadership development for women and girls.**

#### **OUR VISION**

Our vision is to build urban promise from urban poverty.

#### **OUR VALUES**

##### **Connection**

We are relationship-led. We listen, collaborate and work together.

##### **Innovation**

We are creative problem-solvers. We learn fast, test and evolve.

##### **Transparency**

We are honest. We share openly, even when it is hard.

##### **Empathy**

We empower others. We build trust and respect everyone's opinion.

##### **Accountability**

We take ownership. We work hard and deliver on what we promise.

#### **OUR APPROACH**

**By 2045, the world's urban population is projected to reach six billion. Emerging economies, like Kenya, will have to endure this rapid growth but without the capacity to handle these challenges, urban poverty will explode.**

Picture life without access to healthcare, affordable clean water, the platform to voice your rights, or the ability to provide opportunities for your children.

SHOFCO works to address these key issues by providing critical services, operating community advocacy platforms, and building female leadership to create lasting change.

SHOFCO partners with local governments and NGOs to disrupt 'survival mode' and create the conditions for community-led solutions to scale.

While SHOFCO Urban Network (SUN) unites slum residents to build power and engage with government.

Together, these two prongs result in unparalleled success towards slum transformation across Kenya.



# SHOFCO Urban Network



**SHOFCO Urban Network (SUN) is a grassroots movement that brings together individuals and households through independently run social groups, and organizes them to actively seek tangible change in their community and society at large. SUN seeks to build a strong urban network with the vision of giving the urban poor a voice.**

### Impact Data Standouts

- There are over 1.4 million SUN community members
- Approximately 70% of SUN members are under the age of 35
- 4 SUN leaders hold local elected office
- SUN has created a self-sustaining Group Savings and Loans program for the members and their immediate families with more than USD \$900k in savings
- In the critical lead up to the 2022 Presidential elections, SUN hosted aspirant forums across the slums, as well as peacekeeping activities, resulting in one of the most peaceful elections in Kenya's history

On a micro-level, SUN facilitates community groups and peer-to-peer savings networks to create an entrepreneurial investment fund for businesses and micro-life insurance to mitigate the risks of unexpected death that can devastate family economics.

On a macro-level, SUN mobilizes groups and community members with access to SHOFCO's services and organizes large-scale advocacy campaigns, such as a recent peace march that successfully brought together 6,000+ slum residents to end violent election protests that were disrupting the local economy and endangering lives.

Starting from a small group of young people in Kibera, SUN has grown into a movement bringing together over 1.4 million people across 32 counties in Kenya. Today, there are more than 14,808 active self-sustaining Group Savings and Loans groups.

SUN drives community-wide collaboration, fosters knowledge sharing, and encourages civic engagement, providing avenues to participate in large-scale efforts focused on government accountability and other societal issues.

Our communities are organized in an overall group structure by appointing two representatives to manage group operations, facilitate dispute resolution, and serve as the point-person for communication with other groups. Group representatives are then able to elect zone leaders based on location. These leaders oversee sub-district project implementation and manage communications with other zone leaders.



Lastly, an elected executive committee oversees community-wide development and decision-making. They also serve as the liaison for cross-community knowledge sharing, project development, and advocacy efforts. SUN members have successfully lobbied government officials for improvements to their community including security lighting, paved roads, garbage disposal, and school bursaries for their children.



SUN members attending a local group meeting





## Julia Njoki

Julia Njoki, a resilient Mathare resident and mother of five, has called the vibrant community home for 40 years. She earns her living as a second-hand clothing trader at Gikomba, Kenya's prominent open-air market. Julia is not only a survivor of gender-based violence but also a fervent advocate for women's rights.

Her journey led her to the SHOFCO Urban Network (SUN) in 2017, where she played a pivotal role in its inception in Mathare. As Chairperson, Julia led SUN for four years, witnessing a profound transformation in her community.

During the challenging years of the Covid-19 pandemic, SUN provided daily food support and essential hygiene items like soap and sanitizers to families in Mathare and Ruaraka constituencies. This support expanded SUN from 400 groups to an impressive 1,200 groups, united in their support for one another. They formed savings and credit cooperative societies, offered emotional support during bereavement, and secured additional funding for their businesses.

Julia shares, "My motivation to do this work is inspired by my belief that community is togetherness. If we cannot sit down and share our issues and work together, no one else will do it for us."

She envisions a positive future for Mathare and beyond, replacing the memories of the 2007 post-election violence with a safe and thriving community.

**"My motivation to do this work is inspired by my belief that community is togetherness. If we cannot sit down and share our issues and work together, no one else will do it for us."**



# Girls' Leadership and Education



Our Girls' Leadership and Education Program provides free education for girls in Kenya's urban slums through a curriculum that enables young girls to reach their full potential. We believe that girls are the key to long-term change that will break the cycles of poverty in these communities. We currently have two primary schools for girls, the Kibera and Mathare Schools for Girls. From the school, SHOFCO extends holistic community services to the families of students and the entire community.



Future Education students



Primary Education participants in the National Music Festivals

## Impact Data Standouts

- Free education was provided to 656 girls in Kibera and Mathare through a curriculum that enables young girls to reach their full potential
- 100% of our girls matriculate to high school
- Our top students scored 412 out of 500 marks on the 2022 KCPE, above the national average score of 250

## Janet's story

When she was just five years old, Janet was identified as a young girl that would benefit from the education and resources provided by the Kibera School for Girls. Janet's family lives in the Kibera slum, and due to their financial instability, would be unable to pay school fees for Janet to attend school anywhere other than KSG. Janet joined kindergarten in 2013, and through years of hard work and determination, she graduated from Grade 8 in December 2022.

In her eighth grade year, Janet began boarding at KSG. Her travels to and from school were extremely long and required that she walk through densely forested paths. The attentive faculty at KSG noticed this and offered her family the opportunity to have Janet board at school. As a result of her boarding, Janet was able to spend more time studying for her national exams and this has supported her in receiving admission to a boarding high school in the United States.

With her education, Janet hopes to become a businesswoman and entrepreneur. Her dream is to return to Kenya to provide job opportunities and literacy programs to unemployed individuals living in the Kibera slum because she knows that education is the key to change!





# Sustainable Livelihoods



SHOFCO's Sustainable Livelihoods Program enables urban slum communities to break survival mode and plan for the future through business and entrepreneurship skills training, vocational skills development, internships, and job placement. The SHOFCO Women's Empowerment Project (SWEP), provides business training, support, and additional income for women, with a priority to those living with HIV.

### Impact Data Standouts

- 8,104 slum residents participated in job readiness and skills trainings
- 364 slum residents were placed in jobs and internships



Purity training members of the SHOFCO Women Empowerment Program (SWEP)



Youth being trained in cosmetology and hairdressing



Youth electrical engineering training

## Purity's story

Purity is 25 years old and has lived in Kibera her whole life. She completed her secondary education in 2016, but her family did not have the resources to fund further studies. Knowing that it can be dangerous to be a young woman with idle time in Kibera, Purity reached out to SHOFCO's Sustainable Livelihoods program.

In 2017, she began her engagement with the Sustainable Livelihoods program by attending an employability and entrepreneurship skills class. Due to her remarkable participation, SHOFCO facilitated Purity in entering and completing a hospitality management course. With this coursework under her belt, Purity was soon employed by St. Paul's University. But when Covid struck in 2020, she again found herself unemployed and fearful for the future.

In 2021, Purity returned to SHOFCO, hearing that SHOFCO's Women's Empowerment Project (SWEP) was taking on more women. She was excited remembering the impact SHOFCO's Sustainable Livelihoods program had on her life a few years prior. Purity enrolled in a tailoring skills class where she excelled at design and dressmaking.

Additionally, Purity found support in the women of SWEP, which has improved her mental health greatly.

Now, Purity works as an intern at SWEP, where she is paid to teach the same tailoring class that saved her from her struggles just one year before. Purity is currently selling her designs and saving up money in the hopes of eventually opening a boutique and online shop to sell her unique and creative designs.





# Health



Healthcare is key to SHOFCO’s holistic approach to help build empowered, healthy generations. We know that through reliable medical treatment, infants have a higher chance of normal neurocognitive development; children experience increased years of schooling, and adults decrease missed wages due to illness. Our services include primary health and preventative care, pre and postpartum care, child immunizations, comprehensive HIV care, family planning, cervical cancer screening, gender-based violence response, and a child nutrition program.

### Impact Data Standouts

- 0% mother-to-child HIV transmission at SHOFCO clinics, compared to 15% nationally
- Partnered with 6 new health facilities to expand healthcare services to new areas
- Healthcare services expanded to 3 new slum areas, including Korogocho, Mukuru and Kawangware



Maternal and Child Health intake at SHOFCO clinic



Community Health Volunteer child nutrition outreach



SHOFCO health workers providing free eye exams

## Caroline's story

Caroline lives in the Mathare slum and is a mother to three children aged 11 years, 6 years, and 16 months old. She is a single mother and provides for her family by taking on casual jobs when she can. Due to a lack of stable income, Caroline and her children often faced the possibility of eviction and went to bed hungry.

One day, Caroline's daughter began having vision complications. Having attended the SHOFCO clinic for many years prior, Caroline brought her daughter there in hopes that they could resolve the issue. The team at the SHOFCO clinic monitored her daughter's eye for several weeks, but could not identify the issue, so they referred Caroline's daughter to a local eye hospital in Kikuyu.

At the eye hospital, Caroline's daughter was diagnosed with a cataract. The staff advised Caroline that her daughter would need surgery, but with her little savings, she was concerned about being able to afford this. SHOFCO followed up with Caroline and, understanding her financial strain, supported her in applying to reduce the cost of the surgery and even paid the upfront fee needed for her daughter to access the procedure.

With the support from SHOFCO, Caroline's daughter was able to receive treatment for her cataract, and she has completely healed without complications.





# WASH



**Our water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) program provides clean, affordable water to residents across slums in Kenya’s two largest cities. This is supported by community outreach and education on proper hygiene techniques and the importance of using clean water for consumption. The aerial pipes connect to water kiosks throughout Kibera and Mathare, allowing clean water to flow through pipes in the air – without fear of tampering and contamination.**

## Impact Data Standouts

- Our first-of-its-kind aerial piping system supplied 13.6 million liters of clean water at a lower cost than private vendors
- Supported 7,500 teenage girls with menstrual hygiene training and sanitary pads monthly
- 51 schools received sanitation behavior change campaigns through health clubs

SHOFCO has embarked on an ambitious plan to bring clean water to all of Kibera, the largest slum in Africa. In 2022 we launched the first phase of this initiative, targeting 14 villages in Kibera where we are providing clean, safe drinking water to the community, schools, and healthcare facilities.

There, SHOFCO’s efforts include: drilling and equipping a borehole as a water source, constructing seven kiosks for the community to access water, and connecting 51 schools and 11 health clinics to this vital resource. SHOFCO has deployed state-of-the-art technology, including Ultrafiltration and Reverse Osmosis, to ensure that the water undergoes rigorous treatment, making it safe for consumption.



Madame Zaituni Zedi Hamad fills her water container

## Zaituni’s story

The Makina village is just one example of what is needed to bring this life-saving resource to these marginalized communities. Accessing clean drinking water in Makina was an arduous task, primarily because the water supply from the county government through Nairobi city water services was notoriously unreliable. Eventually, a large portion of the village was disconnected from this water source.

Without this service, the community had to rely heavily on private water vendors and hawkers who capitalized on the situation, selling a 20-liter jerrican of water at exorbitant prices ranging from 15 to 40 shillings. This placed a significant financial burden on the community, diverting funds that could have been used for other essential needs, such as proper sanitation and hygiene practices. Additionally, people spent long hours waiting in queues to access this scarce resource, only to find that it was sometimes unavailable.

60-year-old Madame Zaituni Zedi Hamad, who has lived in Makina for over three decades warmly describes the SHOFCO project as a true blessing for the community. It arrived just in time to address the pressing water accessibility issues by establishing accessible kiosks.

The water is now not only readily available but also a catalyst for positive change, enabling a healthier, more prosperous community to flourish.



# Gender

Our Gender Program combats a high prevalence of domestic violence, community violence, and a lack of social safety nets in slum communities through violence prevention, risk mitigation, and response services. We provide sexual and reproductive health education, temporary shelter for women and girls and link survivors with our sustainable livelihoods program to access training, start and grow businesses and end the financial dependency that keeps many in unsafe situations.

### Impact Data Standouts

- Linked 1,749 survivors to SHOFCO's Women's Empowerment Project (SWEP)
- 4,635 GBV cases were supported
- SHOFCO accompanied survivors through court proceedings resulting in 54 life imprisonment convictions



Gender sensitization community walk



Gender team hosting educational forum on GBV



Young mothers mental health session

## Emma's story

Emma came to the SHOFCO Gender Department seeking support for herself and her two children, aged three and four. For their safety, Emma and her children were moved into one of our Safe Houses due to Emma's mental health. While in the Safe House, the SHOFCO team ran an initial mental health assessment on Emma. Identifying that she had symptoms of schizophrenia they referred her to a local health center where she was diagnosed. This diagnosis was important for Emma because she was now able to obtain medication to greatly reduce her symptoms.

Despite living away from her abuser, Emma was concerned about fending for her children and worked with SHOFCO to obtain employment as a domestic worker. Soon the SHOFCO clinic noticed that Emma was not attending her follow-up sessions or collecting her medication. After searching to make contact, the team learned that Emma's employer was mistreating her. This included taking her on long trips outside of Nairobi, causing her to miss her therapy sessions and skip taking her medication.

Noting that her symptoms again became unsafe for Emma and her children, they were all readmitted to the SHOFCO Safe House. Here she began her medication again and restarted therapy. Emma was also referred to SWEP, where she attends classes to learn tailoring and eventually earn gainful employment to support her family.

After all of her struggles, Emma recently said in a session, "Now there is hope, no one has ever taken a chance on me. You have given me back my future, even the future of my children."





# Community Libraries

Our community libraries provide safe and quiet study space as well as reading materials to school-going children who would otherwise have no place to focus on their school work. The libraries also create learning environments and promote literacy in the community by offering relevant and attractive reading material for all ages and all literacy levels.

### Impact Data Standouts

- Combined, the community libraries had 241,370 visitors in 2022
- A new library branch was opened in Nyalenda, Kisumu
- 14 community libraries between Nairobi, Mombasa, and Kisumu



Students watching library sponsored youth debate



Youth participating in chess club



Youth at a library sponsored discussion

## Brian's story

Brian is 18 years old and currently resides in the Mukuru slum with his mother and two siblings. Growing up, he faced financial struggles as his mother was a single parent working to support her three children after leaving her husband due to his violent behavior.

Despite financial struggles, which resulted in often unpaid school fees, Brian scored an impressive 420 on his National Primary School Exam. This incredible score allowed him to enroll at the prestigious Starehe Boys' Centre and School, one of Kenya's top national high schools. However, Brian encountered a setback in his first year of high school, ranking 173rd in his class.

Determined to improve, he sought a safe and productive environment to study, which is difficult to come by in the Mukuru slum. This is when he discovered the SHOFCO Library, a sanctuary that provided the resources and support Brian needed to make significant strides in this academic journey. By the time schools reopened after the COVID-19 pandemic in his third year, Brian had climbed to the top 10 in his class. In his fourth year, Brian's hard work and determination paid off when he emerged as the second-best scoring student nationally on the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education exam.

Brian's extraordinary academic prowess attracted the attention of Northwestern University, and they awarded him a full scholarship to study Civil Engineering starting in the Fall of 2023. Brian plans to spend the time before he leaves volunteering at the SHOFCO Library, giving back to his community and the place that allowed him to achieve such success.





# Donors and Partners

We thank the following organizations and individuals whose investments in our mission empowered us to achieve so much.

Thank you for standing together with us as we seek to touch more lives with shining hope.

## \$100,000 and above

- Anonymous Foundation
- International Rescue Committee
- Leslie Bluhm and David Helfand
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# SHOFCO Leadership

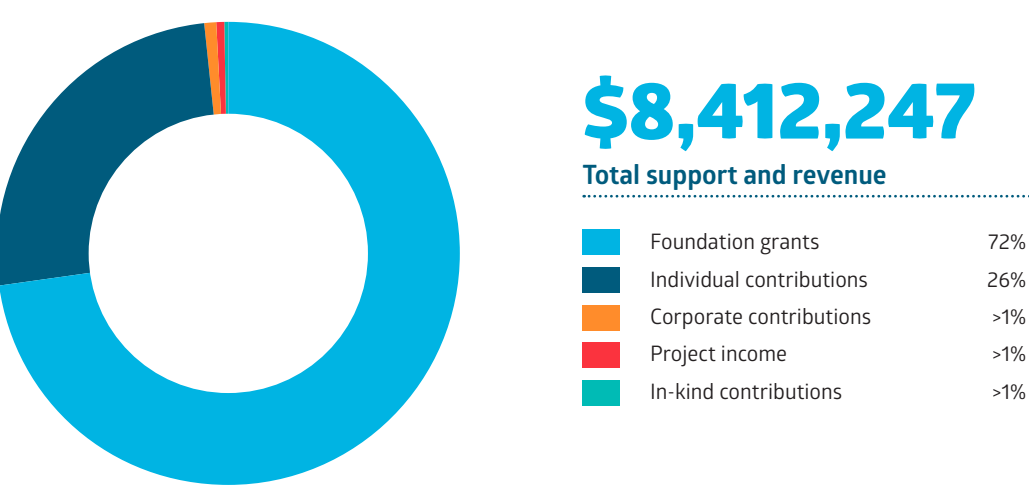
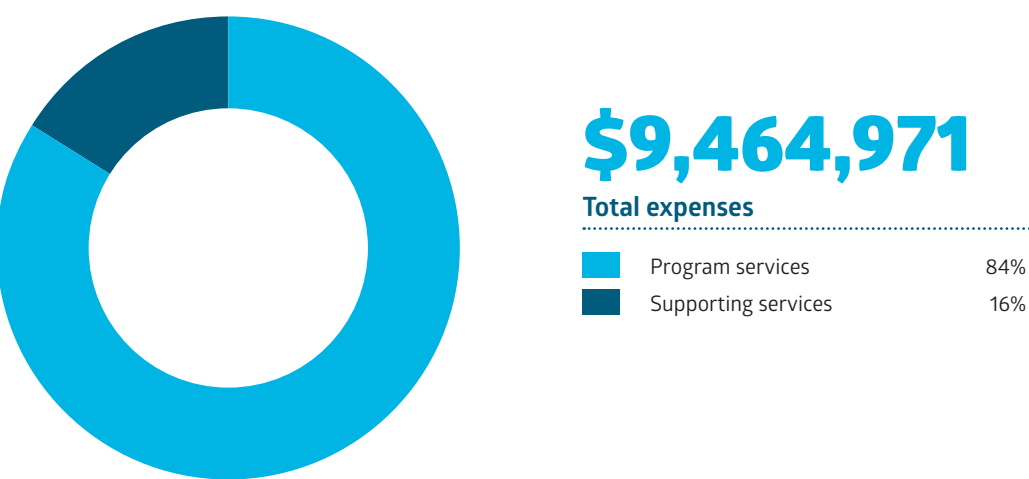
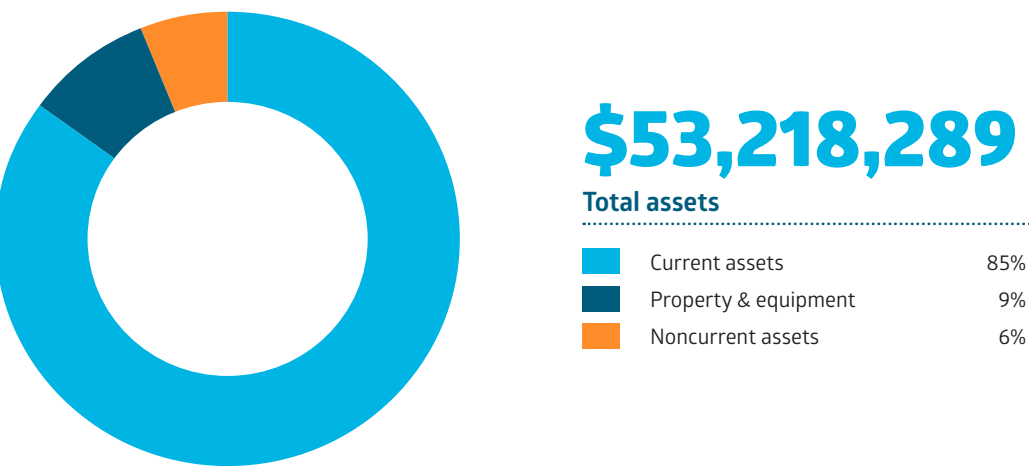
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Kibera Drive, Gatwekera  
Village, Kibera, P.O. Box  
8303-00200, Nairobi

**US Office**

11 Park Place, 3rd Floor,  
New York, NY 10007