

SHOFCO

international
youth day
2025

WITH
US,
NOT FOR US

“THE YOUTH AGENDA:
VOICES FOR KENYA'S
FUTURE”





A NOTE FROM KENNEDY

There is a generation rising in Kenya today—bold, clear-eyed, and ready to lead. I have seen it in the youth voice forums, in the mtaani tour. I have heard it on the Ugatuzi Wall. I have felt it in the questions you ask, the ideas you offer, and the urgency in your voices.

You are not waiting for your turn. This is good.

I know that feeling of urgency. I grew up in Kibera, in a home without running water, in a world that seemed to move forward without us. I know what it's like to feel invisible, to watch doors close before they even open. And I know that lasting change never begins from above—it starts when people who are overlooked stand up and say, “We belong in the room. We are ready.”

Kenya's young people are not a challenge to be managed. You are a force to be trusted.

This Youth Agenda is proof of that. It carries not just demands, but ideas. Not just frustration, but vision. You have moved the conversation from consultation to co-creation, as you mention. That shift is essential. “Nothing for us, without us” is not a slogan. It is a standard we must hold ourselves to.

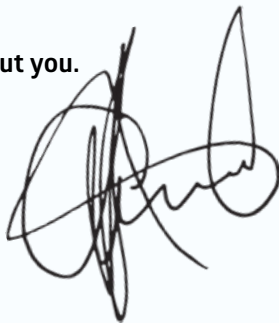
But let me take it one step further. Nothing without us. If decisions are being made that affect our communities, our economy, our future—it doesn’t matter if the room is labeled ‘youth’ or not—you belong there. Not just where you are invited, but wherever you choose to show up.

At SHOFCO, we’ve spent nearly two decades listening, building, and learning alongside youth in every corner of this country—from informal settlements to coastal towns, border counties to the heart of Nairobi. Our model is simple: trust communities. Trust youth. Then work together to solve the problems that matter—health, water, safety, mental health, education, livelihoods, leadership. We’ve seen what happens when young people are not only given a seat at the table, but the power to shape the table itself.

To Kenya’s youth: this moment is yours. Not because it was given to you, but because you claimed it. You are not the leaders of tomorrow. You are leading now.

And we are with you.

Nothing without you.

A black ink handwritten signature, likely belonging to Kennedy Odede, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Kennedy Odede, SHOFCO Founder & CEO



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