

**Program:** Shining Hope for Communities, Kenya

**Website:** <http://shininghopeforcommunities.org/>

**Mission:** Shining Hope for Communities combats intergenerational cycles of poverty and gender inequality by linking tuition-free schools for girls to essential social services in Kenya's Kibera slum through a holistic, community-driven approach.

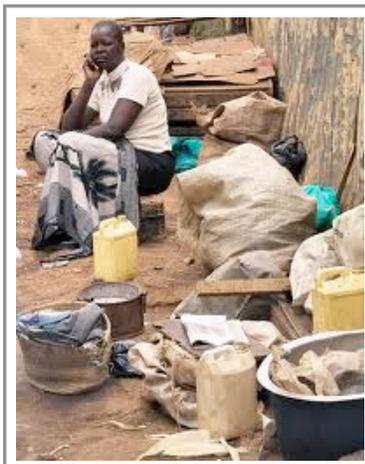
**History of the Organization:** **Shining Hope for Communities** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit headquartered in Middletown, CT and founded in 2009 by CEO Kennedy Odede and COO Jessica Posner. Kennedy lived in the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya for 23 of his 26 years. There, he saw first-hand the bleak prospects for women. After seeing many women's lives crushed, including those of his mother and sisters, Kennedy dreamed of finding a way to change the position of women in his society.

Shining Hope for Communities (SHC) is an extremely diverse and experienced coalition of local community members, leaders in international development practice, university students, and grassroots supporters. Kennedy studies at Wesleyan University, and has combined his experience as a community organizer in Kibera with his college education to create a unique organization. All of Shining Hope for Communities' work is inspired and overseen by local community members in Kibera.

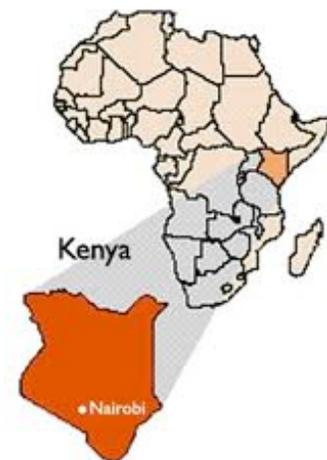


**Where They Work:** Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya

**About the Region:** Kibera is the largest slum in Nairobi, and the second largest urban slum in Africa.<sup>1</sup> Conditions in Kibera are "extremely poor, and most of its residents lack access to basic services, including electricity and running water."<sup>2</sup> Kibera is divided into 13 villages. An artificial lake provides drinking water to the residents of the city; open sewage is responsible for disease. Violent crime is also a problem.



Woman on the street of Kibera slum trying to sell her belongings. Image: Chrissy Olsen.



**History of the region:** Kenya is slightly more than twice the size of Nevada; Nairobi is the capital. Once home to the Masai people, the name "Nairobi" means "the place of cool waters" in the Masai language.

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"Although the UN estimates that there may be as many as 1.5 million people living in Kibera, Kenya's government does not formally acknowledge the slum's existence. The government contends that Kibera's residents are illegally squatting on government-owned land and thus it does not provide sufficient services or infrastructure to Kibera residents such as sanitation, roads, hospitals, or schools. The lack of accessible resources or services hurts everyone, but leaves women devastated because men are in control of any existing resources. This perpetuates the cycle of poverty and gender inequity."

—Shining Hope for Communities

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**Kenya was created by European colonialism in Africa, which lasted from the mid-1800s to the 1960s.** Nairobi, the once pastoral capital of Kenya--wetlands owned by the Masai people--was of little interest to the European colonialists until the nineteenth century, "when the Masai leader negotiated a treaty with the British, allowing them to construct the Mombasa-Uganda railway line and depot through Masai grazing lands."<sup>3</sup> The city grew rapidly, swelling with white settlers who arrived to farm the fertile soil and set up coffee plantations, leading to conflicts with the indigenous Masai and the Kikuyu people. Britain granted Nairobi city status in 1954. After independence, a decimated economy and poor infrastructure led to the formation of a tent city.

**Kibera originated as "a settlement in the forests outside Nairobi, when Nubian soldiers returning from service in the First World War were awarded with plots there in return for their efforts."**<sup>4</sup> The British colonial government allowed the settlement to grow informally, "primarily because of the Nubians'

status as former servants of the British crown."<sup>5</sup>

**The Project:** Shining Hope for Communities has developed an innovative, two-step community-driven model to combat gender inequality: **They link tuition-free schools for girls to holistic community centers that provide residents with the most essential services** unavailable elsewhere. Instead of paying fees, parents agree to work at the school and community center, which creates a community of caregivers invested in their daughters' education.

The two components to this month's project are support and expansion for (1) **the Kibera School for Girls**, the core program of Shining Hope for Communities, and (2) **the Women's Income-Generating Empowerment Project**, an initiative that combines income-generating projects with desperately needed community services.

**The Kibera School for Girls**, founded in August 2009, is the first tuition-free school for girls in Kibera. The school provides the slum's most needy and bright students with a superior education, daily nourishment, uniforms, school supplies, afterschool programs, and health/psychosocial care. The Kibera School for Girls (KSG) has 45 students in Pre-Kindergarten through 1st grade, and will have 105 in by the end of 2011. KSG will eventually expand to 8th grade and a goal of 570 students.

**The Women's Income-Generating Empowerment Project** uses environmentally sustainable gardening techniques to grow vitamin-rich vegetables that will provide desperately needed sources of nutrition to members of the community at prices they are able to afford.

#### About Kibera

- In Kenya, 33% of women by age 16 trade sex to survive; in Kibera 66% of girls trade sex for food as early as age six.
- Women in Kibera contract HIV at a rate 5 times higher than their male counterparts; Kibera has one of the world's highest HIV rates.
- 1 of 5 children does not live to see their 5th birthday.
- 7 of 10 women have experienced or will experience violence.
- Educating a girl in a place like Kibera means she will earn more, invest 90% of earnings in her family, be three times less likely to contract HIV, and have fewer, healthier children who are more likely to live past age five. --Shining Hope for Communities

Alongside the gardening project, protein-rich chickens and eggs will also be raised and sold to the community at competitive market prices. In addition, community women will have the opportunity to participate in a craft cooperative.

Together, these projects will provide a living wage for participants. Research shows that in places like Kibera women invest more than 90% of their earnings in their families, and will be 3 times less likely to contract HIV.<sup>6</sup>



Two participants at a SHC craft cooperative.

### Project Budget:

<b>Kibera School for Girls Annual Expenses</b>	
School Head Mistress	\$1,400
School Administrator	\$1,400
Teachers	\$9,600
Social Worker	\$1,400
Maint./Improvements	\$2,200
Supplemental Education Fund*	\$1,400
Curriculum Materials for School	\$2,000
Feeding Program**	\$6,552
School Supplies	\$2,100
<b>Subtotal School for Girls</b>	<b>\$28,052</b>
<b>Annual Income-Generating Services</b>	
Community Center Administrator	\$1,400
Project Poultry	\$3,306
Gardens for Growth	\$209
Women's Craft Workshop	\$834
<b>Subtotal IGSI</b>	<b>\$5,749</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$33,801</b>

PROGRAM COST NOTES: The teaching staff will grow from 5 to 7 teachers from FY 2010 to 2011, serving a total of 105 students. The Social Worker will work with students and families and will also be available to work as a trauma specialist in the community center, sharing resources. KSG has 8 classrooms and will not need to expand in the first 5 years. These funds will be used for repair & improvements.

\*Funds educational field trips for students and teachers' conferences/workshops/night classes to support professional development, and enhance curriculum.

\*\* Includes cost of annual feeding program to provide students with daily breakfast and lunch.

### Any donations that exceed \$33, 801 will be used at The Kibera School for Girls:

\$2,000 for school supplies, specifically art classes and science lessons.

\$3,000 for curriculum materials: Purchase of McGraw Hill language arts curriculum and the purchase of a new math curriculum.

## How They Measure Success:

- **Tracking Project Participation:** Participation in programs is logged daily on-site, and compiled bi-weekly for evaluation of service utilization.



- **Attendance is taken daily at the school:** Teachers are also responsible for submitting weekly progress reports for every student in each core subject area. In addition, they track the health of students as well as any changes in family income.

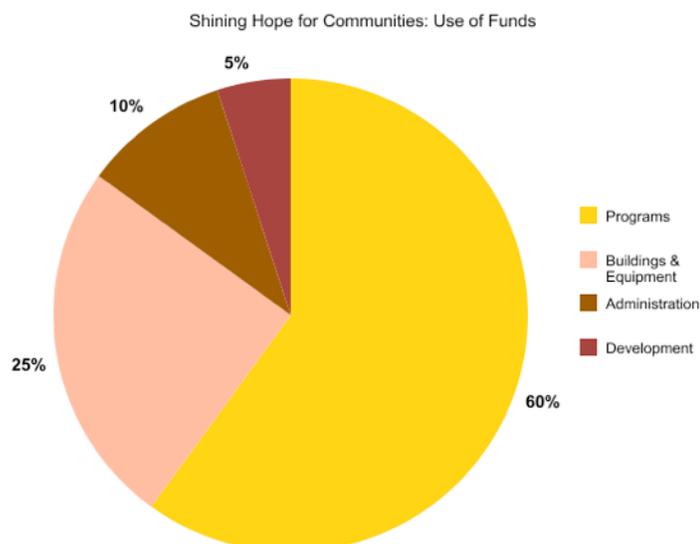
- **Community Oversight:** A parent advisory board oversees the daily operation and long-term expansion of the school. These parents are responsible for monitoring volunteer parent labor and for approving large capital expenditures at the school. The board is the "first-responder" to any issues that arise at the school and community center site.

- **Staff Oversight:** The school and community center share a paid Kenyan staff member who answers to the parent board and supervises daily operations at the project site, monitors teacher performance, and tracks finances at the SHC compound.

- **Evaluation of the Kibera School for Girls:** In addition to weekly and annual individual student evaluations, the Kenyan Association of Independent Schools will be commissioned each year to assess the Kibera School for Girls as a whole.
- **Evaluation of Women's Income-Generating Empowerment Projects:** Baseline assessment of the community will be undertaken to assess the community's standard of living in the following domains: education, physical health, economic status, and gender equity.

## Financial Profile

### SHC: 2010 Expenses



## 2010 Use of Funds

Percentage	Item	Amount
60%	Programs	\$96,227
10%	Administration	\$15,627
25%	Capital Costs*	\$39,366
5%	Development	\$7,503
100%	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$158,723</b>

\*Capital Costs: Buildings & Equipment

## 2010 Source of Funds

Percentage	Item	Amount
29%	Donations from Individuals	\$165,823
58%	Grants/Awards	\$333,100
9%	Project Revenue	\$4,231
1%	Major Gifts	\$49,385
3%	Sponsorship	\$18,425
100%	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$570,964</b>

## Sources:

(In addition to Shining Hope for Communities)

<sup>1</sup> International Medical Corp

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia

<sup>3</sup> [www.africanexecutive.com](http://www.africanexecutive.com)

<sup>4</sup> ibid

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> CAMFED