



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**



Shadrack Kombe: Pioneering Monitoring and Evaluation for a Brighter Future at SOS Children's Villages in Kenya

By Jonathan Wamanji

In the bustling city of Nairobi, amidst the heartwarming walls of SOS Children's Villages in Kenya at the National Office, Shadrack Kombe silently sits at his workstation sipping his brewed coffee looking at the impact of different programmes.

Shadrack's journey with SOS Children's Villages Kenya began on a rainy Monday morning, December 2nd, 2019. Like any first day, he was greeted by a whirlwind of uncertainties. However, those uncertainties quickly disappeared as he was embraced by the warmth and support of colleagues he now proudly works with.

Driven by a deep love for children, Shadrack saw the opportunity to work with them full-time as a calling he could not ignore. When SOS Children's Villages in Kenya was searching for someone to take on the crucial role of Monitoring and Evaluation, Shadrack eagerly stepped forward. Little did he know that this decision would set him on a path to make a profound difference in the lives of countless children and youth.

As a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Shadrack's responsibilities extend far beyond tracking impact. He is at the forefront of strategic planning, steering the implementation of programmes, and documenting organizational learning.

With his keen eye for detail and commitment to excellence, Shadrack ensures that SOS Children's Villages in Kenya delivers on its mission.

What truly sets Shadrack's work apart is his ability to leverage his diverse skill set. Not only does he establish robust monitoring and evaluation systems, but he also actively contributes to strategic planning and organization-wide steering. Moreover, his love for theatre finds expression through the National Directors Award initiative, where he nurtures the hidden talents of children, unlocking their full potential.

Within the supportive and nurturing environment of SOS Children's Villages in Kenya, Shadrack thrives. The organization provides him with a platform to define and execute his mandate, allowing him to learn at his own pace and utilize his skills without judgment. This empowering atmosphere fosters a culture of excellence, where every team member is encouraged to reach their fullest potential.

One of Shadrack's most remarkable achievements has been the initiation of the inaugural National Director's Award for the children. In the face of the long confinement brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, this showcase of talent provided a breath of fresh air not only to the children but also to SOS Children's Villages in Kenya.

The sheer joy of hearing, seeing, and recognizing the remarkable talents of children in various SOS Children's Village locations is a testament to Shadrack's commitment to creating opportunities for growth and self-expression.

If given the chance to sit down with the visionary founder of SOS Children's Villages, 70 years since his first initiative, Shadrack would seize the opportunity to discuss the founder's dreams for the 21st century. He would seek to understand how the vision has evolved and learn from the wisdom that paved the way for such a transformative organization.

Shadrack Kombe's remarkable journey within SOS Children's Villages in Kenya exemplifies the power of dedication, passion, and innovation. Through his work in monitoring and evaluation, he is shaping a brighter future for vulnerable children and youth, one programme at a time.

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