

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

For the Year Ended 31st October 2023



Charity Registration No. 1189501
(England and Wales)

OUR MISSION AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Mission and Aims

Each of us is an original by design. Our mission is to create safe environments where children and young people can freely explore and uncover their unique selves. We empower them to pursue purposeful and meaningful lives, ultimately benefiting society.

Objectives

Our Founding Constitution set out our objectives as 'to advance the Christian faith in accordance with the Statement of Faith; and the prevention or relief of poverty by providing or assisting in the provision of education, training, healthcare projects and all the necessary support designed to enable individuals to generate a sustainable income and be self-sufficient.' (CIO Founding Constitution, 2020.)

We at Route 61 International (Route 61) are committed to a holistic mission model that fosters interdependent partnerships and enables collaboration towards the common goals of our objectives while preserving autonomy and diversity.

Public Benefit

The trustees are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and believe that Route 61's activities provide an essential public benefit.

In 2023, Route 61 supported the Chaplaincy of the Directorate of Children's Services in Kenya, focusing on children in the juvenile justice system. We advanced the Christian faith through spiritual counselling, teaching, and faith-based programmes while supporting vocational training, healthcare, and family reconciliation initiatives. Our efforts promoted the well-being and self-sufficiency of these children and contributed to the development of healthier, more resilient communities.

Activities

Our programmes are carried out by a team of trained professionals and dedicated volunteers from Kenya. Their extensive training and commitment ensure the effective implementation of our programmes and their delivery in a way sensitive to the culture, needs, and values of the communities we serve.



ANNUAL STRATEGY

As of 2022, approximately 5,000 children are held in the Kenyan juvenile justice system annually, although populations were curbed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

General Strategy for the year ending 31st October 2023.

Throughout the year, Route 61 continued working in unison with The Route Sixty One Foundation (Registered Kenyan Society Number 50896) to promote positive inner transformation and behavioural change in children within the Kenyan juvenile justice system. **This collaboration was officially recognised and authorised by signing a three-year Partnership Agreement with the Directorate of Children's Services, Kenya, in February 2023.**

Strategy Implementation

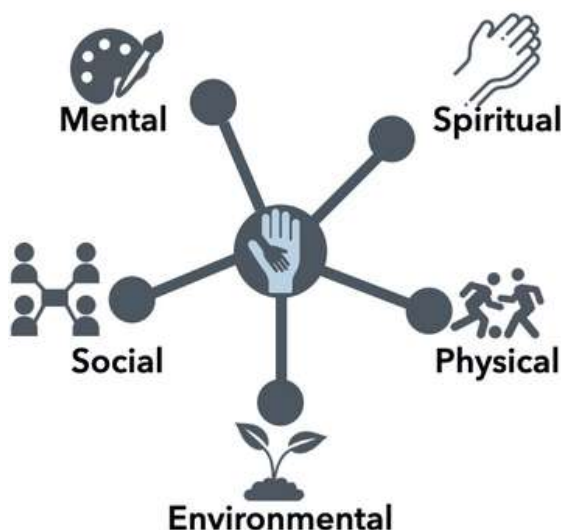
Due Diligence

Route 61 delivers programmes through a partnership with a Kenyan registered charity, The Route Sixty One Foundation. An annually reviewed Affiliate Partnership Agreement details the parameters of this collaboration and includes the appointment of a Route 61 representative to The Route Sixty One Foundation's governing body; the benefits of this are:

- It ensures the appropriate, responsible and transparent use of Route 61's financial donations.
- Enhanced collaboration and communication, facilitating better decision-making and effective implementation of projects.
- Improved understanding of the local context: This gives Route 61 a better understanding of the local context in which its partner organisation operates. It also helps it make more informed decisions about tailoring its project to meet the local community's needs.

Programme Delivery

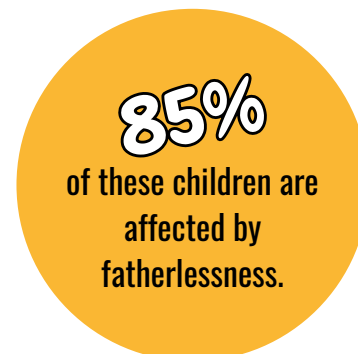
Ours is a holistic approach:



Population Breakdown:
Care & Protection 30%
Conflict with the law 70%

¹.Eighty-five per cent of children with behavioural problems come from fatherless homes. Route 61 spiritual mentors fill this parental void by serving as consistent role models and offering wise counsel. They also provide:

- Guided learning
- Moments of sung praise and worship
- Individual prayer
- Individual counselling to enrich the children's well-being



Children Of Other Faiths

Route 61 is committed to serving all children with love, compassion, and respect, regardless of their religious or cultural backgrounds. We design our programmes to be inclusive and non-discriminatory, ensuring every child feels welcomed and valued. We respect our participants' diverse faiths and traditions and strive to create an environment where all children can thrive. Participation in our programmes does not require adherence to any particular faith, and we encourage respectful dialogue and understanding among all members of our community.

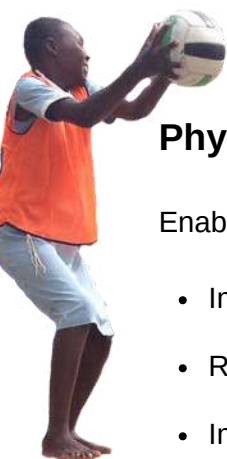
Mental

The delivery of activities such as reading, drawing and craftwork provides the following benefits to children:

- The development of cognitive skills helps the child think, learn and remember.
- Children's time in the juvenile justice system excludes them from accessing formal education. Mental activities, such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and concentration, help the children maintain and develop the skills needed to succeed when they return to school.
- We help children increase their creativity by providing play and art that stimulates them to develop new ideas and solutions.
- Helping the children focus on something other than their current predicament, worries, and concerns reduces their stress and anxiety levels.
- They have improved overall well-being by helping children develop a sense of accomplishment and building self-confidence and resilience.

In February, Route 61 conducted a Trauma Awareness Day for sixty frontline staff members who assist children in the juvenile justice system. A survey conducted during the event revealed that 52% of the staff displayed signs of burnout. In response, Route 61 plans to pilot the implementation of self-help groups to decrease burnout indicators among frontline workers by 15-20%.

1. Ngunjiri, Ndirangu. *Children and Crime Rates in Kenya* (2019). <https://bit.ly/3Dm2JMO>



Physical



Enabling children to play sports and engage in drama, dance and therapy sessions helps:

- Improve general physical health and build strong bones and muscles.
- Reduce stress and anxiety levels, improve mood and increase self-esteem.
- Improve social skills and learn how to work together in a team.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Learn how to resolve conflicts.
- Improve overall well-being by helping children develop a sense of accomplishment and building self-confidence and resilience.

Other physical activities included promoting personal hygiene by providing sanitary towels, underwear and bathing soap.

Social



In 2020, we introduced the 'Phone Home' project to enable and maintain healthy communication between children and their loved ones. This plays a vital role in the successful restoration of family relationships and effective rehabilitation of the child.

In 2023:

- We added three institutions, for a total of eight currently benefiting from Route 61 purchased telephone handsets and monthly airtime.
- 2,760 Children called home.
- On average, every child makes four four-minute calls in a month.



Other social activities included organising and enabling seasonal parties, such as Christmas and Easter celebrations, which involved food and games.

Environmental



Where suitable land is available, we teach sustainable organic farming methods along with secondary lessons in project management and bookkeeping.

Subsistence farming is common throughout Kenya, so it is essential to encourage children to participate in hands-on activities that will help them learn valuable, sustainable farming skills. These small-scale organic farm projects not only provided food for the children and staff but also served as a practical learning experience. This project was successful because the profits from selling the crops were reinvested back into the farms to buy seeds and equipment, ensuring their sustainability.

FUTURE PLANS



Expansion of the Phone Home Project

For the year, 2023-24, we plan to expand the 'Phone Home' initiative by adding four more institutions, bringing the total to 12.

Transformative Parenting Courses

Route 61 will be introducing parenting training programs to address the rise in juvenile involvement in criminal activities by empowering parents with the necessary tools and knowledge. Our training sessions will focus on effective communication, conflict resolution, and understanding the socio-economic challenges faced by families in our community.

It is our belief that by providing parents with these resources, we can work together to create a safer and more supportive environment for children, ultimately reducing juvenile delinquency.

Sex Education and Abstinence Teaching

Last year, we planned to implement a teaching program aimed at promoting respect, informed decision-making, and responsible attitudes towards sexual health among boys and girls. Unfortunately, due to resource constraints, we were unable to carry out this initiative. However, we are committed to introducing this program in the coming year.

Staff Well-being

As frontline workers, staff in the juvenile justice system often face incredibly challenging situations without emotional support. Therefore, we intend to introduce a pilot scheme to assess the effectiveness of quarterly Family Focus Sessions for frontline workers to reduce burnout indicators by 15 to 20%.

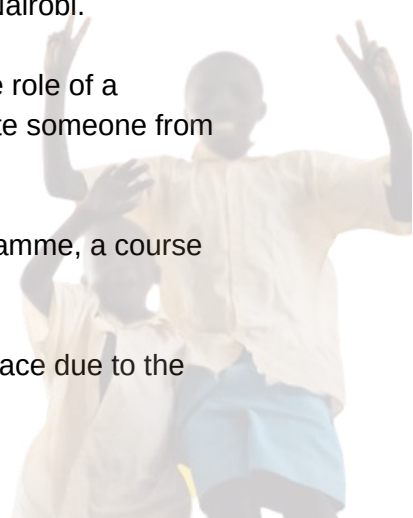
Team Growth

The Kenyan team has been steadily growing and currently consists of five members. In the upcoming year, we plan to expand the team by adding three more members, one of whom will focus on strengthening our presence and impact in institutions in and around Nairobi.

As our team continues to grow, we recognize the importance of introducing the role of a Programme Manager to oversee this important work. Ideally, we aim to promote someone from within the existing team to fill this role.

Additionally, we are introducing a 3-month volunteer student attachment programme, a course requirement for those pursuing a higher education qualification.

With our team expanding, we anticipate the need to secure additional office space due to the limited capacity of our current office.



Developing Existing And Future Leaders



This year, Route 61 will provide leadership training for church leaders in Kenya. Our programmes and curriculum aim to equip leaders with a deep understanding of theological principles, enhance their ability to address societal challenges and foster integrity and accountability.

70% of Kenya's population identifies as Christian, indicating a significant reliance on church leadership for spiritual guidance and community support. Despite this high percentage, a recent survey found that only 40% of church leaders have received formal theological training, highlighting a substantial gap in doctrinal knowledge and leadership skills. Furthermore, the rapid growth of Christianity in Kenya, with the number of believers projected to increase by 5% annually, exacerbates the need for competent leaders who can navigate the complexities of modern society while maintaining doctrinal integrity. By addressing these pressing needs, Route 61's training programmes aim to ensure that church leaders are well-equipped to guide their congregations effectively, uphold sound doctrine, and contribute positively to the growth and stability of the church in Kenya.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income and Expenditure

For the year ending 31st October 2023, total income was £23,631, and expenditure was £24,806, resulting in a net deficit of £1,175. The trustees continue to monitor spending to maintain costs in line with general income.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Route 61 (International) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) governed by its CIO Founding Constitution (2020).

Trustees

The trustees who served during the year were:

Mr D. J. Oliver

Mrs S. R. Bennett

Dr. J. S. Goodman

Mr D. J. Young

Mr G. P. Brookes

Ms M. E. Fields - resigned on 12/10/23

Trustees are appointed and removed by the Board of Trustees as outlined in the Charity's Constitution. In selecting individuals for appointment as Charity Trustees, the Charity Trustees have regard for the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Management

Route 61 is governed by regular trustee meetings that cover legal responsibilities and due diligence, including finances, regulatory considerations, risk management, and safeguarding matters. Derek Oliver and Penny Oliver, who represent Route 61's work internationally, primarily handle day-to-day operational management and implement trustee decisions.

Principal Office

63 Shearwater Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP3 0GB, UK.

DECLARATION

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report and accounts.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Signature:


Full Name: Derek John Oliver

Position: Trustee

Date: August 26, 2024



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/11/2022		31/10/2023

Section A Receipts and payments

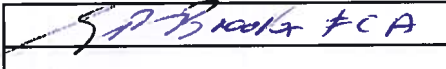
	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	21,574	-	-	21,574	16,825
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Mission Trips income	-	2,057	-	2,057	121
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	21,574	2,057	-	23,631	16,946
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	21,574	2,057	-	23,631	16,946

A3 Payments					
Ministry support		823	-	823	11,676
transferred funds for project activities and support	20,100		-	20,100	10,750
Health and Safety			-	-	32
Mission trips costs	-	2,057	-	2,057	-
Subscription	46	-	-	46	70
Shipping costs	635			635	-
UK Bank and Insurance support costs	458			458	-
Governance costs	687		-	687	486
Sub total	21,926	2,880	-	24,806	23,014

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	21,926	2,880	-	24,806	23,014

Net of receipts/(payments)	(352)	(823)	-	(1,175)	(6,068)
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,708	1,000	-	5,708	11,776
Cash funds this year end	4,356	177	-	4,533	5,708

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year

Categories	Details	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Metro Bank	3,916	177	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	3,916	177	-
	Agreement Error	OK	OK	
		Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted to nearest £	Endowment to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	Wise funds sent in advance	440	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		0	-	-
		0	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		0	-	-
		0	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		0	-	
		0	-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			Gary Brookes	26/08/2024