

Trustees' Annual Report

Period: 1 November 2023 to 31 December 2024

(Extended to align with the accounting year of our overseas partner, The Route Sixty One Foundation in Kenya.)

Charity Details

Charity Name: Route 61 International

Working Name: Route 61

Charity Registration Number: 1189501

Registered Address: 63 Shearwater Road, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 0GB

Legal Structure: Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Structure, Governance and Management

Trustees during the period:

David Young, Chair (01/01/2024 to 31/05/2024)

Gary Brookes, Treasurer

Sarah Bennett

Dr Jeremy Goodman

Derek Oliver

Key Volunteers:

Derek Oliver, Overseas Director (based in Kenya)

Penny Oliver, Overseas Director (based in Kenya)

Type of Governing Document:

Constitution adopted on 14 March 2020

How the Charity Is Constituted:

Route 61 International is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Number 1189501

Trustee Selection Methods:

Trustees are appointed by resolution at a properly convened trustee meeting.

Selection is based on skills, knowledge and experience relevant to the charity's work.

All trustees subscribe to the charity's Statement of Faith and are subject to enhanced DBS checks.

Key Policies, Procedures and Partnership Agreements

For this reporting period, The Route Sixty-One Foundation in Kenya acted as our sole delivery partner, responsible for executing all activities aligned with our charitable objectives.

Although delivery takes place overseas, our trustees take their governance responsibilities very seriously. They are committed to careful stewardship, financial honesty, and safeguarding the vulnerable. Our policies are few, but they are well-suited to the scale and nature of our work. They reflect our commitment to integrity, protect the people we serve, and safeguard the mission God has entrusted to us.

Two Route 61 volunteers are based in Kenya, serving as Overseas Directors and working closely with our affiliate partner's team. They provide leadership, clear communication, and consistent oversight. Their presence on the ground helps to build trusted relationships, strengthen accountability, ensure close coordination, and offer hands-on support where it's needed most.

The following policies and agreements guide our work:

Affiliate Partnership Agreement

A signed agreement between Route 61 International and The Route Sixty One Foundation outlines our shared values, mutual responsibilities, reporting expectations, and the basis of our collaboration. It confirms the independence of our Kenyan partner while ensuring that all activities align with our charitable aims and that funds are used with integrity.

Safeguarding Policy

This policy outlines our approach to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable adults. It sets out clear behavioural expectations, defines what counts as abuse or neglect, and describes how concerns must be reported. We require our Kenyan affiliate to adhere to similar standards and notify us immediately of any incidents or risks.

We subscribe to the services of Thirtyone:eight, a UK-based Christian safeguarding consultancy, for expert advice and ongoing support. Our safeguarding framework includes clearly defined roles and responsibilities, as outlined in our policy, with designated safeguarding leads appointed to handle concerns. All Route 61 trustees and volunteers have completed enhanced DBS checks and are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

Equal Opportunities & Inclusivity Policy

This policy demonstrates our dedication to treating every individual with dignity, respect, and fairness. It applies to all we engage with, including trustees, volunteers, donors, and our Kenyan affiliate. We do not accept discrimination based on ethnicity, gender, disability, faith, or social background. Our decisions and relationships are guided by the belief that each person holds God-given value and potential. This policy helps foster a culture where people feel recognised, listened to, and able to contribute fully.

Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy

This policy protects the integrity of Route 61 by explicitly banning bribery, extortion, and all types of corruption in our international work. It applies to trustees, volunteers, overseas affiliates, and third parties acting on our behalf. Bribes, facilitation payments, kickbacks, and improper gifts are strictly forbidden under any circumstances.

Representatives of the charity should act honestly and transparently in all situations. Any suspected or confirmed incidents must be reported to the Board of Trustees. In cases where personal safety is threatened, an emergency payment may be made, but it must be reported immediately and documented clearly.

The policy fosters a culture where corruption is never tolerated. It specifies clear consequences: Route 61 representatives who breach the policy may be removed from their roles, and third parties could have their contracts terminated. Route 61 retains the right to pursue legal action when necessary.

Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing Policy

This policy explains how we prevent Route 61's funds from being misused for criminal or unlawful reasons. It applies to all trustees, volunteers, and anyone handling or transferring money on behalf of the charity.

We implement simple yet effective measures to prevent money laundering and the financing of criminal or terrorist activities. These include verifying donors when necessary, recording the purpose of each donation, and maintaining clear evidence of how funds are utilised. Transfers to our Kenyan affiliate are monitored through formal records, and we require receipts and reports for all fund usage.

Any suspicious activity, such as unusual payment requests or inconsistent financial records, must be flagged and reported to the Board of Trustees. We are committed to protecting the integrity of our finances and honouring the trust of those who give sacrificially to support our work.

Objects and Activities

Summary of the Objects:

The purpose of Route 61 International is to serve the public by working for the good of others, mainly in Kenya, but also in other parts of the world, as the trustees may decide. We do this in two main ways. First, we share the Christian faith, following the beliefs and values outlined in our Statement of Faith; this is not just about words but about showing God's love in action. Second, we help people break free from poverty. We support education, skills training, healthcare, and other practical assistance that provide individuals and families with the tools to become self-sufficient and build a better future.

Summary of Main Activities Undertaken for the Public Benefit:

During the reporting period, Route 61 International advanced its charitable objectives by supporting the work of The Route Sixty One Foundation, our partner based in Kenya. All activities were conducted through this partnership and aimed to address precise public needs in line with our stated objects.

The work focused on supporting children in Kenya's juvenile justice system, many of whom are in conflict with the law, estranged from their families, or victims of neglect. Some may have been abandoned, while others are separated from their families for various reasons. Through mentoring, family tracing, counselling, and practical support, we aim to help each child return safely home, rebuild trust, and find belonging within a family or supportive community.

Route 61 International did not deliver services directly. Instead, we allocated the work through funding, provided training for local mentors, and offered regular oversight and encouragement through our Overseas Directors based in Kenya. This structure allowed the charity to maintain accountability while supporting locally driven solutions that bring lasting change.

Achievements and Performance

Through our affiliate partnership with the Route Sixty-One Foundation, Kenya, we:

Supported Children in Institutions

- Through our Kenyan affiliate, we send teams of trained mentors, known as Children's Champions, into six government institutions every week. These mentors walked alongside hundreds of children, offering guidance, listening ears, and spiritual support. Our chaplaincy service brought hope and encouragement in places that can feel lonely, insecure and harsh.

A total of **860 children were reached**: 759 boys, 99 girls, and 2 babies. Nine children were living with a disability. Although these children receive shelter and food, it is common for their emotional, spiritual and psychological needs to go unmet. For many, our mentors were the only consistent visitors who cared about more than their survival.

Children told us that on days when Route 61 does not visit, they feel discouraged, unloved, fearful, and angry. When we asked why our visits matter, their answer was simple: "You are like our parents; you guide us."

These words remind us that what we bring is more than programmes. For many children, it is their only lifeline. Each Route 61 team visit rebuilds their trust, restores their dignity, builds self-worth and affirms the truth that they are lovable and belong.



During Christmas, we hosted 12 parties at children's institutions (six for each year covered by the report), featuring games, decorations, and snacks. Additionally, seven Christmas boxes filled with fun activities were sent to seven institutions within the Nairobi area where there was no physical presence of Route 61.



Building Skills and Confidence

Eight frontline workers completed certified first aid training through the Kenya Red Cross with our support. These workers are often the first to respond to injuries or emergencies in juvenile institutions, and now they are better equipped to provide life-saving care.



Improving Facilities and Well-being



We carried out a significant renovation at one institution, transforming a dull, smoke-damaged dining hall and tired outdoor seating area into a bright recreational space filled with motivational artwork and Scripture verses. Children now have a safe and inspiring place to gather, learn, and play. You'll often see children examining the painting, which depicts the parable of Jesus called the Prodigal Son. A perfect story of a boy who made the difficult choice of returning home, receiving forgiveness, and being reconciled.

Route 61 provided two cots, clothing and nappies (diapers) to a local baby rescue centre.



Strengthening Families and Connections

We supplied monthly airtime top-ups to eight institutions, enabling children to stay in touch with their families. Throughout the year, children torn from home made **13,942** calls to loved ones. For some, these calls represented the first connection home in years.

Equipping Those Who Care

We organised a retreat for the Route Sixty-One Foundation team in January 2023 to refresh and strengthen those on the front line. We also held monthly training sessions for approximately 12 local church leaders (attendance varied from month to month), providing them with space and time to connect with God, receive His love, and return to their churches feeling renewed.

Partnerships

Our work would not be possible without trusted partners who share our heart for vulnerable children. These collaborations extend our reach and multiply the impact of what we do. Here's how each partner made a difference during the reporting period:

Children's Fortress Africa

We partnered with Children's Fortress Africa to support the reintegration of children who had lived on the streets of Nairobi. Many of these children were relocated to Western Kenya, where we helped facilitate home visits to rebuild family connections. This partnership gave children a real chance to leave street life behind and return to a safe, supportive home.

Anawesa – Medical Care Programme

Together with Anawesa, we piloted a medical clinic in two government institutions in Western Kenya. These clinics provided essential healthcare services, addressing common but often untreated conditions such as skin infections and respiratory illnesses. This pilot highlighted the urgent need for accessible medical care in institutions where government provision is minimal.

East Africa Women's League

The East Africa Women's League bought telephone handsets and funded airtime for eight institutions. These phones became a vital link for children, allowing 13,942 calls to families over the year. Reconnecting with loved ones is an essential step towards reintegration, and this partnership made that possible.

The phones are also used by government staff for home tracing, a critical process that helps children safely reunite with their families. Before this programme, staff relied on their personal phones, and families often called them at all hours, putting additional pressure on an already overstretched workforce. By providing dedicated phones and airtime, this initiative enhanced efficiency, safeguarding staff well-being, and resulted in more successful reunifications.

Harvest Alliance Global

Harvest Alliance Global partnered with us to deliver a spiritual training workshop for the Route Sixty-One Foundation team. This training equipped them to provide pastoral care and biblical teaching that brings hope and healing to children facing uncertainty and trauma.

Hemel Hempstead Community Church (HHCC)

HHCC, a UK church, partnered with us to bless the Nairobi Baby Rescue Centre. Their visit provided practical resources for the babies and offered encouragement to the caregivers. For abandoned infants, these supplies and personal visits served as tangible expressions of love.

Financial Review

Statutory accounts for 14 months were prepared; this was primarily to align with our Kenyan partner, The Route Sixty-One Foundation. This entity has an accounting year ending on 31 December. Also, it is subject to a Kenyan national standard audit.

Income

The income of £51,190 for 14 months well exceeded the previous 12 months of £23,631, thus requiring it to be subject to an independent examination for the first time. The Charity Commission sets the directions for this in England and Wales. This large increase included a one-off restricted gift of over £14,000 for the acquisition of a vehicle, but the balance of extra funds was primarily due to existing donors being more generous, with some new donors also coming on board.

Expenditure

Total expenditure rose to £33,762 from £24,806 in the previous year. The main reasons for this increase were higher transfers to our Kenyan affiliate to support staffing, staff welfare, and programme delivery costs, along with project-based ministry expenses and office overheads. Global inflation and the broader international economic downturn also contributed to the rise in costs.

Reserves Policy

Route 61 International does not currently hold significant reserves. As a faith-based charity, we prioritise using the resources entrusted to us for the direct fulfilment of our mission, rather than storing funds for future use. Every donation is treated as a gift to be released, not retained, choosing to rely on God's timely and faithful provision.

Cash flow is carefully monitored, and trustees receive regular financial updates to ensure commitments are fulfilled before new spending is approved. This method keeps the charity responsive and efficient. For instance, when urgent travel was needed to reunite a child with their family, funds were released without delay.

While we recognise the importance of holding reserves, our priority remains on delivering a timely impact. Looking ahead, we are working to strengthen our base of regular monthly donors so that income becomes more predictable and the charity can plan with greater financial stability.

Fund Balances:

At the end of the financial period, unrestricted bank funds totalled £7,023, with an additional £14,938 designated as restricted funds for the procurement of a ministry vehicle.

Primary Sources of Income:

The charity's primary source of income during the reporting period was voluntary donations from individuals and churches in the UK. Additional income came from sponsored fundraising events and gift aid. No statutory or trust funding was received.

Future Plans and Partnerships

In addition to continuing to strengthen existing partnerships, we are exploring new initiatives and collaborations that will expand our reach and deepen our impact. These plans reflect our ongoing commitment to respond to the needs of children and families in Kenya with creativity, compassion, and accountability.

Slum Outreach

We are planning to begin community development programmes in the informal settlements surrounding Kisumu. Many families in these areas live in extreme poverty. Women, often single mothers, carry the heaviest burden as they struggle to provide for their children. Common challenges include lack of access to clean water, insecure housing, exposure to gender-based violence, and limited employment opportunities.

We believe that supporting women will be a key part of this work, as empowered mothers create stronger families and communities. Our first step will be to conduct research to understand the specific needs of these communities, and then shape an initiative that could include small business training, parenting support, and counselling; this is a critical programme in the making, and we intend to approach it with care and consultation.

Anawesa – Expanding Medical Care

Following the success of our pilot clinics in two government institutions, we plan to integrate Anawesa's medical services into our routine activities. Children in juvenile institutions often lack access to even basic healthcare, leading to untreated infections, skin conditions, and other preventable illnesses. Institution staff also face difficulties in maintaining hygiene standards due to limited training and resources.

Our aim is not only to provide regular medical care but also to deliver essential hygiene and healthcare education to children and staff. Preventing illness will bring long-term benefits for their physical health and emotional well-being.

Amblecote Community Church Visit

In November 2025, we plan to host a team from Amblecote Community Church, UK, for a week-long programme focused on supporting those who serve on the front lines. This visit will include:

Activities and workshops to promote well-being among Kenyan institutional staff.

Training for local pastors on establishing healthy boundaries between ministry and family life is an often-overlooked area that can lead to strained relationships.

A retreat for the Route Sixty-One Foundation team, offering space for personal self-care, reflection, and renewal.

Kaleo Bible Institute Partnership

Kaleo Bible Institute, situated two hours from Kisumu, provides accredited qualifications for church leaders and specialised courses in pastoral care, leadership, and counselling. We aim to strengthen ties with Kaleo to improve the skills of Route 61 mentors and local pastors participating in our programmes.

We also hope to see Kaleo students volunteer in our outreach initiatives, especially in juvenile justice institutions and emerging slum projects. This partnership has the potential to develop well-equipped leaders and expand our capacity.

Uniquely Structured – Reaching Marginalised Groups

We are considering a partnership with Uniquely Structured, a developing associate programme in Kisumu that works with sex workers, people with an addiction, and members of the underground LGBTQ community. These groups often face profound social exclusion and vulnerability. Our role could involve providing training, sharing resources, and supporting their leadership team as they build trust and create pathways to recovery.

Safe International Partnership

Safe International is an NGO based in Kakamega with a proven record of preventing child vulnerability, strengthening family systems, and shaping child welfare policies. We see great potential for collaboration, including sharing best practices, providing training opportunities, and pooling resources for joint initiatives in slum areas and juvenile institutions. Together, we can increase impact where it is needed most.

Purchase of Ministry Vehicle

As our ministry reach expands, the need for travel increases. Additionally, travelling to remote institutions has become more challenging without reliable transportation. Securing a ministry vehicle now ranks as a top priority for safety, efficiency, and sustainability. A dedicated car will enable our team to access hard-to-reach areas, transport supplies, and respond quickly to urgent needs such as family tracing.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are required under charity law to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give an accurate and fair view of the state of affairs of the CIO and its results for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for the keeping of proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity. They are also responsible for the safeguarding of the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

This report was approved by the trustees on August 2025 and signed on their behalf

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Name

Route 61 International

1189501

Receipts and payments accounts

For the 14 Months
from

Period start date
01/11/2023


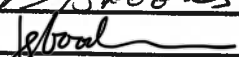
To

Period end date
31/12/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds	Total funds to the nearest £	Previous 12 months to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	36,627	14,276	-	50,903	21,574
Misc	39	-	-	39	-
Mission Trips income	248	-	-	248	2,057
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	36,914	14,276	-	51,190	23,631
Total receipts	36,914	14,276	-	51,190	23,631
A2 Payments					
Ministry support	7,393	-	-	7,393	823
transferred funds for project activities and support	25,433	-	-	25,433	20,100
Health and Safety	-	-	-	-	-
Mission trips costs	248	-	-	248	2,057
Subscription	28	-	-	28	46
Shipping costs	-	-	-	-	635
UK Bank and Insurance support costs	660	-	-	660	458
Governance costs	-	-	-	-	687
Sub total	33,762	-	-	33,762	24,806
A3 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	33,762	-	-	33,762	24,806
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,152	14,276	-	17,428	(1,175)
A5 Transfers between funds	485	485	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,356	177	-	4,533	5,708
Cash funds this year end	7,023	14,938	-	21,961	4,533

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Metro Bank	4,642	177	-
	Wise Interest account		14,761	
	Pay pal Sterling	200		
	Paypal Dollars (shown in sterling)	1,116		
	Wise Current account	1,065	-	-
	Total cash funds	7,023	14,938	-
. (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))				
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	-	
		-	-	
Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees				
Signature		Print Name	Date of approval	
 		Gary Brookes	16.10.25	
		Jeremy Goodman	16.10.25	

Route 61 International

Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Route 61 International for the period

Responsibilities and basis of report

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the trusts accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all applicable Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act.

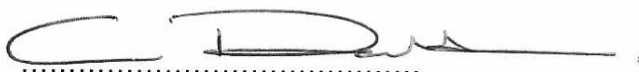
Independent Examiners Statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act ; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records ; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Signed



Name & Qualification Colin Dalton FCA

Address 794 High Street, Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 8BQ

Date16/10/2025.....