

Annual Report

1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Foreword

What does love look like here?

It's the question we ask across all our work in Kenya, and in 2025 it found answers in places that rarely make headlines. A boy in a remand home wrote an apology letter after remembering that he is forgiven. A child taught his mother the business skills he had learned, and she used them at her roadside vegetable stall. A pastor came to see that leadership is about serving others, not about her title.

Behind these stories is steady, faithful work. The Route Sixty One Foundation served across 13 statutory children's institutions. Children and staff used 74,400 minutes of airtime to stay in touch with families and move cases forward. 267 children received medical care, and more than 100 frontline workers and church leaders came together for support and teaching.

None of this happens in a single visit. Change grows through consistency, trust and relationships built over time, and that is only possible because you keep showing up with us. Your prayers, your giving and your encouragement are part of every story in these pages.

We continue to be moved by the quiet courage of our Kenyan colleagues. We hope this report moves you too. We also hope you will stay with us for the year ahead, perhaps by becoming a regular monthly giver, so that we can plan with confidence and keep returning to the children and leaders who are counting on us.

With gratitude,



Kelly Strong
Chairperson

Reference and administrative details

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2025.

Registered name:	Route 61 (International)
Working name:	Route 61
Trustees:	Kelly Anne Strong (joined the Board as Chair in May 2025) Derek Oliver Gary Brookes Dr. Jeremy Goodman Sarah Ruth Bennett
Key volunteers:	Derek Oliver (Kenya-based) Penny Oliver (Kenya-based)
Charity registration number: (England and Wales)	1189501
Legal structure:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Principal address:	63 Shearwater Road Hemel Hempstead Hertfordshire HP3 0GB

Our purposes and public benefit

Our charitable purposes are to advance the Christian faith in line with our Statement of Faith, and to prevent or relieve poverty. Our constitution allows us to pursue these purposes through education, training, healthcare projects and support that helps people earn a sustainable income and support themselves.

In 2025, The Route Sixty One Foundation led and delivered work across 13 statutory children's institutions in Western Kenya and Nairobi, with a combined reported annual population of approximately 2,600 children. Activities varied by institution and included pastoral mentoring, medical clinics and practical skills training.

Through the Phone Home project, the Foundation provided dedicated phones and airtime to help children stay connected with their families and enable staff to follow up on their cases. The Foundation also hosted workshops for frontline workers and church leaders to support well-being and develop servant leadership and skills in understanding and teaching Scripture. The "Achievements and performance" section describes these activities and the changes reported by children, frontline workers and leaders.

Our Christian faith shapes how we serve, but we offer care and practical support fairly and without discrimination. We seek to treat each person with dignity and respect, regardless of their background or beliefs.

Our approach is relational. We support people in the responsibilities they already carry, listening to their experience as we plan together. Across our work, we ask a simple question: what does love look like here?

Structure, governance and management

Trustee governance

Trustees are appointed by resolution at a properly convened trustee meeting, in accordance with the constitution. Selection considers the experience and abilities needed to govern the charity. The Board oversees the charity's direction, finances, safeguarding and regulatory responsibilities.

All trustees subscribe to the charity's Statement of Faith.

Our partnership in Kenya

Our delivery partner, The Route Sixty One Foundation, is a locally led Kenyan foundation registered under the Societies Act (Registration number: R.50896). Its independence and knowledge of the communities it serves are important to how we work together.

Route 61 International provides funding and training, with oversight agreed through an Affiliate Partnership Agreement. The agreement defines our respective responsibilities and how the Foundation reports on its work. The Foundation leads and delivers the activities described in this report, working alongside existing institutions and local organisations.

Derek and Penny Oliver are based in Kenya, where they work alongside The Route Sixty One Foundation's team and act as a link between the Foundation and Route 61 International. They oversee financial processes, help establish budgets and monitor spending against them. Their role also includes reviewing the quality of project delivery, identifying gaps in the team's skills, and helping to arrange appropriate training, which they sometimes provide themselves. They also keep the UK trustees informed about the work in Kenya.

Safeguarding, governance and accountability

Care for vulnerable people is a shared responsibility across the partnership. Our safeguarding policy sets clear expectations for conduct and explains how to raise concerns with designated safeguarding leads and trustees, and how to handle them.

As part of our safeguarding arrangements, all trustees have undergone enhanced DBS checks appropriate to their roles.

Our wider governance framework includes policies covering equal opportunities, anti-bribery and corruption, data protection, and the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing. The Affiliate Partnership Agreement sets out how The Route Sixty One Foundation reports to Route 61 International on its work and use of funds, including by sharing its annual financial audit.

Achievements and performance

Supporting children through mentoring

Children in statutory institutions need support to navigate conflict, manage anger and build relationships. The Foundation's chaplaincy team helps children explore these everyday challenges through Scripture, prayer and discussion.

During 2025, the team continued regular visits to children's institutions, spending time with children in small groups. Mentors helped them understand what it means to be loved and forgiven by God, and how this can shape their choices and relationships.

One child, whom we will call John, put this teaching into practice after a disagreement with a student working at his institution. John became angry, shouted at the student, ignored the student's instructions and walked away.

Later, alone in his dormitory, he remembered a recent Route 61 lesson about responding to anger rather than reacting. He also remembered the theme, 'I am forgiven'.

John wrote an apology letter, then went to the student in person and asked for forgiveness. Afterwards, he said he was happy that there was no longer conflict between them and that he was 'walking in the freedom of forgiveness'.

For John, the teaching became something he could draw on in a difficult moment. He changed his response and took practical steps to restore the relationship.

Maintaining family contact through Phone Home

Children in statutory institutions need to stay connected with their families, while staff need reliable telephone access to follow up children's cases. Some institutions have limited access to reliable phone communication, making both tasks more difficult.

Phone Home provides a dedicated handset and monthly airtime. Children use the phones to speak with their families, while staff contact families, social workers, courts, police, lawyers and other institutions to follow up individual cases.

In 2025, Phone Home supported ten institutions, with a new handset supplied to Getadhuru Assessment Centre in April. Together, the institutions used 74,400 minutes of airtime, equivalent to 1,240 hours. They made an estimated 4,000 calls, including conversations between children and their families and calls related to individual children's cases.

One manager explained that having a dedicated phone helped staff contact families and support children to return home. Phone Home strengthens work already led by government staff and other public services, giving them a practical tool to progress children's cases and support safe family reunification where appropriate.

Improving access to healthcare

Regular access to medical care helps identify and treat health problems before they become more serious. Needs addressed during the year included malaria, scabies, and longstanding wounds requiring treatment.

Through its local network, The Route Sixty One Foundation connected two children's institutions with Anaweza Organisation, a Kenyan non-profit that employs medical professionals to provide community healthcare. The Foundation approached Anaweza, made the introductions and helped establish weekly medical clinics at the institutions. Anaweza's medical team provided the clinical care.

During 2025, 267 children received medical care. Two children had longstanding open leg wounds showing signs of infection; with treatment and follow-up care, both wounds healed. The medical team also helped control a scabies outbreak.

The clinics gave children regular access to qualified medical professionals, allowing health problems to be identified, treated and followed up. This partnership shows how the Foundation can use local relationships to connect institutions with existing healthcare services.

Practical skills, confidence and support

Around 260 children learned how to make soap, combining lessons about hygiene and self-care with practical business skills. They learned how to calculate costs and profit margins, reinvest earnings and keep simple financial records.

For one child, the learning travelled beyond the institution. His mother later told the team that her son had taught her what he had learned. He also helped her apply these skills to her small roadside

vegetable business, where she sells tomatoes and other produce. This showed how a skill one child learned could also benefit his family.

At Kakamega Children's Remand Home, children transformed a rubbish-dumping area into a football pitch. They cleared and levelled the ground, encouraged grass to grow and installed wooden goalposts. The Foundation provided a football and training bibs. The children helped create a space they could use and enjoy together.

Hemel Hempstead Community Church funded and led a football tournament involving children from Kakamega Children's Remand Home and Kakamega Rehabilitation School. Before the tournament, the children received basic football skills training.

For many of the boys and girls, it was their first experience of an organised match, complete with a referee, whistle, cards and linesmen with flags. The tournament gave them something to prepare for together, encouraged teamwork and provided a welcome break from their usual routines.

At Kombewa Rescue Centre, the Foundation collected baby clothes and gave them to four teenage mothers with newborn babies, responding to an immediate practical need.

Supporting those who care for and lead others

Caring for vulnerable children and leading others can place significant demands on people. During 2025, we worked with Amblecote Community Church to provide workshops supporting frontline children's workers and church leaders.

Supporting frontline workers' well-being

The well-being workshop grew out of needs identified during Amblecote Community Church's 2023 visit. A survey of frontline children's workers highlighted significant levels of burnout and signs of vicarious trauma. In response, the Directorate of Children's Services, The Route Sixty One Foundation and Amblecote Community Church agreed that further support was needed.

The 2025 well-being workshop brought together 52 frontline children's workers, including 36 government staff and 16 people from non-governmental organisations. For many, the concepts of compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma were new. The teaching helped participants understand how regularly hearing and responding to difficult experiences can affect their own well-being. Participants learned to recognise signs that they or a colleague might be struggling, including withdrawal, feeling overwhelmed and increased irritability.

Breakout groups gave participants space to discuss work challenges and share experiences with others facing similar pressures. They also helped participants consider their own well-being and how it can shape the care they give to children.

Developing servant leadership

The church leadership workshops brought together 54 leaders. Teaching focused on identity in God's family, servant leadership, understanding Scripture and dependence on the Holy Spirit. Worship, prayer and discussion gave participants time to reflect on their own approach to leadership.

One pastor described how, before the workshop, her title and position had been important to her. She enjoyed being introduced by her title at meetings and had associated leadership with position and status. Through the workshop, she began to see her identity differently: first as a daughter in God's family rather than through her position as a pastor. She also described a change in her understanding of leadership, from being served to serving others. Her experience reflects a central theme of the workshops: leadership is not defined by title or status, but by identity, character and service.

The relationships formed through these workshops provide a foundation for continued connection, encouragement and learning. Our plans to build on them are outlined in "Looking Ahead".

Oasis: Christian community and spiritual growth

Oasis is open to anyone who wants to explore a deeper relationship with God. It is not a new church. Instead, it provides a safe Christian space where people can come as they are, without fear of judgement or condemnation. Through prayer, worship, Scripture, listening to God and honest conversation, Oasis encourages an authentic relationship with God that brings change into everyday life.

Ten gatherings took place during 2025, with around 16 to 18 regular participants at each meeting. People described finding a trusted place where they could speak openly about their struggles, receive prayer and encourage one another.

For one participant, that became important during a difficult period at work. He was facing pressure because of his Christian faith and feared that standing by his beliefs could cost him his job. The strain followed him home. He withdrew from others, including his wife, because he didn't know who he could trust with what he was experiencing.

At Oasis, he found people he could speak openly with. Later, he met privately with a Route 61 team member, who listened and prayed with him. He described experiencing a new sense of peace and learning to rest in God rather than being consumed by worry.

He also began setting aside time to listen to God for himself. He said, "Through Route 61 Oasis I can now hear God speak to me by myself."

Another participant described a change in how he understood God's love. He'd previously believed he needed to pray in the right way and do the right things to gain God's approval. Through Oasis, he began to understand that God's love wasn't something he had to earn.

For one father, receiving God's love began to change how he related to his son. He recognised that he had often pushed his son aside and avoided spending time with him. Instead, he began to listen to his son and intentionally make time to be with him.

These accounts show the kind of growth Oasis seeks to encourage. A deeper relationship with God is not only expressed during a meeting. It can change how people understand themselves, respond to difficulties and relate to those closest to them.

Strengthening the team and supporting local delivery

Two additional volunteers joined the Kenyan Foundation during 2025 and worked alongside the chaplaincy team during visits to children's institutions. They joined children in games, sports and artwork, offered encouragement and spent time answering their questions. They also prepared activity spaces and helped organise and care for equipment. Their involvement gave other team members more time to spend with individual children and respond to specific needs. The volunteers received mentoring in Route 61's values and approach as they learned through serving alongside the existing team.

Travel to some rural institutions was difficult, particularly during the rainy seasons. Journeys were sometimes delayed, and team members could arrive home after dark. In July 2025, the Foundation purchased an eight-seater vehicle locally, using a restricted grant from Route 61 International, made possible by a donor who gave specifically for this purpose.

The vehicle enabled larger teams to travel together and carry the equipment needed for activities. Team members could arrive on time and less tired after the journey, and return in time to catch public transport home before dark. At one institution, the vehicle allowed the Foundation to double its monthly visits.

Working across cultures

Our partnerships with Amblecote Community Church and Hemel Hempstead Community Church brought people, skills and funding alongside work already being led in Kenya. We want such visits to strengthen local work rather than create activity based on what overseas visitors assume is needed.

The well-being workshop described earlier shows how this partnership worked in practice. Building on needs identified by frontline children's workers, the Foundation developed the project in Kenya with Amblecote Community Church.

This reflects how we seek to approach overseas missions. We listen before acting, recognise differences in power and resources, and work with local people rather than doing things for them. Kenyan colleagues bring knowledge of their communities, institutions and culture. Overseas partners bring different skills, experience and resources. Both have something to contribute and something to learn.

We are grateful to our Kenyan colleagues, volunteers, partner churches and everyone whose giving or service sustained the work during 2025.

Learning, impact and accountability

What we are learning

The year reinforced something we have learned through experience: lasting change rarely happens through a single visit, workshop or activity. It takes time, consistency and relationships built on trust.

Practical help can open the door. A telephone helps a child speak with their family. A vehicle helps the chaplaincy team return more often. A football pitch gives children something they have built and can enjoy together. A workshop gives frontline workers language for experiences such as overwhelm, withdrawal and irritability. What happens afterwards matters just as much.

For this reason, we do not measure success by activity or statistics alone. We also look for changes we can see or that people describe themselves. These may include a child choosing to repair a damaged relationship, a father making time to listen to his son, or a leader beginning to see leadership as service rather than status.

These changes reflect what we hope to see through our LIFE values: people receiving God's love, growing in intimacy with Him, experiencing greater freedom and encouraging others. We also want frontline workers to recognise signs that they or a colleague may be struggling, and leaders to apply what they learn about Scripture and servant leadership in the people and communities they serve.

Understanding our figures

Our figures measure different aspects of the work. Do not add them together to create a total number of individual beneficiaries. The same child may take part in more than one activity during the year.

We also do not collect every record ourselves. Some information depends on records maintained by the institutions and partners we work alongside. Phone Home is one example. Government staff control and use the handsets in their institutions, so our reporting depends partly on the call records they provide. Records were incomplete in some institutions during 2025. We can report airtime use accurately, but the figure of around 4,000 calls remains an estimate.

The approximate population of 2,600 comes from the institutions' reported annual figures and provides context for the scale of our work. It is not a verified count of individual children: a child who moved between institutions during the year may appear in more than one institution's records. Participation also varied by activity, so this figure should not be read as attendance at any one programme.

Some changes are easier for our team to observe than to count. When a child responds differently to conflict, a parent changes how he relates to his son, or a leader describes a change in how she serves others, the change becomes visible through actions and relationships. We record these accounts carefully while recognising that they describe individual experiences and do not show that everyone experienced the same change.

We want future reports to record activities and reported changes more consistently over time.

Financial review

Reporting period

This report covers the twelve months from 1 January to 31 December 2025. The Board changed the charity's accounting year-end to align with The Route Sixty One Foundation in Kenya, and recorded the change with the Charity Commission. The preceding reporting period was therefore extended to fourteen months, from 1 November 2023 to 31 December 2024. Future reports will cover the calendar year. The comparative figures below relate to that fourteen-month period and are not directly comparable with a twelve-month year.

Income and expenditure

Income for 2025 was £37,370, compared with £51,190 in the preceding fourteen-month period. That earlier period included a one-off restricted gift of over £14,000 towards purchasing a vehicle in Kenya. Higher income in that period also reflected more generous giving from existing donors, with some new donors beginning to support the charity. These factors, together with the longer reporting period, should be considered when comparing the figures.

Expenditure for 2025 was £34,455, compared with £33,762 in the preceding fourteen-month period.

Our principal source of income was voluntary giving from individuals and churches in the UK. Sponsored fundraising and Gift Aid provided additional income. We received no statutory or trust funding during the year.

Expenses of £7230 made to Derek and Penny were reimbursements for Flights £3039 , insurance £1229, software and IT costs £748, accommodation contribution £1650, and sundry expenses £564 mainly events for events

Restricted funding for the vehicle

A major donor provided funds specifically to purchase a vehicle in Kenya. Route 61 International held the gift for that restricted purpose and transferred the funds as a grant to The Route Sixty One Foundation. The Foundation purchased the vehicle locally and records it as an asset in its own accounts.

The UK charity's contribution was the grant that enabled the purchase. The vehicle is not an asset of Route 61 International, and its estimated value is not included in the UK charity's fund balances. The local delivery section describes the benefit of this support.

Fund position and reserves

At 31 December 2025, unrestricted bank funds totalled £8,043. No funds had been specifically set aside as a reserve. During the year, we used the resources entrusted to us in the work, while monitoring cash flow to meet existing commitments before approving further spending. Trustees received regular financial updates to support this oversight.

Our faith in God's provision goes hand in hand with our responsibility to care for the work entrusted to us. We seek to respond to needs promptly and use donations with care. Strengthening regular monthly giving will help us plan with greater confidence.

During 2026, the trustees plan to establish a reserves policy and agree on an appropriate level of unrestricted funds to hold in reserve.

Financial accountability

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records and preparing the charity's annual accounts on the applicable basis. They are also responsible for safeguarding its assets and taking reasonable steps to prevent and detect fraud or other irregularities.

Looking ahead

Strengthening chaplaincy and student placements

In 2026, we plan to continue the work already established in children's institutions, including pastoral mentoring, Phone Home and practical life skills. We will also explore extending the chaplaincy programme to Kericho Remand Home and Rehabilitation School and Nakuru Children's Remand Home. Any expansion will depend on having enough people and resources to visit consistently. We do not want to begin work that we cannot sustain.

We will also explore suitable student placements, particularly for theology students, within the chaplaincy team. Students would accompany experienced team members on institution visits, gaining practical experience of pastoral care and ministry while contributing to activities with children. They would work under their guidance. Placements will only proceed where suitable supervision and safeguarding arrangements are in place.

Developing a network of Christian leaders

The relationships formed through Oasis and the 2025 leadership workshops will also shape our next steps. From July 2026, a new Leadership Network Coordinator will help participating and emerging Christian leaders stay in contact beyond individual workshops and support future gatherings for teaching, discussion, prayer and encouragement.

Future gatherings will help leaders understand and apply Scripture, grow in their relationship with Christ and explore what servant leadership looks like in practice. We want that growth to be seen not only in what leaders know, but also in their character, relationships and the way they serve others.

Exploring accredited leadership training

We are also actively exploring an accredited Christian leadership programme for local ministry leaders. We plan to pilot the UK-accredited Level 3 Christian Leadership Development qualification offered through Caleb 14:24 Ministries with selected members of the Kenyan team. The course combines biblical teaching with practical development in areas such as identity, leadership skills, mentoring and relational leadership.

The pilot will allow members of the Kenyan team to complete the course before we decide whether to offer it more widely to local ministry leaders. This course could give local leaders a recognised qualification while strengthening the character, knowledge, and practical skills needed for ministry. Recognised training may also become increasingly valuable as the Kenyan government considers new regulations for religious organisations, including proposals on the qualifications and training of religious leaders.

Building relationships in Nyalenda

In Nyalenda, an informal settlement in Kisumu, we plan to spend more time with women and families already known to the team. Rather than arrive with a fixed programme, the team will visit, listen and learn what local people identify as important before deciding whether Route 61 should offer further support.

These plans will be paced according to the team's capacity, available funding and the strength of local relationships. We want new work to grow from identified needs and trusted relationships, rather than expand simply to do more.

Approval

The trustees approved this report on [date]. Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Signature:



Name: Kelly Strong

Position: Chairperson

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 ended 31 Decenber 2025.

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
Date ...28/10/2026.....

Route 61 International

1189501

Receipts and payments accounts

For the 12 Months from	Period start date 1/1/2025	To	Period end date 31/12/2025

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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds	Total funds to the nearest £	Previous 14 months to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations individuals	21,686	271	-	21,957	50,903
Donations organisations	14,682			14,682	
Misc	-	-	-	-	39
Gift aid receipts	531			531	
Mission Trips income	200		-	200	248
***Sub total**(Gross income for AR)*	37,099	271	-	37,370	51,190
Total receipts	37,099	271	-	37,370	51,190
A2 Payments					

Ministry support	7,230			7,230	7,393
transferred funds for project activities and support	26,069	271		26,340	25,433
Mission trips costs				-	248
Subscription	202			202	28
UK Bank and Insurance support costs	383			383	660
Governance costs	300			300	-
Sub total	34,184	271	-	34,455	33,762
A3 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	1,895	14,938	-	16,833	-
Sub total	1,895	14,938	-	16,833	-
Total payments	36,079	15,209	-	51,288	33,762
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,020	(14,938)	-	(13,918)	17,428
A5 Transfers between funds			-		-
A6 Cash funds last year end	7,023	14,938	-	21,961	4,533
Cash funds this year end	8,043	-	-	8,043	21,961

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £

B1 Cash funds

Metro Bank	4,861		-
Wise current Kenyan Shilling (shown in sterling	62		
Wise Interest account	-		
Wise $	20		
Pay pal Sterling	97		
Paypal Dollars (shown in sterling) (1.25EX Rate)	1,279		
Wise Current account	1,724	-	-
Total cash funds	8,043	-	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

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)
	-	-	

the charity's own use		-	-	

B5 Liabilities

Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
Dec expenses	-	177	01 January 2026
	-	-	

Signed by two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Gary Brookes	12/10/2026
	Jeremy Goodman	12/10/2026