

IMPACT REPORT



ROUTE 61 INTERNATIONAL

2023

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WELCOME

I am delighted to present our annual impact report detailing the remarkable strides we've made together to bring love, fun, hope, and encouragement to underprivileged communities in Kenya.

We believe that poverty, in all its forms, whether economic, social, or emotional, stems from broken relationships. By assisting others in cultivating an authentic relationship with God, themselves, others, and the environment, we aim to provide support that enables them to overcome adversity. This holistic approach underpins our efforts to alleviate poverty and our broader mission of seeing individuals, families and communities transformed.

In this report, you'll find a comprehensive overview of our mission, vision, and values, reflecting our dedication to empowering others to overcome hardship by reconciling and strengthening family relationships, mentorship and education initiatives.

As a nascent charity with a relatively modest income, we are incredibly proud of how much we've achieved. A strategy consultant recently described us as "punching above our weight" — we wholeheartedly agree. Our successes are a testament to our dedication, passion, and commitment to good stewardship. Despite these financial constraints, we have effectively managed resources to maximise every donation and create the most significant possible impact. This careful and transparent management has allowed us to stretch our resources further and achieve remarkable outcomes.

Our collaboration with The Route Sixty One Foundation in Kenya has continued to thrive and made significant progress. In February 2023, a three-year official partnership agreement was signed with the Directorate of Children's Services, acknowledging the impact of our work and providing a solid foundation for us to continue delivering life-changing programs to children and staff in the juvenile justice system.

As you read this report, we hope you are inspired and encouraged by the stories of lives transformed.

As we look ahead, we are dedicated to broadening our impact, establishing new hubs, and forging strategic partnerships while remaining true to our mission with a steadfast commitment to empowerment, sustainability, and unity.

Thank you for your unwavering support and trust in our mission. Together, we are making a difference and bringing hope and transformation to many lives.



Derek Oliver
Overseas Director

OUR STORY SO FAR

THE PROBLEM

God intends for everyone to live in a secure, safe family that provides the basic human needs of unconditional expressed love, praise, affirmation, and purpose. Research has shown that a stable family is crucial for a healthy society. Unfortunately, the institution of family is under global threat by factors such as poverty, urbanisation, work-life imbalance, technological disruption, and mental health issues. These pressures often strain relationships, weaken family ties, and destabilise families, impacting society as a whole.

We believe that when individuals are reconciled to God, self, others, and creation, they can pursue their God-given purpose and freely work together to support themselves and their families.

OUR MISSION

Our goal is to support people in disadvantaged Kenyan communities by helping them improve their relationships. We achieve this through mentoring, education, and development programmes. Our objective is to enable individuals and strengthen families so they can succeed and make long-lasting, positive changes.

OUR VALUES

L

Love.

God is love. God is all powerful.
His love never fails.

I

Intimacy.

Hosting God's presence.
Hearing & following His voice.

F

Freedom.

Empowering individuals to make good choices whilst honouring their dignity and nurturing their God-given potential.

E

Encouragement.

Extending God's kingdom through His Spirit's equipping, anointing, and empowering.

IMPACT SUMMARY 2023

Since 2015, we have consistently supported the work of the Directorate of Children's Services by equipping Kenyan mentors and social workers to help disadvantaged children in the juvenile justice system.

Through our partnership with The Route Sixty One Foundation in Kenya, we have recognised the need for positive parental role models for children these children. We also aim to deliver holistic activities that promote family values and help repair broken family relationships.



12

**INSTITUTIONS
SUPPORTED**



60

**FRONT-LINE WORKERS
RECEIVED TRAUMA
AWARENESS TRAINING**



9

**INSTITUTIONS
RECEIVED A PHONE
& MONTHLY AIRTIME**



2,760+

**CALLS TO
HOME & FAMILY**



6

**KENYANS
RECEIVED
EMPLOYMENT**



10

**CHILDREN
WERE SUCCESSFULLY
TAKEN HOME**



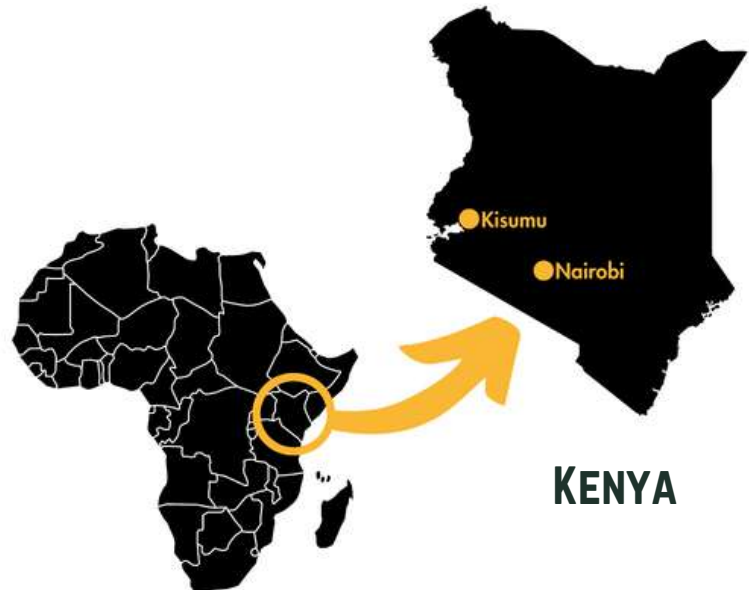
***462+**

**CHILDREN WERE
IMPACTED BY OUR
PROGRAMMES**

*Reduced populations due to the impact of COVID-19.

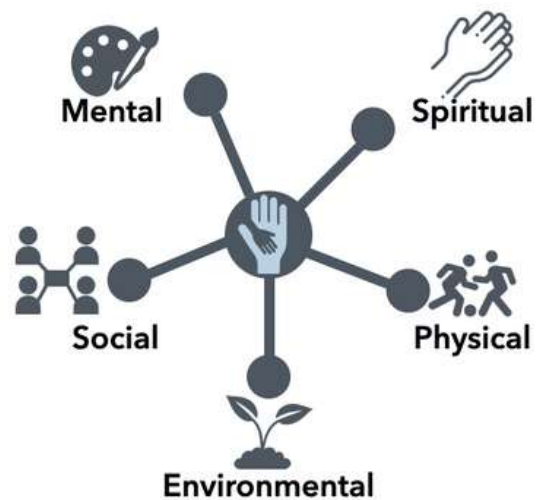
STRATEGIC PROGRAMMES

Throughout the year, Route 61 continued working with The Route Sixty One Foundation, based in Kisumu, Kenya, to promote positive inner transformation and behavioural change in children within the Kenyan juvenile justice system, with the goal of upholding healthy families. **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..**



Overseas Director, Derek Oliver signs the Partnership Agreement with the Directorate of Children's Services at their Headquarters in Nairobi.

OUR HOLISTIC APPROACH





Route 61 supported the work of the Chaplaincy of Children's Services in twelve institutions located in the western region and Nairobi.

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

85%

of children with
behavioural
problems come
from fatherless
homes

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 community members.



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.



TRAUMA AWARENESS

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%.

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. Giving an institution a phone handset and monthly airtime plays a vital role in successfully restoring family relationships and effectively rehabilitating the child.

In 2023, we added three institutions, totalling nine currently benefiting from Route 61 purchased telephone handsets and monthly airtime.

On average, a 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 and secondary project management and bookkeeping lessons.

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 provided food for the children and staff and served as a practical learning experience. This project was successful because the profits from selling the crops were reinvested into the farms to buy seeds and equipment, ensuring their sustainability.

IMPACT STORIES



Written by Steve Aloyo, Route 61 Children's Champion

I recently heard an inspiring story that touched my heart and I wanted to share it with you. It's about a young boy named Movin (not his real name) who felt lost and hopeless but eventually found a renewed sense of purpose and hope.

Life had not been kind to Movin. He felt abandoned and unloved, as though the world had nothing for him. He didn't have any sense of belonging. To fill his internal emptiness, Movin resorted to stealing, which led to his being caught and placed in a Children's Remand Home.

The days in the Remand Home were bleak and monotonous. Movin often pondered if there would be any escape, not from the institution but from the despair that had engulfed him. He'd almost reached the end, saying, *"I thought of ending my life because I could see no reason for living and was on the verge of calling it quits."*

Renewed Hope & Purpose

During their weekly visit, Team 61 shared a passage from the Bible: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." As he heard these words, they struck a chord deep within Movin. It was as if a light had pierced through the darkness surrounding him. Movin felt a glimmer of hope for the first time in a long while.

"I thought of ending my life because I could see no reason for living and was on the verge of calling it quits."

After the session, he approached one of the team members, eager to share how the teaching had affected him. He explained how those words had given him a new perspective on his life.

During a time of 'soaking' (contemplative prayer), his heart encountered a profoundly comforting sense of joy and peace. This made him desire to consciously submit and align himself with God's plan for his life.

When the team visits the institution, they encourage Movin, and his outlook keeps improving. Movin's transformation is miraculous—from feeling abandoned and hopeless to experiencing a touch from God, which has resulted in renewed hope and positivity.

Movin's story powerfully reminds us that even in our darkest moments, God's revelation light can break in, and his loving touch can revive our hearts.

A FATHER AND SON MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME

One boy in Kakamega Remand Home had never met his birth father. As a result, he struggled with his identity and sense of belonging — He reached out to Team 61 for help.

Following several months of investigation, they traced the father and informed him of the pain his son was experiencing and his desire for connection.

Using the Route 61 telephone, the boy and his father spoke for the first time, and they continued to speak regularly over the next few weeks.

Four months later, **the boy's father travelled from his home in Nairobi and met his son for the first time** at Kakamega Remand Home. Their story is ongoing.

FAMILY TRANSFORMATION

Joseph (not his real name) lives with his wife and two boys in the slum community near our office in Kisumu. He struggles to support the home and sacrifices much to provide for his sons' education—which he values greatly, having grown up without the same opportunity.

Before he encountered Route 61, Joseph struggled with his relationship with his sons, and the atmosphere in his home was far from peaceful. However, a turning point came when he began receiving mentorship from Jacob and other Route 61 team members. Joseph learned to love, forgive, and take responsibility for his family with their support. He describes how the Route 61 team demonstrated God's love towards him and offered him a safe place to belong, be loved, included and valued.

Now, Joseph describes his home as filled with love, fellowship, and open communication. His sons cherish spending time with him and engaging in various activities together, including cooking, cleaning, praying, and discussing important matters. Additionally, his son, who used to skip school and run away from home, is now settled. He attends school regularly and is showing improvement in his studies.



Joseph working in the Route 61 Oasis garden with his two sons.

Joseph's transformation is a testament to the power of love, forgiveness, and personal growth. His willingness to change his approach and take responsibility has not only improved his own life but has also positively impacted his family. His story serves as a reminder that with determination, consistent support, and the willingness to change, it is possible to overcome challenges and create a loving and supportive environment for oneself and their loved ones.

GROWTH INDICATORS

EXPANSION OF THE PHONE HOME PROJECT

For the year, 2023-24, we plan to expand the 'Phone Home' initiative by adding three 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 programme in the coming year.



STAFF WELLBEING

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 with the goal of reducing burnout indicators by 15 to 20%.

An initial trial held in February, 2023, among sixty front-line workers indicated that 52% were experiencing some indicators and 25% high indicators of burn-out.

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.

INVESTING IN 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.

PARTNERSHIPS

Route 61 International is deeply thankful to our partners for their unwavering support and collaboration throughout 2023. Your dedication has driven our mission forward, enabling us to profoundly impact the lives of countless children and families in western Kenya and beyond. Thank you for standing with us and helping us make a difference.

We look forward to continuing this journey together.



The Directorate
of
Children's
Services, Kenya



Children's
Fortress Africa



East African
Women's
League



Staff members
at Aga Khan
Hospital, Kisumu

OUR STRUCTURE

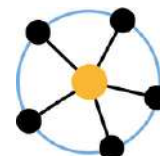
One of humanity's more beautiful expressions is our inclination to respond to and help others in need, as confirmed by figures released in the UK Giving Report, which states that, in 2023, people living in the UK gave an estimated £13.9 billion to charitable organisations. Once given, donors entrust it with the expectation that those receiving it will act as good stewards, often without much accountability. With such trust comes great responsibility, and Route 61 takes its role in this very seriously.

Route 61 prioritises transparency, accurate financial reporting, impact updates, and good governance to ensure that we invest all donations effectively and in the intended manner. As a nascent international charity, we aim to learn from the previous mistakes of others. History reveals how many with good intentions, have in their eagerness to help actually made things worse.

One of the most common traps that has ensnared many in the compassion industry is: Doing things *for* others instead of working *with* others.

To avoid this pitfall, Route 61 seeks to collaborate with partners in majority world nations to realise a shared mission that empowers others rather than create dependency or exacerbate existing challenges.

OUR POLYCENTRIC STRUCTURE



To achieve this, Route 61 has implemented a polycentric organisational framework. Unlike a centralised, top-down structure that relies on a single headquarters for decision-making, our innovative structure fosters interdependent relationships. It enables multiple authority centres to collaborate towards a joint mission while preserving autonomy and diverse perspectives. This allows for a more tailored and culturally sensitive approach to our programme implementation.

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY AND IMPACT

Respecting autonomy and encouraging local responsibility allows us to respond swiftly and adapt more quickly and efficiently, especially to regional emergencies. For instance, during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, our local partner in Kenya quickly adapted its strategies and continued providing essential assistance to its beneficiaries without interruption.

CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Effective communication is critical for the success of every organisation. For those collaborating globally, the added complexities of cultural differences, language barriers, and varying communication styles can amplify misunderstandings. By partnering with indigenous teams that consult with local leaders and experts, Route 61 can better understand the cultural and linguistic nuances of the communities in which we work. Ensuring clear and contextually appropriate communication promotes trust and cooperation with the local communities, making our efforts more effective and sustainable.

OUR OVERSEAS DIRECTORS

The deployment of our overseas directors, Derek & Penny Oliver, who have lived in Kenya since 2010, has enhanced communication, built trust, and demonstrated our commitment. Additionally, they oversee the management of funds, providing another layer of accountability and transparency.



OUR CURRENT PARTNERSHIP

Since our inception in 2020, Route 61 International has collaborated with The Route Sixty One Foundation in Kenya. An official Partnership Agreement governs our relationship.

SHARED MISSION

Our mission is to embody God's love by strengthening family ties in underprivileged areas. We empower individuals and families to thrive and overcome poverty through education, mentorship and sustainable community development.

FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

Route 61 is committed to realising its vision and extending its influence into new regions by establishing additional hubs or forming strategic partnerships, embracing a polycentric structure, and fostering collaboration.

As we navigate the complex world of global charity work and seek to enhance lives positively, our commitment is to empower individuals and communities sustainably. We aim to do this by avoiding the pitfalls of paternalism that have caused harm in the past and by ensuring our practices are always ethical and respectful.

Adopting a polycentric organisational model is our attempt to respect and empower local leadership, recognise and be sensitive to cultural differences, and promote effective collaboration. Through our partnership with The Route Sixty One Foundation in Kenya, we've seen how successful this can be.

As we look ahead, we plan to expand our impact by establishing new hubs and strategic alliances that realise our mission elsewhere.

GET INVOLVED

Join us in making a difference in the lives of people in disadvantaged Kenyan communities.

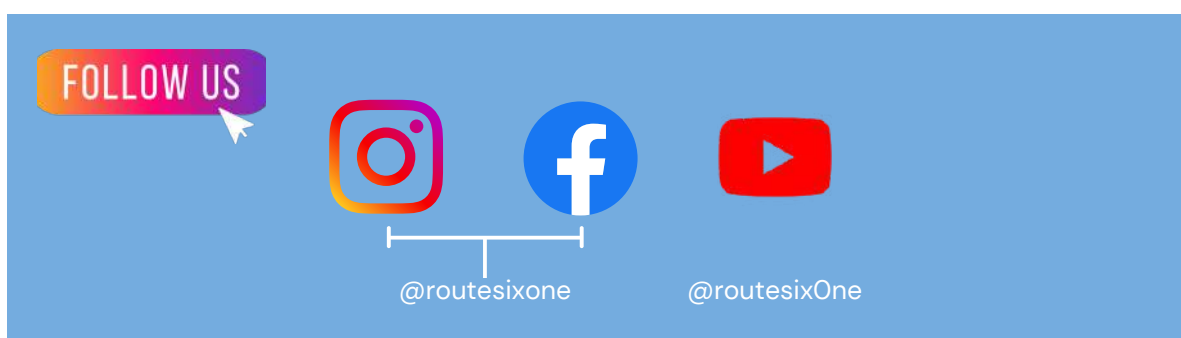
Your help can transform and strengthen family relationships and empower individuals to overcome obstacles that hinder them. There are many ways for you to get involved:

- **Volunteer:** Share your skills and time. Don't think for a moment that you have nothing to offer. Your life experience and skills can directly impact the lives of those in need.
- **Donate:** Your financial contributions help us provide essential resources for our programmes, ensuring we can continue supporting individuals and families in making lasting changes.
- **Fundraise:** Organise events with your friends and community to raise awareness and funds for our mission. Every Pound, Dollar and Euro you give helps us reach more people in need.
- **Spread the Word:** Follow us on social media, share our posts, and encourage others to get involved. Raising awareness is a powerful way to support our work.
- **Partner with Us:** If you represent a church or business, consider partnering with us to expand our reach and impact. Together, we can create sustainable change.

As a charity, everything we do happens through sacrificial acts of love and kindness. Our mission is driven by the belief that true change begins with the heart. Every volunteer, donation, and effort reflects this love. Through these selfless acts, we can help others build stronger relationships and better futures. By joining us, you become part of a community dedicated to spreading hope, compassion, and lasting impact.

Every action, big or small, contributes to a better future for Kenyan communities. Join us today and be a part of something truly transformative!

To learn more or explore how you can get more involved with Route 61, please get in touch with us at contact@route61.net or visit our website, www.route61.net.

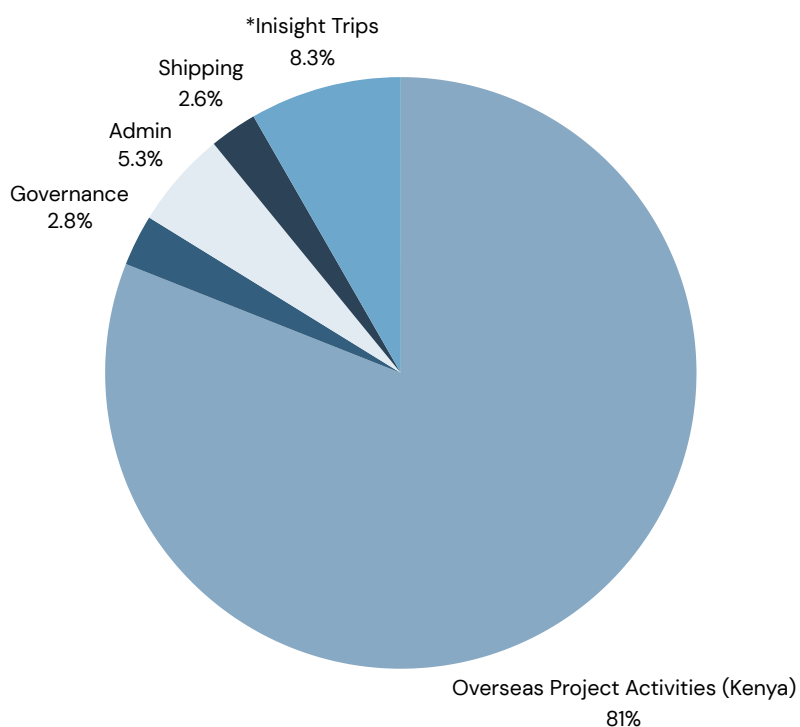


FINANCIALS

We joyfully receive and value every pound, dollar and euro given. Every donation enables Route 61 to offer consistent life-changing programmes for individuals, families and communities struggling with the challenges of poverty.

In the financial year ending on October 31, 2023, the organization reported a **total income of £23,631** and a **total expenditure of £24,806**, resulting in a net deficit of £1,175. Our board of trustees are dedicated to diligently overseeing expenditures to ensure they are in line with overall income levels.

EXPENSES BREAKDOWN



**Insight Trips* are short-term overseas visits that offer potential and current donors the opportunity to gain a valuable understanding of the communities in which we operate and provide a level of due diligence.

Although Insight Trips appear as an expense for accounting purposes, their cost is usually covered by the visitor as an income paid to the charity.

WE THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ONGOING
SUPPORT – YOU ARE
TRANSFORMING LIVES
WITH YOUR LOVE

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