



**TRUSTEES REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2024 - AUGUST 2025**

This financial year, the charity raised £249,414 an increase of £96,587 from the previous year's total of £152,827.



The charity extends its heartfelt gratitude for the generosity and kindness demonstrated by numerous individual donors, churches, schools, and trusts. The consistent and dedicated contributions from our supporters serve as a vital source of daily sustenance and hope. On behalf of the children and their families, we sincerely thank everyone for generously supporting children who are in great need.

Mission and Objectives

The Lunchbowl Network is committed to identifying and assisting children facing extreme hardship within Kibera and Kwarangare, two informal settlements in Nairobi. Kibera is recognised as the largest informal settlement in Sub-Saharan Africa, with an estimated population of 1 to 1.5 million individuals residing in a densely populated and challenging environment.



In response to these significant challenges, the charity implements a range of initiatives, including the provision of nutritious meals and high-quality, stimulating education within a safe learning environment.

Our educational programmes strive to address the emotional, social, and spiritual needs of the children while delivering the Kenyan syllabus in an engaging and innovative manner.

We consider the intentional development of children’s character from a tender age as being a vital part of their human flourishing and learning for life. The charity targets the early years learning experiences recognising that these lay the groundwork for essential skills such as socio-emotional development and resilience. The early years are a window of unprecedented opportunity of “rapid brain development, experiences during this period shape the brains architecture, impacting future learning, behaviour and health.” UNICEF

Educational Opportunities

Our objective is to mitigate the disadvantages these children face from an early age, thereby providing them with opportunities to compete for secondary school placements. We focus on developing literate and numerate individuals who can aspire to attend secondary school and potentially pursue higher education or vocational training. We view schools as foundational platforms that offer pathways out of extreme poverty.

Our children are aged between 2 to 11 years, all of whom have encountered significant hardships, including the loss of one or both parents, serious parental illness, or special educational needs. Prior to their admission to our schools, many children subsisted on a small bowl of porridge or less each day.

Educational Impact



We provide a creative and high-quality education daily to highly vulnerable children. Our Kindergarten, located approximately 100 meters from Kibera, incorporates a Special Educational Needs facility and a unit for deaf children.

New children are admitted in January at the commencement of the academic year and receive two sets of uniforms, school shoes, and underwear. Children arrive at 7:30 a.m. for porridge, enjoy a fruit snack at 10:30 a.m., and are served a hot lunch at noon, which may include lentils and chapati, beans and rice, or spinach and ugali.

In January 2025, due to a sudden decrease in funding from our primary donor, the charity was compelled to close the primary school. In April 2025, all displaced children were offered supported places at Langata Barracks, a local, partially government-supported primary and secondary school. This transition provides a consistent education aligned with the Ministry of Education, ensuring continuity from primary to secondary education. Langata Barracks is recognised for its superior educational standards and cleanliness compared to local Kibera schools.

A Homework Hub, staffed by four members of the teaching team, operates every evening and every Saturday morning, providing a safe and conducive learning environment.



This initiative has significantly improved the academic performance of children who would otherwise face challenges completing homework in difficult conditions.



Fourteen children have attended St. Hannah's Primary School, they had achieved high scores in the Grade 6 National exams. This year, the students admitted to St. Hannah's have demonstrated exemplary academic performance and attitude, with some selected for the football team, including one child chosen as team captain.

Staffing and Community Impact

The charity employs 23 Kenyan staff members, including 9 teachers, 9 learning support assistants, 3 support staff, 1 accountant, and 1 physiotherapist, including specialists in special educational needs and hearing impairment.

Most support staff members are mothers from the Kibera community, many of whom receive school placements for their children. This employment empowers them with dignity, security, and greater control over their lives, allowing them to connect with other mothers facing similar challenges, particularly those with children requiring special educational needs support, thereby alleviating their social isolation.



During Christmas, the children enjoyed a festive party featuring acrobats and fire eaters.

Every Thursday, Artists for Africa, an American-funded charity, conducts afternoon sessions with each class in the primary school, exposing children to ballet, African contemporary dance, drama, and music. The children have also competed against local schools, securing first prize in an African contemporary dance competition.

Integrated Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs



The quality of education and integrated learning provided to children with hearing impairments and special educational needs is unique in Kenya, offering a level of quality and inclusion that is unparalleled. Historically, children with special educational needs from Kibera have faced isolation without any or little educational or social provisions. To facilitate their access to education, a small van was hired to transport children whose mothers struggled to carry them to school.

This year, the Zawadi Special Needs Class accommodated 9 children, who integrate weekly with younger kindergarten students.

These children also participate in swimming sessions at a local pool, accompanied by their mothers, teaching team, and a physiotherapist. Additionally, a small group attends Riding for the Disabled weekly to enhance their core strength and mobility.

Daily, children receive access to one-on-one physiotherapy.

Integrated Provision for Hearing Impaired Children



This year, the unit for hearing-impaired children educated 11 children. Most have been fitted with post-aural hearing aids and assessed for the degree and type of hearing loss. The costs for these hearing aids were covered by individual donors. Prior to joining the unit, none of the children had received formal assessments. Monthly audiology clinics are held to ensure the functionality of their hearing aids.

In total, 374 children aged between two and eleven years have received quality education this year, distributed as follows:

- **220 Kindergarten children**
- **134 Primary children**
- **11 Hearing Impaired - Profoundly Deaf children**
- **9 Children with Special Educational Needs**

Nutritional Impact



Saturday Dinner Programme

This programme remains crucial for the most vulnerable children. Since 2006, our local team has been serving hot meals to up to 450 children under the age of 10 every Saturday, addressing urgent needs related to hunger and malnutrition.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, the 2022 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey indicates that many children under five are stunted or too short for their age, which is a sign of chronic undernutrition. Furthermore, many children under five are wasted (too thin for their height), indicating acute undernutrition.

Provision of Hot Meals in schools and at Saturday Dinner Programme

- **Hot meals provided per year: 131,090**

Collaboration and Partnerships

The Lunchbowl Network Ltd UK collaborates closely with The Lunchbowl Network Kenya Ltd, a registered charitable entity in Kenya.

Financial Contributions Received

The financial contributions have been achieved through various channels:

UK Volunteer Team

Our dedicated team in the UK invests time and energy to enhance the profile and funding of The Lunchbowl Network.

UK Schools

Six schools supported the charity this year, with donations ranging from £117 to £676.

Special Thanks to the Following Schools:



- All Saints C of E Playgroup
- Dolphin School Wandsworth
- Elmea Infants School
- Holy Trinity School Merton
- St Mary's C of E
- St Mary's C of E Horsham

Total Donations from Schools: £2,231, compared to £3,243 from the previous year.

Churches

We are proud to partner with the following churches, which have shown unwavering support: Christchurch New Malden, PCC All Saints Hampreston, PCC St Leonards Church of England, Amersham, St Paul's Church of England, Kingston Hill, and PCC St Barnabas Bearwood.

Total Donations from Churches: £8,552.

Trusts

- Pat Newman Memorial Trust: £1,500
- Souter Charitable Trust: £6,700
- The Tula Trust: £2,000

Total Donations from Trusts: £10,200. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mandy Cormack for her dedicated efforts in applying for funding from trusts and foundations on behalf of The Lunchbowl Network.

Individual Donations

We received 16 private donations ranging from £219 to £100,000, total £129,516. We express our gratitude for every contribution and respect the privacy of all donors.

Child Sponsorship

A total of 89 children were sponsored by 65 sponsors, generating an income of £41,899. Additionally, £2,296 was allocated for Christmas gifts.

Monthly Contributions

- 11 donors contributed specifically for food provision: £2,299
- 7 donors contributed specifically for Angel Kindergarten: £4,260
- 15 donors contributed to general funds: £3,730

PayPal Donations

- 9 donors contributed to general funds: £7,385
- 2 donors contributed to the Saturday Food Programme: £370
- 4 overseas donors contributed to child sponsorship: £2,705

We are profoundly grateful to all our monthly donors and child sponsors whether individuals, schools, or churches. Your commitment to these vulnerable children is essential to our mission and is deeply appreciated.

Acknowledgments

Our Volunteer Network

Thank you to the Lunchbowl team; Anna Kate Fuller, Jess Shadrach, Carolyn Green, Fran Turko, Heidi Gomes, Heike Paulson, Helen Masters, Jean Shipton, Jenny Stuart, Mandy Cormack, Hannah McGreevy, Jess Bridgland, Jenny Street, Pauline Collins, Selina Overy, Sue Stears, and Wendy Clow. The compassionate support and dedication of our entire Lunchbowl team are

invaluable. Together, our teams in Kenya and the UK are effecting positive change in a challenging context.

We sincerely appreciate the generosity of time, energy, and resources extended by all.

Special Thanks

The charity expresses profound gratitude to Sue Stears for her unwavering commitment, time, and energy, as well as her exceptional administrative and bookkeeping skills. Also many thanks to Jenny Street for managing the sponsorship programme for kindergarten and primary children. Final Acknowledgments

- **The Big Yellow Storage Company:** We are immensely grateful to The Big Yellow Storage Company for providing storage for our event equipment and school resources destined for Kenya, including school shoes.
- **British Airways:** We appreciate British Airways for their generous baggage allowances, facilitating the transport of donations and educational materials.

Financial Management

The charity maintains effective financial and accounting systems, ensuring a clear segregation of responsibilities. All funds collected are counted by two designated individuals from the Lunchbowl team, with all donations deposited into the bank by named regional team members. Gift aid forms are managed by Mandy Cormack, and all documentation complies with data protection regulations. Monthly bookkeeping, including receipts, bank statements, and reconciliations, is conducted by Sue Stears and is reviewed by our accountants.

Resource Management and Future Use

The Lunchbowl Network UK operates entirely on a voluntary basis, ensuring that 99.25 pence of every £1 raised directly benefits orphaned and vulnerable children.

Reserves Policy

We currently adhere to a no-reserves policy, focusing on deploying funds as they are received to uplift the most impoverished children.

No trustee or volunteer receives financial remuneration or benefits from the charity. All visitors to Lunchbowl Network Kenya are self-funded.

Signed: 
Stuart McGreevy, Chair

Signed: 
Sally McGreevy, Director

Date: 31.12.25