

# En Route

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New Routes  
Foundation



**Hi everyone, we are so excited to announce that we are FINALLY a registered NGO (non-governmental organisation) in Kenya. Those who have been on this journey with us will know that it has taken a very long time and a lot of work to finally be in this position. We are so excited and overwhelmed to finally start our work here.**

When we first arrived in Kenya we were advised by many people not to apply for NGO status in the country as it is so difficult to get, but God has worked a miracle and we are now official in Kenya! Thank you so much to everyone who has continued to support us over the years – we are so grateful for your patience.

Due to only being officially registered in the last few weeks we have not been able to begin our programme as hoped this year. However, we will begin the programme in January 2021.

Above: We loved meeting up with our close friends Sophie-Mercy and Martha. We absolutely love living in Kenya.

We outline below a few FAQs that we thought you may want answered.

## **WHY ARE YOU NOT ABLE TO BEGIN IN 2020, EVEN IF YOU START LATER IN THE YEAR?**

Our programme requires that we take 10 students from the second-to-last year of secondary school through to the end of university/college. The Kenyan school years run from January to December and this means that if we don't begin at the beginning of the school year we are already losing valuable time with them.

The 10 students that will be selected for our programme will be having important exams at the end of their Form 3 (Year 11 in UK) and at the end of their Form 4 (last year of school).

Therefore, the schools have asked that we do not interrupt the students between the months of September to December – due to them needing to prepare thoroughly for their exams. This means that we are only allowed to spend

time with our students between the months of January to August. During these first 8 months of the year we are wanting to establish a relationship with each of the students. We will be running a number of extra-curricular courses to help teach life skills and will run personal and group mentoring sessions with them. All of these things take up a lot of time, and we don't want our programme to put extra pressure on their very important school years. Therefore, we need to space out our sessions so it doesn't become overwhelming for them.

(In summary, it is best for the students that we begin in 2021 instead!)

### **WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE DOING THIS YEAR INSTEAD OF RUNNING THE PROGRAMME?**

Well, everything does take time in Kenya (Africa really) to get sorted. We need to start the lengthy process of getting an NGO bank account (requiring Storm to travel to Nairobi to hand in letters etc.). We need to meet with our accountants in Kenya and start the process of applying for tax-exemption (we have been told it may take some years to get this!). But those are some of the boring things.

What we are most excited about is going to visit the County Government in Elgeyo-Marakwet and to start selecting our 10 students for the

programme. We have strict criteria of who the students can be, and therefore it may take some time to find the right students for the programme (for example, they have to be orphaned, they have to be financially unable to provide basic needs for themselves at uni etc.).

After we get a list of potential students, we will then be visiting them, their families, and their schools in order to ensure eligibility and to select them officially. And, of course we are always working on our courses to ensure they are the best they can be!

### **WHO WILL YOUR STUDENTS BE?**

Our 10 students will be starting Form 3 (Year 11 in the UK) and be between the ages of 15-17 years old. We will have 5 females and 5 males joining our programme. They will be going to school in the County of Elgeyo-Marakwet.

### **WHY ARE YOU ONLY SELECTING 10 STUDENTS?**

Being in poverty is not just about people being without the basics of food, water, education (as many of us Westerners think). Poor people often talk about poverty being things like living in shame, living with fear, being inferior, being humiliated or feeling powerless.

For centuries we have given to charities that

Pictured below: Storm with his friend/mentee Victor.





help with basic needs, but instead of helping eradicate poverty in that country, we have often actually encouraged dependency on westerners to provide material needs. This is not what these people need to actually become self-sufficient.

In fact, what people in poverty need is someone to walk hand in hand with them and for that person to help identify WHY they are in poverty. (Is it because they have suffered abuse in their childhood and carry a feeling of humiliation, have a low sense of self-worth and therefore now lack confidence to pursue their dreams. Or is it because they feel the only thing they have knowledge in is selling charcoal - even though there are hundreds of

Above: We love to explore, especially in the beautiful Elgeyo-Marakwet County.

Below: As you enter into the capital of Elgeyo-Marakwet County, you are welcomed by this incredible sign.



other sellers on the roads. Their lack of creativity caused by being deprived of encouragement or from only doing as they've been told by people they see as superior....) There are SO many reasons as to why them and their family are in poverty, and that won't just be solved by giving them money.

It requires day-in-day-out commitment to help and encourage them. That is why we are only selecting 10 students - so that we invest EVERYTHING we have into them (time, resources, connections etc.)

### **WILL YOU BE SELECTING ANOTHER 10 STUDENTS IN 2022?**

At the moment, we don't think so because of the high financial cost associated with each student. However, we would absolutely love to, so let's see how many sponsors we can raise this year!

Below: These are some of our lovely friends who help us learn more about the young adults in Kenya.



## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED WITH THESE 10 STUDENTS?

First of all, we would absolutely LOVE you to get involved. We are so passionate about these students, and we would love them to be as cherished by you as they are by us.

We will be running a sponsorship programme in order to cover the costs associated with our 7 year programme. To understand the finer details of our programme please email us on [info@newroutesfoundation.org](mailto:info@newroutesfoundation.org). But in summary, we will be teaching our students life skills, personally mentoring them, giving them internship opportunities and helping to fund them financially through the university course of their choosing (this includes tuition fees, accommodation fees and maintenance costs).

Due to the high costs associated with financially putting our students through university, each student requires a significant amount of sponsorship each month. We truly believe in the phrase, 'It takes a village to raise a child', and because of this we came up with the idea of a group of sponsors taking responsibility for each student. Each sponsor will still have a very personal relationship with their student, including through letters and videos (and through trips if you would like to meet them), but financially it will take around 4/5 sponsors (at £30) a month to cover the student's costs.

We would also very much welcome any internship or work experience opportunities that would be open to the students. We would like to personalise the experience to the career the student would like to pursue – so we will provide more details on the specific career paths soon, but any connections you have in Kenya or internationally would be of great help.

Lastly, but actually most importantly, we would love you to pray for our students – we can give you timetables of their exam dates or emergency prayer requests for them or their families. Please let us know if you would like to be part of the prayer chain for these incredible students.

## The Lindenberg Family

If you would like to follow us as a family, you can follow our personal blog at <https://lindenbergsinkenya.wixsite.com/blog>

Lots of love,

**Storm, Sophie and Eden**



Above: Lazarus is currently studying at university and helps us to learn about the current struggles facing students. He is also an amazing Uncle!

## Find out more

**We are planning an official launch and fundraising event in the U.K. in August 2020. Stay tuned for more details!**

For more information on sponsorship, fundraising events or to unsubscribe from our newsletter please contact us on:

[info@newroutesfoundation.org](mailto:info@newroutesfoundation.org)



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