

WALKABOUT FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



CONTENTS



ABOUT US

Letter from our Co-founders	6
The Need	8
Our Mission	10
Global Impact	12
2025 at a Glance	14
Wheelchair Footprint	16

RESEARCH

Spinal Cord Injury Research	20
-----------------------------	----

WHEELCHAIRS & REHABILITATION

Kenya	24
Uganda	28
Haiti	30
Jordan	32

FUNDRAISING

Corporate Partners	36
Events	38
Walkabout Heroes	42

OUR FAMILY

Our Board	46
Our Leadership Team	47

FINANCIALS

Financials	50
------------	----



ABOUT US

LETTER FROM CO-FOUNDERS

Dear Friends,

As we look back on 2025, we are filled with gratitude for all that we have achieved together. This year has been one of progress, partnership and shared commitment to ensuring that people with mobility disabilities can access the support they need. We distributed more than **2,800 wheelchairs** around the world and provided rehabilitation services for up to **100 children** in Kenya, alongside training and support for their families.

Our Kenya Centre remains at the heart of Walkabout's work in East Africa, bringing together wheelchair provision, rehabilitation and innovation. Our local team assembled and personally fitted wheelchairs, carried out outreach distributions to reach people in remote communities, and provided rehabilitation for children with mobility disabilities. They also strengthened their expertise through training in Appropriate Paper-based Technology (APT), an innovative approach that transforms recycled materials into low-cost assistive devices and rehabilitation equipment. Across the region, we continued expanding access to mobility through our programme in Uganda, responding to growing demand and reaching people in need.

Despite the ongoing challenges in Haiti, we continued working alongside our 45 local partners to deliver wheelchairs to people with mobility disabilities across the country.

We were also proud to send our first container of wheelchairs to Jordan during a particularly difficult time across the region, restoring mobility to those in need.

Fundraising remained essential to everything we achieved this year. Our *Virtual Holiday Auction* became our most successful to date, raising almost **£220,000**. These events are about more than fundraising; they are a celebration of the generosity, kindness and belief in our mission that brings so many people together around the world.

As founders, one of the greatest privileges is seeing the extraordinary commitment of the people behind Walkabout, from our dedicated teams and trusted partners to our volunteers and supporters across the globe. Every milestone we celebrate is the result of countless people working together with a shared belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to live with dignity and independence.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for making this work possible. Together, we are transforming lives, and we look forward to continuing this journey with you.

Carolina and Luis Gonzalez-Bunster
Walkabout Foundation Co-Founders



THE NEED

100 MILLION

PEOPLE IN THE WORLD NEED A WHEELCHAIR

65 MILLION

PEOPLE CANNOT AFFORD ONE

EVERY 60 MINUTES

SOMEONE IN THE WORLD SUSTAINS A SPINAL CORD INJURY



OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO RESTORE DIGNITY,
FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE BY PROVIDING

WHEELCHAIRS

AND

REHABILITATION

IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, WHILE FUNDING

RESEARCH

TO FIND A CURE FOR PARALYSIS



GLOBAL IMPACT



31,000

WHEELCHAIRS DISTRIBUTED



26

COUNTRIES REACHED



81,700

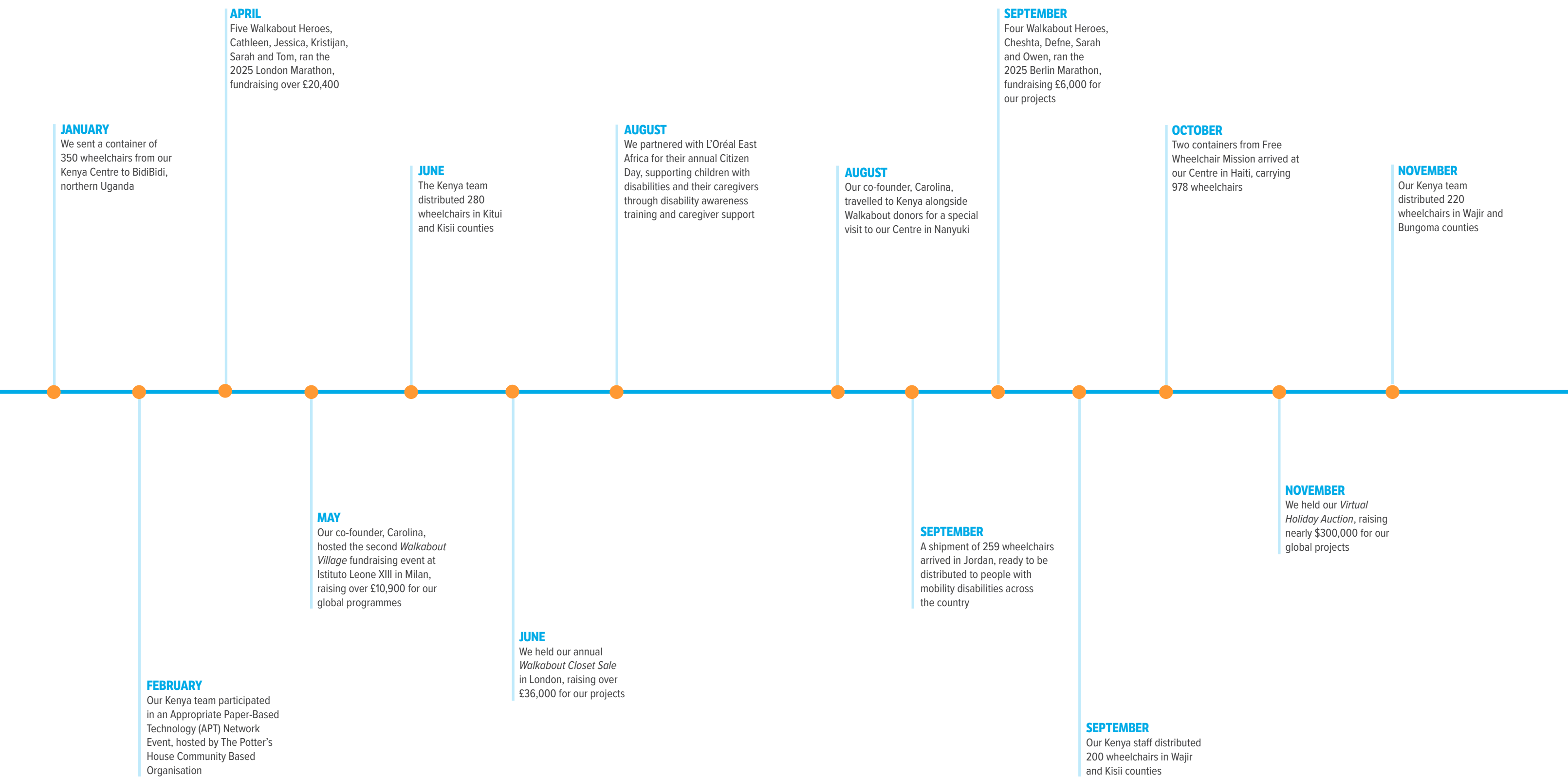
LIVES IMPACTED



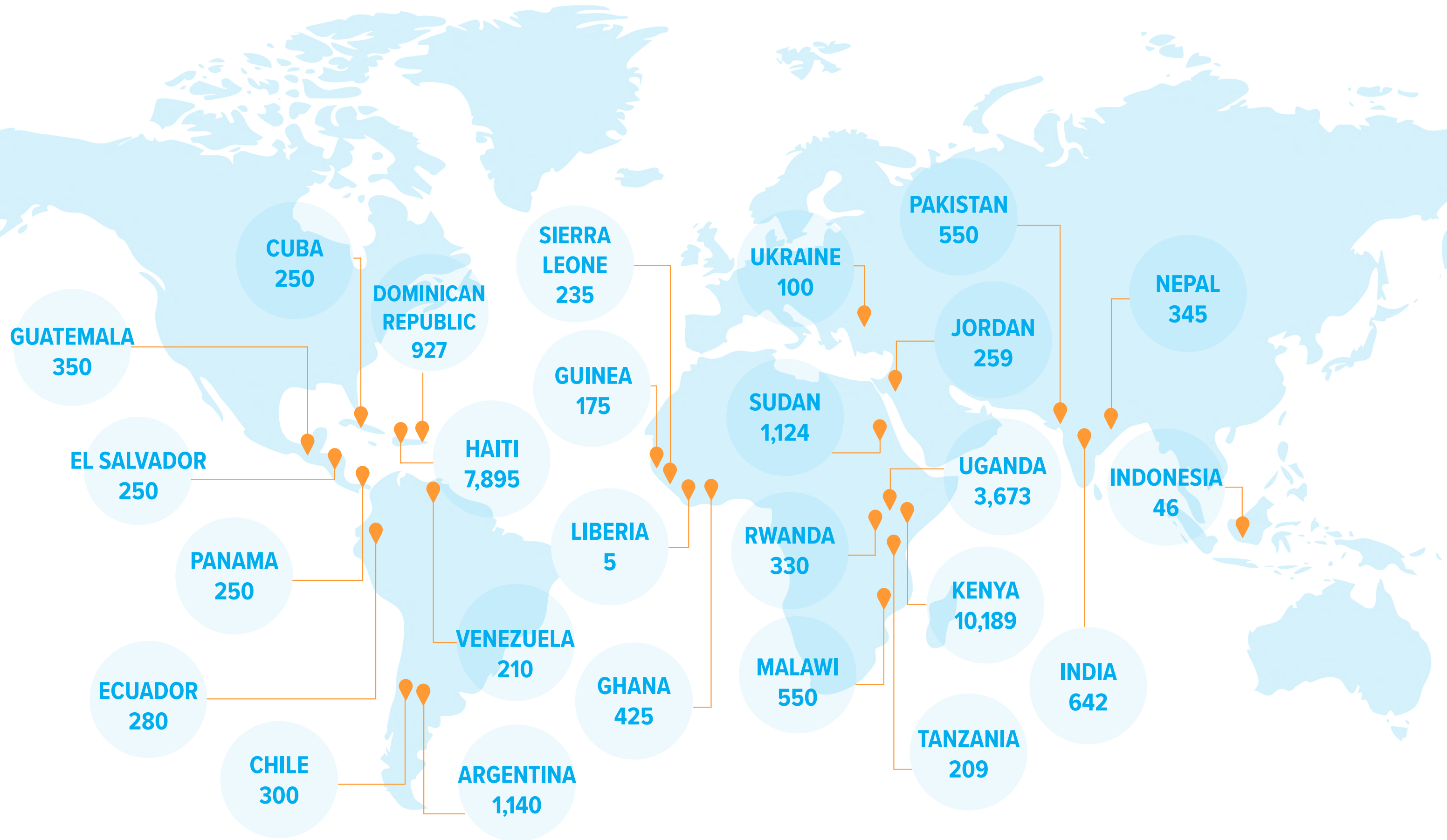
\$2M

GIVEN TO RESEARCH

2025 AT A GLANCE



OUR WHEELCHAIR FOOTPRINT





SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH

Finding a cure for paralysis remains at the heart of our mission. Since 2010, we have invested in pioneering Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) research. To date, we have committed **\$2 million** to supporting ground-breaking studies aimed at reducing and reversing the effects of paralysis.

Research has always been an integral part of Walkabout's three-pronged approach. While our wheelchair and rehabilitation programmes improve quality of life for people with mobility disabilities today, we also invest in research to find a cure for paralysis. Together, these three areas allow us to provide short, medium and long-term solutions.

Since we began funding SCI research, the field has made incredible progress. What was once thought impossible is now showing real promise, with pioneering studies demonstrating the potential for people with Spinal Cord Injuries to regain movement and function.

We are proud to support the scientists and researchers pushing these boundaries and bringing us closer to what has always been one of Walkabout's ultimate goals: finding a cure for paralysis.





WHEELCHAIRS & REHABILITATION

KENYA

CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED

1,220

CHILDREN IN
REHABILITATION

100

DIAPERS & PADS
DISTRIBUTED

2,100



Walkabout has been working in Kenya since 2014. In 2018, we opened our *Wheelchair Assembly & Rehabilitation Centre* in Nanyuki, creating a consistent, lower-cost supply of wheelchairs across East Africa. The Centre allows us to provide ongoing repairs, modifications and follow-up services, ensuring that every wheelchair continues to meet the needs of every beneficiary.

In 2025, our Kenya staff has been trained in Assistive Paper-Based Technology, enabling them to further adapt wheelchairs to better meet individual needs and create specialised rehabilitation materials using locally available resources.

At our Centre, we also provide rehabilitation for up to **100 children** per year, alongside training programmes for parents and caregivers. This year, we reached 72 families through our *Baby Ubuntu Training*. By equipping caregivers with practical skills in areas like feeding, play, and communication, we're creating a community-led model of care that will continue to grow and support more families over time.

As part of our holistic approach, we also run a *Reusable Diapers & Pads Project*. Our local team manufactures reusable diapers and sanitary pads at the Centre, which are distributed through our outreach efforts and to individuals visiting the Centre. We also hold practical workshops for mothers and caregivers, teaching them how to make their own products at home, offering practical, sustainable solutions for families.



ZACH'S STORY

Meet Zach, a 91-year-old man from Meru County, Kenya.

A year ago, Zach broke his hip following a fall at home, leaving him unable to walk. Without a wheelchair, he relied on his son and daughter-in-law to carry him whenever he needed to move around.

Thanks to his new wheelchair, Zach can now move around more safely and independently, spend time outside his home and be a part of the community.



ABDUL'S STORY

Abdul is a 3-year-old boy from Kenya who has Hydrocephalus, a condition that affects the brain and makes it more difficult for him to sit, move and maintain balance.

Every week, Abdul and his mother attend rehabilitation sessions, where our team works with him through exercises and activities to help him build strength and improve his balance.

Thanks to consistent rehabilitation and support, Abdul is becoming stronger and continuing to make encouraging progress.



UGANDA



CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED

350

Walkabout has been working in Uganda since 2014, and to date we have distributed more than 3,300 wheelchairs and tricycles across the country. Uganda is home to one of the largest refugee populations in Africa, and the need for appropriate wheelchairs remains high among both refugee and local communities.

In 2025, together with our partner Hope Health Action, we distributed 350 wheelchairs across the Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement and surrounding communities in northern Uganda and South Sudan, helping to restore mobility, freedom and independence to people in need.



BETHANY'S STORY

Bethany is a 14-year-old girl from Uganda who has Cerebral Palsy.

When we first met, she had outgrown her old wheelchair, making it difficult for her to get around and often leaving her with no option but to crawl on the ground. Without a suitable wheelchair, she couldn't get to school, healthcare appointments or go to church.

We provided Bethany with a brand new wheelchair fitted to her needs. She can now move around comfortably and safely, go to school and participate more fully in everyday life.



HAITI

CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED
976

Walkabout has been working in Haiti since 2010, providing wheelchairs to children and adults with mobility disabilities across the country. Despite the ongoing instability and increasingly difficult operating environment, we continue serving communities in need across the region.

In 2025, two containers carrying **976 wheelchairs** arrived at our *HHA Walkabout Wheelchair Distribution Centre* in Cap-Haïtien, helping us respond to the significant and growing need for mobility support. We work with a network of 45 local partners to distribute wheelchairs across northern Haiti.



FABIENNE'S STORY

Fabienne is a 16-year-old girl from Haiti who was born with Spina Bifida. Without a wheelchair, she had never been able to move around independently.

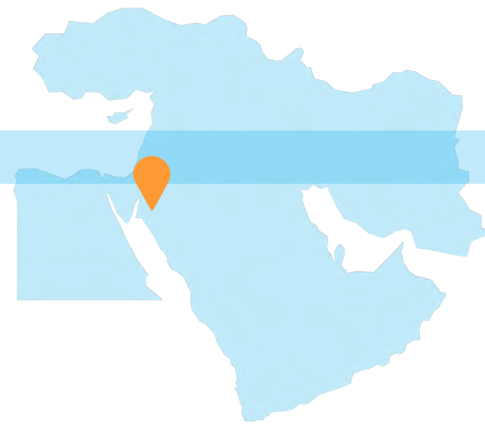
In 2025, Fabienne received her first-ever wheelchair from our local team in Haiti, giving her the opportunity to go to school and experience greater independence in her everyday life.

When she's not studying, Fabienne loves to sing and learn new things, both in and beyond the classroom.



JORDAN

CHAIRS
DISTRIBUTED
259



In 2025, Walkabout expanded its work to Jordan, delivering **259 wheelchairs** to adults and children with mobility disabilities across the country.

This distribution has been made possible thanks to the generous support of Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy, and in partnership with the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of Jordan and the Institute of Family Health.

For many recipients, this is their first appropriately fitted wheelchair, opening up opportunities to attend school, return to work, spend time with family and friends, and participate more fully in their communities.

Through this partnership, Walkabout is helping to improve access to wheelchairs and creating lasting opportunities for people with mobility disabilities in Jordan. We look forward to sharing impact updates and stories from the ground once the distribution is completed.





CORPORATE PARTNERS

In 2025, we were grateful to receive support from our corporate partners, including Bloomberg Philanthropies and L'Oréal East Africa. These valuable partnerships have played an important role in helping us provide wheelchairs and rehabilitation services, transforming the lives of people with mobility disabilities.



This year, we were proud to partner once again with **L'Oréal East Africa**, as a part of their annual Citizen Day programme. Under the theme *Connecting with Compassion*, this year's event focused on raising awareness and deepening understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by families raising children with disabilities.

We are proud to continue building this meaningful partnership, promoting inclusion, supporting caregivers and making a lasting difference in the lives of children with disabilities and their families.



Bloomberg Philanthropies has been a valued partner of Walkabout Foundation since 2022, and we are deeply grateful for their continued commitment to our work.

Over the years, their support has played an important role in strengthening and expanding our programmes in East Africa, helping us reach more children and adults with mobility disabilities through the provision of custom-fitted wheelchairs and rehabilitation services.

Their contributions have also helped us invest in the long-term sustainability of our work in Kenya. By strengthening our local capacity and supporting our dedicated team, we can continue providing essential services to individuals and families who would otherwise have limited access to mobility equipment and rehabilitation.

In 2025, Bloomberg Philanthropies pledged a further £120,000 over two years to support our projects in East Africa, including the continued development of our Kenya Centre and the expansion of our outreach services.

WALKABOUT VILLAGE

In May, our co-founder, Carolina hosted the second *Walkabout Village* fundraising event at Istituto Leone XIII school in Milan, bringing together children, families and the wider school community for a fun-filled day in support of Walkabout Foundation.

The event featured different games, activities and entertainment for all ages, raising over **£10,900** for our global projects! We are incredibly grateful to everyone who helped organise the event and to all the families who joined us and contributed to its success.



CLOSET TREASURE SALE

In June, our annual *Walkabout Closet Treasure Sale* returned to Kings Road, London. Over five days, our pop-up store on Sydney Street in London welcomed shoppers looking for pre-loved designer fashion and accessories, raising over **£36,000** in support of our projects! We couldn't be more grateful to everyone who donated items, shopped with us and volunteered their time to help make this event such a success.



L'ORÉAL CITIZEN DAY

In August, the Walkabout Kenya and L'Oréal East Africa teams spent the day at the *Compassionate Hands for the Disabled Foundation Children's Home* in Ruai – cooking, playing and supporting children with disabilities, alongside 13 caregivers from the Ruiru Baby Ubuntu group. Our team also led a Disability Awareness Training for L'Oréal staff, sharing caregiving techniques, rehabilitation insights, and stories from mothers in our *Walkabout CP Warriors Daycare Centre*.



VIRTUAL HOLIDAY AUCTION

In November, we held our fourth *Virtual Holiday Auction*, featuring an incredible selection of prizes, from jewellery, designer fashion and accessories to holidays and unique experiences. The auction concluded on Giving Tuesday and was a tremendous success, raising nearly **\$300,000!**

This achievement would not have been possible without the generosity of our donors, bidders and supporters. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to making the event such a success.



Some of the incredible items and experiences that were a part of our *Virtual Holiday Auction*

WALKABOUT HEROES

WALKABOUT
HEROES

10

RAISED OVER

£43,800

In 2025, our incredible **Walkabout Heroes** took on running challenges across the UK and Europe, raising nearly **£44,000** in support of our global projects.



Five runners, Cathleen, Jessica, Kristijan, Sarah, Kristijan, Jessica and Tom represented Walkabout at the 2025 **London Marathon**, raising over **£20,400** for our wheelchair, rehabilitation and research projects!



Four Walkabout Heroes, Cheshta, Defne, Sarah and Owen took on the **Berlin Marathon**, raising **£6,000**!



Walkabout's Senior Programmes Manager, **Nina**, completed London's **Big Half Marathon**, raising over **£8,700**!



Our Walkabout Hero, **Paolo**, took on the **Cortina-Dobbiaco 30k** race in the Italian dolomites, raising over **£8,700** for our projects!



OUR BOARD



**CAROLINA
GONZALEZ-BUNSTER**
CO-FOUNDER,
CO-CHAIR



**ADRIANA
CHRYSSICOPOULOS**



ALEXANDER VAN HOLK



FADI ABUALI



MARINA NAKANO



STEFANO BONFIGLIO



ZEINA NASSIF

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM



**CAROLINA
GONZALEZ-BUNSTER**
CEO



MARIA PYATAKOVA
COMMUNICATIONS &
OPERATIONS DIRECTOR



NINA PIGORINI
SENIOR PROGRAMMES
MANAGER



MARIA GABRIELA GELPI
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



MONICA BARTOLI-DUNCAN
COMMUNICATIONS
ASSOCIATE



HENRIQUE SERUCA
PHOTOGRAPHY
& VIDEO



DAVID MUHORO
EAST AFRICA
DIRECTOR



PAUL MAINA
KENYA COUNTRY
MANAGER



TABITHA WANJIKU
WHEELCHAIR CENTRE
MANAGER



MAUREEN WANJIRU
WHEELCHAIR
DISTRIBUTION OFFICER



KATE NANDI
OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPIST

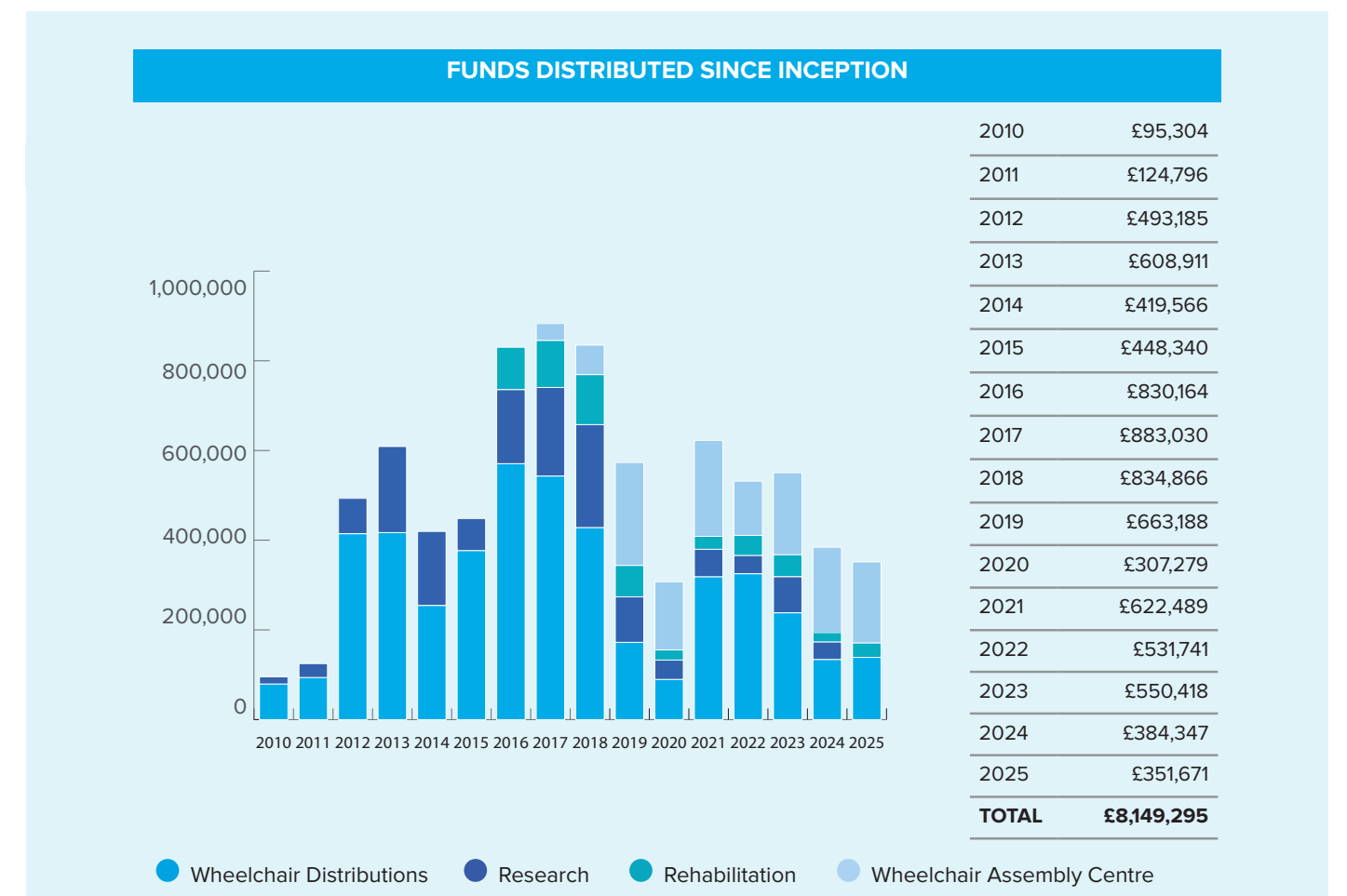
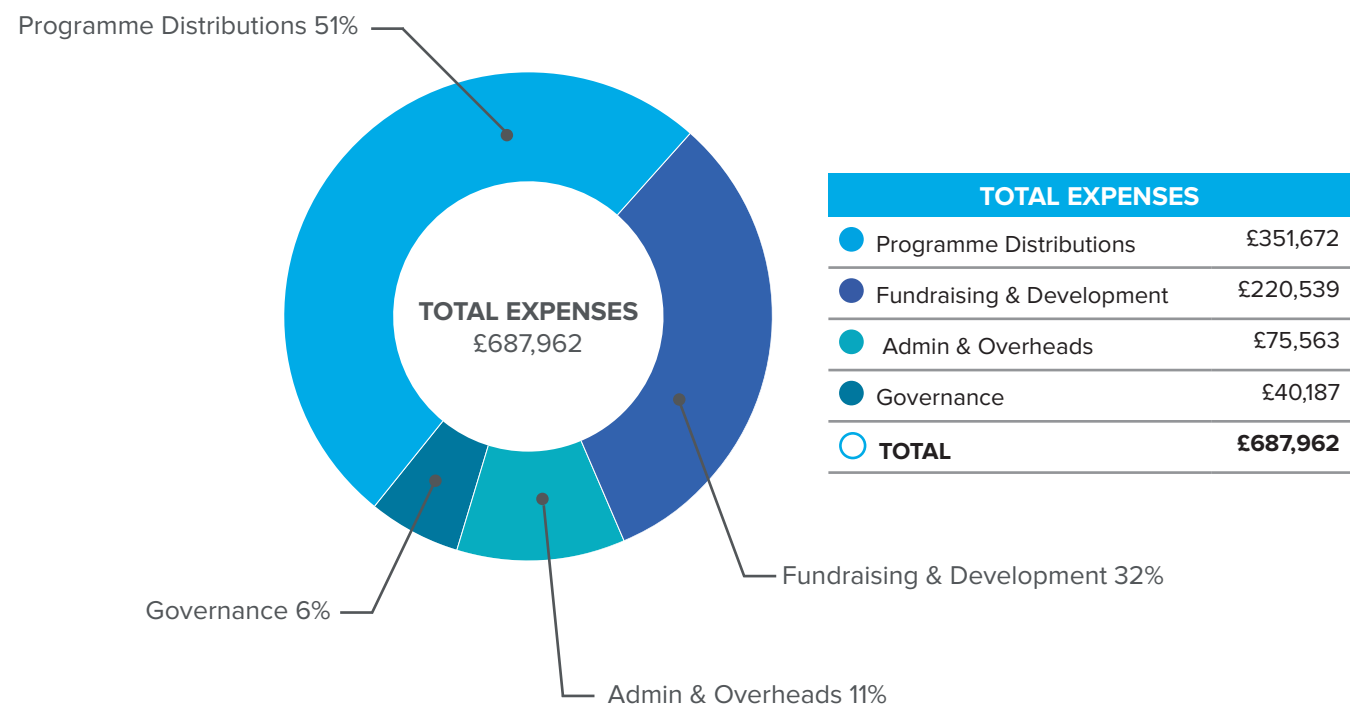
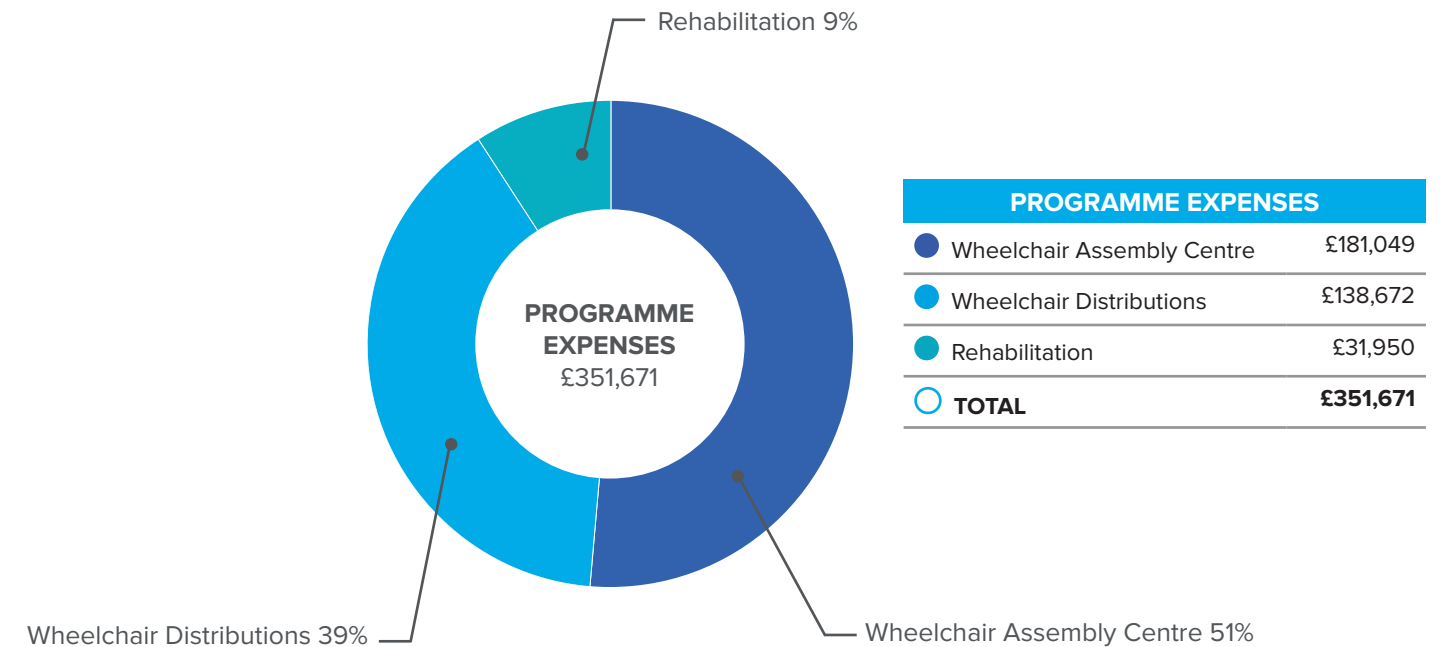
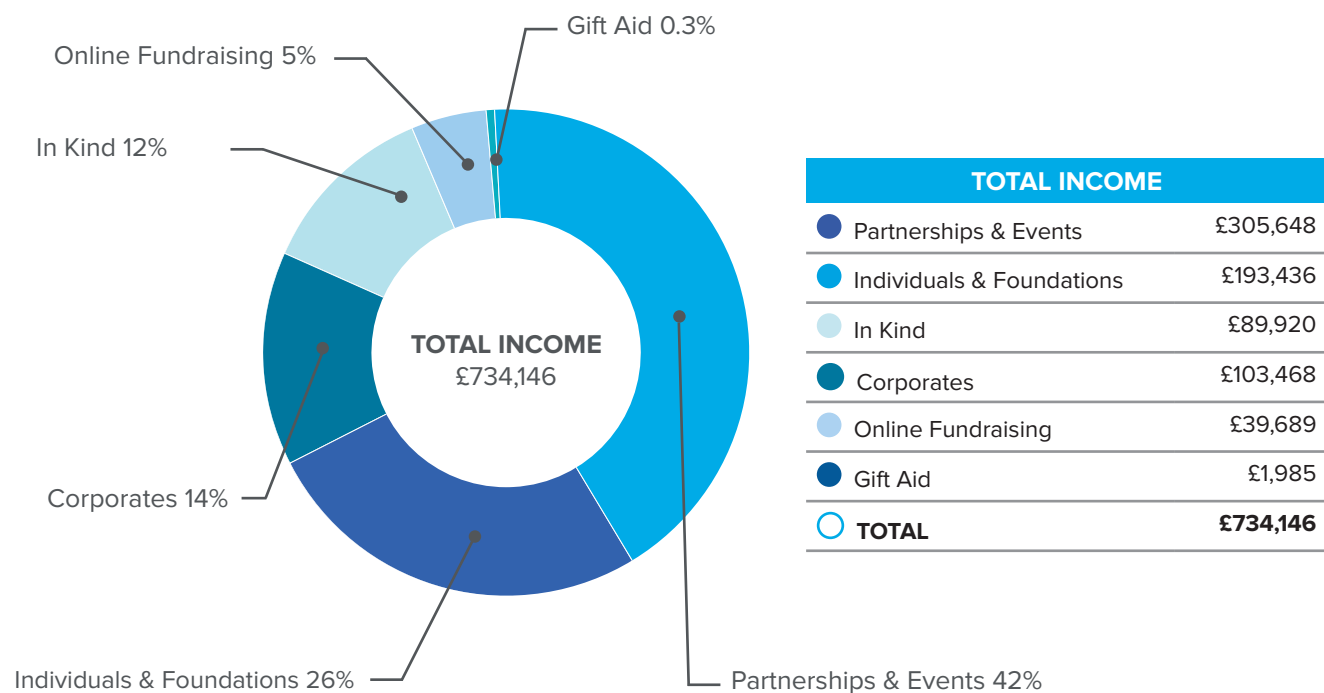


HANNAH WANGUI
OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY ASSISTANT



FINANCIALS

2025 FINANCIALS







Walkabout UK
132-134 Lots Road
London SW10 0RJ
Tel: +44 (0)207 581 3680

Walkabout US
19 West Putnam Ave, 2nd Floor
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830
Tel: +1 203 629 5290

info@walkaboutfoundation.org
www.walkaboutfoundation.org
UK Registered Charity: 1140850
US Registered 501(c) (3): 37-1582823



Some names have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals.