

RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED

England & Wales · Charity number 1144010

Details

Other names	RIFT VALLEY INSTITUTE (RVI)
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04271537
Registered	2011-09-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Wheelhouse Angel Court 81 St. Clements Street Oxford OX4 1AW
Phone	07462130035
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Activities

Objects: 1. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY IN EASTERN AFRICA; TO PROMOTE RESEARCH INTO EASTERN AFRICA AND RELATED SUBJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC; AND TO DISSEMINATE THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. 2. TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS (AS SET OUT IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND SUBSEQUENT UNITED NATIONS CONVENTIONS AND DECLARATIONS) THROUGHOUT THE WORLD BY ALL OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MEANS: MONITORING ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS; OBTAINING REDRESS FOR THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE; RESEARCH INTO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES; PROVIDING TECHNICAL ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT AND OTHERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS; CONTRIBUTING TO THE SOUND ADMINISTRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAW; COMMENTING ON PROPOSED HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION; RAISING AWARENESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES; INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY OF HUMAN RIGHTS; IN FURTHERANCE OF THAT OBJECT, BUT NOT OTHERWISE, THE TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE POWER TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY PROVIDED THAT THE TRUSTEES ARE SATISFIED THAT THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES WILL FURTHER THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY TO AN EXTENT JUSTIFIED BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTED AND THAT THE ACTIVITY IS NOT THE DOMINANT MEANS BY WHICH THE CHARITY CARRIES OUT ITS OBJECTS.

Activities: The activities of the Rift Valley Institute comprise field-based, action-oriented social research projects, support for indigenous educational institutions, in-country training courses, consultative processes, legal support programmes and an online digital library. They are designed to inform aid interventions, support local research capacity, record indigenous culture and promote human rights.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Congo (Democratic Republic)
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Kensington And Chelsea

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£4,630,498	£4,422,421	£989,716	25
2023-12-31	£4,822,153	£4,660,680	£802,956	24
2022-12-31	£3,933,426	£3,905,835	£645,330	23
2021-12-31	£2,633,221	£2,594,150	£591,886	19
2020-12-31	£1,840,207	£1,772,058	£561,596	16

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Margaret Workman Buchanan Smith	Chair	2019-06-14
Awak Bior		2026-03-26
Dr Sharath Srinivasan		2023-09-01
Haile Menkerios		2022-07-08
Joanna Oyediran Adenike		2024-09-01
Lillian Wairimu Githuka		2024-09-06
Mary Walker Harper		2022-06-16
Paul Murphy		2025-06-26
Professor Kenneth John Menkhaus		2024-09-01
Professor Laura Christine Hammond		2025-12-01
Professor Munzoul Abdalla Munzoul Assal		2025-12-01
Professor Terrence Patrick Lyons		2025-12-01
Timothy James Woodward		2024-09-01

RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1144010

Accounts

RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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CORPORATE INFORMATION

Registered Name	Rift Valley Research Limited
Operating Name	Rift Valley Institute
Company Number	4271537
Charity Number	1144010
Registered Office and Operational Address	The Wheelhouse Angel Court 81 St Clement's Street Oxford OX4 1AW United Kingdom
Trustees	Margie Buchanan Smith (Chair, appointed 14 June 2019) Mary Harper (appointed June 2022) Hala El Kharib (appointed June 2022) Christopher Maynard (appointed 14 February 2017, resigned September 2024) Haile Menkarios (appointed September 2022) Leben Moro (appointed 8 January 2018) Sharath Srinivasan (appointed 1 September 2023) Tim Woodward (Treasurer, appointed 24 July 2024) Joanna Oyediran (appointed 22 August 2024) Ken Menkhaus (appointed 22 August 2024) Lilian Githuka (appointed 6 September 2024)
Executive Director	Mark Bradbury
Principal Bankers	I&M Bank (Kenya) Ecobank (South Sudan) Salaam Somali Bank Zemen Bank (Ethiopia)
Auditor	Parker Russell UK LLP Level 30, The Leadenhall Building, 122 Leadenhall Street, City of London, London EC3V 4AB United Kingdom

SUMMARY

The Rift Valley Institute (RVI) is an independent, not-for-profit, research and educational organization founded in Sudan in 2001, working in South Sudan and Sudan, the Horn of Africa, East Africa and the Great Lakes. Over two decades RVI has built an operational presence in Eastern Africa. Its headquarters, since 2017, has been in Kenya (Nairobi), where the Executive Director and Heads of Finance and Operations are based, and with offices in South Sudan (Juba), Somaliland (Hargeysa), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa), and the UK (London). The Institute aims to create a better future for the peoples and communities of Eastern and Central Africa by advancing useful knowledge of the region and its diverse communities through collaborative research, education and training, public information, and promoting culture and heritage. The Institute bridges development practice and policy, elevating local voices, knowledge and action.

For the peoples and communities of the Horn of Africa, East Africa, Sudan and South Sudan and the Great Lakes regions, 2024 was a volatile period, marked by war in Sudan; conflict in South Sudan; multiple violent conflicts in Ethiopia; a resurgent conflict in Somalia; an insurgency in Puntland and insecurity in Somaliland's contested eastern regions; a violent crack-down on anti-government protests in Kenya; and a continuing rise in living costs across these regions as a result of increased global food prices due to political crises and wars in Ukraine and Gaza. The impact of these crises has left the region continuing host to some of the largest displaced populations in the world, with Sudan currently having the most internally displaced in the world. There were some positive developments. In Somaliland there was a peaceful presidential election and transfer of power. Peace agreements within Ethiopia reduced levels of violent conflict in some regions. East Africa experienced the strongest GDP growth in Africa driven by infrastructure investment and intra-regional trade.

While the operating environment was challenging, RVI continued to conduct relevant research, deliver successful training programmes, invest in organizational development and, despite a reduction in income, achieved the projected budget and ended 2024 with healthy reserves.

In 2024, RVI's presence in Ethiopia expanded with a new grant for the Peace Research Facility (PRF) and partnership agreements to establish an Ethiopia Conflict Sensitivity Hub (ECSH). In Somalia, we continued the work of the Somali Dialogue Platform (SDP) to strengthen political settlement. These programmes continued to support citizens of those countries to articulate civic concerns and influence domestic and international policies and actions. The Institute continued to deliver research on South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya through various projects, including the UK government-funded XCEPT (Cross-Border Conflict, Evidence, Policy and Trends) programme (formerly the Cross-Border research programme), the SDP, the PRF, and the Danish government-funded Diaspora Humanitarianism (D-Hum) project in Somalia. RVI also continued to publish research by early career researchers trained through the Research Community of Practice (RCoP), D-Hum and South Sudan Women's Research Network (SSWRN) projects, the latter focused on supporting women researchers. In June 2024, RVI organized a residential course on the Horn of Africa.

SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

In 2024, the Institute convened several significant public events. This included workshops in South Sudan and Ethiopia to present the research of the XCEPT programme, a conference on Vernacular Humanitarianism and several public forums on the crisis in Sudan.

The Institute continued to publish original research, with 40 publications in 2024 on a range of relevant issues on the countries where the Institute works. We invested in our communications capacity to improve public access to RVI's research, courses and public forums, improving our social media presence and presentation.

In 2024, the Institute experienced a high turnover of staff, but the number of employees remained constant at 26 (including two part-time positions) with all except one based in Africa. RVI's long-term Treasurer, Chris Maynard, stepped down from the board in 2024 at the end of his term and four new trustees joined the board bringing the total to ten. The Institute retains a diverse board, with trustees from South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea, the United States and the United Kingdom. RVI also has a body of 137 Fellows, all experts on the countries where RVI works, with many citizens of those countries.

In 2024, the charity's annual income was US\$ 5,916,813, a 1% decrease compared to 2023. The level of general unrestricted reserves as of 31 December 2024 stood at US\$ 1,160,185 an increase on 2023.

OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

2024 Regional Overview

In 2024, conflict and civil unrest continued to effect people in Eastern Africa and the Greater Horn where RVI operates. The greatest threats to peace and stability in the region stem from developments in its two most populous nations, Sudan and Ethiopia.

Sudanese people endured a second year of civil war, with no signs that the warring parties were ready to end hostilities. Peace negotiations failed to take off meaningfully, even after the UN declared that Sudan was “the world’s largest hunger crisis.” Reports indicated that more than 150,000 people had died since the start of hostilities, and more than 12 million people had been displaced internally and to neighbouring countries such as Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan all of which faced their own internal challenges.

Developments in South Sudan also posed significant threats to regional peace and security. The postponement of elections scheduled for 2024, and the extension of the transitional government into 2026, left a highly fragile uncertain political context, with intermittent outbursts of unrest in Juba as the government sought to clamp down on internal dissent. The perpetual crisis in South Sudan has displaced over 2.2 million people internally with a similar number fleeing to neighbouring countries such as Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia. In addition, South Sudan has had to cope with refugees from the war in Sudan.

In Ethiopia, the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) between the federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) that ended a two-year long war in the north of country, did not to end the conflicts in other regions. Conflicts continued to plague the Amhara and Oromia regions, leading to hundreds of civilian deaths, injuries, destruction of infrastructure and displacement. In Amhara region, tensions escalated significantly from mid-2023 following the federal government’s decision to integrate regional forces into the national military, and in 2024, the Fano militia in Amhara continued to fight the government. The UN and rights organizations raised alarms over the humanitarian crisis, with human rights violations against ethnic Amharas and refugees, including arbitrary detention, regularly reported.

In Oromia region government counterinsurgency operations against the Oromo Liberation Army (OLA) led to large-scale displacement, damage to infrastructure, and widespread reports of human rights abuses. Tensions also emerged during 2024 within the OLA, after one faction signed a peace deal with the government in December. This did not end the insurgency but was a boon for the government. Estimates suggest that up to 2.9 million Ethiopians were internally displaced by these conflicts, with more than 140,000 having fled to neighbouring countries as refugees. There has also been a steady increase in criminality, particularly in the form of kidnap and ransom activity outside Addis Ababa.

Relations between Ethiopia and two of its neighbours, Eritrea and Somalia, were a major cause for concern regarding security and stability in the Horn of Africa. Relations with Eritrea worsened following the CoHA, and as a result of increasing rhetoric by Ethiopia’s Prime Minister asserting claims to access the Eritrean port of Assab, if necessary, by force.

OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024 (CONTINUED)

2024 Regional Overview (continued)

Relations with Somalia also deteriorated after Ethiopia and Somaliland signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Ethiopia to lease land on Somaliland's coastline for a port and naval facility, in exchange for Ethiopia's possible recognition of Somaliland's independence from Somalia. Tensions escalated further in August when Somalia and Egypt signed a joint security pact, under which Egypt has delivered weapons to Somalia. Somalia also signed an enhanced security cooperation agreement with Turkey. Mogadishu insisted that Ethiopia, which has several thousand troops committed in Somalia either within the African Union peacekeeping mission (ATMIS) or bilaterally, could not participate in the new AU support mission (AUSSOM), throwing Somalia's internal security outlook into doubt.

Somalia's politics were also fraught as the government's efforts to finalize the constitution includes changes to the draft constitution. This produced a widening rift between Mogadishu and Jubbaland and Puntland, including over elections. While the FGS insisted on direct elections, both FMSs conducted their own regional assembly and presidential votes using clan power-sharing formulae, returning the incumbents to power. In Somaliland, by contrast, the peaceful presidential election in November saw opposition candidate Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi "Irro" defeat the incumbent Muse Bihi Abdi. The transfer of power restored some stability to Somaliland but did nothing to improve relations with the government in Mogadishu.

In the Great Lakes, the resurgence in 2024 of armed group activity, particularly in eastern DRC, highlighted the persistence of the crisis in the country. This situation was exacerbated by tensions between the DRC and Rwanda, with military buildups and a rejection of diplomatic dialogue. Illicit mining and the exploitation of natural resources fuel the conflicts between armed groups. Burundi's economy showed signs of a slow recovery, even as Uganda's fragility persisted, with protests and labour strikes defining the current political terrain.

Internal political developments, and prospects for peace and stability in this region of Africa, were also influenced by global geopolitical factors. Competition for economic, political and security influence in the region between Western countries and emerging powers, such as China, Turkey and the Gulf States, impacted the domestic policies of regional governments. The outcome of the US elections in November also signalled a significant change in Western policy towards Africa, with the US expected to be less focused on the Horn of Africa, and the attention of other donors drawn to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, as well as to instability in the Middle East.

Compounding these issues are the challenges posed by climate change to food security and development, particularly in a region where livelihoods and opportunities are highly dependent on land and natural resource use.

OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024 (CONTINUED)

Major activities and progress of the development strategy (continued)

The Rift Valley Institute was founded in 2001 to advance relevant knowledge of the region through collaborative research, education and training, public information and dialogues, and promoting culture and heritage. The Institute's vision, mission, strategic objectives and guiding principles are set out in the four-year Development Strategy 2020-2023.

Trustees endorsed an extension of the strategy to December 2026, and a plan to review several elements of the strategy, including the role of RVI's Fellows; the Institute's articles of association; the 'Africanization' of the institute and RVI's UK presence; the funding strategy and long-term funding; our country strategies (South Sudan, Somalia/Somaliland and Ethiopia); our approach to research; our approach to education and training.

RVI's programmes are designed with communities, institutions and individuals from the region, and with donors, to shape aid interventions, expand space for public participation in policy formulation, strengthen research capacities, preserve communal histories and promote social justice. The Institute has responded to the context described above with a mixture of research, public convenings and training, as described below. The main achievements are described below.

Key Institutional Developments

RVI's four-year Development Strategy ended in 2023. In June 2024, the trustees endorsed the extension of the strategy to 2025, with elements of the strategy to be reviewed. A start was made in September to clarify what a strategy review will entail, with more focus on this planned for 2025.

In 2024, our work in Ethiopia expanded with a new direct grant for the Peace Research Facility (PRF) and a new partnership to establish a conflict sensitivity hub. We received a new grant for the Somali Dialogue Platform (SDP). Through the Cross-Border Conflict Evidence, Policy and Trends (XCEPT) research programme we increased public outreach through workshops in South Sudan and Ethiopia, online forums and a micro-site to publicize the six-year body of work. Our support to early career researchers also expanded with new types of courses with refugees in Kenya and a pilot MA module in Hargeysa, which also allowed us to further explore an approach to climate change. We have increased our engagement in Sudan through research on the impact of the war on higher education and academic research and a series of public forums.

Under the Forum we also convened more than double the number of public events in 2024 compared to 2023. We regularly receive positive feedback on the quality of our research publications, which foreground the Institute's reputation in the region.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2024 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

1. Advancing Knowledge through Original Research

The RVI was founded to undertake research, and the production and exchange of knowledge remains core to all that RVI does. Producing high quality research and publicly available data is an important underpinning of open societies and critical for evidence-based social policy.

In the politically turbulent regions where RVI operates, with long-running complex emergencies, internationally mediated peace deals and peace operations, there continues to be a strong demand by governments, civic organizations, diplomatic missions and aid agencies for applied knowledge and studies that can improve contextual understanding and contribute to collective solutions. Social science research capacity is poorly developed in the countries where RVI works. Problems of access and insecurity complicate data collection and much of the knowledge produced is hidden in commissioned research that is not made public.

Despite a growing number of research institutes and think-tanks, RVI remains one of the few organizations working across countries of east and central Africa, generating local knowledge about those societies through multi-year research projects, transregional studies, participatory research projects, and policy-oriented studies. Our portfolio of social research is developed from ideas generated by communities and institutions we work with and is unique in being publicly accessible in accordance with the Institute's commitment to the freedom of information and open-access publishing. We aim to ensure that all our research projects include a training component for African researchers to develop their skills.

In 2024, RVI implemented multi-year research programmes and short-term studies on a range of themes. Longer-term research programmes included studies carried out under the UK government-funded XCEPT (Cross-Border Conflict Evidence, Policy and Trends) programme (previously known as the X-Border Local Research Network), which RVI has been a part of since 2019; the Somali Dialogue Platform (SDP); and the Ethiopia Peace Research Facility (PRF). All these studies involve mentoring and training of national researchers. Research findings were disseminated through reports, briefing papers, blogs, in-person or online events and podcasts.

In 2024, the Institute continued a prolific output of research publications, with some 40 published on South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia by the end of December. This excludes analytical reports which have restricted circulation to donors, such as the monthly Ethiopian Bulletin, and weekly updates by the Somali Dialogue Platform, which keep international donors informed about political developments in Ethiopia and Somalia. Of the 40 publications, 15 were by early career researchers, which underlines RVI's increasing investment in the professional development of African researchers.

RVI publications covered subjects ranging from electoral processes in Somalia; the politics of resource extraction in Ethiopia; religious polarization in Ethiopia; paramilitaries and militaries in the Horn of Africa; borderland conflicts in Sudan and Ethiopia; women's labour and women's leadership in South Sudan; the impact of the war in Sudan on higher education and the academic research community. We invested additional resources and time in disseminating this latter report to raise the profile of the issues covered, and to increase RVI's engagement in Sudan.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2024 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CONTINUED)

1. Advancing Knowledge through Original Research (continued)

We have published in English, Amharic, Arabic and Somali, in line with our intention to publish in multiple languages. This year there was a greater gender balance in our research, with more support to women researchers in all our projects and research products.

Transferring Knowledge through Education and Training

Field-based education and training have been one of the Institute's methods for transferring knowledge of the regions where we work to different constituencies. Starting in 2004 the RVI has annually run week-long residential 'field courses' on Sudan and South Sudan, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes regions. These graduate-level professional training courses for participants from international NGOs, the UN, diplomatic missions and the private sector are taught by RVI staff, Fellows and associates. Young researchers and activists receive scholarships to attend.

In addition, RVI delivers bespoke training courses for individual organizations on different countries and themes. These are co-designed with and tailored to suit the specific interests and requirements of the recipient organization and taught by leading experts in their field.

A reduction in attendance at the annual courses following the Covid pandemic, led to a review of the regional courses and the market for them. The recommendations of the 2023 review to reduce the length of annual courses to reduce costs were adopted. Although we held a successful Horn of Africa course, the Sudan's and Great Lakes courses were cancelled due to insufficient applications, and we held only one bespoke course.

In contrast, our investment in the professional development of early career African researchers has continued to grow. In 2024 some 73 early career researchers from South Sudan, Somalia, Somaliland, Ethiopia, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo benefited from training from the EU-funded Women's Research Network (SSWRN), the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) and OSUN-funded the Research Communities of Practice (RCoP) project, the Danida-funded Diaspora Humanitarianism project, the UK-funded Peace Research Facility in Ethiopia, and a British Academy-funded writing workshop. The OSUN funded RCoP included training of early career researchers in Kakuma Refugee camp in Kenya, and piloting an MA module on climate justice, gender and mobility in Hargeisa university, a collaboration with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies at the university and Black Mountains College in the UK.

Researchers trained by the RCoP and SSWRN projects produced 15 research papers, as well as blogs and podcasts. With funding for the SSWRN and RCoP ending in 2024, we embarked on drafting proposals for the next phase of this work, taking more of an integrated approach that draws on lessons from the different projects.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2024 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Continued)

Exchanging Knowledge through Public Information and Dialogue

The RVI believes that access to accurate public information is essential for open and inclusive societies, that it supports positive, long-term social change and is essential for the success of the Sustainable Development Goals. Supporting freedom of information and access to it is a core aim of RVI. Amplifying the voices of people and communities in Eastern and Central Africa is central to RVI's ambition. RVI supports access to public information and the exchange of knowledge in two main ways: through the Rift Valley Forum for Research, Policy and Local Knowledge ('the Forum') and other convening activities; and through the Institute's publications, including digital media.

The Forum, established in 2012, is a programme of seminars, lectures and expert meetings that facilitates the exchange of knowledge between academics, practitioners, policy makers and the public on critical regional issues in a safe, neutral environment. Over the years, the majority of Forum events have taken place in Nairobi, with some held in Somalia, South Sudan, the DRC and the UK. Since the Covid pandemic, Forum events are regularly held in hybrid format, in-person and online.

In 2024 we increased the Institute's public engagement by organizing 15 events, attracting more than 800 participants. Those organized under the Forum included a conference on *Vernacular Humanitarianism* as part of the Diaspora Humanitarianism project, and three meetings on Sudan, including a full-day meeting in Nairobi analysing different aspect of the crisis. In addition, RVI organized a seminar at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) in Ethiopia on *Rethinking Ethiopia: A Seminar on Youth Voices*; a final public workshop at Juba University for the SSWRN; two dissemination workshops by XCEPT in Juba and Addis Ababa; and several meetings by the SDP. Important events in themselves, they were also opportunities to expand RVI collaborations, and increase the visibility of the Institute. In 2025 we aim to seek funding to expand the Forum as a space for influential dialogue and debate in east Africa.

Publications, Communications and Outreach

RVI disseminates findings from its research projects in a variety of ways. RVI publishes in several different formats, including lengthy research reports (10-20,000 words), shorter briefing papers (often targeted at a policy audience); and more accessible blog pieces to provide an introduction to a complex topic. All of the publications are open access and freely available via the Institute's website. As social media has become an increasingly important medium, the Institute has committed more time to develop its institutional social media accounts. In 2024, RVI produced 40 publications, most in English, with some translated into French, Somali and Arabic.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2024 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Continued)

Promoting and Conserving Knowledge through Culture and Heritage

Culture is integral to the generation and transmission of knowledge. The regions of Africa where the RVI operates have a rich and diverse political history, a variety of social systems and cultural formations, and a wealth of communal resources. Appreciating this cultural diversity and communal histories—and working with cultural institutions, individual artists and activists—is critical for a shared understanding of the historical and contemporary development of these regions, of relations between generations and genders, and of the way that local knowledge works. The conservation of knowledge is of critical importance for constructing post-conflict societies and is of practical utility given the poor retention of knowledge in the aid industry.

RVI addresses this through projects that conserve knowledge, such as with the South Sudan National Archives and the RVI's digital Sudan Open Archive, and promote historical and contemporary culture, such as through the Hargeisa Cultural Centre, and by collaborating on research projects with cultural organizations like the Likikiri Collective in South Sudan.

In 2024, we continued to support the South Sudan National Archives with funding from the Norwegian government and the EU. Women researchers from the SSWRN benefited from training in cultural research methods from the Likikiri Collective. Students who attended the MA module at Hargeisa University on climate justice, gender and mobility presented their research at the Hargeisa Cultural Centre.

Partnerships and Collaborations

There are more than 130 Fellows of the Rift Valley Institute, who represents an important resource of expertise for the Institute. RVI engages many of the Fellows on different projects. In 2024, 24 Fellows were engaged in projects of the Institute.

In addition, RVI's works in collaboration and partnership with many individuals and organizations in the countries where we work. These are significant actors in their countries with their own knowledge and experiences to share. Our partnerships strengthen RVI's engagement and support its mission to make local knowledge work.

In 2024, these partnerships included: in South Sudan, the National Archives and the Likikiri Collective; in Kenya, the British Institute in Eastern Africa, Nairobi University, and the OSUN Hubs for Connected Learning Initiatives; in Somalia, Somali Public Agenda, and the Peace and Development Research Centre; in Somaliland, the University of Hargeisa's Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies; in Ethiopia, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies; in Europe, the Danish Institute for International Studies, Cardiff University, and the University of Birmingham; in the USA Bard College and the Open Society University Network; in the Middle East the Carnegie Middle East Centre; and in Asia, The Asia Foundation.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2024 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Continued)

Organizational Development: Institutional Policies and Processes

In 2024, progress was made on several organizational development priorities that support the professionalization of the Institute. We made progress on the digitization of administrative and financial tasks with the adoption of Workpay services, which will be expanded next year. We strengthened our compliance on certain issues like safeguarding. We also strengthened the governance of the Institute by recruiting new trustees, clarifying the roles of trustees, and improving board meetings, including an in-person meeting in Nairobi.

During the year the Institute experienced a significant turnover of staff. We appointed a new Head of Programmes in January, which increased programme support and cross-organizational collaboration, improved our external representation, and our ability to engage on climate change issues in the region. We also strengthened our communications capacity by recruiting a Communications Assistant. However, our recruitment for a Head of Office in South Sudan was unsuccessful which left a vacuum, which was temporarily filled by staff member who rejoined RVI having completed an MSc in Ireland. Several other key positions were successfully recruited for after becoming vacant, including the Senior Publications Manager, the Head of Office in Ethiopia, Project Officer Ethiopia and Education and Forums Manager. The turnover left a deficit in organizational knowledge and capacity at a difficult time.

Fundraising

In 2024, the Institute's income was US\$ 5.9 million, below the target budget of US\$ 6.5 million. Despite this, we were able to make investments in the Institute, including appointing a Head of Programmes and to invest in communications, and we closed the year with unrestricted reserves of US\$ 1.1 million. In line with the Development Strategy, the highest proportion of our income came from multi-year grants, but we had limited capacity to generate and manage shorter-term projects. Notable donors were the United Kingdom, Norwegian and Danish governments, the European Union, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Open Society University Network. At the end of 2024, there were few new projects in the funding pipeline. While our reserves would enable us to cover, for a period, a shortfall in funding in South Sudan and make further investments in the Institute, it will be an imperative to increase new sources of income in 2025.

The RVI does not employ external fundraisers. Considerable staff time is therefore invested in fundraising. RVI has not received any complaints relating to funding in the past year or previous years.

While this provides solid foundation on which to build, our prospects in 2025 feel more precarious compared to previous years. Our 2025 budget is smaller. Funding for several projects have come to an end, which is particularly significant for the training of early career researchers.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2024 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Continued)

Fundraising (continued)

The XCEPT programme will be in its final three months. In addition, the SDP has struggled to implement its plans in 2024 due to a fall-out between the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and the Somali Stability Fund, under which SDP operates. In South Sudan there has been a downturn in work at a time of leadership transition, with no immediate new funding. Furthermore, despite additional efforts to revive our annual courses, we ran fewer courses in 2024 than in 2023

Offices, Staffing and Board of Trustees

Offices

Since 2017, RVI's office in Nairobi has been the Institute's headquarters, with the Executive Director and the Finance, Operations, Education, Forum and Somalia teams located there. During 2024, most staff combined work from home and from the office. RVI's office in Juba, South Sudan, was the second largest in terms of number of staff. An additional staff member was recruited for the RVI office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. RVI has continued to maintain a presence in Hargeysa with an office in the University of Hargeysa, and one part-time representative overseeing our work in Somaliland. In 2024, RVI moved out of its office in Stroud and temporarily relocated to Kington in Herefordshire, until a more permanent office was identified.

Board of Trustees

In the reporting period, RVI's Board had eleven trustees: Margie Buchanan-Smith was elected Chair by the Board in January 2024. Sharath Srinivasan (appointed September 2023) took on the role of Deputy Chair. Chris Maynard (who was Acting Chair from 3 March 2022 & Treasurer) stepped down in September 2024.

Leben Moro, Hala El Karib, Mary Harper, and Haile Menkerios continued as trustees.

Tim Woodward joined in July as Treasurer, Joanna Oyediran in August, as well as Lilian Githuka and Ken Menkhaus in September.

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2025

Programme Delivery: Our priorities in 2025 will be to continue delivering the funded projects, ensuring the grant agreements with the respective donors and RVI's own programme management policies are fully adhered to. These include: the Somali Dialogue Platform; the Ethiopia Conflict Research Facility and the Conflict Sensitivity Hub; and the XCEPT project. These projects provide sustained multi-year funding, providing a secure basis for the Institute to grow and deliver on our strategic goals, including to invest in African research capacity.

Programme development: Our 2025 budget is smaller than 2024, due to several projects ending, and an expectation of smaller budgets for other projects, such as the SDP. In South Sudan there has also been a downturn in work with no immediate new projects. Furthermore, the prospects of running more courses in 2025 is uncertain in a more restricted funding environment. Against this background we will look to develop RVI's work:

- In Ethiopia, in the second and expanded phase of RVI's Peace Research Facility we will increase public engagement with our research, increase our support to women researchers and young researchers to bring more gendered and youthful perspectives on Ethiopia's conflicts and peaceful solutions.
- In Somalia, the Somali Dialogue Platform and our partners will continue to provide analysis and advice for donors and a neutral space for dialogue and technical support on contentious political settlement issues, such in Federal and Member State elections.
- In the final year of the six-year XCEPT research programme, we will continue to disseminate our body of work, and synthesize it in a way that will advance thinking on borderlands. We will use the synthesis to develop a new research programme.
- In 2025, we will review our work in South Sudan, and increase our engagement in Sudan building on the political economy study of cash and markets and research on the impact of war on the Sudanese academy. We will work with Sudanese to develop a research programme and support for Sudanese scholars.
- We will seek to develop our educational work by actively seek new funding sources to continue our training programme for early career researchers. We review again the viability of our annual and bespoke courses as a core aspect of the Institute's work.
- We aim to expand our public engagement by reestablishing the RVI Forum as a key convening space in Eastern Africa for information and dialogue.
- We will develop an approach to engage more systematically and strategically on climate change and its impact in the countries and communities where RVI works.
- We will use that extension of the timeline for the current Development Strategy to review the strategy and prepare a new one to start in 2026. We will also develop our fundraising strategy and our capacity to secure long-term financing; strengthen the processes for project development and decision-making, ensuring quality assurance and reducing risk; strengthen the criteria and selection process for new partnerships and consortia; better monitor the impact of RVI's work; and review and strengthen RVI's engagement with RVI Fellows.

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2025 (CONTINUED)

Institutional governance: Management will continue to work closely with the board of trustees to implement the reforms recommended by the organizational assessment to strengthen the board.

Recruiting and retaining a motivated workforce: We aim to ensure RVI's programmes are well supported by recruiting people with the necessary skills and experience, motivating and retaining staff through professional development, and offering pay rewards consistent with the labour market. We will strengthen workforce planning to ensure timely recruitment and placement of staff using both internal and external recruitment and ensuring equal opportunities. We will work with the staff to better ensure staff well-being and expand our collective understanding of how diversity, equity and inclusion at the workplace manifest at RVI and what policy and practice actions we need to take to make RVI an equitable place where its diverse workforce and governance structure deliver on its ambition of becoming an organization led from Africa.

Strengthen policies and procedures: RVI will continue to strengthen its operational capacity to deliver its work through accountable, transparent and compliant policies and procedures for staff recruitment, and the procurement of goods and services, and partnerships. RVI will strengthen security management and safeguarding commitments. We improve administrative efficiency by further automating RVI's internal systems for finance, procurement and human resources and the management of our contacts database.

Performance management and professional development: We will strengthen the link between performance management and professional development, using regular performance appraisals to address skills gaps through appropriate training and mentoring. We aim to improve training and development opportunities for staff.

Improved human resources management: We will update the RVI Staff Handbook; standardize RVI's recruitment and pay practices for consultants; ensure all new jobs are reviewed by the Job Evaluation Team (JET) and placed in the staff grading structure before recruitment takes place; strengthen RVI's Duty of Care policies through improved security and safeguarding policies and management; strengthen the on-boarding, induction and separation processes for staff.

Strengthen RVI's geographic footprint: We will ensure the compliance of our work in Ethiopia, and develop a long-term vision for RVI in Ethiopia; we will review our work in South Sudan with a view to developing new and relevant portfolio of work; and review our office needs in the UK and Kenya to meet organizational growth.

TRUSTEES REPORT

General and principal activities

The trustees of Rift Valley Research Limited, operating as the Rift Valley Institute (RVI), who are also directors of the company for the purpose of company law, present their statutory report and audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, with the Articles of Association and with the 'Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities' in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) of 2005.

Governance

Rift Valley Research Limited (hereafter 'the Rift Valley Institute', 'the RVI' or 'the Charity') is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The company was incorporated on 16 August 2001 (company number 4271537) and registered as a UK charity (charity number 1144010) on 27 September 2011.

The objects, powers and governance structure of the charitable company are set out in its Articles of Association (last updated 30 August 2011). The RVI is governed by a Board of Trustees which meets four times annually. The trustees delegate the day-to-day operation of the Charity and management of its staff to the Executive Director who seeks guidance from trustees when important strategic, financial or governance issues arise.

The recruitment, appointment, and induction of new trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. The trustees are subject to retirement by rotation and may be re-appointed if re-elected. The Board of Trustees has the power to appoint new trustees by ordinary resolution. Trustees are generally drawn from the body of Fellows of the Institute, which is composed of regional specialists and others. (Fellows of the Institute are elected by existing Fellows.) The appointment of trustees is by recommendation from Fellows and the wider community of those sharing the goals of the Institute. Trustees are recruited with the aim of providing the diversity and skills needed to ensure the good governance of the Charity. These skills may include strategic planning, fundraising, financial management, administration, law, media management, and specialist knowledge of Eastern and Central Africa. The trustees are not remunerated for their work as trustees.

The procedure for inducting and training a new trustee entails a visit, if feasible, to an RVI office to familiarize the person with the Charity's aims, procedures and policies and a meeting between the new trustee and management staff of the Institute. On appointment, trustees receive an induction pack which includes RVI's Articles of Association, the board policy, copies of board books, written policies relevant to the governance and risk management of RVI, and copies of the Charity's most recent publications.

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

Offices and related parties

The Charity has five offices: its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya; in Juba, South Sudan; in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and in Hargeysa, Somaliland. In 2024 the Charity closed its UK office in Stroud, and relocate to Oxford. The Charity is registered as a company in Kenya and as an NGO in South Sudan, Somalia, Somaliland and Ethiopia.

RVI has a sister organization, Rift Valley Institute Inc., in the United States, created to raise and distribute funds and to provide support and coordination to the UK entity, Rift Valley Research Limited. Rift Valley Institute Inc. was incorporated under Section 402 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law in New York State on 30 August 2006 and is registered as a charity with the Charities Bureau, New York State. It has three Board Members: John Ryle, Kenneth Anderson and Kwame Anthony Appiah. The Board Members are not remunerated for their work for Rift Valley Institute Inc. John Ryle was the founder and also a trustee of the Rift Valley Institute (i.e., the UK entity) until 31 December 2016.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees has given consideration to the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. These include operational, financial, and legal risks, risks in matters of governance and risks resulting from external factors. The Charity faces special risks associated with conflict, insecurity, and failures of governance in a number of the countries where it operates. In 2024, the risk register was reviewed at quarterly board meetings and with staff. RVI continuously reviews procedures and protocols for managing staff security. A managerial staff member in Nairobi has special responsibility for managing security.

The Board is satisfied that systems or procedures have been established to manage the risks we currently face, including key risks in the following areas:

1. Failure to deliver the 2025 budget

Failure to maintain economies and an overspend on the cost base will jeopardize the financial health of the Institute, as will a failure to meet income projections for 2025. To respond to this risk, the cost base and income projections have been set and agreed following a rigorous budgeting process in November and December 2024. Stricter project management practices introduced since 2017, holding Directors and Managers to account for delivering on time and on budget, have stabilized income and cost recovery and ensured financial control of the cost base. The realignment of foreign aid priorities of the UK government and other donors would influence the ability of RVI to meet its income projections. Maintaining a focus on diversified fundraising will increase the likelihood of RVI achieving income projections in the year ahead. The situation is closely monitored by Trustees.

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

Risk management (continued)

2. Cost recovery projections not achieved

Not achieving the cost recovery projects would see a decline in organizational reserves with consequential impact on financial health of the Institute. To manage this risk, guidelines on budgeting and overhead recovery are regularly reviewed and overhead recovery rates specified in contracts with donors. Systems of tracking and oversight of project delivery by Directors, Managers and financial team are also in place. Actions to reduce the cost base may need to be implemented depending on future funding.

3. Introduction of restrictions on NGOs operating in the countries of the region

The introduction of prohibitive administrative and financial burdens on NGOs (e.g., work permits in Kenya, NGO Acts in South Sudan and Ethiopia, taxation in Somalia) could have significant operational and financial implications (e.g. payments of taxes, costs of lawyers, restrictions on programme work). To manage this risk, RVI ensures full compliance with Government regulations ahead of time, constant monitoring of political situation, and continuous communications with other organizations working in the countries of the region. More specifically, RVI is continually gathering information from other organizations in Kenya on bureaucratic restrictions and solutions and closely monitoring the enforcement of the NGO Act in South Sudan. The recruitment of national staff, where possible, avoids the need for work permits.

4. International Financial Compliance

RVI as a registered Charity in the United Kingdom is bound by UK laws related to its activities and transactions. These laws include, but are not limited to, the UK Bribery Act 2010 and sanctions laws ('Compliance Laws'). Non-compliance with Compliance Laws can result in significant administrative, civil and criminal penalties for the Institute, including monetary fines and imprisonment, loss of donors and reputational risks. RVI is committed to conducting its activities consistently with Compliance Laws, and that the affairs of the Institute should be conducted in an honest and ethical manner. In several of the countries where RVI works individuals, organizations and companies may be subject to international financial sanction regimes. RVI has anti-bribery and financial transactions policies in place that are compliant with UK and international and national laws.

5. Safeguarding

RVI has an established equality and diversity policy. The Institute does not discriminate on grounds of gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin or identity, skin colour, nationality, national origin, disability, sexuality, religion or age. The Institute's safeguarding policy is intended to ensure that employees of the Institute, Interns and volunteers and individuals the Institute works with, are protected from any form of discrimination or abuse, including physical, emotional or sexual harm, in the course of RVI's work.

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

6. Remuneration

The Institute last reviewed and updated its rewards policy in 2023. The Institute's salaries are periodically benchmarked against those of comparable organizations, including other charities, through market surveys. RVI sets salaries equivalent to the median for such organizations, where this is feasible, and aims to develop consistent practices for staff in all locations while adhering to local legislation.

It is the Institute's policy to review changes in the cost of living on an annual consumer price index. Salaries may be adjustment based on a 1% increase above the Consumer Price Index. This is detailed in the RVI Staff Handbook. Increases may be implemented from 1 January of each year, subject to the approval of the budget and a review of the annual financial statements by the Board in June.

7. Public benefit

The Trustees are satisfied that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The description of the Charity's objectives and activities below demonstrates the public benefit arising from the work of the Charity.

8. Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

9. Statement of trustees responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income

In 2024, the charity's income reduced slightly to US\$ 5,916,813, a decrease of just 1 per cent (\$79,398) on its income of US\$ 5,996,211 in 2023. Most of our multi-year projects continued into 2024 and those that ended were replaced by new projects. For instance, while the EU funded South Sudan's Women Research Network (SSWRN) Project ended in July 2024, we also managed to secure a Research Community of Practice Project funded by the Open Society University Network, through Bard College, that largely filled the gap left by the SSWRN. Therefore, the net movement of the total income earned in 2024 compared to 2023 was minimal.

We also held the Horn of Africa Course in 2024 for a third year running since annual courses were suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, unlike in 2023 when we ran several bespoke courses, we only held one such course in 2024. Consequently, total income from RVI courses reduced from US\$ 171,000 in 2023 to US\$ 126,000 in 2024. Overall, in 2024 unrestricted income which was derived mostly from courses and deliverable-based projects in 2023 decreased by 16 per cent.

The distribution of income across the institute's workstreams and locations is presented below:

Workstream/Location	2024	2023
Institutional Funding	-	-
Education	2.1%	3%
Forums	0.1%	1%
Horn of Africa	64.8 %	70 %
South Sudan and Sudan	8.2 %	11 %
Great Lakes	-	-
Transregional	17.1%	9%
Kenya	7.3%	6%
Uganda	0.4	-
Total	100 percent	100 percent

The decrease in income for education as a proportion of the Institute's total income is explained by the reduction in bespoke courses held. In 2024, we only organized one bespoke course for USAID. This is unlike 2023, where we held bespoke courses for several partners, such as FCDO, USAID and UNISOM.

We have not received any substantial income from the Forums portfolio in recent years, thus the continued minimal contribution to the overall income of the Institute.

The decrease in the proportion of income from the Horn of Africa is largely attributable to reduced spending on the Somalia Dialogue Platform (SDP) project from US\$ 3,466,000 in 2023 to US\$ 2,722,000 in 2024. This is due to challenges faced by the Somali Stability Fund with the Federal Government of Somalia that led to delays in approving their SDP's workplans. The SDP, however, remained the Institute's largest source of income, contributing 46 per cent of the total income.

FINANCIAL REVIEW (Continued)

Income (continued)

There was a decrease in the proportion of income derived from projects in South Sudan in 2024 compared to 2023. This is explained by several projects coming to an end and no substantive new projects

We have not had any major project running in the Great Lakes region since 2020 thus the zero income.

The level of funding from Transregional income as a proportion of the total Institute's income increased in 2024 compared to 2023, with the main contributor being the FCDO funded X-Border/XCEPT project which increased its activities after receiving additional funding from the donor in its final year. Income from this particular project in 2024 was US\$ 526,000 compared to US\$ 254,000 in 2023.

Finally, there was a slight increase in the proportion of income from projects in Kenya which is attributable to an increase in activities in the OSUN Learning Hubs administrative support project. The income from Uganda relates to a land review study carried in Karamoja region in Uganda with Tufts University.

In 2025 it is anticipated that the charity's total income will decrease to about US\$ 4.2 million, of which around US\$ 2 million is projected to be derived from the SDP.

Expenditure

In 2024, the Institute's overall expenditure decreased by 2 per cent, from US\$ 5,795,000 in 2023 to US\$ 5,650,934. This reduction is largely linked to the corresponding slight reduction in income.

In 2024, the Institute's largest donors were FCDO (69 per cent), which funds SDP, Bard College (7 per cent) and the European Union (6 per cent). FCDO continues to be the Institute's largest donor, despite its proportion of total income decreasing from 72 per cent in 2023 to 69 per cent in 2024.

Reserves

At the end of 2024, the charity's overall reserves on hand increased by 22 per cent to US\$ 1,243,799 compared with US\$ 1,022,353 in 2023. Unrestricted reserves increased from US\$ 938,739 at the end of 2023 to US\$ 1,160,185 at the end of 2024. This exceeds our unrestricted reserves upper limit of US\$ 430,000 by US\$ 818,023. The main reason for the increase is a positive financial performance in 2024 that resulted in a surplus of US\$ 221,446.

FINANCIAL REVIEW (Continued)

Reserves Policy

The RVI's main source of income is project funding. This is supplemented by fees charged for RVI Field Courses and other training courses and by donor funding for institutional development. The project funding is for both short and long-term projects, with the latter requiring significant on-going financial commitment and investment.

RVI's unrestricted reserves are derived from the net income emanating from a number of sources, including any surplus from charges for training courses, and any surplus on project income after having charged the cost of overheads against the unrestricted element allowed. This net income serves to supplement unrestricted reserves, measured particularly at the end of each financial year.

The Board of Trustees reviews the Reserves Policy annually and considers the known and potential risks to which the charity is exposed and the extent to which RVI is able to mitigate them. The Trustees believe that we need to have sufficient unrestricted reserves to allow our charity to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb setbacks and take advantage of change and opportunity. It is intended that RVI's unrestricted reserves are backed by cash.

The use to which all General Unrestricted Reserves are put is at the sole discretion of the Trustees. Designated Funds are those funds set aside by the trustees to be used by management for a particular future project or institutional development.

The Board has therefore considered the need to provide within unrestricted reserves, a) a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work, b) a level of funding for unexpected opportunities, and c) cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income. It is therefore intended that the organization will hold General Unrestricted Reserves in the range US\$ 390,000 to US\$ 430,000, this being broadly equivalent to five months operating costs, covering staff salaries, office leases and redundancy payments to cover closure costs. The level of General Unrestricted Reserves as of 31 December 2024 was US\$ 1,160,185.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed financial forecasts for the next 12 months and believe that the charity will have sufficient cash resources to meet liabilities as they fall due. They have therefore concluded that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Independent Auditor

Parker Russell UK LLP Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors continue in office as the charitable company's auditor in 2024.

The report of the trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 26th June 2025 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Margie Buchanan-Smith', is written over a horizontal line.

Margie Buchanan-Smith
Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rift Valley Research Limited (the ‘charitable company’) for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company’s affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended.
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law.

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the charitable company will continue in operation.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report presented from pages 1 to 22.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognize non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charitable company through discussions with directors and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the sector in which the charitable company operates;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company, including the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management, reading minutes from the Board of Trustees meetings and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- Identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Continued)

We assessed the susceptibility of the charitable company's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- obtaining an understanding of the policies and procedures including internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances (but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control).

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- identified and assessed the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and performed audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtained audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion;
- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates in relation to income recognition were indicative of potential bias;
- and investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees;
- evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (i.e. gives a true and fair view);
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reviewing correspondence with taxation authorities; and
- concluding on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006.

Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Jason Parker MA, FCA
(Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Parker Russell UK LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor

27 August 2025

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

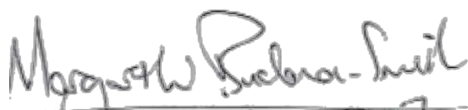
				2024	2023
	Note	Un- Restricted US\$	Restricted US\$	Total US\$	Total US\$
Income from:					
Miscellaneous income	2	1,533	-	1,533	10,531
<i>Charitable activities</i>					
Education and training	3a	122,528	-	122,528	170,762
Research, programmes and publications	3b	336,760	5,447,791	5,784,551	5,810,655
Other contributions	3c	281	-	281	-
Investments	4	7,921	-	7,921	4,264
Total income		469,022	5,447,791	5,916,813	5,996,212
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	24,200	-	24,200	92,279
<i>Charitable activities</i>					
Education and training	5	111,032	-	111,032	236,582
Research, programmes and publications	5	45,220	5,470,482	5,515,702	5,466,564
Total expenditure		180,452	5,470,482	5,650,934	5,795,425
Net income for the year		288,570	(22,692)	265,878	200,787
Transfers between funds		(22,692)	22,692	-	-
Net income before other recognised gains and losses		265,878	-	265,878	200,787
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain		(44,432)	-	(44,432)	43,196
Net movement in funds		221,446	-	221,446	243,983
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		938,739	83,614	1,022,353	778,370
Total funds carried forward		1,160,185	83,614	1,243,799	1,022,353

All the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 18 to the financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET

	Note	2024 US\$	2023 US\$
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	<u>2,966</u>	<u>3,320</u>
		<u>2,966</u>	<u>3,320</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	811,737	534,812
Cash at bank and in hand	21	<u>1,089,707</u>	<u>1,927,986</u>
		<u>1,901,444</u>	<u>2,462,798</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>660,611</u>	<u>1,443,765</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,240,833</u>	<u>1,019,033</u>
Total net assets		<u>1,243,799</u>	<u>1,022,353</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	18	83,614	83,614
<i>Unrestricted income funds:</i>			
General funds	18	<u>1,160,185</u>	<u>938,739</u>
Total charity funds		<u>1,243,799</u>	<u>1,022,353</u>

Approved by the trustees on 26/06...../2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Margie Buchanan-Smith
Chair

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Note	2024 US\$	2023 US\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash generated from operating activities	20	<u>(832,347)</u>	<u>500,625</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of fixed assets		<u>(5,932)</u>	<u>(3,799)</u>
Net cash generated from investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>(3,799)</u>
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		(838,279)	496,826
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<u>1,927,986</u>	<u>1,431,160</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21	<u>1,089,707</u>	<u>1,927,986</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Material accounting policy information

a) Statutory information

Rift Valley Research Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England & Wales. The registered office address is Lower Street Atelier; 19A Lower Street; Stroud; Gloucestershire; GL5 2HT

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (September 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities (continued)

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with an income generating purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of carrying out research, carrying out educational activities including running courses and producing publications undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading
- Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

j) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

j) Allocation of support costs (Continued)

However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Where information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is provided to potential beneficiaries, the costs associated with this publicity are allocated to charitable expenditure.

Where such information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is also provided to potential donors, activity costs are apportioned between fundraising and charitable activities on the basis of area of literature occupied by each activity

- Education and training- 2%
- Research, programmes and publications- 82%
- Fundraising- 1%
- Support costs- 9%
- Governance costs- 7%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis, which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity

- Education and training- 5%
- Research, programmes and publications- 90%
- Fundraising- 5%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

k) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

l) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds \$600.00. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

- Non-IT equipment – 4 years
- Computers and other IT equipment – 2 years

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

n) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

o) Pensions

The charity offers a pension scheme requiring a 3% contribution from staff which is then matched with a 6% company contribution.

There are different schemes in different countries of operation and staff are able to opt out if they choose to. For staff based in countries where there is no company providing pensions (currently South Sudan and Somaliland) these funds are held by the charity and will be dispersed to the employee when they leave the charity's employment.

p) Foreign exchange

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into US Dollars at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the average rate of exchange for the year. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net incoming resources for the year.

q) International operations

The SORP 2015 stipulates that where international offices are legally registered in their country of operations, this is an indication that they should be treated as subsidiaries for accounting purposes.

However, having reviewed the governance and management procedures in place, it is the trustees' belief that the practical operation of the charity's international offices means that they are, in substance, branches and are accounted for accordingly.

2 Miscellaneous Income

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2024 Total US\$	2023 Total US\$
Miscellaneous income	1,533	-	1,533	10,531
	1,533	-	1,533	10,531
3a) Income from charitable activities				
Annual Field Courses	87,849	-	87,849	69,249
Other Training Courses	34,679	-	34,679	101,512
Sub-total for Education and Training	122,528	-	122,528	170,762
3b) Somalia Dialogue Platform-SSF		2,722,408	2,722,408	1,352,729
X Border	-	526,468	526,468	253,737
Peace Research Facility in Ethiopia- (Phase 2-FCDO)	-	503,053	503,053	-
Women's Research Network	-	345,391	345,391	407,401
Peace Research Facility in Ethiopia- CR	-	307,716	307,716	568,617
Osun -Research Community of Practice	-	302,608	302,608	-
OSUN Learning Hubs Phase 2	-	208,481	208,481	103,286
Conflict Sensitivity Analysis (Pilot)	190,085	-	190,085	-
OSUN Learning Hubs Phase 3	-	170,576	170,576	-
South Sudan National Archives (Norwegian Govt)	-	115,492	115,492	-
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	70,530	70,530	54,886
Research Community of Practice: Carnegie	-	57,116	57,116	188,431
YPPI	54,688	-	54,688	22,996
Just Future- Cordaid	-	47,492	47,492	31,472
OSUN Learning Hubs Phase 4	-	39,244	39,244	-
History Curriculum Development- Cardiff University	24,900	-	24,900	-
Karamoja Land Review	24,191	-	24,191	-
USAID BHA	19,072	-	19,072	76,270
Writing Workshop (Amplifying African Voices)	-	15,209	15,209	-
FHI-360	14,400	-	14,400	-
Local Histories -Penny University	-	7,195	7,195	-
OSUN Learning Hubs Phase 4- USAID	-	7,062	7,062	-
Small Forum Funders	7,025	-	7,025	5,049
ICVA PEA in Ethiopia	2,400	-	2,400	-
Revitalised Conflict Irish (DFA)	-	1,750	1,750	25,690
Somalia Dialogue Platform-FCDO Phase 3	-	-	-	2,113,473
FAO Seeds PIA	-	-	-	39,731

3b) Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2024 Total US\$	2023 Total US\$
Somalia Social Impact Assessment-WB	-	-	-	3,498
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	-	-	10,938
OSUN Learning Hubs Phase 1	-	-	-	251,872
OSUN-Early Career Researchers	-	-	-	20,095
Fragility & Water Security Project in HoA -World Bank)	-	-	-	46,665
UNCTD Round Tables	-	-	-	33,561
SSHAP	-	-	-	(2,652)
Concise History of the Agar Dinka	-	-	-	5,906
Elephants Pilot Project	-	-	-	7,336
Fragility & Water Security in South Sudan	-	-	-	2,806
FAO Pastoralism PIA	-	-	-	19,482
JPA Research -USIP	-	-	-	37,114
Transhumance Study-UNMISS	-	-	-	71,948
WHH Conflict Dynamics	-	-	-	10,191
SCI Maban Flooding Research	-	-	-	142
Research Ethics Manifesto (Cardiff University)	-	-	-	8,714
WB Risk & Resilience Round Tables	-	-	-	39,272
Sub-total for Research, programmes and publications	336,760	5,447,791	5,784,551	5,810,655

3c) Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2024 Total US\$	2023 Total US\$
Other contributions				
Book sales	281	-	281	-
Sub-total for Scholarship fund	281	-	281	-
Total income from charitable activities	459,569	5,447,791	5,907,359	5,981,416

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2024 Total US\$	2023 Total US\$
Bank Interest	7,921	-	7,921	4,264
	7,921	-	7,921	4,264

5a) Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities					
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$	2024 US\$
Consultants Fees	-	28,160	2,322,366	-	-	2,350,526
Direct Staff Costs	7,924	15,847	1,347,028	95,084	118,885	1,584,739
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	-	41,902	564,983	-	-	606,855
Other Direct Costs	-	1,417	210,400	265,915	-	477,732
Office and Other Staff Costs	-	-	-	-	382,286	382,286
Events	-	7,235	188,090	-	-	195,325
Direct publication costs	-	194	53,249	-	-	53,443
	7,924	94,754	4,686,116	360,999	501,141	5,650,935
Support costs						
Staff Costs	1,070	1,070	211,800	(95,084)	(118,885)	-
Office and Other Staff Costs	1,910	1,911	378,463	-	(382,286)	-
Governance Costs	13,296	13,296	239,323	(265,915)	-	-
Total expenditure 2024	24,200	111,032	5,515,702	-	-	5,650,935

5b) Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities					2023 US\$
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$	
Consultants Fees	-	60,350	2,766,602	-	-	2,826,952
Direct Staff Costs	12,892	51,569	966,911	90,245	167,598	1,289,214
Office and Other Staff Costs	-	-	-	-	396,902	396,902
Events	-	8,312	314,860	-	-	323,172
Other Direct Costs	-	375	82,628	139,145	-	222,148
Direct publication costs	-	55	44,973	-	-	45,028
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	-	36,532	655,478	-	-	692,010
	12,892	157,193	4,831,453	229,390	564,500	5,795,425
Support costs						
Staff Costs	25,784	25,784	206,275	(90,245)	(167,598)	-
Office and Other Staff Costs	39,689	39,690	317,522	-	(396,902)	-
Governance Costs	13,914	13,914	111,315	(139,145)	-	-
Total expenditure 2023	92,279	236,581	5,466,565	-	-	5,795,425

6 Grant making

There were no grants made to other organisations during the year: 2023 (Nil)

7 Net incoming resources for the year	2024	2023
This is stated after charging / crediting:	US\$	US\$
Depreciation	6,286	8,093
Operating lease rentals- property	74,723	71,552
<i>Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):</i>		
Audit - UK	16,675	16,675
Audit - Kenya	6,000	6,000
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain	<u>(44,432)</u>	<u>43,196</u>

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

Salaries and wages	1,428,821	1,141,543
<i>Social security costs</i>		
Social security costs including Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	89,539	76,698
Other forms of employee benefits	<u>66,378</u>	<u>70,973</u>
	<u>1,584,739</u>	<u>1,289,214</u>

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) during the year between:

\$61,000-\$73,999	2	1
\$74,000-\$85,999	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>

The total employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions and national insurance contributions) of the key management personnel were \$53,285 (2023: \$46,654).

None of the trustees were paid remuneration during the year for work as consultants for the charity (2023: -One Trustee \$ 388). No balances were outstanding at the end of the year.

9 Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

		2024	2023
		No.	No.
Raising funds	1.2%	0.3	0.2
Education and training	3.9%	1.0	1.0
Research, programmes and publications	74.7%	18.9	17.9
Support	7.1%	1.8	1.7
Governance	13.0%	3.3	3.1
		25.3	23.8

10 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2024, other than those disclosed in note 9 of these accounts (2023: none)

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

11 Taxation

The company is exempt from UK corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. RVI is registered as a company in Kenya and therefore is subject to Kenyan corporate tax on the deemed surplus arising on activities in that country.

In these financial statements 2024 resources expended include \$ 124,818 paid to Kenyan Revenue Authority as Company Tax (2023: \$ 51,911 in respect of Kenyan tax).

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment US\$	Total US\$
For the year ended 31 December 2024		
Cost		
At the start of the year	97,499	97,499
Additions in year	5,932	5,932
At the end of the year	103,431	103,431
Depreciation		
At the start of the year	94,179	94,179
Charge for the year	6,286	6,286
At the end of the year	100,465	100,465
Net book value		
At the end of the year	2,966	2,966
Net book value- 2023	3,320	3,320

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

		2024	2023	
		US\$	US\$	
13 Debtors				
Grant Receivables		650,025	299,852	
Other debtors		96,343	187,349	
Prepayments		65,368	47,611	
		811,736	534,812	
14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year				
Deferred income (Note 15)		305,795	888,607	
Accruals		354,816	464,583	
Creditors		-	90,575	
		660,611	1,443,765	
15 Deferred income				
Deferred income comprises of unspent funds received, to be spent in future years.				
		2024	2023	
		US\$	US\$	
Balance at the beginning of the year		888,607	610,386	
Amount released to income in the year		(888,607)	(610,386)	
Amount deferred in the year		305,795	888,607	
Balance at the end of the year (Note 14)		305,795	888,607	
16 Pension scheme				
RVI does not have a company pension scheme. Staff are automatically enrolled in a private pension plan. They may request their own or alternate pension scheme or opt out of the pension provision altogether.				
However, for staff based in countries where there is no company providing pensions (currently South Sudan and Somaliland) these funds are held by the charity and will be dispersed to the employee when they leave the charity's employment.				
17 Analysis of net assets between funds				
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total
	unrestricted	US\$	US\$	funds
	US\$			US\$
a) For the year ended 31 December 2024				
Tangible fixed assets	2,966	-	-	2,966
Net current assets	1,157,219	-	83,614	1,240,833
Net assets at the end of the year	1,160,185	-	83,614	1,243,799
b) For the year ended 31 December 2023				
Tangible fixed assets	3,320	-	-	3,320
Net current assets	935,419	-	83,614	1,019,033
Net assets at the end of the year	938,739	-	83,614	1,022,353

18 a) Current year movements in funds

	At the start of the year US\$	Income & gains US\$	Expenditure & losses US\$	Transfers and gains/(losses) US\$	At the end of the year US\$
Restricted funds:					
Deep State Study	9,752	-	-	-	9,752
Local Response to Covid-19	8,336	-	-	-	8,336
Ethiopia Electoral Landscape PEA	5,189	-	-	-	5,189
AHRC Learning Lessons	4,482	-	-	-	4,482
Listening to Histories	2,887	-	-	-	2,887
Climate Change, Livelihoods and Conflict in SS	1,344	-	-	-	1,344
Sudan Elections	544	-	-	-	544
Women Research Network	-	345,391	(368,043)	22,652	-
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	70,530	(70,530)	-	-
Writing Workshop (Amplifying African Voices)	-	15,209	(15,209)	-	-
Ethiopia Peace Research Facility Phase 2 -FCDO	-	503,053	(503,053)	-	-
Osun Research Community of Practice	-	302,608	(302,608)	-	-
OSUN Learning Hubs (Phase 3)	-	170,576	(170,576)	-	-
Local Histories (Penn University)	-	7,195	(7,235)	40	-
OSUN Learning Hubs (Phase 4)	-	39,244	(39,244)	-	-
OSUN Learning Hubs (Phase 4-USAID)	-	7,062	(7,062)	-	-
Ss National Archives -Norwegian Government	-	115,492	(115,492)	-	-
Ethiopia Peace Research Facility -CR	-	307,716	(307,716)	-	-
Somali Dialogue Platform- SSF	-	2,722,408	(2,722,408)	-	-
OSUN Learning Hubs (Phase 2)	-	208,481	(208,481)	-	-
Revitalised Conflict in SS- Irish DFA	-	1,750	(1,750)	-	-
Research Community of Practice-Carnegie	-	57,116	(57,116)	-	-
Just Future-Cordaid	-	47,492	(47,492)	-	-
X-Border	-	526,468	(526,468)	-	-
Sub-total	32,534	5,447,791	(5,470,482)	22,692	32,534

18 a) Current year movements in funds (continued)

	At the start of the year US\$	Income & gains US\$	Expenditure & losses US\$	Transfers and gains/ (losses) US\$	At the end of the year US\$
Total brought forward	32,534	5,447,791	(5,470,482)	22,692	32,534
RVI Scholarship fund	26,186	-	-	-	26,186
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	24,893	-	-	-	24,893
Total restricted funds	83,614	5,447,791	(5,470,482)	22,692	83,614
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
General funds	938,739	469,093	(224,884)	(22,692)	1,160,185
Total unrestricted funds	938,739	469,093	(224,884)	(22,692)	1,160,185
Total funds	1,022,353	5,916,814	(5,695,367)	-	1,243,799

18 b) Previous year movements in funds

	At the start of the year US\$	Income & gains US\$	Expenditure & losses US\$	Transfers and gains/(losses) US\$	At the end of the year US\$
Restricted funds:					
Deep State Study	9,752	-	-	-	9,752
Local Response to Covid-19	8,336	-	-	-	8,336
Ethiopia Electoral Landscape PEA	5,189	-	-	-	5,189
AHRC Learning Lessons	4,482	-	-	-	4,482
Listening to Histories	2,887	-	-	-	2,887
Climate Change, Livelihoods and Conflict in South Sudan	1,344	-	-	-	1,344
Sudan Elections	544	-	-	-	544
Women Research Network	-	407,401	(407,401)	-	-
OSUN Learning Hubs (Phase 1)	-	251,872	(251,872)	-	-
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	54,886	(54,886)	-	-
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	10,938	(10,938)	-	-
Ethiopia Peace Research Facility -CR	-	568,617	(568,617)	-	-
Somali Dialogue Platform- FCDO Phase 3	-	2,113,473	(2,113,473)	-	-
Somali Dialogue Platform- SSF	-	1,352,729	(1,352,729)	-	-
OSUN Learning Hubs (Phase 2)	-	103,286	(103,286)	-	-
USAID BHA Support	-	76,270	(76,270)	-	-
Revitalised Conflict in SS- Irish DFA	-	25,690	(25,690)	-	-
Research Community of Practice-Carnegie	-	188,431	(188,431)	-	-
Just Future-Cordaid	-	31,472	(31,472)	-	-
X-Border	-	253,737	(253,737)	-	-
RVI Scholarship fund	26,186	-	-	-	26,186
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	24,893	-	-	-	24,893
Total restricted funds	83,614	5,438,800	(5,438,800)	-	83,614

18 b) Prior year movements in funds (continued)

	At the start of the year	Income & gains	Expenditure & losses	Transfers and gains/ (losses)	At the end of the year
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Development fund:	150,000	-	-	(150,000)	-
General funds	544,756	600,608	(356,625)	150,000	938,739
Total unrestricted funds	694,756	600,608	(356,625)	-	938,739
Total funds	778,370	6,039,408	(5,795,425)	-	1,022,353

19. Purposes of restricted funds

Diaspora in Humanitarianism in Complex Crises- A project funded by the Danish Research Council. It explores how Somali diaspora groups mobilize, channel and deliver humanitarian assistance to Somalia during humanitarian crises.

Ethiopia Peace Research Facility- A project funded by FCDO initially through Conciliation Resources but later directly. It aims at bridging divides through research & dialogue for inclusive & sustainable peace in Ethiopia.

Somali Dialogue Platform - This project aims to support the building of an effective Somali Platform for Political Dialogue and Accommodation in Somalia. It was initially funded by FCDO but is now funded by multiple donors through the Somalia Stability Fund (SSF)

Writing workshop: A workshop under the theme "Amplifying African Voices" funded by the University of Durham.

OSUN Hubs Support: Administrative support to OSUN Hubs for connected Learning Initiatives funded by Bard College with a small portion funded by USAID.

BHA Support: A project in support of BHA and Partners strategic planning, navigating the social dynamics and aid economy of Somalia funded by USAID.

OSUN Research Communities of Practice: A research by Early Career African scholars and funded by Bard College on the nexus between climate change, mobility & gender in the Horn of Africa region.

Local Histories: A project on Local Histories and Climate change supported by the University of Pennsylvania.

South Sudan National Archives: A project to support the South Sudan National Archives funded by the Government of Norway.

Women Research Network- A European Union (EU) funded project to promote local Women's voices in Research and civil society.

Revitalised Conflict in South Sudan. A research project on revitalised conflict in South Sudan funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland.

History Curriculum Development: A project funded by the Cardiff University for the development of a new History Curriculum for South Sudan.

X -Border- A DFID funded project on Cross Border Conflict Evidence and Policy Trends.

Research Community of Practice- A project aimed at supporting African Peace Building Research and the development of Communities of Practice funded by Carnegie Corporation.

Just Future: A Project on improved accessibility, responsiveness and accountability of security and Justice Institutions in 6 fragile countries.

Learning Lessons: A project funded by AHRC on learning lessons from wartime education projects in South Sudan.

History of the Agar Dinka: A project on the concise history of the Agar Dinka in South Sudan funded by Oxford Policy Management.

19. Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Sudan's Elections: A project funded by the British Council to inform advocacy and planning for Sudan's elections.

Listening to Histories: A GCRF funded project on listening to Histories, recording songs of conflict, displacement and power in South Sudan.

Climate Change, Livelihoods and Conflict workshop funded by Friedrich-Ebert-Sifting (FES).

Local Response to Covid-19 - A project on community Based Covid-19 Messaging in South Sudan funded by the New Ventures Fund.

Deep State Study: A project on understanding the 'Deep State' in African Politics, funded by OSIEA.

The RVI Scholarship Fund - The Scholarship Fund is a voluntary donation fund which has the aim of promoting individual educational development of young researchers and activists from countries in Eastern and Central Africa. This may include funding their attendance on courses provided by the Charity. Income from the sale of RVI publications is also allocated to this fund.

Political Economy Analysis (PEA) - This was research of Political Economy Analysis in Ethiopia funded by DFID.

20 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	US\$	US\$
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period	221,446	243,983
(as per the statement of financial activities)		
Depreciation charges	6,286	8,093
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(276,925)	35,524
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(783,155)	213,025
Net cash generated from operating activities	(832,347)	500,625

21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 January 2024	Cash flows	At 31 December 2024
	US\$	US\$	US\$
Cash at bank and in hand	1,927,986	(838,279)	1,089,707
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,927,986	(838,279)	1,089,707

22 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

Property	2024 US\$	2023 US\$
Less than one year	48,418	37,580
One to five years	3,600	-
	<u>52,018</u>	<u>37,580</u>

23 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2023 Total US\$
Income from:			
Miscellaneous income	10,531	-	10,531
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Education and training	170,762	-	170,762
Research, programmes and publications	371,855	5,438,800	5,810,655
Investments	4,264	-	4,264
Total income	<u>557,412</u>	<u>5,438,800</u>	<u>5,996,212</u>
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	92,279	-	92,279
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Education and training	236,581	-	236,581
Research, programmes and publications	27,765	5,438,800	5,466,565
Other	-	-	-
Total expenditure	<u>356,625</u>	<u>5,438,800</u>	<u>5,795,425</u>
Net income	<u>200,787</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,787</u>
Net income before other recognised gains and losses	200,787	-	200,787
Foreign exchange loss	43,196	-	43,196
Net movement in funds	243,983	-	243,983
Total funds brought forward	<u>694,756</u>	<u>83,614</u>	<u>778,370</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>938,739</u>	<u>83,614</u>	<u>1,022,353</u>

24 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10 (GBP).

RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1144010

Accounts



Rift Valley Institute

MAKING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE WORK

**RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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CORPORATE INFORMATION

Registered Name	Rift Valley Research Limited
Operating Name	Rift Valley Institute
Company Number	4271537
Charity Number	1144010
Registered Office and Operational Address	Lower Street Atelier 19 A Lower Street, Stroud Gloucestershire GL5 2HT
Trustees	Margie Buchanan Smith (Chair, appointed 2 December 2019) Comfort Ero (appointed 7 March 2018 resigned 11 December 2023) Mary Harper (appointed June 2022) Ali Hersi (appointed 8 January 2018, resigned 11 April 2023) Hala El Kharib (appointed June 2022) Christopher Maynard (Treasurer, appointed 14 February 2017) Haile Menkarios (appointed September 2022) Leben Moro (appointed 8 January 2018) Sharath Srinivasan (appointed 1 September 2023)
Executive Director	Mark Bradbury
Principal Bankers	I&M Bank (Kenya) Ecobank (South Sudan) Salaam Somali Bank
Independent Auditor	Parker Russell UK LLP Level 30, The Leadenhall Building, 122 Leadenhall Street, City of London, London EC3V 4AB , United Kingdom T: +44 (0) 20 7378 7500 E: info@parkerrussell.co.uk

SUMMARY

The Rift Valley Institute (RVI) is an independent, not-for-profit, research and educational organisation founded in Sudan in 2001 and working in South Sudan and Sudan, the Horn of Africa, East Africa and the Great Lakes. Over two decades RVI has built an operational presence in Eastern Africa, with its headquarters, since 2017, in Kenya (Nairobi), where the Executive Director and Heads of Finance and Operations are based, and with offices in South Sudan (Juba), Somaliland (Hargeysa), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa), and the UK (London).

The Institute aims to create a better future for the peoples and communities of Eastern and Central Africa by advancing useful knowledge of the region and its diverse communities through collaborative research, education and training, public information and promoting culture and heritage. The Institute bridges development practice and policy, elevating local voices, knowledge and action.

For the peoples and communities of the Horn of Africa, East Africa, the Sudans and the Great Lakes, 2023 was a volatile period, marked by the outbreak of fighting in Sudan in April 2023, multiple conflicts in Ethiopia; a resurgent conflict in Somaliland's contested eastern regions; prolonged drought and famine-like conditions in Somalia and floods in South Sudan making the impacts of a growing climate emergency more apparent; and a continuing rise in living costs across these regions as a result of global food prices due to political crises and wars in Ukraine and Gaza. The impact of these crises has left the region once again host to some of the largest displaced populations in the world, with Sudan having the most internally displaced in the world. At the same time, there were positive developments. The peaceful transfers of power that occurred in Kenya and Somalia in 2022 and the ceasefire in Ethiopia's Tigray region brought some stability.

In a region affected by protracted conflicts, political turbulence, economic volatility, and climatic stress, we believe that RVI's mission to advance useful knowledge through research, training and public information remains as relevant as ever. The continuing growth in the Institute's operations and income in 2023 reflect the relevance and quality of our work for people and communities in the region and to those who invest in them.

In 2023, RVI's presence in Ethiopia and Somalia expanded. Drawing on the Institute's strengths in research and convening, this has enhanced our ability to enable citizens of those countries to influence policy and action.

The Institute continued to deliver research on South Sudan, Sudan, Somaliland and Somalia through various projects, including the UK government funded the XCEPT (Cross-Border Conflict, Evidence, Policy and Trends) programme (formerly the Cross-Border research programme), the Somali Dialogue Platform (SDP), and the Ethiopia Peace Research Facility (PRF); and the Danish government funded Diaspora Humanitarianism project in Somalia.

For a second successive year since Covid restrictions were lifted, RVI organised a residential course on the Horn of Africa. Complementing this, we continued our investment in the professional development of early career researchers with 25 [?] students undergoing training through the Research Community of Practice (Cop), Diaspora Humanitarianism (D-Hum) and South Sudan Women's Research Network (SSWRN) projects, the latter focused on supporting women researchers.

SUMMARY (Continued)

The Institute continued to promote culture and heritage, working with the Hargeysa Cultural Centre in Somaliland and the national archives in South Sudan.

The Institute continued to publish original research, with 32 publications (14 reports, 13 briefing papers, 5 blogs, plus several podcasts) in 2023 on a range of relevant issues in the countries where the Institute works. We invested in our communications capacity to improve public access to RVI's research, courses and public forums upgrading the Institute's website and our social media presence.

In 2023, the Institute staff grew from twenty-three to twenty-seven, (including two part-time positions) 93 percent of whom were based in Africa. Three of the RVI's eight Trustees are from South Sudan, Sudan and Eritrea. RVI also has a body of 137 Fellows, all experts on the countries where RVI works, and many being citizens of those countries.

In 2023, the charity's income rose to US\$5,996,211, an increase of 23% percent on an income of US\$4,855,974 in 2022. The level of general unrestricted reserves as of 31 December 2023 stood at US\$ 938,739.

OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023

The Rift Valley Institute was founded in 2001 as a non-profit organisation operating in eastern and central Africa. The Charity was established in the words of the Articles of Association, to, among other aims, “advance the education of the general public, particularly but not exclusively in Eastern and Central Africa”; to “promote research into Eastern and Central Africa and related subjects”; and to “disseminate the useful results of such research throughout the world”. These objectives are for the public benefit, as set out in the Charities Act of 2006.

In 2020, RVI published a four-year *Development Strategy 2020-2023* which set out the following vision, mission, strategic objectives and principles that guide the Institute’s work:

Our Vision

Making local knowledge work for the benefit of the people of Eastern and Central Africa.

Our Mission

The Rift Valley Institute is an independent research and educational organisation with a social mission: to create a better future for the peoples and communities of Eastern and Central Africa by advancing relevant knowledge of the region through collaborative research, education and training, public information and dialogues, and promoting culture and heritage. The Institute bridges development practice and policy, elevating local voices, knowledge and action.

Strategic objectives

RVI seeks to bring change to people of eastern and central Africa through five strategic areas of work:

1. *Advancing Knowledge through Original Research:* We generate and share knowledge of the region and its communities through high quality research undertaken with and by people in the region.
2. *Transferring Knowledge through Education and Training:* We provide high quality education and training on relevant issues within and on the region, to increase understanding, enhance research skills and to inform more effective engagement and policies.
3. *Exchanging Knowledge through Public Information and Dialogue:* We expand, protect and facilitate the right to information, creating neutral convening spaces for inclusive and critical public dialogue on key political, economic and social issues within and on the region.
4. *Promoting and Conserving Knowledge through Cultural Production and Heritage:* We support cultural production and the conservation of historical knowledge and access to it through support to public archives and cultural organisations.
5. *Building an Africa-centred Institute with a Global Reach.* To transition RVI to an African-based transnational Institute that produces research, education and public information on Eastern and Central Africa that can bring people and communities and those who invest in them together to address common problems.

OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023 (Continued)

Principles

- Accurate information is an indisputable public good.
- Respect for local knowledge informs equitable development.
- Learning is continuous.
- Research and education encourage the free exchange of knowledge.
- Improved public information and open debate can generate positive social change.
- Integrating research with training and dissemination adds social value.
- Accountability and transparency are key to effective collaboration.

Designed with communities, institutions and individuals from the region, and with donors, RVI's programmes aim to bring local knowledge to bear on political, economic and social developments. They seek to shape aid interventions, expand space for public participation in policy formulation, support local research capacity, preserve communal histories and promote social justice.

The RVI is a signatory of the Budapest Open Access Initiative of 2002 and promotes free public access to useful knowledge. RVI books, reports, maps, newsletters and the contents of its websites are published and disseminated, wherever possible, under a Creative Commons open-access license.

Digital versions of RVI publications are available for download free of charge from the Institute's website. Digital archives created and run by the RVI use UNESCO-endorsed open-source software.

OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023 (Continued)

2023 Regional Overview

In 2023, there were several major developments in eastern Africa and the Greater Horn where RVI operates that significantly influenced the Institute's work. In November 2022, a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement (CoHA) between the federal government of Ethiopia and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) ended a two-year long war in the north of country. The conflict, which involved Tigray, Amhara and Afar, and drew in Eritrea, killed between 300,000 and 500,000 people from war and famine. It was economically disastrous, and tarnished Ethiopia's international reputation, and that of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize four years earlier for his rapprochement with Eritrea. Implemented of the CoHA started in 2023, beginning with the demobilization of forces, and the appointment of an interim administration in Tigray.

As one war ended, an insurgency in the Oromia region grew, and a new rebellion began in the Amhara region, where militias formerly allied with the government revolted in August 2023. This arose, in part, from their unhappiness with the terms of the CoHA, and the perceived domination of the federal government by Abiy's own Oromo ethnic group. At the same time, Ethiopia's relations with Eritrea, which had improved when Abiy came to power in 2018, deteriorated, due to Eritrea's exclusion from the CoHA and Addis' overt search for a seaport raising concerns in Asmara that Ethiopia may try to take the Eritrean port of Assab by force.

The downturn in relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea was also influenced by the outbreak of war in Sudan between the 'official' military, the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF), and a rival part of the Sudanese security sector, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Starting in April 2023 in the capital Khartoum, fighting spread to Darfur, and to eastern Sudan by November following the fall of Wad Medani. As well as being ruinous for the country and its people, the war has the potential to destabilise the region with different regional powers choosing sides. While Eritrea has taken an anti-RSF position and armed Sudanese militias along its own western border region, Ethiopia has favoured the RSF, allowing it supporters to operate from Addis Ababa. The role of the Gulf states is also significant with the UAE supporting the RSF, and Egypt favouring the SAF. Attempts to negotiate a ceasefire through the Jeddah process, also involving the US, have proved ineffective.

The impact of the war was felt acutely in South Sudan as an estimated 500,000 civilians, many originally from South Sudan, sought refuge across the border. The new humanitarian crises followed severe flooding in 2022 which had left 76% of the population in humanitarian need. These events and the threat to the oil industry by Sudan's war placed added strain on a fragile economy, as the country faced an uncertain political future with elections scheduled for 2024.

In Somalia, the combined offensive against al-Shabaab in 2022 by the federal government and clan militias known as Ma'awisley, backed by foreign assistance, slowed down. The anticipated regional offensive flagged at a high-profile summit in April 2023 by the so-called 'frontline states' of Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti did not transpire. The second phase of the draw-down of ATMIS, the AU mission in Somali, was also delayed.

OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023 (Continued)

2023 Regional Overview (continued)

The threat of violence hung over preparations for state elections in Puntland scheduled for early 2024 as the president sought constitutional changes to extend his term in office. Meanwhile government proposals to finalise the country's draft constitution with amendments giving more powers to the presidency and federal government consumed political space.

The region was further unsettled by the eruption of conflict in January 2023 between the Somaliland government and the Dhulbahante clan, who reject incorporation in Somaliland and seek to establish an autonomous Khatumo state incorporating the regions of Sool, Sanaag and Cayn (SSC). Centred on the city of Las Anod the conflict displaced tens of thousands of people, some into Ethiopia's Somali Regional State.

Fighting diminished during the year, with the Dhulbahante clan forces seen to have gained the upper hand, but the conflict remains unresolved. The fighting, which exacerbated other political rifts in Somaliland around delayed elections, has tarnished its generally favourable international reputation, and undermined its 30-year campaign for international recognition.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2023 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Rift Valley Institute was founded in 2001 to advance relevant knowledge of the region through collaborative research, education and training, public information and dialogues, and promoting culture and heritage. The Institute's vision, mission, strategic objectives and guiding principles are set out in the year Development Strategy 2020-2023.

RVI's programmes are designed with communities, institutions and individuals from the region, and with donors. They seek to shape aid interventions, expand space for public participation in policy formulation, support local research capacity, preserve communal histories and promote social justice. The Institute has responded to the context described above with a mixture of research, public convening and trainings as described below. The main achievements are described below.

1. Advancing Knowledge through Original Research

The RVI was founded to undertake research, and the production and exchange of knowledge remains core to all that RVI does. Producing high quality research and publicly available data is an important underpinning of open societies and critical for evidence-based social policy.

In the politically turbulent regions where RVI operates, with long-running complex emergencies, international mediated peace deals and peace operations, there continues to be a strong demand for applied knowledge and studies that can improve understanding and contribute to collective solutions.

At the same time, the countries where RVI works have a structural deficit in terms of social science research capacity. Problems of access and insecurity complicate data collection and much of the knowledge produced is hidden in commissioned research that is not made public.

Despite a growing number of research institutes and think-tanks, RVI remains one of the few 'field-based' providers of knowledge about the regions where it operates, generated through a mixture of multi-year research projects, trans regional studies, participatory research projects, and shorter policy-oriented studies.

Our research portfolio is unique with an emphasis on social research, developed from ideas generated by communities and institutions we work with, and being publicly accessible in accordance with the Institute's commitment to the freedom of information and open-access publishing. We also aim to ensure that all research projects include a training component for African researchers to develop their skills.

In 2023, RVI managed multi-year research programmes and short-term studies on a range of themes. These included original studies on the political economy of checkpoints in Somalia; Sudan's Juba Peace Agreement; religious conflict, and resource extraction in Ethiopia, amongst others.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2023 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Continued)

1. Advancing Knowledge through Original Research (Continued)

Longer-term research programmes included studies carried out under the UK government's XCEPT (Cross-Border Conflict Evidence, Policy and Trends) programme (previously known as the X-Border Local Research Network), which RVI has been a part of since 2019; the Somali Dialogue Platform (SDP); and the Ethiopia Peace Research Facility (PRF).

All these studies involve national researchers with mentoring and training an explicit part of most projects. Research findings were disseminated through a range of reports, briefing papers, blogs, in-person or online events and podcasts. Several were published in Arabic, Somali and Amharic. A more detailed description of RVI research projects in 2023 can be found below.

The PRF monthly Bulletin on conflict and peace trends based on collective analysis by Ethiopian researchers has kept the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) informed. Regular analysis produced by SDP keeps international donors informed about political developments in Somalia.

Research in South Sudan and Sudan

In 2023, the Institute pursued several research themes in South Sudan, whilst continuing to produce work on Sudan, despite the outbreak of war in April 2023.

In South Sudan, RVI completed two Participatory Impact Assessments, commissioned by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on emergency seed provision and pastoralism, which had been delayed by FAO's decision to review the work. The research was undertaken by teams of international and South Sudanese researchers.

These substantive studies challenge some of FAO's assumptions about their investments in South Sudan and could positively influence approaches to long-term humanitarian assistance in the country. The Institute also completed several smaller studies, including one for UN Civil Affairs on transhumance in South Sudan; a study on the cultural significance of elephants to the country; and a political economy analysis for the Irish embassy in South Sudan on the South Sudan Revitalized Conflict.

Despite the outbreak of civil war in Sudan, RVI continued to carry out research in, and on, the country. This included completing research on the Juba Peace Agreement (supported by USIP) and publishing three reports in September 2023.

Under the FCDO-funded XCEPT project, RVI produced two 'rapid response' briefing papers on the early dynamics of the conflict, and started a research project on border-region dynamics between Sudan and South Sudan in the context of the war.

Further work was commissioned on the Sudan-Ethiopia-Eritrea border region, and on the impact of the war on academic and research institutes, to be published in 2024.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2023 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Continued)

1. Advancing Knowledge through Original Research (Continued)

Research in Somalia

In 2023, RVI continued to manage the Somali Dialogue Platform, a multi-donor funded project, delivering a range of research and engagement activities with Somali partners and the international community to further a political settlement in Somalia. Research produced by the Platform in 2023 included a range of different products, including weekly and monthly situational updates to inform the international donors; ad-hoc, responsive analysis on significant developments, such as the crisis in Las Anod; in-depth research projects on the political settlement in Galmudug and South-West states; several policy briefs with local research partners, including on the district council elections in Puntland with our partner the Puntland Development Research Centre (PDRC); on women's participation in political processes with our partner Raagsan); and on public participation in political processes with our partner Somali Public Agenda (SPA); and a report on the role of Macawisely and implications for security policy with our partner SDC.

The Platform and its partners also produced several research and policy papers, including on national issues such as the political implications of the ATMIS draw-down and the proposed Constitutional and electoral changes, and sub-national issues, such as the lessons learned from district elections in Puntland and the prospects for elections in Galmudug.

For the XCEPT project, the Institute carried out research on Somalia's checkpoint economy and on cross-border trade corridors between Somalia and Somaliland and Ethiopia, the reports of which were published in 2023.

In Somaliland, RVI continued supporting the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) at the University of Hargeysa to undertake research on 'off-grid' communities in Somaliland.

This study on Inclusive Urban Infrastructure - part of a global comparative study, covering Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, led by the Universities of Sussex and Durham - concluded in 2023.

In Somalia and Somaliland, RVI continued to work with the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), the University of Nairobi, and Rako Research Organisation on a long-term study of Diaspora-Humanitarianism (D-Hum).

The project includes support to three PhD students from Kenya and Somalia, one of whom was also engaged in the XCEPT research on checkpoints.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2023 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Continued)

1. Advancing Knowledge through Original Research (Continued)

Research in Ethiopia

In 2023, RVI continued to run the Ethiopia Peace Research Facility (PRF) funded by the FCDO in Addis Ababa and established in 2023 the Facility:

- Published 12 editions of the PRF Monthly Bulletin, which analyses political and conflict-related developments in the country for an audience of FCDO and international partners.
- Produced 3 conflict trend reports on the longer-term trends in Ethiopia's Amhara, Afar and Oromia regions.—.
- Completed a study on the political economy of resource extraction in the peripheries and published 4 reports.
- Completed research on religious polarization/conflict and published 5 reports
- Published 5 responsive papers on diverse subjects from the presence of Al-Shabaab in Ethiopia to an assessment of conflict trends in the Amhara region.
- Provided a conflict sensitivity advisory service for the FCDO aid programmes in Ethiopia.

Research in the Great Lakes region

RVI's work on the Great Lakes region has diminished since 2020 due to changes in staffing and funding opportunities. We undertook no work in the DRC in 2023.

2. Transferring Knowledge through Education and Training

Field-based education and training have been one of the Institute's methods for transferring knowledge of the region to different constituencies. Starting in 2004 the RVI has annually run week-long residential 'field courses' on Sudan and South Sudan, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes regions. These graduate-level professional training courses for participants from international NGOs, the UN, the diplomatic community and the private sector on the regions and countries where RVI works are taught by RVI staff, Fellows and associates. Young researchers and activists receive scholarships to attend from RVI's Shading Tree fund or project funds.

In addition, RVI delivers bespoke training courses for individual organisations on different countries and themes. These are co-designed with and tailored to suit the specific interests and requirements of the recipient organisation, and taught by leading experts in their field.

Annual Field Courses

In 2023, RVI organised a residential course on the Horn of Africa, covering Somalia and Somaliland, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti. This attracted 17 participants.

A review of the courses was carried out by RVI Fellow Justin Willis. Recommendations, including shortening courses and reducing the cost for participants, will be adopted in 2024.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2023 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Continued)

2. Transferring Knowledge through Education and Training (Continued)

Bespoke courses

Two 'bespoke' courses on Somalia were delivered in 2023 for USAID and FCDO.

Training Early Career Researchers

In line with the development strategy, we have committed to increasing our investment in the professional development of early career African researchers through dedicated training programmes. We have also continued to develop our partnerships with universities in the region, including Hargeysa (where RVI's office is located), Puntland State University, the Catholic University in South Sudan, the University of Nairobi and the United States International University in Kenya. Our training for early career African researchers was delivered through two main projects.

The **Research Communities of Practice** (RCoP) project (funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York) supports the professional development of early career researchers in South Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia and the Somali regions of the Horn of Africa. Supported by mentors, the students learn how to design and undertake a short research project and apply research methods. In 2023, the year began with a communities of practice workshop in Nairobi where participants presented their research findings from the participants' projects—the culmination of a 24-week online training programme. The first cohort of participants in the programme included eighteen participants from Kakuma refugee camp (6), Somalia (4), Somaliland (2), the DR Congo (3) and South Sudan (3). Nine of the 18 participants were supported by Carnegie funding, 6 by OSUN and 3 supported by the Somali Dialogue Platform. Teachers from Kenya, South Sudan and Somaliland provided the training. In 2023, the second cohort of 9 students from Ethiopia, Somalia, Somaliland, South Sudan, and DRC Congo began their training focusing on climate change, mobility and gender. This culminated in a range of written publications and audio outputs, several of which have been published by RVI and partners.

During 2023, RVI continued to implement the **South Sudan Women's Research Network** (funded by the European Union), following its launch in December 2021. There are few women researchers in South Sudan which limits the engagement and influence of women in development policy. Through the training of women researchers, the project promotes the engagement of women as independent experts in development and policy dialogue. In 2023, the 10 grantees who were selected and paired with their mentors in 2022 continued work on their research projects and produce reports. During the latter part of the year, the team secured a no-cost extension to enable the project to continue into 2024.

In addition to these projects, the Institute continued to support the development of early career researchers in Africa through training, mentorship and providing opportunities for research within existing research projects. For example, in 2023 researchers from South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia published papers through the XCEPT, SDP and PRF programmes respectively. Under the Diaspora Humanitarianism research project, RVI supports three Somali PhD candidates. Altogether in 2022, RVI supported the training of 31 early career African researchers from Somalia, Somaliland, South Sudan and the DRC.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2023 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Continued)

3. Exchanging Knowledge through Public Information and Dialogue

Access to accurate public information is essential for open and inclusive societies, it supports positive, long-term social change and is essential for the success of the Sustainable Development Goals. Supporting the freedom of and access to information is a core aim of RVI. Amplifying the voices of people and communities in Eastern and Central Africa is central to RVI's ambition. RVI supports access to public information and the exchange of knowledge in two main ways: through the *Rift Valley Forum for Research, Policy and Local Knowledge* ('the Forum') and other convening activities; and through the Institute's publications, including digital media.

The **Forum**, established in 2012, is a programme of seminars, lectures and expert meetings that facilitates the exchange of knowledge between academics, practitioners, policy makers and the public on critical regional issues in a safe, neutral environment. Over the years, the majority of Forum events have taken place in Nairobi, with some held in Somalia, South Sudan, the DRC and the UK. Since the pandemic, the Forum is now regularly held online.

In 2023, RVI organised the following Forums:

- **Book launch: *Precarious Urbanism, displacement, belonging and the reconstruction of Somali Cities* (31 March).** Launched in collaboration with Kings College London, Durham University and Regional Durable Secretariat (ReDSS).
- **UNCT roundtables on political dynamics in Kenya:** 4 and 13 April – focus on protests; 25 May – political impact of events in the HoA on Kenya and implications for UN agencies; 26 June – implication of the recent budget.
- **Sudan conflict roundtables:** As part of the XCEPT programme, the Forum co-organized three panel discussions responding to the conflict in Sudan.
- **Book launch: *Lives Amid Violence*,** by Mareike Schumerus. The hybrid Forum attracted some 40 participants in-person and online.

RVI's **publications** include digital and printed books and reports, documentary film, radio, podcasts, and social media outputs. RVI has pioneered open access publishing and everything RVI publishes is free to download in digital form. Both analogue and digital publications are disseminated through RVI's website and social media platforms. Publications are produced in English, with translations in French, Somali and Arabic.

4. Promoting and Conserving Knowledge through Culture and Heritage

Culture is integral to the generation and transmission of knowledge. The regions where the RVI operates have a rich and diverse political history, a variety of social systems and cultural formations, and a wealth of communal resources. Appreciating this cultural diversity and communal histories and working with cultural institutions, individual artists and activists, is critical for a shared understanding of the historical and contemporary development of these regions, of relations between generations and genders, and the way that local knowledge works.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2023 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Continued)

4 Promoting and Conserving Knowledge through Culture and Heritage (continued)

The conservation of knowledge is of critical importance for constructing post-conflict societies and is of practical utility given the poor retention of knowledge in the aid industry. RVI addresses this through projects that conserve knowledge, such as with the South Sudan National Archives and the RVI's digital Sudan Open Archive, and promote historical and contemporary culture, such as through the Hargeysa Cultural Centre.

South Sudan National Archives RVI has been supporting the development of the South Sudan National Archives since 2006, both directly and by incorporating it into several projects in South Sudan. In November 2023, RVI received a grant from the Norwegian government that enables us to continue support the digitisation of the national archive collection and public outreach.

Hargeysa Cultural Centre. In 2023, RVI continued to support the Hargeysa Cultural Centre in Somaliland, which the Institute helped to establish in 2014. RVI's involvement has diminished due to lack of funding, but the Centre itself continues to thrive. It has become an important venue for artistic and cultural production and conservation, including the annual Hargeysa International Book Fair. It is also a critical space for public dialogue on a range of social issues, and for the dissemination of research. In November 2023, RVI supported an oral history training for 23 students, with trainers from the Likikiri Collective from South Sudan.

5. Publications, Communications and Outreach

RVI disseminates findings from its research projects in a variety of ways. All RVI publications are open access and freely available via the Institute's website. The website also showcases information about RVI and its different projects.

RVI publications come in several different forms; from lengthy research reports (10-20,000 words), to shorter briefing papers (often targeted at a policy audience); and more accessible blog pieces to provide an introduction to a complex topic.

As social media has become an increasingly important medium to draw attention to RVI's outputs, the Institute has committed more time to develop its institutional social media accounts, encouraging individual staff, and trustees, to promote the Institute's work by building up their own following. In 2023, RVI appointed its first full-time Communications Officer to increase the Institute's investment in website maintenance and development, video content, social media, newsletters and courses marketing.

Publications

The Institute is committed to making research publicly available through public reports, briefings or blogs. Overall, in 2023 RVI published 14 reports, 13 briefings/policy briefs, 5 blogs and several podcasts.

In addition to public outputs, the Institute produces briefings. In 2023, this included a regular, monthly bulletin on peace and conflict-related issues in Ethiopia. The Somali Dialogue Platform also delivered regular closed-door briefings for international donors on Somalia.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS OF 2020-2023 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (Continued)

5. Publications, Communications and Outreach

Partnerships and Collaborations

Much of RVI's work is undertaken in collaboration and partnership with other organizations in the countries where we work. These are significant actors in their countries with their own knowledge and experiences to share.

Our partnerships strengthen RVI's engagement and support its mission to make local knowledge work. In 2022, these partnerships included: in South Sudan, the Catholic University of South Sudan in Juba and Wau, the National Archives and the Likikiri Collective; in Kenya, the British Institute in Eastern Africa, Nairobi University, the OSUN Hubs for Connected Learning Initiatives, the Elephant magazine; in Somalia, Somali Public Agenda, the Peace and Development Research Centre; in Somaliland, Redsea Cultural Foundation, and the University of Hargeysa's Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies; in Ethiopia, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies.

ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND PROCESSES

In 2023, progress was made on several priorities to support the development of the Institute. A remuneration and pay market review was completed and implemented and a rewards policy updated. The system for evaluating and grading job descriptions was reviewed and improved. Systems for on boarding new staff and managing exit processes were improved. In addition to individual staff utilising their training allowances, trainings were organised for staff in safeguarding and Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI). RVI completed its registration process in Ethiopia and the establishment of a country office.

A review of the organisational structure and ways of working to was commissioned to strengthen management practices and efficiency. The role of the board was also reviewed with recommendations to improve its efficiency and strategic decision-making. Progress was made in implementing recommendations to recruit a Head of Programmes, to digitise administrative systems and reorganise board meetings.

Fundraising

RVI is funded by a combination of governmental and philanthropic donors who share a commitment to its mission. In 2023 the Institutes income grew from US\$ 4.8M to US\$6M. Most of this growth has come from long-term programmes giving the institute greater long-term surety. In 2023, RVI's income came from thirteen different donors, excluding income from courses. Notable funders were the UK, US and Danish governments for the Somali Dialogue Platform; UK government funding for the Peace Research facility in Ethiopia and the XCEPT project; European Funding for the SSWRN; Carnegie Corporation funding for the Research Community of Practice project; Open Society University Network funding for administrative support in Kenya; Norwegian government funding for the South Sudan National Archives.

The RVI does not employ external fundraisers. Considerable staff time is therefore invested in fundraising. RVI has not received any complaints relating to funding in the past year or previous years.

Offices, Staffing and Board of Trustees

Offices

Since 2017, RVI's office in **Nairobi** has been the Institute's headquarters, with the Executive Director and the Finance, Operations, Education, Forum and Somalia teams located there. During 2023, most staff combined work from home and from the office. RVI's office in **Juba**, South Sudan, is the second largest in terms of number of staff. In 2023, RVI opened an office in **Addis Ababa**, Ethiopia RVI has continued to maintain a presence in **Hargeysa** with an office in the University of Hargeysa, and one part-time representative overseeing our work in Somaliland. In September 2023, RVI moved out of the office space in London shared with Conciliation Resources and relocated its office to Stroud, where the Institute's only UK-based staff member is based.

Board of Trustees

In the reporting period, RVI's Board had Nine trustees: Chris Maynard (Acting Chair from 3 March 2022 & Treasurer), Leben Moro, Margaret Buchannan-Smith, Hala El Karib, Mary Harper, Haile Menkerios, Sharath Srinivasan (appointed September 2023), Ali Hersi (resigned April 2023), Comfort Ero (resigned December 2023).

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2024

Programme Delivery: Building on progress made in 2023, our priorities in 2024 will be to continue delivering the funded projects, ensuring the grant agreements with the respective donors and RVI's own programme management policies are fully adhered to. These include: the Somali Dialogue Platform; the South Sudan Women's Research Network; Research Communities of Practice; the Ethiopia Conflict Research Facility; and the X-Border project. Together these projects provide sustained multi-year funding, providing a secure basis for the Institute to grow and deliver on our strategic goals, including to invest in African research capacity.

Programme development: The Institute will extend the timeline of the current Development Strategy which ended in 2023 to the end of 2025. We will use that extension to review the current strategy and prepare a new one to start in 2026. We will also develop our fundraising strategy and our capacity to secure long-term financing; strengthen the processes for project development and decision-making, ensuring quality assurance and reducing risk; strengthen the criteria and selection process for new partnerships and consortia; implement the recommendations of the courses review and re-establish RVI regional and bespoke courses as a core aspect of the Institute's work; re-establish the RVI Forum as a convening space in the region; develop a monitoring system to better record the impact of RVI's work; review and strengthen RVI's engagement with RVI Fellows.

We will develop an approach to engage more systematically and strategically on **climate change** and its impact in the countries and communities where we work. We will invest in a Head of Programmes to support programme development, to lead new work on climate change and secure new income sources.

Institutional governance: We will work closely with the board of trustees to implement the reforms recommended by the organisational assessment to strengthen the board.

Recruiting and retaining a motivated workforce: We aim to ensure RVI's programmes are well supported by recruiting people with the necessary skills and experience, motivating and retaining staff through professional development, and offering pay rewards consistent with the labour market. We will strengthen workforce planning will ensure timely recruitment and placement of staff using both internal and external recruitment, ensuring equal opportunities. We will work with the staff to better ensure staff well-being. we will work to expand our collective understanding of how diversity, equity and inclusion at the workplace manifest at RVI and what policy and practice actions we need to take to make RVI an equitable place where its diverse workforce and governance structure deliver on its ambition of becoming an organisation led from Africa.

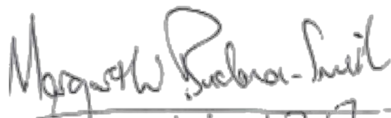
Strengthen policies and procedures: RVI will strengthen its operational capacity to deliver its work through accountable, transparent and compliant policies and procedures for staff recruitment, and the procurement of goods and services, and partnerships. RVI will strengthen security management and safeguarding commitments. We improve administrative efficiency by automating RVI's internal systems for finance, procurement and human resources and the management of our contacts database.

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES FOR 2024 (CONTINUED)

Performance management and professional development: We will strengthen the link between performance management and professional development using regular performance appraisals to address skills gaps through appropriate training and mentoring. We aim to improve training and development opportunities for staff.

Improved human resources management: We will update the RVI staff handbook; standardise RVI's recruitment and pay practices for consultants; ensure all new jobs are reviewed by the Job Evaluation Team (JET) and placed in the staff grading structure before recruitment takes place; strengthen RVI's Duty of Care policies through improved security and safeguarding policies and management; strengthen the on-boarding, induction and separation processes for staff.

Strengthen RVI's geographic footprint: We will finalise RVI's registration process in Ethiopia; review our work in the Great Lakes region; and review our office needs in the UK and Kenya to meet organisational growth.



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Margie Buchanan-Smith
Chair

TRUSTEES REPORT

General

The trustees of Rift Valley Research Limited, operating as the Rift Valley Institute (RVI), who are also directors of the company for the purpose of company law, present their statutory report and audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, with the Articles of Association and with the 'Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities' in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) of 2005.

Governance

Rift Valley Research Limited (hereafter 'the Rift Valley Institute', 'the RVI' or 'the Charity') is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The company was incorporated on 16 August 2001 (company number 4271537) and registered as a charity (charity number 1144010) on 27 September 2011.

The objects, powers and governance structure of the charitable company are set out in its Articles of Association (last updated 30 August 2011). The RVI is governed by a Board of Trustees which meets four times annually. The trustees delegate the day-to-day operation of the Charity and management of its staff to the Executive Director who seeks guidance from trustees when important strategic, financial or governance issues arise.

The recruitment, appointment, and induction of new trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. The trustees are subject to retirement by rotation and may be re-appointed if re-elected. The Board of Trustees has the power to appoint new trustees by ordinary resolution. Trustees are generally drawn from the body of Fellows of the Institute, which is composed of regional specialists and others. (Fellows of the Institute are elected by existing Fellows.) The appointment of trustees is by recommendation from Fellows and the wider community of those sharing the goals of the Institute. Trustees are recruited with the aim of providing the diversity and skills needed to ensure the good governance of the Charity. These skills may include strategic planning, fundraising, financial management, administration, law, media management, and specialist knowledge of eastern and central Africa. The trustees are not remunerated for their work as trustees.

The procedure for inducting and training a new trustee entails a visit, if feasible, to an RVI office to familiarise the person with the Charity's aims, procedures and policies and a meeting between the new trustee and management staff of the Institute. On appointment, trustees receive an induction pack which includes RVI's Articles of Association, the board policy, copies of board books, written policies relevant to the governance and risk management of RVI, and copies of the Charity's most recent publications.

Offices and related parties

The Charity has five offices: its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya; an office in Stroud, in the United Kingdom, in Juba, South Sudan; in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and in Hargeysa, Somaliland. The Charity is registered as a company in Kenya and as an NGO in South Sudan, Somalia, Somaliland, and Ethiopia.

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

Offices and related parties (Continued)

RVI has a sister organisation, Rift Valley Institute Inc., in the United States, created to raise and distribute funds and to provide support and coordination to the UK entity, Rift Valley Research Limited. Rift Valley Institute Inc. was incorporated under Section 402 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law in New York State on 30 August 2006 and is registered as a charity with the Charities Bureau, New York State. It has three Board Members: John Ryle, Kenneth Anderson and Kwame Anthony Appiah. The Board Members are not remunerated for their work for Rift Valley Institute Inc. John Ryle was the founder and also a trustee of the Rift Valley Institute (i.e., the UK entity) until 31 December 2016.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees has given consideration to the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. These include operational, financial, and legal risks, risks in matters of governance and risks resulting from external factors. The Charity faces special risks associated with conflict, insecurity, and failures of governance in a number of the countries where it operates. In 2023, the risk register was reviewed at quarterly board meetings and with staff. RVI continuously reviews procedures and protocols for managing staff security. A managerial staff member in Nairobi has special responsibility for managing security.

The Board is satisfied that systems or procedures have been established to manage the risks we currently face, including key risks in the following areas:

1. Failure to deliver the 2024 budget

Failure to maintain economies and an overspend on the cost base will jeopardise the financial health of the Institute, as will a failure to meet income projections for 2023. To respond to this risk, the cost base and income projections have been set and agreed following a rigorous budgeting process in November and December 2023. Stricter project management practices introduced since 2017, holding directors and managers to account for delivering on time and on budget, have stabilised income and cost recovery and ensured financial control of the cost base. The realignment of foreign aid priorities of the UK government and other donors would influence the ability of RVI to meet its income projections. Maintaining a focus on diversified fundraising will increase the likelihood of RVI achieving income projections in the year ahead. The situation is closely monitored by trustees.

2. Cost recovery projections not achieved

Not achieving the cost recovery projects would see a decline in organisational reserves with consequential impact on financial health of the Institute. To manage this risk, guidelines on budgeting and overhead recovery are regularly reviewed and overhead recovery rates specified in contracts with donors. Systems of tracking and oversight of project delivery by Directors, Managers and financial team are also in place. Actions to reduce the cost base may need to be implemented depending on future funding.

TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

Risk management (continued)

3. Introduction of restrictions on NGOs operating in the countries of the region.

The introduction of prohibitive administrative and financial burdens on NGOs (e.g., work permits in Kenya, NGO Acts in South Sudan and Ethiopia, taxation in Somalia) could have significant operational and financial implications (e.g. payments of taxes, costs of lawyers, restrictions on programme work). To manage this risk, RVI ensures full compliance with Government regulations ahead of time; constant monitoring of political situation, and continuous communications with other organisations working in the countries of the region. More specifically, RVI is continually gathering information from other organisations in Kenya on bureaucratic restrictions and solutions, and closely monitoring the enforcement of the NGO Act in South Sudan. The local recruitment of staff, where possible, avoids the need for work permits.

4. International Financial Compliance

RVI as a registered Charity in the United Kingdom is bound by UK laws related to its activities and transactions. These laws include, but are not limited to, the UK Bribery Act 2010 and sanctions laws ('Compliance Laws'). Non-compliance with Compliance Laws can result in significant administrative, civil and criminal penalties for the Institute, including monetary fines and imprisonment, loss of donors and reputational risks. RVI is committed to conducting its activities consistently with Compliance Laws, and that the affairs of the Institute should be conducted in an honest and ethical manner. In several of the countries where RVI works individuals, organisations and companies may be subject to international financial sanction regimes. RVI has anti-bribery and financial transactions policies in place that are compliant with UK and international and national laws.

5 Safeguarding

RVI has an established equality and diversity policy. The Institute does not discriminate on grounds of gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin or identity, skin colour, nationality, national origin, disability, sexuality, religion or age. The Institute's safeguarding policy is intended to ensure that employees of the Institute, Interns and volunteers and individuals the Institute works with, are protected from any form of discrimination or abuse, including physical, emotional or sexual harm, in the course of RVI's work.

Remuneration

The Institute reviewed and updated its rewards policy in 2023. The salaries of Institute staff are periodically benchmarked against those of comparable organisations, including other charities, through market surveys. RVI sets salaries equivalent to the median for such organisations, where this is feasible, and aims to develop consistent practices for staff in all locations while adhering to local legislation.

It is the Institute's policy to review changes in the cost of living on an annual consumer price index. Salaries may be adjustment based on a 1% increase above the Consumer Price Index. This is detailed in the RVI Staff Handbook.

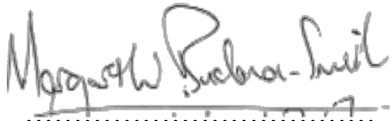
TRUSTEES REPORT (Continued)

Remuneration (Continued)

Increases can be implemented on 1 January of each year, subject to the approval of the budget by the Board. RVI completed a salary review and a review of the existing salary structure in 2023. A new salary structure was adopted in 2023 and some salaries were adjusted to bring them closer to the median. RVI also implemented a cost-of-living increase in 2023.

Public benefit

The trustees are satisfied that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The description of the Charity's objectives and activities below demonstrates the public benefit arising from the work of the Charity.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Margie Buchanan-Smith', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Margie Buchanan-Smith
Chair

FINANCIAL REVIEW

In 2023, the charity's income rose to US\$ 5,996,211 an increase of 23 percent on its income of US\$ 4,885,974 in 2022. The increase is mostly attributable to a faster rate of implementation of our major FCDO funded multiyear projects. For instance, income from the Somalia Dialogue Platform's (SDP) in 2023 was US\$ 3,466,000 compared to US\$ 2,412,000 in 2022. Similarly, income from the Peace Research Facility (PRF) in Ethiopia increased to US\$ 569,000 in 2023 from US\$ 417,000 in 2022.

We also managed to hold a Horn of Africa Course in 2023 for a second year running since suspending annual courses during the Covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the financial performance of bespoke courses in 2023 was better than in 2022 because of courses with various partners such as FCDO, USAID and UNISOM. Total income from courses in 2023 was US\$ 171,000 compared to US\$ 105,000 in 2022.

Total unrestricted income derived mostly from courses and deliverable-based projects decreased by 41 per cent compared to 2022. This is mostly because the main deliverable-based projects either ended in 2022 or minimally spilled into 2023. Examples of such projects that ended in 2022 include the USIP funded Juba Peace Agreement study, the FCDO study on Kenya Elections as well as two FAO funded evaluations on seeds and pastoralism in South Sudan.

The distribution of income across the institute's work streams and locations is tabulated below:

Work stream/Location	2023	2022
Institutional Funding	-	-
Education	3%	2%
Forums	1%	1 %
Horn of Africa	70 %	60%
Sudan	11 %	20%
Great Lakes	-	-
Transregional	9%	9 %
Kenya	6%	8%
Total	100 percent	100 percent

The slight increase in income under education as a proportion of the Institute's total income is explained by the higher number of Bespoke courses held in 2023. In 2022, we only had one bespoke course held for FCDO on Somalia. This is unlike 2023, where we held Bespoke courses for several partners namely FCDO, USAID and UNISOM.

Like in 2022, we did not have any substantial income from the Forums portfolio in 2023, thus the continued minimal contribution to the overall income of the Institute.

The increase in the proportion of income from the Horn of Africa is mostly attributable to increased income from the SDP and the PRF which together contributed 67% of the Institute's total income in 2023. The SDP alone contributed 58% of the Institute's total income in 2023 up from 50% in 2022.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

There has been a decrease in the proportion of income derived from projects in South Sudan in 2023, compared to 2022.

This is explained by a decline in funding in the past year partly due to changes in donor priorities. Whilst we secured some funding in South Sudan in 2023, it was not adequate enough to compensate for previous funding from some of the projects that came to an end in 2022.

Examples of some of the projects that came to an end include the USIP funded Juba Peace Agreement study, as well as two FAO funded evaluations on seeds and pastoralism, and the Kapoeta and NRC Borderlands Studies among others.

We have not had any major project running in the Great Lakes region since 2020 thus the zero income.

The level of funding from Transregional income as a proportion of the total Institute's income remained largely the same in 2023 compared to 2022 with the main contributors in this category being the FCDO funded X Border/XCEPT project, the Research Community of Practice funded by the Carnegie Corporation and the CORDAID funded Just Future project.

Finally, there was also a slight decrease in the proportion of income from projects in Kenya which is attributable to the coming to an end the FCDO funded Kenya Elections project. The main contributor in this category is the OSUN Learning Hubs administrative support.

In 2024 it is anticipated that the charity's total income will increase to about US\$ 6.5 million out of which US\$ 3 million is projected to be derived from the Somalia Dialogue Platform.

In 2023, the Institute's overall expenditure increased by 20 percent, from US\$ 4,822,000 in 2022 to US\$ 5,795,000. The increase is directly proportional to the increase in income which also grew by a similar proportion.

At the end of 2023, the charity's overall reserves had increased by 31 percent to US\$ 1,022,353 compared with US\$ 778,370 in 2022. Unrestricted reserves increased from US\$ 694,756 at the end of 2022 to US\$ 938,739 at the end of 2023. This exceeds our unrestricted reserves upper limit of US\$ 430,000 by US\$ 508,739. The main reason of the increase is because of a positive financial performance in 2023 that resulted in a surplus of US\$ 200,787 together with a gain in forex exchange of US\$ 43,196.

In 2023, the Institute's largest donors were FCDO (72%), which includes SDP, European Union (7%) and the Bard College (6%). FCDO continues to be the Institute's largest donor with its proportion of total income increasing from 67% in 2022 to 72% in 2023.

This is mostly because of the increase in activities in the Platform and the Peace Research Facility Project in Ethiopia.

FINANCIAL REVIEW (Continued)

Reserves Policy

The RVI's main source of income is project funding. This is supplemented by fees charged for RVI Field Courses and other training courses and by donor funding for institutional development. The project funding is for both short and long-term projects, with the latter requiring significant on-going financial commitment and investment.

RVI's unrestricted reserves are derived from the net income emanating from a number of sources, including any surplus from charges for training courses, and any surplus on project income after having charged the cost of overheads against the unrestricted element allowed.

This net income serves to supplement unrestricted reserves, measured particularly at the end of each financial year.

The Board of Trustees reviews the Reserves Policy annually and considers the known and potential risks to which the charity is exposed and the extent to which RVI is able to mitigate them.

The trustees believe that we need to have sufficient unrestricted reserves to allow our charity to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb set-backs and take advantage of change and opportunity. It is intended that RVI's unrestricted reserves are backed by cash.

The use to which all General Unrestricted Reserves are put is at the sole discretion of the trustees. Designated Funds are those funds set aside by the trustees to be used by management for a particular future project or institutional development.

The Board has therefore considered the need to provide within unrestricted reserves, a) a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work, b) a level of funding for unexpected opportunities, and c) cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income.

It is therefore intended that the organisation will hold General Unrestricted Reserves in the range US\$390,000 to US\$430,000, this being broadly equivalent to five months operating costs, covering staff salaries, office leases and redundancy payments to cover closure costs.

The designated funds of US\$ 150,000 as at the end of 2022 were set aside to be re-invested in the institute to support its development.

However, when preparing the 2024 organisational budget, a decision was made to include the costs of the proposed investments in the 2024 budget and hence at the end of 2023 the designated funds balance was transferred back into General Unrestricted funds.

The level of General Unrestricted Reserves as of 31 December 2023 was US\$ 938,739.

Going Concern

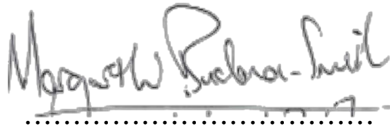
The Trustees have reviewed financial forecasts for the next 12 months under two different potential scenarios. In each scenario the trustees believe that the charity will have sufficient cash resources to meet liabilities as they fall due. They have therefore concluded that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Auditor

Parker Russell UK LLP was appointed as the charitable company's auditor in 2023 following a public recruitment process.

The report of the trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime

Approved by the trustees on 27 June.....2024 and signed on their behalf by

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Margie Buchanan-Smith', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Margie Buchanan-Smith
Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rift Valley Research Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Rift Valley Research Limited's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

Matters on which we are required to report by exception (continued)

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the board of trustees, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
- Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Jason Parker MA, FCA

(Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of Parker Russell UK LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor



27 June 2024

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

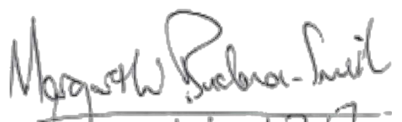
				2023	2022
	Note	Un- Restricted US\$	Restricted US\$	Total US\$	Total US\$
Income from:					
Miscellaneous income	2	10,531	-	10,531	896
<i>Charitable activities</i>					
Education and training	3	170,762	-	170,762	105,121
Research, programmes and publications	3	371,855	5,438,800	5,810,655	4,742,657
Investments	4	4,264	-	4,264	7,300
Total income		557,412	5,438,800	5,996,212	4,855,974
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	92,279	-	92,279	527,977
<i>Charitable activities</i>					
Education and training	5	236,581	-	236,581	232,404
Research, programmes and publications	5	27,765	5,438,800	5,466,565	4,061,530
Total expenditure		356,625	5,438,800	5,795,425	4,821,911
Net income for the year		200,787	-	200,787	34,063
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income before other recognised gains and losses		200,787	-	200,787	34,063
Foreign exchange gain/ (loss)		43,196	-	43,196	(56,601)
Net movement in funds		243,983	-	243,983	(22,538)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Net movement in funds		243,983	-	243,983	(22,538)
Total funds brought forward		694,756	83,614	778,370	800,908
Total funds carried forward		938,739	83,614	1,022,353	778,370

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 18 to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note	2023 US\$	2022 US\$
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	3,320	7,614
		<u>3,320</u>	<u>7,614</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	13	534,812	570,336
Cash at bank and in hand	21	1,927,986	1,431,160
		<u>2,462,798</u>	<u>2,001,496</u>
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	1,443,765	1,230,740
		<u>1,443,765</u>	<u>1,230,740</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,019,033</u>	<u>770,756</u>
Total net assets		<u>1,022,353</u>	<u>778,370</u>
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	18	83,614	83,614
<i>Unrestricted income funds:</i>			
*Designated funds	18	-	150,000
General funds	18	938,739	544,756
		<u>938,739</u>	<u>544,756</u>
Total charity funds		<u>1,022,353</u>	<u>778,370</u>

Approved by the trustees on^{27/06}/2024 and signed on its behalf by:


.....
Margie Buchanan-Smith
Chair

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

	Note	2023 US\$	2022 US\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash generated from operating activities	20	<u>500,625</u>	<u>333,668</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of fixed assets		<u>(3,799)</u>	<u>(9,823)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(3,799)</u>	<u>(9,823)</u>
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		496,826	323,845
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<u>1,431,160</u>	<u>1,107,315</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	21	<u><u>1,927,986</u></u>	<u><u>1,431,160</u></u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Rift Valley Research Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England & Wales. The registered office address is Lower Street Atelier; 19A Lower Street; Stroud; Gloucestershire; GL5 2HT

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (September 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities (continued)

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with an income generating purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of carrying out research, carrying out educational activities including running courses and producing publications undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading
- Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

j) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

j) Allocation of support costs (Continued)

However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Where information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is provided to potential beneficiaries, the costs associated with this publicity are allocated to charitable expenditure.

Where such information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is also provided to potential donors, activity costs are apportioned between fundraising and charitable activities on the basis of area of literature occupied by each activity

- Education and training- 4%
- Research, programmes and publications- 76%
- Fundraising- 8%
- Support costs- 9%
- Governance costs- 4%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity

- Education and training- 10%
- Research, programmes and publications- 65%
- Fundraising- 25%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

k) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

l) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds \$600.00. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

- Non-IT equipment – 4 years
- Computers and other IT equipment – 2 years

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

n) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

o) Pensions

The charity offers a pension scheme requiring a 3% contribution from staff which is then matched with a 6% company contribution.

There are different schemes in different countries of operation and staff are able to opt out if they choose to. For staff based in countries where there is no company providing pensions (currently South Sudan and Somaliland) these funds are held by the charity and will be dispersed to the employee when they leave the charity's employment.

p) Foreign exchange

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into US Dollars at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date.

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the average rate of exchange for the year. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net incoming resources for the year.

q) International operations

The SORP 2015 stipulates that where international offices are legally registered in their country of operations, this is an indication that they should be treated as subsidiaries for accounting purposes.

However, having reviewed the governance and management procedures in place, it is the trustees' belief that the practical operation of the charity's international offices means that they are, in substance, branches and are accounted for accordingly.

2 Miscellaneous Income

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2023 Total US\$	2022 Total US\$
Miscellaneous income	10,531	-	10,531	896
	10,531	-	10,531	896

3 Income from charitable activities

Annual Field Courses	69,249	-	69,249	96,231
Other Training Courses	101,512	-	101,512	8,890
Sub-total for Education and Training	170,762	-	170,762	105,121
Somalia Dialogue Platform-FCDO Phase 3	-	2,113,473	2,113,473	659,962
Somalia Dialogue Platform-SSF	-	1,352,729	1,352,729	-
Peace Research Facility in Ethiopia	-	568,617	568,617	417,002
Women's Research Network	-	407,401	407,401	313,318
X Border	-	253,737	253,737	299,167
OSUN Learning Hubs Phase 1	-	251,872	251,872	202,521
Research Community of Practice: Carnegie	-	188,431	188,431	126,938
OSUN Learning Hubs Phase 2	-	103,286	103,286	-
USAID BHA	-	76,270	76,270	-
Transhumance Study-UNMISS	71,948	-	71,948	-
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	54,886	54,886	34,069
Fragility & Water Security Project in HoA -World Bank)	46,665	-	46,665	-
FAO Seeds PIA	39,731	-	39,731	158,997
WB Risk & Resilience Round Tables	39,272	-	39,272	-
JPA Research –USIP	37,114	-	37,114	101,792
UNCTD Round Tables	33,561	-	33,561	26,216
Just Future- Cordaid	-	31,472	31,472	20,579
Revitalised Conflict Irish (DFA)	-	25,690	25,690	-
YPPI	22,996	-	22,996	-
OSUN-Early Career Reseachers	20,095	-	20,095	15,638
FAO Pastoralism PIA	19,482	-	19,482	180,287
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	10,938	10,938	18,606
WHH Conflict Dynamics	10,190	-	10,190	6,177
Research Ethics Manifesto (Cardiff University)	8,714	-	8,714	-
Elephants Pilot Project	7,336	-	7,336	9,110
Concise History of the Agar Dinka	5,906	-	5,906	30,652
Small Forum Funders	5,049	-	5,049	-

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2023 Total US\$	2022 Total US\$
Somalia Social Impact Assessment-WB	3,498	-	3,498	1,136
Fragility & Water Security in South Sudan	2,806	-	2,806	32,178
SCI Maban Flooding Research	142	-	142	24,100
South Sudan National Archives (UNESCO)	-	-	-	29,868
SSCA KAPOETA	-	-	-	23,160
Understanding Sudan's Diaspora in Egypt	-	-	-	15,143
AHRC Learning Lessons	-	-	-	20,911
Sudan Elections	-	-	-	(3,623)
ICVA PEA in Ethiopia	-	-	-	22,160
NRC Bordelands Study	-	-	-	28,385
Re Imagining International Engagement	-	-	-	4,732
IYEA PEA	-	-	-	5,248
Climate Change & Pastoralism-FES	-	-	-	1,655
GARVE Project	-	-	-	10,475
Somalia Dialogue Platform-FCDO Phase 2	-	-	-	1,752,340
Somalia Dialogue Platform-BUILD	-	-	-	(56)
WB Urbanisation Round Tables	-	-	-	12,860
Kenya Elections: FCDO	-	-	-	140,954
SSHAP	(2,652)	-	(2,652)	
Sub-total for Research, programmes and publications	371,855	5,438,800	5,810,655	4,742,657
Total income from charitable activities	542,616	5,438,800	5,981,416	4,847,778

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2023 Total US\$	2022 Total US\$
Bank Interest	4,264	-	4,264	7,300
	4,264	-	4,264	7,300

5(a) Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities					
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$	2023 US\$
Direct Staff Costs	12,892	51,569	966,911	90,245	167,598	1,289,214
Grants made (note 6)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	-	36,532	655,478	-	-	692,010
Consultants Fees	-	60,350	2,766,602	-	-	2,826,952
Events	-	8,312	314,860	-	-	323,172
Direct publication costs	-	55	44,973	-	-	45,028
Other Direct Costs	-	375	82,628	139,145	-	222,148
Office and Other Staff Costs	-	-	-	-	396,902	396,902
	12,892	157,193	4,831,453	229,390	564,500	5,795,426
Support costs						
Staff Costs	25,784	25,784	206,275	(90,245)	(167,598)	-
Office and Other Staff Costs	39,689	39,690	317,522	-	(396,902)	-
Governance Costs	13,914	13,914	111,315	(139,145)	-	-
Total expenditure 2023	92,279	236,581	5,466,565	-	-	5,795,426

5(b) Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities					
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$	2022 US\$
Direct Staff Costs	372,592	101,616	429,045	79,035	146,779	1,129,066
Direct Programme Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants made (note 6)	-	-	(37,764)	-	-	(37,764)
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	-	36,843	686,363	-	-	723,206
Consultants Fees	-	27,756	2,341,640	-	-	2,369,396
Events	-	2,005	155,242	-	-	157,247
Direct publication costs	-	1,969	50,790	-	-	52,759
Other Direct Costs	-	61	32,212	103,021	-	135,294
Office & Other Staff Costs	-	-	-	-	292,707	292,707
	372,592	170,250	3,657,528	182,056	439,486	4,821,911
Support costs						
Staff Costs	56,454	22,581	146,779	(79,035)	(146,779)	-
Office & Other Staff Costs	73,176	29,271	190,260	-	(292,707)	-
Governance Costs	25,755	10,302	66,962	(103,021)	-	-
Total expenditure 2022	527,977	232,404	4,061,530	-	-	4,821,911

6 Grant making

There were no grants made to other organisations during the year: 2022 (Nil)

7 Net incoming resources for the year	2023	2022
This is stated after charging / crediting:	US\$	US\$
Depreciation	8,093	3,584
Operating lease rentals- property	71,552	74,948
<i>Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):</i>		
Audit - UK	16,675	12,058
Audit - Kenya	6,000	4,000
Foreign exchange gain(loss)	43,196	(56,601)

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

Salaries and wages	1,141,543	983,384
<i>Social security costs</i>		
Social security costs including Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	76,698	83,014
Other forms of employee benefits	70,973	62,669
	1,289,214	1,129,067

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) during the year between:

\$61,000-\$73,999	1	1
\$74,000-\$85,999	5	3

The total employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions and national insurance contributions) of the key management personnel were \$46,654 (2022: \$26,055).

One trustee, Leben Moro was paid remuneration during the year of \$ 388 for his work as a consultant for the charity (2022: -Three Trustees \$4,273). No balances were outstanding at the end of the year.

No Trustees' expenses were paid during the year, (2022: Nil).

9 Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

		2023	2022
		No.	No.
Raising funds	5%	0.2	7.7
Education and training	17%	1.0	2.1
Research, programmes and publications	54%	17.9	8.8
Support	18%	1.7	3.0
Governance	6%	3.1	1.6
		23.9	23.4

10 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2023, other than those disclosed in note 8 of these accounts (2022: none)

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

11 Taxation

The company is exempt from UK corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. RVI is registered as a company in Kenya and therefore is subject to Kenyan corporate tax on the deemed surplus arising on activities in that country.

In these financial statements 2023 resources expended include \$ 51,911 paid to Kenya Revenue Authority as Company Tax (2022: \$ 23,990 in respect of Kenyan tax).

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment US\$	Total US\$
For the year ended 31 December 2023		
Cost or valuation		
At the start of the year	93,700	93,700
Additions in year	3,799	3,799
At the end of the year	97,499	97,499
Depreciation		
At the start of the year	86,086	86,086
Charge for the year	8,093	8,093
At the end of the year	94,179	94,179
Net book value		
At the end of the year	3,320	3,320
Net book value- 2022	7,614	7,614

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

	2023	2022
	US\$	US\$
13 Debtors		
Grant Receivables	299,852	406,712
Other debtors	187,349	115,281
Prepayments	47,611	48,343
	534,812	570,336

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Deferred income (Note 16)	888,607	610,386
Accruals	464,583	535,108
Creditors	90,575	85,246
	1,443,765	1,230,740

15 Deferred income

Deferred income comprises of funds received in 2022, to be spent in future years.

	2023	2022
	US\$	US\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	610,386	575,361
Amount released to income in the year	(610,386)	(575,361)
Amount deferred in the year	888,607	610,386
Balance at the end of the year (Note 15)	888,607	610,386

16 Pension scheme

RVI does not have a company pension scheme. Staff are automatically enrolled in a private pension plan. They may request their own or alternate pension scheme, or opt out of the pension provision altogether.

However, for staff based in countries where there is no company providing pensions (currently South Sudan and Somaliland) these funds are held by the charity and will be dispersed to the employee when they leave the charity's employment.

17(a) Analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted US\$	Designated US\$	Restricted US\$	Total funds US\$
a) For the year ended 31 December 2023				
Tangible fixed assets	3,320	-	-	3,320
Net current assets	935,419	-	83,614	1,019,033
Net assets at the end of the year	938,739	-	83,614	1,022,353
b) For the year ended 31 December 2022				
Tangible fixed assets	7,614	-	-	7,614
Net current assets	537,142	150,000	83,614	770,756
Net assets at the end of the year	544,756	150,000	83,614	778,370

18(a) Current year movements in funds

	At the start of the year US\$	Income & gains US\$	Expenditure & losses US\$	Transfers and gains/(losses) US\$	At the end of the year US\$
Restricted funds:					
Deep State Study	9,752	-	-	-	9,752
Local Response to Covid-19	8,336	-	-	-	8,336
Ethiopia Electoral Landscape PEA	5,189	-	-	-	5,189
AHRC Learning Lessons	4,482	-	-	-	4,482
Listening to Histories	2,887	-	-	-	2,887
Climate Change, Livelihoods and Conflict in South Sudan	1,344	-	-	-	1,344
Sudan Elections	544	-	-	-	544
Women Research Network	-	407,401	(407,401)	-	-
OSUN Learning Hubs (Phase 1)	-	251,872	(251,872)	-	-
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	54,886	(54,886)	-	-
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	10,938	(10,938)	-	-
Ethiopia Peace Research Facility -CR	-	568,617	(568,617)	-	-
Somali Dialogue Platform- FCDO Phase 3	-	2,113,473	(2,113,473)	-	-
Somali Dialogue Platform- SSF	-	1,352,729	(1,352,729)	-	-
OSUN Learning Hubs (Phase 2)	-	103,286	(103,286)	-	-
USAID BHA Support	-	76,270	(76,270)	-	-
Revitalised Conflict in SS- Irish DFA	-	25,690	(25,690)	-	-
Research Community of Practice-carnegie	-	188,431	(188,431)	-	-
Just Future-Cordaid	-	31,472	(31,472)	-	-
X-Border	-	253,737	(253,737)	-	-
Sub-total	32,534	5,438,800	(5,438,800)	-	32,534

Current year movements in funds
18a (continued)

	At the start of the year US\$	Income & gains US\$	Expenditure & losses US\$	Transfers and gains/ (losses) US\$	At the end of the year US\$
Total brought forward	32,534	5,438,800	(5,438,800)	-	32,534
RVI Scholarship fund	26,186	-	-	-	26,186
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	24,893	-	-	-	24,893
Total restricted funds	83,614	5,438,800	(5,438,800)	-	83,614
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Development fund:	150,000	-	-	(150,000)	-
General funds	544,756	600,608	(356,625)	150,000	938,739
Total unrestricted funds	694,756	600,608	(356,625)	-	938,739
Total funds	778,370	6,039,408	(5,795,425)	-	1,022,353

The designated funds as at the end of 2022 were set aside to be re-invested in the institute to support its development. However when preparing the 2024 organisational budget, a decision was made by the Trustees to include the costs of the proposed areas of re investment into the 2024 budget and hence at the end of 2023 the designated funds balance was transferred back into General Unrestricted funds.

18(b) Previous year movements in funds

	At the start of the year US\$	Income & gains US\$	Expenditure & losses US\$	Transfers and gains/ (losses) US\$	At the end of the year US\$
Restricted funds:					
RVI Scholarship fund	26,186	-	-	-	26,186
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	24,893	-	-	-	24,893
Deep State study	9,752	-	-	-	9,752
Local Response to COVID-19	8,336	-	-	-	8,336
Ethiopia electoral Landscape PEA	5,189	-	-	-	5,189
AHRC Learning Lessons	-	20,911	(16,428)	-	4,482
Listening to Histories	-	-	2,887	-	2,887
Climate Change, Livelihoods & Conflict in South Sudan	-	1,655	(311)	-	1,344
Sudan elections	4,236	(3,623)	(69)	-	544
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	34,069	(34,069)	-	-
Somali Dialogue Platform - FCDO Phase 2	-	1,752,343	(1,752,343)	-	-
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	18,606	(18,606)	-	-
OSUN Learning Hubs	-	202,521	(202,521)	-	-
Ethiopia Peace Research Facility-CR	-	417,002	(417,002)	-	-
Somali Dialogue Platform - FCDO Phase 3	-	659,962	(659,962)	-	-
South Sudan national Archives V	-	29,868	(29,868)	-	-
Understanding Sudanese Diaspora Egypt	-	15,143	(15,143)	-	-
Women Research Network	-	313,318	(313,318)	-	-
X-BORDER	-	299,166	(299,166)	-	-
Research Community of Practice-carnegie	-	126,937	(126,937)	-	-
Just Future-Cordaid	-	20,579	(20,579)	-	-
Total restricted funds	78,593	3,908,457	(3,903,436)	-	83,614
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Development Fund	150,000	-	-	(150,000)	-
General funds	572,315	890,915	(918,474)	150,000	694,756
Total unrestricted funds	722,315	890,915	(918,474)	-	694,756
Total funds	800,908	4,799,373	(4,821,910)	-	778,370

19. Purposes of restricted funds

Diaspora in Humanitarianism in Complex Crises- A project funded by the Danish Research Council. It explores how Somali diaspora groups mobilize, channel and deliver humanitarian assistance to Somalia during humanitarian crises

Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion: A project in partnership with the institute of Peace & Conflict Studies and funded by GCRF.

OSUN Hubs Support: Administrative support to OSUN Hubs for connected Learning Initiatives funded by Bard College

Ethiopia Peace Research Facility- A project funded by FCDO through Conciliation Resources aimed at bridging divides through research & dialogue for inclusive & sustainable peace in Ethiopia.

Somali Dialogue Platform - This project aims to support the building of an effective Somali Platform for Political Dialogue and Accommodation in Somalia. It was initially funded by FCDO but is now funded by multiple donors through the Somalia Stability Fund (SSF)

BHA Support: A project in support of BHA and Partners strategic planning ,navigating the social dynamics and aid economy of Somalia funded by USAID

Australian Embassy- A Research Understanding Sudanese Diaspora in Egypt funded by the Australian Embassy

Learning Lessons: A project funded by AHRC on learning lessons from wartime education projects in South Sudan.

Women Research Network- A European Union (EU) funded project to promote local Women's voices in Research and civil society.

History of the Agar Dinka: A project on the concise history of the Agar Dinka in South Sudan funded by Oxford Policy Management

Revitalised Conflict in South Sudan. A research project on revitalised conflict in South Sudan funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland

Sudan's Elections: A project funded by the British Council to inform advocacy and planning for Sudan's elections

Listening to Histories: A GCRF funded project on listening to Histories , recording songs of conflict, displacement and power in South Sudan.

Climate Change, Livelihoods and Conflict workshop funded by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

X -Border- A DFID funded project on Cross Border Conflict Evidence and Policy Trends

Research Community of Practice- A project aimed at supporting African Peace Building Research and the development of Communities of Practice funded by Carnegie Corporation.

Just Future: A Project on improved accessibility, responsiveness and accountability of security and Justice institutions in 6 fragile countries.

Local Response to Covid-19 - A project on community Based Covid-19 Messaging in South Sudan funded by the New Ventures Fund

Deep State Study: A project on understanding the "Deep State' in African Politics, funded by OSIEA

19. Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

The RVI Scholarship Fund - The Scholarship Fund is a voluntary donation fund which has the aim of promoting individual educational development of young researchers and activists from countries in Eastern and Central Africa. This may include funding their attendance on courses provided by the Charity. Income from the sale of RVI publications is also allocated to this fund.

Political Economy Analysis (PEA) - This was a research of Political Economy Analysis in Ethiopia funded by DFID

20 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	US\$	US\$
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	243,983	(22,538)
Depreciation charges	8,093	3,584
Decrease in debtors	35,524	185,318
Increase in creditors	213,025	167,304
Net cash generated from operating activities	500,625	333,668

21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 January 2022	Cash flows	At 31 December 2023
	US\$	US\$	US\$
Cash at bank and in hand	1,431,160	496,826	1,927,986
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,431,160	496,826	1,927,986

22 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

Property

	2023	2022
	US\$	US\$
Less than one year	37,580	58,467
One to five years	-	4,000
	37,580	62,467

23 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2022 Total US\$
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	896	-	896
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Education and training	105,121	-	105,121
Research, programmes and publications	834,199	3,908,457	4,742,657
Investments	7,300	-	7,300
Total income	<u>947,516</u>	<u>3,908,457</u>	<u>4,855,974</u>
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	527,977	-	527,977
<i>Charitable activities</i>			
Education and training	232,404	-	232,404
Research, programmes and publications	158,094	3,903,437	4,061,530
Other	-	-	-
Total expenditure	<u>918,474</u>	<u>3,903,437</u>	<u>4,821,911</u>
Net income	<u>29,042</u>	<u>5,021</u>	<u>34,063</u>
Net income before other recognised gains and losses	29,042	5,021	34,063
Foreign exchange loss	<u>(56,601)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(56,601)</u>
Net movement in funds	(27,559)	5,021	(22,538)
Total funds brought forward	<u>722,315</u>	<u>78,593</u>	<u>800,908</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>694,756</u>	<u>83,614</u>	<u>778,370</u>

24 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10 (GBP).



RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1144010

Accounts

RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2022

COMPANY NUMBER: 4271537 CHARITY NUMBER: 1144010

Registered name: Rift Valley Research Limited

Operating as: Rift Valley Institute

Company Number: 4271537

Charity Number: 1144010

Registered Office and Operational Address:

Burghley Yard
106 Burghley Road
London
NW5 1AL

Trustees: Trustees (who are also directors of Rift Valley Research Limited for the purposes of company law) who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Margie Buchanan Smith (appointed 2 December 2019)

Comfort Ero (appointed 7 March 2018)

Mary Harper (appointed June 2022)

Ali Hersi (appointed 8 January 2018, resigned 11 April 2023)

Hala El Kharib (appointed June 2022)

Christopher Maynard (Acting Chair and Treasurer, appointed 14 February 2017)

Haile Menkarios (appointed September 2022)

Leben Moro (appointed 8 January 2018)

Sharath Srinivasan (appointed 1 September 2023)

Executive Director: Mark Bradbury

Bankers:

I&M Bank (Kenya)

Ecobank (South Sudan)

Auditors:

Sayer Vincent LLP

Chartered accountants and registered auditors

Invicta House
108-114 Golden Lane
London
EC1Y 0TL

Summary

The Rift Valley Institute (RVI) is an independent, not-for-profit, research and educational organisation founded in Sudan in 2001 and working in the Sudans, the Horn of Africa, East Africa and the Great Lakes. Over two decades RVI has built an operational presence in Eastern Africa, with its headquarters, since 2017, in Kenya (Nairobi), where the Executive Director and Heads of Finance and Operations are based, and with offices in South Sudan (Juba), Somaliland (Hargeysa), Ethiopia (Addis Ababa), and the UK (London). The Institute aims to create a better future for the peoples and communities of Eastern and Central Africa by advancing useful knowledge of the region and its diverse communities through collaborative research, education and training, public information and promoting culture and heritage. The Institute bridges development practice and policy, elevating local voices, knowledge and action.

For the peoples and communities of the Horn of Africa, East Africa, the Sudans and the Great Lakes, 2022 was a volatile and turbulent year, with war on-going in Ethiopia and resurgent in Somalia; protracted drought and famine-like conditions in Somalia and floods in South Sudan making the impacts of climate change more apparent; and a steep rise in living costs as a result of global food shortages and prices due to the war in Ukraine and the lasting impacts of Covid-19 pandemic. The combined impact of these crises has left the region once again host to some of the largest, long-term displaced populations in the world. At the same time, there were positive developments. The Covid pandemic was contained, allowing for a resumption of social and economic activity and movement. Peaceful transfers of power occurred in Kenya, Somalia and Somaliland following largely peaceful elections, and African diplomacy facilitated a ceasefire in Ethiopia's war.

RVI has successfully navigated this environment, ending the year with new programmes, a larger budget and more staff. We believe this indicates the continuing relevance and quality of RVI's work in the region.

In 2022, RVI's presence in Ethiopia and Somalia expanded. Drawing on the Institute's strengths in research and convening, this has enhanced our ability to enable citizens of those countries to influence policy and action. The Institute continued to deliver research on South Sudan, Sudan, Somaliland and Somalia through various projects, including with UK government funding the X-Border research programme, the Somali Dialogue Platform, and the Ethiopia Peace Research Facility; with Danish government funding, the Diaspora Humanitarianism project in Somalia; and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) evaluations of emergency programmes in South Sudan.

With Covid restrictions lifted, RVI was able to organise the first residential course for professionals on the Horn of Africa since 2019. Complementing this was a significant increase in our investment in the professional development of early career researchers with 31 students undergoing training through the Research Community of Practice (RCoP), Diaspora Humanitarianism (D-Hum) and South Sudan Women's Research Network (SSWRN) programmes, the latter focused on supporting women researchers. The Institute continued to promote culture and heritage, working with the Hargeysa Cultural Centre in Somaliland and the national archives in South Sudan.

The Institute continued to publish original research, with 26 publications (12 reports, 11 briefing papers, 4 blogs and 3 podcasts) in 2022 on a range of relevant issues in the countries where the Institute works, including on political economy, urbanisation, climate change, and land. We invested in our communications capacity by creating a Communications Officer role to improve public access to RVI's research, courses and public forums through website development, and social media.

In 2022, the Institute staff grew from twenty-three to twenty-seven, (including two part-time positions) 93 percent of whom were based in Africa. Three of the RVI's nine Trustees are from South Sudan and Kenya. RVI also has a body of 130 Fellows, all experts on the countries where RVI works, and many being citizens of those countries.

In 2022, the charity's income rose to US\$4,855,974, an increase of 34% percent on an income of US\$3,621,539 in 2021. The level of general unrestricted reserves as of 31 December 2022 stood at US\$ 694,756, of which US\$ 150,000 has been designated to be re-invested in the Institute to support its development.

Objectives and Achievements in 2022

The Rift Valley Institute was founded in 2001 as a non-profit organisation operating in eastern and central Africa. The Charity was established in the words of the Articles of Association, to, among other aims, “advance the education of the general public, particularly but not exclusively in Eastern and Central Africa”; to “promote research into Eastern and Central Africa and related subjects”; and to “disseminate the useful results of such research throughout the world”. These objectives are for the public benefit, as set out in the Charities Act of 2006.

In 2020, RVI published a four-year *Development Strategy 2020-2023* which set out the following vision, mission, strategic objectives and principles that guide the Institute’s work:

Our Vision

Making local knowledge work for the benefit of the people of Eastern and Central Africa.

Our Mission

The Rift Valley Institute is an independent research and educational organisation with a social mission: to create a better future for the peoples and communities of Eastern and Central Africa by advancing relevant knowledge of the region through collaborative research, education and training, public information and dialogues, and promoting culture and heritage. The Institute bridges development practice and policy, elevating local voices, knowledge and action.

Strategic objectives

RVI seeks to bring change to people of eastern and central Africa through five strategic areas of work:

1. *Advancing Knowledge through Original Research:* We generate and share knowledge of the region and its communities through high quality research undertaken with and by people in the region.
2. *Transferring Knowledge through Education and Training:* We provide high quality education and training on relevant issues within and on the region, to increase understanding, enhance research skills and to inform more effective engagement and policies.
3. *Exchanging Knowledge through Public Information and Dialogue:* We expand, protect and facilitate the right to information, creating neutral convening spaces for inclusive and critical public dialogue on key political, economic and social issues within and on the region.
4. *Promoting and Conserving Knowledge through Cultural Production and Heritage:* We support cultural production and the conservation of historical knowledge and access to it through support to public archives and cultural organisations.
5. *Building an Africa-centred Institute with a Global Reach.* To transition RVI to an African-based transnational Institute that produces research, education and public information on Eastern and Central Africa that can bring people and communities and those who invest in them together to address common problems.

Principles

- Accurate information is an indisputable public good.
- Respect for local knowledge informs equitable development.
- Learning is continuous.
- Research and education encourage the free exchange of knowledge.
- Improved public information and open debate can generate positive social change.
- Integrating research with training and dissemination adds social value.
- Accountability and transparency are key to effective collaboration.

Designed with communities, institutions and individuals from the region, and with donors, RVI's programmes aim to bring local knowledge to bear on political, economic and social developments. They seek to shape aid interventions, expand space for public participation in policy formulation, support local research capacity, preserve communal histories and promote social justice.

The RVI is a signatory of the Budapest Open Access Initiative of 2002 and promotes free public access to useful knowledge. RVI books, reports, maps, newsletters and the contents of its websites are published and disseminated, wherever possible, under a Creative Commons open-access license. Digital versions of RVI publications are available for download free of charge from the Institute's website. Digital archives created and run by the RVI use UNESCO-endorsed open-source software.

2022 Overview

In 2022, Eastern and central Africa, where RVI operates, was deeply affected by some of the same economic, environmental and conflict-related challenges faced by the rest of the world. The Covid-19 pandemic, followed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine (and the strong Western response to it), caused an economic downturn in Europe and the US where RVI's main donors come from. Eastern and central Africa has experienced a significant jump in the cost of living experienced in other parts of the world.

Ukraine's position as a major global supplier of grain to the world, and the disruption of this trade due to the Russian invasion, caused a jump in the cost of food in the region. This has been compounded by another year of drought, and the failure of four consecutive rains, which caused food shortages and near-famine conditions, particularly in the Somali regions. The drought in the Horn of Africa is likely connected to long term climate change which is affecting the African continent disproportionately. The same can be said about the recurring flooding in South Sudan, which displaced thousands of people in 2022, particularly in Jonglei, Upper Nile and Bahr el-Ghazal, and probably caused more human suffering than armed conflicts. The likely acceleration of climate change in years to come means extreme weather will be a regular feature of life in our region of work. In 2022, we began to map out how the Institute can better integrate research on climate change into our programming.

The legacy of the pandemic also runs deep in the economies of the region, particularly the tourism sector, and has changed the way people chose to live and work, affecting some of RVI's programmes more than others, particularly our Forum and courses.

Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and, to a lesser extent, South Sudan, all experienced some form of deadly conflict in 2022. The war between Ethiopia's federal government and the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) became one of the deadliest in the world. Despite the cessation of hostilities, the human suffering in Tigray and surrounding regions remained immense and the cessation of the war in the north sparked political conflict in other regions, particularly Amhara and Oromia. The multi-centred nature of Ethiopia's conflicts, meant that RVI's work in the country via the **Peace Research Facility**, became increasingly relevant and sought-after.

In Somalia, the new government of Hasan Sheikh Mohamud supported a counterinsurgency against the Islamist group, al-Shabaab, in partnership with a coalition of clan militias. In response, Al-Shabaab increased its attacks in Mogadishu and elsewhere. Against this background, the work of the **Somali Dialogue Platform**, which played a prominent role advising on a more consensual way through the elections, is in a good position to support inclusive political dialogue to address outstanding political settlement issues.

In South Sudan, the Revitalised-Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan has been only partially implemented. Elections – originally planned for 2022 – were postponed with little prospect of them being held in 2023 either. Yet, despite the imperfect nature of the current national peace, a lull in South Sudan's conflicts provided a relatively stable environment for RVI's work, which prioritises effective local partnerships in this context.

In 2022, the Sudanese continued to face a lengthy and complicated political transition dominated by the military. The Juba Peace Agreement (JPA), which saw several ex-rebel leaders take roles in national and state administrations, remains unimplemented and violence has re-emerged in Blue Nile state and Darfur. This has made RVI's work on the JPA through the **X-Border** and **USIP Peace Agreements** project timely.

In 2022, progress was made towards achieving several key organisational developments, including recruiting a Research Training Manager and a Head of Organisational Development. Considerable time and resources were also invested in strengthening human resource management, and a remuneration review was initiated.

Major activities and progress of 2020-2023 development strategy

During 2022, the Institute continued to pursue its goals articulated in the 2020-2023 Development Strategy. The main achievements are described below.

Advancing Knowledge Through Original Research

The RVI was founded to undertake research, and the production and exchange of knowledge remains core to all that RVI does. Producing high quality research and publicly available data is an important underpinning of open societies and critical for evidence-based social policy.

In the politically turbulent regions where RVI operates, with long-running complex emergencies, international mediated peace deals and peace operations, there continues to be a strong demand for applied knowledge and studies that can improve understanding and contribute to collective solutions. At the same time, the countries where RVI works have a structural deficit in terms of social science research capacity. Problems of access and insecurity complicate data collection and much of the knowledge produced is hidden in commissioned research that is not made public.

Despite a growing number of research institutes and think-tanks, RVI remains one of the few 'field-based' providers of knowledge about the regions where it operates, generated through a mixture of multi-year research projects, transregional studies, participatory research projects, as well as shorter policy-oriented studies. Our research portfolio is unique with an emphasis on social research, developed from ideas generated by communities or institutions we work with, and being publicly accessible in accordance with the Institute's commitment to the freedom of information and open-access publishing. We also aim to ensure that all research projects include a training component for African researchers to develop their skills.

In 2022, in a post-pandemic world, with the Covid-19-related restrictions of 2020-21 largely lifted, RVI managed multi-year research programmes and short-term studies on a range of themes. These included original studies on political economy and labour and migration in South Sudan and Sudan; urbanisation in Somalia; religion and politics in Somalia; elections in Somalia and Sudan; social media in Somaliland; and desk-based studies on land and conflict in Somalia and climate change in the Horn of Africa.

Longer-term research programmes included studies carried out under the UK government's XCEPT (Cross-Border Conflict Evidence, Policy and Trends) programme (previously known as the X-Border Local Research Network), which RVI has been a part of since 2019; the Somali Dialogue Platform; and the Ethiopia Peace Research Facility. Short-term studies included an analysis of Sudan's 'Juba Peace Agreement' funded by the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and two participatory impact assessments commissioned by the FAO on different aspects of their emergency programmes in South Sudan.

In 2022, we produced two publications in a new format. In Somalia, this included a series of papers by the Platform on governance issues that were the outcome of consultative dialogues with

influential groups in Somalia. These papers have informed Somali government policy on political settlement issues. In Ethiopia, the PRF is producing a monthly Bulletin on conflict and peace trends based on collective analysis by Ethiopian researchers. The analysis kept the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO) informed.

All these studies involve national researchers with mentoring and training an explicit part of most projects. Research findings were disseminated through a range of reports, briefing papers, blogs, in-person or online events and podcasts. Several were published in Arabic and Somali. A more detailed description of RVI research projects in 2022 can be found below.

Research in South Sudan and Sudan

In 2022, the Institute carried out a wide programme of research in South Sudan and further developed its work in Sudan.

In **South Sudan**, RVI carried out two Participatory Impact Assessments of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on emergency seed provision and pastoralism. The research was undertaken by teams of international and South Sudanese researchers. These substantive studies challenge some of FAO's assumptions about their investments in South Sudan and could positively influence approaches to long-term humanitarian assistance in the country. RVI's Juba office also managed research on fragility and water security in South Sudan, commissioned by the World Bank, and continued research on the history of the Agar Dinka.

RVI does not have a physical presence in **Sudan** but carried out three research projects with Sudanese and international researchers. One funded by USIP on Sudan's Juba Peace Agreement (JPA) generated three papers: a political economy of peace agreements in Sudan; an actor mapping paper on the JPA; and a policy paper detailing lessons learned from the peace process. A second study on the Sudan-Ethiopia border region was completed under the XCEPT project, and followed a series of briefing papers considering the fate of the Juba Peace Agreement after the coup in October 2021. A third study on the Sudan elections, funded by the British Council and started in 2021, was completed with an online report launch to foreign diplomats.

Research in Somalia

In 2022, RVI continued to manage the Somali Dialogue Platform, a multi-donor funded project, delivering a range of research and engagement activities with Somali partners and the international community to further a political settlement in Somalia. Much of the Platform's activities in 2022 focussed on Somalia's national elections, which were eventually held in May 2022. Research produced by the Platform in 2022 included:

- Weekly and monthly situational updates.
- Memos and options papers for resolving the electoral crisis.
- Research paper on religion and politics (published in 2022).

- Analysis of state level political settlements in Jubbaland and Hirshabelle Federal Member States.
- Research for a series of 'options papers' on: revitalising the national security architecture; the status of Mogadishu; and the way forward for fiscal federalism.
- Research on the Galmudug and South-west state political settlements.

As part of the **X-Border Local Research Network**, the Institute carried out research on Somalia's checkpoint economy and on cross-border trade corridors in Somalia. Research was completed in 2022, with the reports to be published in 2023.

RVI also completed its work for the World Bank's Somalia Social Assessment, which comprised a study on social mobility, profiles of seven federal member states, and three thematic studies on gender, migration and diaspora, and religion in society.

In Somaliland, RVI continued supporting the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) at the University of Hargeysa to undertake research on 'off-grid' communities in Somaliland. This was part of a global comparative study, which also covers Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, led by the Universities of Sussex (the Lead), and Durham on **Inclusive Urban Infrastructure**.

In Somalia and Somaliland, RVI continued to support a study of **Diaspora-Humanitarianism (D-Hum)**. Led by the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), in partnership with the University of Nairobi, Rako Research Organisation and RVI, the project includes support to three PhD students from Kenya and Somalia. One of the students - Abdirahman Edle - was also engaged in the XCEPT research on checkpoints. RVI organised a training course on archival research in October, led by Nicky Kindersley and Alex Miskin, drawing on work on the South Sudan archives.

Research in Ethiopia

In 2022, RVI established the Ethiopia Peace Research Facility (PRF) funded by the British Embassy in Addis Ababa on an initial 27-month contract. An inception phase ran from January to April 2022, which included a mapping of researchers and research organisations in Ethiopia; a literature review of conflict drivers in Ethiopia since 2014; and a proposal to deliver the Facility.

The project began in April 2022 with the recruitment of Ethiopian staff. During 2022, the PRF published a monthly Bulletin highlighting developments in peace and conflict in the country; undertook two research projects on religious polarisation and political economy of resources in the peripheries; and provided a conflict sensitivity advisory service for the FCDO aid programmes in Ethiopia. During 2022, RVI also applied for registration as an NGO in Ethiopia.

During 2022, RVI also completed its work for the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) on the political economy for Improved Humanitarian Response and Humanitarian Diplomacy in Ethiopia. A workshop was held at the end of March in Nairobi to cocreate recommendations with humanitarian actors. A briefing paper summarising the outcomes of the research was published.

Research in the Great Lakes region

RVI's work on the Great Lakes region has diminished since 2020 due to changes in staffing and funding opportunities. In 2022 RVI published the report, 'All Authorities Have Eaten: A History and Political Economy of Urban Land in Bukavu' as part of the *Just Future* project, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Cordaid.

Transferring Knowledge through Education and Training

Field-based education and training have been one of the Institute's methods for transferring knowledge of the region to different constituencies. Starting in 2004 the RVI has run annual week-long residential 'field courses' on Sudan and South Sudan, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes regions. These graduate-level professional training courses for participants from international NGOs, the UN, the diplomatic community and the private sector on the regions and countries where RVI works are taught by RVI staff, Fellows and associates. Young researchers and activists receive scholarships to attend from RVI's Shading Tree fund or project funds.

In addition, RVI delivers bespoke training courses for individual organisations on different countries and themes. These are co-designed with and tailored to suit the specific interests and requirements of the recipient organisation, and taught by leading experts in their field.

In line with the development strategy, we have committed to increasing our investment in the professional development of early career African researchers through dedicated training programmes. We have also continued to develop our partnerships with universities in the region, including Hargeysa (where RVI's office is located), Puntland State University, the Catholic University in South Sudan, the University of Nairobi and the United States International University in Kenya.

Annual Field Courses

In 2022, after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, RVI organised a residential course on the Horn of Africa, covering Somalia and Somaliland, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Djibouti. There were 24 participants, including 3 PhD students from the research consortium Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises (D-Hum) project. The course was hybrid with most lectures delivered in-person and some online. However, courses on the Kenya elections and on the Sudans were cancelled due to insufficient applications. This has prompted a decision to review our courses and the market for them in 2023.

Bespoke courses

Building on the success of the online 'bespoke' courses developed in 2020 and 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic, [a series of online learning events were organised for the World Bank on Somalia](#). The UK government also enlisted an additional 17 staff to get access to the online content from the Somalia course that RVI ran in 2021. Conversations were inaugurated with several organisations on holding bespoke courses during, including UNITAMS in Sudan, and the Canadian

embassies covering Kenya and the Horn of Africa. Agreements were reached to deliver an online course on Somalia for the World Bank and an in-person course for the US government early 2023.

Training Early Career Researchers

In 2022, RVI continued to develop and expand training opportunities for early career African researchers in line with our development strategy through two main projects.

The **Research Communities of Practice** project (funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York) aims to support the professional development of early career researchers in South Sudan, DRC and the Somali regions of the Horn of Africa. In 2022, a Research Training Manager was appointed to implement the project. Following visits to South Sudan, Somaliland and Ethiopia in March 2022 to meet with members of the research community in these locations and a revision of the proposal, the training programme started in September 2022. The first cohort of participants included eighteen participants from Kakuma refugee camp (6), Somalia (4), Somaliland (2), the DR Congo (3) and South Sudan (3). Nine of the 18 participants are supported by Carnegie corporation of New York, 6 Supported by OSUN and 3 supported by the Platform. Teachers from Kenya, South Sudan and Somaliland provided the training. The training consisted of a week-long residential training course in Kenya and a 24-week online training programme, culminating in a communities of practice workshop in Kenya in February 2023 to present research findings. Supported by mentors, the students learn how to design and undertake a short research project, and apply research methods.

During 2022, RVI started the **South Sudan Women's Research Network** (funded by the European Union), following its launch in December 2021. There are few women researchers in South Sudan which limits the engagement and influence of women in development policy. Through the training of women researchers, the project promotes the engagement of women as independent experts in development and policy dialogue. In 2022, 10 grantees were selected and paired with their mentors and began work on their research projects. In late November and December, RVI and the Ministry of Culture, Museums and National Heritage held a workshop under the project to provide archival training for 18 participants.

In addition to these projects, the Institute continued to support the development of early career researchers in Africa through training, mentorship and providing opportunities for research within existing research projects. For example, in 2022 researchers from South Sudan and Somalia published papers through the XCEPT programme's programme support for local researchers. Under the Diaspora Humanitarianism research project, RVI supports three Somali PhD candidates and a post doc researcher. Altogether in 2022, RVI supported the training of 31 early career African researchers from Somalia, Somaliland, South Sudan and the DRC.

Exchanging Knowledge through Public Information and Dialogue

Access to accurate public information is essential for open and inclusive societies, supports positive, long-term social change and is essential for the success of the Sustainable Development Goals. Supporting the freedom of and access to information is a core aim of RVI. Amplifying the voices of people and communities in Eastern and Central Africa is central to RVI's ambition. RVI supports access to public information and the exchange of knowledge in two main ways: through the *Rift Valley Forum for Research, Policy and Local Knowledge* ('the Forum') and other convening activities; and through the Institute's publications, including digital media.

The **Forum**, established in 2012, is a programme of seminars, lectures and expert meetings that facilitates the exchange of knowledge between academics, practitioners, policy makers and the public on critical regional issues in a safe, neutral environment. Over the years, the majority of Forum events have taken place in Nairobi, with some held in Somalia, South Sudan, the DRC and the UK. Since the pandemic, the Forum is now regularly held online. As the risk of Covid has receded it has been possible to organise more in-person meetings through the Forum, the Somali Dialogue Platform and projects in South Sudan.

RVI's **publications** include digital and printed books and reports, documentary film, radio, podcasts, and social media outputs. RVI has pioneered open access publishing and everything RVI publishes is free to download in digital form. Both analogue and digital publications are disseminated through RVI's website and social media platforms. Publications are produced in English, with translations in French, Somali and Arabic.

RVI Forum

In 2022, RVI organised the following Forums:

- A hybrid forum on the Kenya elections organised with the Life & Peace Institute and The Elephant magazine.
- A forum with Somali researchers on the impact of the drought on three Somali regions in the Horn of Africa.
- Four expert roundtables on different topics for the World Bank in Somalia.
- A series of analytical roundtables throughout the year for the Kenya UN Country Team on political developments in Kenya.

Promoting and Conserving Knowledge through Culture and Heritage

Culture is integral to the generation and transmission of knowledge. The regions where the RVI operates have a rich and diverse political history, a variety of social systems and cultural formations, and a wealth of communal resources. Appreciating this cultural diversity and communal histories and working with cultural institutions, individual artists and activists, is critical for a shared understanding of the historical and contemporary development of these regions, of relations between generations and genders, and the way that local knowledge works. The conservation of knowledge is of critical importance for constructing post-conflict societies and is of practical utility

given the poor retention of knowledge in the aid industry. RVI addresses this through projects that conserve knowledge, such as with the South Sudan National Archives and the RVI's digital Sudan Open Archive, and promote historical and contemporary culture, such as through the Hargeysa Cultural Centre.

South Sudan National Archives

RVI has been supporting the development of the South Sudan National Archives since 2006, both directly and by incorporating it into several of our projects in South Sudan. In November and December 2022, RVI and the Ministry of Culture, Museums and National Heritage held a workshop under the South Sudan Women's Research Network (funded by the EU) to provide training on archives for 18 representatives from state level Ministries of Culture. For many, this was their first exposure to the national archives. The workshop included a session with each participant presenting information on documents that are available in their states so that a plan could be developed for digitising them. Key locations agreed to were: Wau, Aweil and Torit.

Hargeysa Cultural Centre in Somaliland

In 2022, RVI continued to support the Hargeysa Cultural Centre in Somaliland, which the Institute helped to establish in 2014. The Centre has become an important venue for both artistic and cultural production and conservation, including the annual Hargeysa International Book Fair. It is also a critical space for public dialogue on a range of social issues, and for the dissemination of research. RVI's involvement in the centre has been reduced by lack of new funding, but the Centre itself continues to thrive.

Publications, Communications and Outreach

RVI disseminates findings from its research projects in a variety of ways. All RVI publications are open access and freely available via the Institute's website. The website also showcases information about RVI and its different projects.

RVI publications come in several different forms; from lengthy research reports (10-20,000 words), to shorter briefing papers (often targeted at a policy audience); and more accessible blog pieces, which often provide an introduction to a complex topic.

As social media has become an increasingly important medium to draw attention to RVI's outputs, the Institute has committed more time to develop its institutional social media accounts, encouraging individual staff, and trustees, to promote the Institute's work by building up their own following.

Communications, website, and social media

In 2022, RVI appointed an existing staff member to work full-time as a Communications Officer on website, digital communications and knowledge management. This increased the staff resources RVI

is able to deploy to website maintenance and development, video content, improved social media presence, newsletters and courses advertisements.

Publications

With RVI's commitment to make research publicly available, most projects are designed to include public reports, briefings or blogs. Overall, in 2021 RVI published 14 reports, 13 briefings/policy briefs and 5 blogs and several podcasts.

In addition to public outputs, the Institute produces a limited number of briefings for donors and project funders with restricted circulation to facilitate sensitive analysis and discussion. In 2022, this included a regular, monthly bulletin on peace and conflict-related issues in Ethiopia. The Somali Dialogue Platform also delivered regular closed-door briefings for international donors on Somalia.

Partnerships and Collaborations

Much of RVI's work is undertaken in collaboration and partnership with other organizations in the countries where we work. These are significant actors in their countries with their own knowledge and experience to share. Our partnerships strengthen RVI's engagement and support its mission to make local knowledge work. In 2022, these partnerships included: in South Sudan, the Catholic University of South Sudan in Juba and Wau, the National Archives and the Likikiri Collective; in Kenya, the British Institute in Eastern Africa, Nairobi University, the OSUN Hubs for Connected Learning Initiatives, the International Council for Voluntary Agencies, the Elephant magazine; in Somalia, Somali Public Agenda, the Peace and Development Research Centre; in Somaliland, Redsea Cultural Foundation, and the University of Hargeysa's Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies; in Ethiopia, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies.

Organisational Development: Institutional Policies and Processes

In 2022, progress was made on several priorities to support the development of the Institute. Three strategic staff appointments were made in early 2022 to support the growth of the Institute. A Head of Organisational Development was appointed to oversee and strengthen the Institute's workforce management capacity, including recruitment, the remuneration system, office working practices, training, and to strengthen management support to our operations. A Research Training Manager was recruited to lead RVI's strategic goal of investing in African researchers, a key element of RVI's development strategy. A full-time Communications Officer was recruited to strengthen RVI's communications and knowledge management systems.

A remuneration and pay market review was initiated. The system for evaluating and grading job descriptions was reviewed and improved. Systems for onboarding new staff and managing exit processes were improved.

RVI applied for registration in Ethiopia.

Fundraising

RVI enjoys the confidence and financial support from a range of governmental and philanthropic funders who share a commitment to its mission. Despite the uncertain operational environment due to the pandemic and competitive nature of the charitable sector, the Institute's income continues to grow incrementally. RVI aims to maintain a mix of donor funding and in 2022, RVI's income came from twelve different funders. RVI's income in 2022 grew from US\$3,621,539 to US\$4,855,974. Most of this growth has come from long-term programmes giving the institute greater long-term surety. In 2022, our notable funders were from the UK, US and Danish governments for the Somali Dialogue Platform; UK government funding for the Peace Research facility in Ethiopia and the XCEPT project; European Funding for the SSWRN; Carnegie Corporation funding for the Research Community of Practice project; Open Society University Network funding for administrative support in Kenya; FAO funding for evaluations in South Sudan.

The RVI does not employ external fundraisers. Considerable staff time is therefore invested in fundraising. RVI has not received any complaints relating to funding in the past year or previous years.

Offices, Staffing and Board of Trustees

Offices

Since 2017, RVI's office in **Nairobi** has acted as the Institute's headquarters, with the Executive Director and the Finance, Education, Forum and Somalia teams located there. During 2022, staff returned to office work after mostly working from home during the pandemic. Most staff now combine work from home and from the office. RVI's office in **Juba**, South Sudan, is the second largest in terms of number of staff. RVI has continued to maintain a presence in **Hargeysa** with an

office in the University of Hargeysa, and one part-time representative overseeing our work in Somaliland. In 2022, RVI opened a temporary office in **Addis Ababa**, Ethiopia to facilitate registration. In April 2022, RVI downsized its **London** office due to fewer staff now being based in the UK and rented space in the offices of RVI's partner Conciliation Resources. As well as being used by UK-based staff, the office has been available from staff visiting the UK, including British staff usually based in eastern Africa visiting for extended periods.

Board of Trustees

In the reporting period, RVI's Board was expanded to eight trustees: Comfort Ero (Chair until 3 March 2022), Chris Maynard (Acting Chair from 3 March 2022 & Treasurer), Ali Hersi, Leben Moro, and Margaret Buchannan-Smith, Hala El Karib, Mary Harper, and Haile Menkerios.

Plans and objectives for 2023

Programme Delivery: Building on progress made in 2022, our priorities in 2023 will be to continue delivering the funded projects, ensuring the grant agreements with the respective donors and RVI's own programme management policies are fully adhered to. These include: the Somali Dialogue Platform; the South Sudan Women's Research Network; Research Communities of Practice; the Ethiopia Conflict Research Facility; and the X-Border project. Together these projects can provide sustained multi-year funding, providing a secure basis for the Institute to grow and deliver on our strategic goals, including to invest in African research capacity.

Programme development: The Institute will review the Development Strategy and prepare a new strategy to start in 2024; develop our fundraising strategy and our capacity to secure long-term financing; strengthen the processes for project development and decision-making, ensuring quality assurance and reducing risk; strengthen the criteria and selection process for new partnerships and consortia; strengthen RVI's institutional relationship with the Open Society University Network; develop a monitoring and evaluation system to better record the impact of RVI's work; review and strengthen RVI's engagement with RVI Fellows.

We will develop an approach to engage more systematically and strategically on **climate change** and its impact in the countries and communities where we work. If resources allow, we will invest in an additional senior member of staff to support programme development and secure new income sources.

Recruiting and retaining a motivated workforce: We aim to ensure RVI's programmes are well supported by recruiting people with the necessary skills and experience, motivating and retaining staff through professional development, and offering pay rewards consistent with the labour market. To achieve this, RVI, within the limits of financial viability, will adopt the outcomes of the Pay and Remuneration Review commissioned in the last quarter of 2022. Coordinated workforce planning will ensure timely recruitment and placement of staff using both internal and external recruitment, ensuring equal opportunities.

Strengthen policies and procedures: RVI will strengthen its operational capacity to deliver its work through accountable, transparent and compliant policies and procedures for staff recruitment, and the procurement of goods and services, and partnerships. RVI will strengthen security management and safeguarding commitments. We aim to increase administrative efficiency by automating RVI's internal systems for finance, procurement and human resources and the management of our contacts database.

Performance management and professional development: We will strengthen the link between performance management and professional development using regular performance appraisals to address skills gaps through appropriate training and mentoring. We aim to improve training and development opportunities for staff.

Improved human resources management: We will publish RVI's remuneration philosophy; update the RVI staff handbook; standardise RVI's recruitment and pay practices for consultants; ensure all new jobs are reviewed by the Job Evaluation Team (JET) and placed in the staff grading structure before recruitment takes place; strengthen RVI's Duty of Care policies through improved security and safeguarding policies and management; strengthen the on-boarding, induction and separation processes for staff.

Strengthen RVI's geographic footprint: We will finalise RVI's registration process in Ethiopia; and review our office needs in the UK and Kenya to meet organisational growth.

Trustees Report

General

The trustees of Rift Valley Research Limited, operating as the Rift Valley Institute (RVI), who are also directors of the company for the purpose of company law, present their statutory report and audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, with the Articles of Association and with the 'Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities' in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) of 2005.

Governance

Rift Valley Research Limited (hereafter 'the Rift Valley Institute', 'the RVI' or 'the Charity') is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The company was incorporated on 16 August 2001 (company number 4271537) and registered as a charity (charity number 1144010) on 27 September 2011.

The objects, powers and governance structure of the charitable company are set out in its Articles of Association (last updated 30 August 2011). The RVI is governed by a Board of Trustees which meets four times annually. The trustees delegate the day-to-day operation of the Charity and management of its staff to the Executive Director who seeks guidance from trustees when important strategic, financial or governance issues arise.

The recruitment, appointment, and induction of new trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. The trustees are subject to retirement by rotation and may be re-appointed if re-elected. The Board of Trustees has the power to appoint new trustees by ordinary resolution. Trustees are generally drawn from the body of Fellows of the Institute, which is composed of regional specialists and others. (Fellows of the Institute are elected by existing Fellows.) The appointment of trustees is by recommendation from Fellows and the wider community of those sharing the goals of the Institute. Trustees are recruited with the aim of providing the diversity and skills needed to ensure the good governance of the Charity. These skills may include strategic planning, fundraising, financial management, administration, law, media management, and specialist knowledge of eastern and central Africa. The trustees are not remunerated for their work as trustees.

The procedure for inducting and training a new trustee entails a visit, if feasible, to an RVI office to familiarise the person with the Charity's aims, procedures and policies and a meeting between the new trustee and management staff of the Institute. On appointment, trustees receive an induction pack which includes RVI's Articles of Association, the board policy, copies of board books, written policies relevant to the governance and risk management of RVI, and copies of the Charity's most recent publications.

Offices and related parties

The Charity has five offices: its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya; an office in London, in the United Kingdom, in Juba, South Sudan; in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and an office in Hargeysa, Somaliland. The Charity is registered as a company in Kenya and as an NGO in South Sudan, Somalia, Somaliland, and Ethiopia.

RVI has a sister organisation, Rift Valley Institute Inc., in the United States, created to raise and distribute funds and to provide support and coordination to the UK entity, Rift Valley Research Limited. Rift Valley Institute Inc. was incorporated under Section 402 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law in New York State on 30 August 2006 and is registered as a charity with the Charities Bureau, New York State. It has three Board Members: John Ryle, Kenneth Anderson and Kwame Anthony Appiah. The Board Members are not remunerated for their work for Rift Valley Institute Inc. John Ryle was the founder and also a trustee of the Rift Valley Institute (i.e., the UK entity) until 31 December 2016.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees has given consideration to the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. These include operational, financial, and legal risks, risks in matters of governance and risks resulting from external factors. The Charity faces special risks associated with conflict, insecurity, and failures of governance in a number of the countries where it operates. In 2022, the risk register was reviewed at quarterly board meetings and with Africa-based staff. RVI continuously reviews procedures and protocols for managing staff security. A managerial staff member in Nairobi has special responsibility for managing security.

The Board is satisfied that systems or procedures have been established to manage the risks we currently face, including key risks in the following areas:

1. Failure to deliver the 2023 budget

Failure to maintain economies and an overspend on the cost base will jeopardise the financial health of the Institute, as will a failure to meet income projections for 2023. To respond to this risk, the cost base and income projections have been set and agreed following a rigorous budgeting process in December 2022. Stricter project management practices introduced since 2017, holding directors and managers to account for delivering on time and on budget, have improved income and cost recovery and ensured financial control of the cost base. The impact of COVID-19 in the countries where RVI operates and on the UK economy and the further realignment of foreign aid priorities of the UK government would influence the ability of RVI to meet its income projections. Maintaining a focus on diversified fundraising will increase the likelihood of RVI achieving income projections in the year ahead. The situation is closely monitored by trustees.

2. Cost recovery projections not achieved

Not achieving the cost recovery projects would see a decline in organisational reserves with consequential impact on financial health of the Institute. To manage this risk, guidelines on budgeting and overhead recovery are regularly reviewed and overhead recovery rates specified in

contracts with donors. Systems of tracking and oversight of project delivery by Directors, Managers and financial team are also in place. Actions to reduce the cost base may need to be implemented depending on future funding.

3. Introduction of restrictions on NGOs operating in the countries of the region

The introduction of prohibitive administrative and financial burdens on NGOs (e.g., work permits in Kenya, NGO Act in South Sudan and Ethiopia, taxation in Somalia) could have significant operational and financial implications (e.g. payments of taxes, costs of lawyers, restrictions on programme work). To manage this risk, RVI ensures full compliance with Government regulations ahead of time; constant monitoring of political situation, and continuous communications with other organisations working in the countries of the region. More specifically, RVI is continually gathering information from other organisations in Kenya on bureaucratic restrictions and solutions for securing working permits in Kenya, and closely monitoring the enforcement of the NGO Act in South Sudan. Finally, the local recruitment of staff, where possible, avoids the need for work permits.

4. International Financial Compliance

RVI as a registered Charity in the United Kingdom is bound by UK laws related to its activities and transactions. These laws include, but are not limited to, the UK Bribery Act 2010 and sanctions laws ('Compliance Laws'). Non-compliance with Compliance Laws can result in significant administrative, civil and criminal penalties for the Institute, including monetary fines and imprisonment, loss of donors and reputational risks. RVI is committed to conducting its activities consistently with Compliance Laws, and that the affairs of the Institute should be conducted in an honest and ethical manner. In several of the countries where RVI works individuals, organisations and companies may be subject to international financial sanction regimes. RVI has anti-bribery and financial transactions policies in place that are compliant with UK and international and national laws.

5. Safeguarding

RVI has an established equality and diversity policy. The Institute does not discriminate on grounds of gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin or identity, skin colour, nationality, national origin, disability, sexuality, religion or age. The Institute's safeguarding policy is intended to ensure that employees of the Institute, Interns and volunteers and individuals the Institute works with, are protected from any form of discrimination or abuse, including physical, emotional or sexual harm, in the course of RVI's work.

Remuneration

The salaries of Rift Valley Institute staff are periodically benchmarked against those of comparable organisations, including other charities, through market surveys. RVI sets salaries equivalent to the median for such organisations, where this is feasible, and aims to develop consistent practices for staff in all locations while adhering to local legislation.

The Institute has an annual salary increase policy of local country Consumer Price Index plus 1%. This is detailed in the RVI Staff Handbook. Increases are implemented on 1 January of each year, subject to the approval of the budget by the Board. RVI completed a salary review and a review of the existing salary structure in 2019. A new salary structure was adopted in 2019 and some salaries were adjusted

to bring them closer to the median. RVI implemented a cost-of-living increase in 2022 and initiated a remuneration review to be applied in 2023.

Public benefit

The trustees are satisfied that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The description of the Charity's objectives and activities below demonstrates the public benefit arising from the work of the Charity.

Financial Review

In 2022, the charity's income rose to US\$ 4,855,974 an increase of 34 percent on its income of US\$3,621,539 in 2021. The increase is mostly attributable to a faster rate of implementation of projects especially after the Covid-19 crisis had been contained. For instance, income from the Somalia Dialogue Platform's in 2022 alone was US\$ 2,412,000 compared to US\$ 1,103,000 in 2021. In addition, several new projects were secured during the year, with the main ones being a Peace Research Facility Project in Ethiopia, as well as two FAO funded evaluations in South Sudan of emergency interventions.

After a two-year suspension of residential annual courses because of Covid-19, we held a Horn of Africa Course in 2022. However, there was a marked reduction in the financial performance of the bespoke courses in 2022 compared to 2021. Total income from courses in 2022 was US\$ 105,000 compared to US\$ 235,000 in 2021.

Total unrestricted income in 2022 decreased by 26 per cent compared to 2021, mostly because of the reduced number of bespoke courses held in 2022 and also fewer deliverable based projects in 2022. As with previous years, we derive most of our unrestricted income from courses and deliverable based projects.

The distribution of income across the institute's workstreams and locations is tabulated below:

Workstream/Location	2022	2021
Institutional Funding	-	-
Education	2%	7%
Forums	1%	4 %
Horn of Africa	60 %	49%
Sudan	20 %	23%
Great Lakes	-	-
Transregional	9%	14 %
Kenya	8%	3%
Total	100 percent	100 percent

The decrease in income under education as a proportion of the total Institute's income is explained by the reduction in the uptake of Bespoke courses. In 2022, we only had one bespoke course held for FCDO on Somalia. This is unlike 2021, where we held online Bespoke courses for multiple partners such as FCDO on Somalia as well as WFP for courses for Sudan, Somalia and South Sudan. A series of Risk and Resilience Assessment online workshops for World Bank also contributed to the education income in 2021. Furthermore, income from some of these courses in 2021 was boosted by extending access to existing course materials to the same partners at a fee. This was not replicated in 2022. In 2022, however, our income for training increased with full implementation of the SSWRN and the Research Community of Practice project.

Like in 2021, we did not have any substantial income from the Forums portfolio in 2022, thus the continued minimal contribution to the overall income of the Institute.

The increase in the proportion of income from Horn of Africa is mostly attributable to increased income from the Somalia Dialogue Project which also contributed 50% of the Institute's total income in 2022. The Peace Research Facility Project in Ethiopia with an income of US\$ 417,000 was also secured in 2022 further increasing the income contribution from Horn of Africa as a proportion of the Institute's total income.

Whilst there was a slight decrease in the proportion of income derived from projects in South Sudan in 2022, compared to 2021 actual income in 2022 increased slightly. The decrease in the proportion of the total income is explained by the significant increase from the Horn of Africa region. Total income from South Sudan in 2022 stood at US\$ 982,000 up from US\$ 798,000 in 2021 mostly because of securing additional projects such as the two FAO funded evaluations in South Sudan on Seeds and Pastoralism interventions that contributed US\$ 340,000 in 2022 as well as the Juba Peace Agreement Study with an income of US\$ 102,000 funded by USIP. Securing these projects compensated to the loss of income of several other projects that came to an end in South Sudan most notably the EARF funded consultancies and Sudan Elections projects.

We have not had any major project running in the Great Lakes region since 2020 thus the zero income.

The decrease in the Transregional income is largely attributable to timing differences, whereby some of the projects under this category did not progress at the pace that was initially envisaged. For instance, income earned from the CORDAID funded Just Future project in 2022 amounted to US\$ 21,000 compared to US\$ 105,000 that was earned from the project in 2021.

Finally, the slight increase in the proportion of income from projects in Kenya is because of an increase in activities for two projects; the FCDO funded Kenya Elections project and the OSUN Learning Hubs administrative support. Cumulatively, the income derived from this project in 2022 was US\$ 343,000 compared to US\$ 120,000 in 2021.

In 2023, it is anticipated that the charity's total income will increase to about US\$ 6 million out of which US\$ 3.4 million is projected to be derived from the Somalia Dialogue Platform.

In 2022, the Institute's overall expenditure increased by 35 percent, from US\$3,567,804 in 2021 to US\$ 4,821,911. The increase is directly proportional to the increase in income which also grew by a similar proportion.

At the end of 2022, the charity's overall reserves on hand reduced slightly by 3 percent to US\$778,370 compared with US\$ 800,908 in 2021. Unrestricted reserves also decreased by 4 percent from US\$ 722,315 at the end of 2021 to US\$ 694,756 at the end of 2022, but still exceeding our unrestricted reserves upper limit of US\$ 430,000 by US\$ 264,756. The main reason of the slight decrease is because of losses in forex exchange that amounted to around US\$ 57,000. Included in the unrestricted reserves balance at the end of the year is an amount of US\$ 150,000 which relates

to designated funds that were set aside at the end of 2021 to be reinvested in the Institute to support its development. The funds were unutilised in 2022, and are being utilised in 2023.

In 2022, the Institute's largest donors were FCDO (67%), FAO (7%) and the European Union (6%). FCDO continues to be the Institute's largest donor with its proportion of total income increasing from 41% in 2021 to 67% in 2022. This is mostly because of the increase in activities in the Platform as well as securing the Peace Research Facility Project in Ethiopia.

Reserves Policy

The RVI's main source of income is project funding. This is supplemented by fees charged for RVI Field Courses and other training courses and by donor funding for institutional development. The project funding is for both short and long-term projects, with the latter requiring significant on-going financial commitment and investment.

RVI's unrestricted reserves are derived from the net income emanating from a number of sources, including any surplus from charges for training courses, and any surplus on project income after having charged the cost of overheads against the unrestricted element allowed. This net income serves to supplement unrestricted reserves, measured particularly at the end of each financial year.

The Board of Trustees reviews the Reserves Policy annually and considers the known and potential risks to which the charity is exposed and the extent to which RVI is able to mitigate them. The trustees believe that we need to have sufficient unrestricted reserves to allow our charity to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb set-backs and take advantage of change and opportunity. It is intended that RVI's unrestricted reserves are backed by cash.

The use to which all General Unrestricted Reserves are put is at the sole discretion of the trustees. Designated Funds are those funds set aside by the trustees to be used by management for a particular future project or institutional development.

The Board has therefore considered the need to provide within unrestricted reserves, a) a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work, b) a level of funding for unexpected opportunities, and c) cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income. It is therefore intended that the organisation will hold General Unrestricted Reserves in the range US\$390,000 to US\$430,000, this being broadly equivalent to five months operating costs, covering staff salaries, office leases and redundancy payments to cover closure costs. The level of General Unrestricted Reserves as of 31 December 2022 was US\$ 694,756 out of which US\$ 150,000 has been designated.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed financial forecasts for the next 12 months under two different potential scenarios. In each scenario the trustees believe that the charity will have sufficient cash resources to meet liabilities as they fall due. They have therefore concluded that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was re-appointed as the charitable company's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The report of the trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 26 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Christopher Maynard
Acting Chair

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rift Valley Research Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Rift Valley Research Limited's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied

that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the board of trustees, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
- Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.

- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Orchard (Senior statutory auditor)

28 September 2023

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor

Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TL

Rift Valley Research Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2022 Total US\$	2021 Total US\$
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	896	–	896	4,367
Charitable activities					
Education and training	4	105,121	–	105,121	235,298
Research, programmes and publications	4	834,199	3,908,457	4,742,657	3,379,109
Other contributions	4	–	–	–	408
Investments		7,300	–	7,300	2,357
Total income		947,516	3,908,457	4,855,974	3,621,539
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	527,977	–	527,977	319,776
Charitable activities					
Education and training	5	232,404	–	232,404	302,949
Research, programmes and publications	5	158,094	3,903,437	4,061,531	2,945,079
Total expenditure		918,474	3,903,437	4,821,911	3,567,804
Net income for the year		29,042	5,021	34,063	53,735
Transfers between funds		–	–	–	–
Net income before other recognised gains and losses		29,042	5,021	34,063	53,735
Foreign exchange loss		(56,601)	–	(56,601)	(15,431)
Net movement in funds		(27,559)	5,021	(22,538)	38,304
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		722,315	78,593	800,908	762,604
Total funds carried forward		694,756	83,614	778,370	800,908

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 18 to the financial statements.

Rift Valley Research Limited

Balance sheet

Company no. 04271537

As at 31 December 2022

	Note	US\$	2022 US\$	US\$	2021 US\$
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	12		<u>7,614</u>		<u>1,375</u>
			7,614		1,375
Current assets:					
Debtors	13	570,336		755,654	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,431,160</u>		<u>1,107,315</u>	
		2,001,496		1,862,969	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14,15,16	<u>1,230,740</u>		<u>1,063,436</u>	
				#	
Net current assets			<u>770,756</u>		<u>799,533</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	17		<u>778,370</u>		<u>800,908</u>
Total net assets			<u>778,370</u>		<u>800,908</u>
The funds of the charity:	18				
Restricted income funds			83,614		78,593
Unrestricted income funds:					
*Designated funds		150,000		150,000	
General funds		<u>544,756</u>		<u>572,315</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>694,756</u>		<u>722,315</u>
Total charity funds			<u>778,370</u>		<u>800,908</u>

Approved by the trustees on 26 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Christopher Maynard
Trustee

Rift Valley Research Limited

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2022

	Note	2022		2021	
		US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Cash flows from operating activities	19				
Net cash provided by operating activities			333,668		39,679
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of fixed assets		(9,823)		–	
Net cash provided by investing activities		(9,823)			–
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			323,845		39,679
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			1,107,315		1,107,315
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	20		1,431,160		1,146,994

1 Accounting policies**a) Statutory Information**

Rift Valley Research Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England & Wales. The registered office address is Burghley Yard, 106 Burghley Road, London, NW5 1AL.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (September 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) Expenditure and Irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with an income generating purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of carrying out research, carrying out educational activities including running courses and producing publications undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

j) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Where information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is provided to potential beneficiaries, the costs associated with this publicity are allocated to charitable expenditure.

Where such information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is also provided to potential donors, activity costs are apportioned between fundraising and charitable activities on the basis of area of literature occupied by each activity.

• Education and training	4%
• Research, programmes and publications	76%
• Fundraising	8%
• Support costs	9%
• Governance costs	4%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity

• Education and training	10%
• Research, programmes and publications	65%
• Fundraising	25%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

k) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

l) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds \$600.00. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

• Non-IT equipment	4 years
• Computers and other IT equipment	2 years

m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1 Accounting policies (continued)**n) Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

o) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

p) Pensions

The charity offers a pension scheme requiring a 3% contribution from staff which is then matched with a 6% company contribution. There are different schemes in different countries of operation and staff are able to opt out if they choose to. For staff based in countries where there is no company providing pensions (currently South Sudan and Somaliland) these funds are held by the charity and will be dispersed to the employee when they leave the charity's employment.

q) Foreign exchange

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into US Dollars at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the average rate of exchange for the year. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net incoming resources for the year.

r) International operations

The SORP 2015 stipulates that where international offices are legally registered in their country of operations, this is an indication that they should be treated as subsidiaries for accounting purposes. However, having reviewed the governance and management procedures in place, it is the trustees' belief that the practical operation of the charity's international offices means that they are, in substance, branches and are accounted for accordingly.

2 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2021 Total US\$
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	4,367	-	4,367
Charitable activities			
Education and training	235,298	-	235,298
Research, programmes and publications	950,016	2,429,093	3,379,109
Scholarship fund	-	408	408
Investments	2,357	-	2,357
Total income	1,192,038	2,429,501	3,621,539
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	319,776	-	319,776
Charitable activities			
Education and training	302,949	-	302,949
Research, programmes and publications	510,471	2,434,609	2,945,079
Total expenditure	1,133,196	2,434,609	3,567,804
Net income / expenditure before gains / (losses) on investments	58,842	(5,108)	53,735
Net gains / (losses) on investments	-	-	-
Net income / expenditure	58,842	(5,108)	53,735
Transfers between funds	124,331	(124,331)	-
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	183,173	(129,439)	53,735
Foreign exchange gains/ (losses)	(15,431)	-	(15,431)
Net movement in funds	167,742	(129,439)	38,304
Total funds brought forward	554,573	208,031	762,604
Total funds carried forward	722,315	78,592	800,908

3 Miscellaneous Income

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2022 Total US\$	2021 Total US\$
Unrestricted grants	-	-	-	2,634
Miscellaneous income	896	-	896	1,733
	896	-	896	4,367

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2022 Total US\$	2021 Total US\$
Annual Field Courses	96,231	-	96,231	-
Other Training Courses	8,890	-	8,890	235,298
Sub-total for Education and Training	105,121	-	105,121	235,298

Somalia Research Capacity Building Project				
PEA Study of Urban Networks & Centres in Somalia	-	34,069	34,069	20,889
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	1,752,343	1,752,343	1,103,216
Somalia Dialogue Platform-FCDO Phase 2	-	-	-	41,699
Somalia Social Impact Assessment-WB	1,136	-	1,136	385,901
Somalia Dialogue Platform-BUILD	(56)	-	(56)	15,692
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	18,606	18,606	108,872
OSUN Learning Hubs	-	202,521	202,521	12,186
WB Urbanisation Round Tables	12,860	-	12,860	7,643
ICVA PEA in Ethiopia	22,160	-	22,160	-
Peace Research Facility in Ethiopia	-	417,002	417,002	-
Somalia Dialogue Platform-FCDO Phase 3	-	659,962	659,962	-
OSUN-Early Career Researchers	15,638	-	15,638	-
Kenya Elections: FCDO	140,954	-	140,954	11,480
UNCTD Round Tables	26,216	-	26,216	-
South Sudan National Archives (UNESCO)	-	29,868	29,868	129,601
SSCA KAPOETA	23,160	-	23,160	17,563
Understanding Sudan's Diaspora in Egypt	-	15,143	15,143	11,637
AHRC Learning Lessons	-	20,911	20,911	-
Women's Research Network	-	313,318	313,318	216,973
Sudan Elections	-	(3,623)	(3,623)	36,824
Concise History of the Agar Dinka	30,652	-	30,652	44,179
NRC Bordelands Study	28,385	-	28,385	17,498
Sudans Memory Project	-	-	-	21,975
Listening to Histories	-	-	-	49,597
Re Imagining International Engagement	4,732	-	4,732	266
Elephants Pilot Project	9,110	-	9,110	20
Fragility & Water Security Project	32,178	-	32,178	-
FAO Seeds PIA	158,997	-	158,997	-
FAO Pastoralism PIA	180,287	-	180,287	-
JPA Research -USIP	101,792	-	101,792	-
IYEA PEA	5,248	-	5,248	-
Transhumance Study-UNMISS	-	-	-	-
Climate Change & Pastoralism-FES	-	1,655	1,655	-
WHH Conflict Dynamics	6,177	-	6,177	-
SCI Maban Flooding Research	24,100	-	24,100	-
GARVE Project	10,475	-	10,475	21,407
X Border	-	299,167	299,167	359,579
Research Community of Practice: Carnegie	-	126,938	126,938	25,048
Just Future- Cordaid	-	20,579	20,579	104,675
SDF Somaliland Land Study	-	-	-	8,000
Ethiopia Electoral Landscape Political Economy Analysis	-	-	-	5,190
Horn of Africa and Gulf Relations	-	-	-	135,713
FCDO Ethiopia PEA Facility TPP	-	-	-	7,988
OCHA Round Tables	-	-	-	6,933
SSF Land Conflict Project	-	-	-	52,878
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project (SSCA) V	-	-	-	85,935
Local Response to Covid -19	-	-	-	21,345
EARF Youth and Livelihoods Project	-	-	-	70,222
Community Approaches & Epidemics Management	-	-	-	64,491
ICRC Mens Perception of Sexual Violence	-	-	-	4,053
Chatham House Round Table	-	-	-	6,105
Deep State Study	-	-	-	9,752
Small Forum Funders	-	-	-	25,061
Samuel Hall Forums	-	-	-	111,022
Sub-total for Research, programmes and publications	834,199	3,908,457	4,742,657	3,379,109

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

4 Income from charitable activities (continued)

Book sales	-	-	-	408
Other contributions to the scholarship fund	-	-	-	-
Sub-total for Scholarship Fund	-	-	-	408
Total income from charitable activities	939,321	3,908,457	4,847,778	3,614,815

In 2021, all income for Education and Training activities was unrestricted and 28% of income from research, programmes and publications activities was unrestricted with the rest being restricted.

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2022 Total US\$	2021 Total US\$
Bank Interest	7,300	-	7,300	2,357
	7,300	-	7,300	2,357

5a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities						
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$	2022 US\$	2021 US\$
Direct Staff Costs	372,592	101,616	429,045	79,035	146,779	1,129,066	899,434
Grants made (note 6)	-	-	(37,764)	-	-	(37,764)	49,576
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	-	36,843	686,363	-	-	723,206	353,836
Consultants Fees	-	27,756	2,341,640	-	-	2,369,396	1,817,773
Events	-	2,005	155,242	-	-	157,246	85,845
Direct publication costs	-	1,969	50,790	-	-	52,759	72,460
Other Direct Costs	-	61	32,212	103,021	-	135,293	88,908
Office & Other Staff Costs	-	-	-	-	292,707	292,707	199,973
	372,592	170,250	3,657,528	182,056	439,486	4,821,911	3,567,804
Support costs							
Staff Costs	56,454	22,581	146,779	(79,035)	(146,779)	-	-
Office & Other Staff Costs	73,176	29,271	190,260	-	(292,707)	-	-
Governance Costs	25,755	10,302	66,962	(103,021)	-	-	-
Total expenditure 2022	527,977	232,404	4,061,530	-	-	4,821,911	3,567,804
Total expenditure 2021	319,776	302,949	2,945,078	-	-	3,567,804	

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 2022

5b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities					
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$	2021 US\$
Direct Staff Costs	206,870	161,898	341,785	62,960	125,921	899,434
Grants made (note 6)	–	–	49,576	–	–	49,576
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	–	4	353,832	–	–	353,836
Consultants Fees	–	90,371	1,727,403	–	–	1,817,773
Events	–	5,513	80,332	–	–	85,845
Direct publication costs	–	–	72,460	–	–	72,460
Other Direct Costs	–	–	26,132	62,776	–	88,908
Office & Other Staff Costs	–	–	–	–	199,973	199,973
	206,870	257,786	2,651,519	125,736	325,894	3,567,804
Support costs	5%	17%	54%	6%	18%	
Staff Costs	47,220	18,888	122,773	(62,960)	(125,921)	–
Office & Other Staff Costs	49,992	19,997	129,983	–	(199,972)	–
Governance Costs	15,694	6,278	40,803	(62,777)	–	–
Total expenditure 2021	319,776	302,949	2,945,078	–	–	3,567,804

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

6 Grant making

There were no grants made to other organisations during the year. Sub Grants made to other organisations in 2021 amounted to USD 49,576.

7 Net Incoming resources for the year

This is stated after charging / crediting:

	2022 US\$	2021 US\$
Depreciation	3,584	1,375
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	74,948	60,303
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit – UK	12,058	11,095
Audit – Kenya	4,000	3,500
Foreign exchange loss	(56,601)	(15,431)
	23,989	60,842

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022 US\$	2021 US\$
Salaries and wages	983,384	802,738
Social security costs including Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	83,014	61,812
Other forms of employee benefits	62,669	34,884
	1,129,066	899,434

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) during the year between:

	2022 US\$	2021 US\$
\$61,000–\$73,999	1	2
\$74,000–\$85,999	3	2

The total employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions and national insurance contributions) of the key management personnel were \$26,055 (2021: \$39,020).

Three trustees, Andy Carl, Mary Harper and Leben Moro were paid remuneration during the year of \$4,273 for their work as consultants for the charity (2021: –Two Trustees \$15,490). No balances were outstanding at the end of the year.

No Trustees' expenses were paid during the year (2021: Nil).

9 Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Raising funds	7.7	4.3
Education and training	2.1	3.4
Research, programmes and publications	8.8	7.1
Support	3.0	2.6
Governance	1.6	1.3
	23.3	18.7

10 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2022, other than those disclosed in note 8 of these accounts (2021: none)

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

11 Taxation

The company is exempt from UK corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. RVI is registered as a company in Kenya and therefore is subject to Kenyan corporate tax on the deemed surplus arising on activities in that country. In these financial statements 2022 resources expended include \$ 23,990 paid to Kenyan Revenue Authority as Company Tax (2021: \$ 13,182 in respect of Kenyan tax).

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment	Total
	US\$	US\$
Cost or valuation		
At the start of the year	83,877	83,877
Additions in year	9,823	9,823
Disposals in year	–	–
At the end of the year	<u>93,700</u>	<u>93,700</u>
Depreciation		
At the start of the year	82,502	82,502
Charge for the year	3,584	3,584
At the end of the year	<u>86,086</u>	<u>86,086</u>
Net book value		
At the end of the year	<u><u>7,614</u></u>	<u><u>7,614</u></u>
At the start of the year	<u><u>2,750</u></u>	<u><u>2,750</u></u>

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

13 Debtors

	2022	2021
	US\$	US\$
Grant Income	406,713	650,572
Other debtors	115,281	69,872
Prepayments	48,343	35,210
	<u>570,336</u>	<u>755,654</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	US\$	US\$
Creditors	85,246	78,615
Accruals	535,108	409,460
Deferred income (Note 15)	610,386	575,361
	<u>1,230,740</u>	<u>1,063,436</u>

15 Deferred income

Deferred income comprises of funds received in 2022, to be spent in future years.

	2022	2021
	US\$	US\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	575,361	575,361
Amount released to income in the year	(575,361)	(575,361)
Amount deferred in the year	610,386	575,361
Balance at the end of the year (Note 14)	<u>610,386</u>	<u>575,361</u>

16 Pension scheme

RVI does not have a company pension scheme. Staff are automatically enrolled in a private pension plan. They may request their own or alternate pension scheme, or opt out of the pension provision altogether. However, for staff based in countries where there is no company providing pensions (currently South Sudan and Somaliland) these funds are held by the charity and will be dispersed to the employee when they leave the charity's employment.

17a Current year analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted \$	Designated \$	Restricted \$	Total funds \$
Tangible fixed assets	7,614	–	–	7,614
Net current assets	537,143	150,000	83,614	770,756
Net assets at the end of the year	<u>544,756</u>	<u>150,000</u>	<u>83,614</u>	<u>778,370</u>

17b Prior year analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted \$	Designated \$	Restricted \$	Total funds \$
Tangible fixed assets	1,375	–	–	1,375
Net current assets	570,940	150,000	78,593	799,533
Net assets at the end of the year	572,315	150,000	78,593	800,908

18a Current year movements in funds

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
Restricted funds:					
Ethiopia Electoral Landscape PEA	5,189	–	–	–	5,189
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	–	34,069	(34,069)	–	–
Somali Dialogue Platform– FCDO Phase 2	–	1,752,343	(1,752,343)	–	–
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	–	18,606	(18,606)	–	–
OSUN Learning Hubs	–	202,521	(202,521)	–	–
Ethiopia Peace Research Facility –CR	–	417,002	(417,002)	–	–
Somali Dialogue Platform– FCDO Phase 3	–	659,962	(659,962)	–	–
South Sudan National Archives V	–	29,868	(29,868)	–	–
Understanding Sudanese Diaspora in Egypt	–	15,143	(15,143)	–	–
AHRC Learning Lessons	–	20,911	(16,428)	–	4,482
Women Research Network	–	313,318	(313,318)	–	–
Sudan Elections	4,236	(3,623)	(69)	–	544
Listening to Histories	–	–	2,887	–	2,887
Climate Change, Livelihoods and Conflict in South Sudan	–	1,655	(311)	–	1,344
X-Border	–	299,167	(299,167)	–	–
Research Community of Practice–carnegie	–	126,938	(126,938)	–	–
Just Future–Cordaid	–	20,579	(20,579)	–	–
Local Response to Covid–19	8,336	–	–	–	8,336
Deep State Study	9,752	–	–	–	9,752
Sub-total	27,513	3,908,457	(3,903,436)	–	32,535
	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
Total brought forward	27,513	3,908,457	(3,903,436)	–	32,535
RVI Scholarship fund	26,186	–	–	–	26,186
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	24,893	–	–	–	24,893
Total restricted funds	78,593	3,908,458	(3,903,436)	–	83,614
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Development fund	150,000	–	–	–	150,000
General funds	572,315	890,915	(918,474)	–	544,756
Total unrestricted funds	722,315	890,915	(918,474)	–	544,756
Total funds	800,908	4,799,373	(4,821,910)	–	778,370

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

18b Previous year movements in funds

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
Restricted funds:					
Ethiopia electoral Landscape PEA	-	5,189	-	-	5,189
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	20,889	(20,889)	-	-
Somali Dialogue Platform – FCDO	-	1,103,216	(1,103,216)	-	-
Somalia Research capacity Building	4,352	-	-	(4,352)	-
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	15,692	(15,692)	-	-
OSUN Learning Hubs	-	108,872	(108,872)	-	-
ICVA PEA in Ethiopia	-	7,643	(7,643)	-	-
Kenya Elections FCDO	-	11,480	(11,480)	-	-
South Sudan national Archives V	-	129,601	(129,601)	-	-
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project (SSCA) V	-	85,935	(85,935)	-	-
SSCA KAPOETA	-	17,563	(17,563)	-	-
Understanding Sudanese Diaspora Egypt	-	11,637	(11,637)	-	-
Local Response to COVID-19	-	21,345	(13,009)	-	8,336
Women Research Network	-	216,973	(216,973)	-	-
Sudan elections	33,029	36,824	(65,617)	-	4,236
Concise History of the Agar Dinka	-	44,179	(44,179)	-	-
Sudan Memory project	-	21,975	(21,975)	-	-
Listening to Histories	-	49,597	(49,597)	-	-
Elephants Pilot projects	-	20	(20)	-	-
Deep State study	-	9,752	-	-	9,752
GARVE	-	21,407	(21,407)	-	-
X-BORDER	-	359,579	(359,579)	-	-
Research Community of Practice–carnegie	-	25,048	(25,048)	-	-
Just Future–Cordaid	-	104,675	(104,675)	-	-
Rift Valley Forum	91,375	-	-	(91,375)	-
Political Settlements Research Programme	1,501	-	-	(1,501)	-
Museum Network –Durham	356	-	-	(356)	-
RVI Scholarship fund	25,778	408	-	-	26,186
PEA Somalia	2,067	-	-	(2,067)	-
UNICEF in Somalia	3,408	-	-	(3,408)	-
Remittances and Vulnerability in Somalia	21,251	-	-	(21,251)	-
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	24,893	-	-	-	24,893
South Sudan National Archives I	21	-	-	(21)	-
Total restricted funds	208,031	2,429,500	(2,434,607)	(124,331)	78,593
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Development fund	-	-	-	-	150,000
Total unrestricted funds	554,573	1,176,607	(1,133,196)	124,331	572,315
Total funds	762,604	3,606,107	(3,567,803)	-	800,908

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Diaspora in Humanitarianism in Complex Crises- A project funded by the Danish Research Council. It explores how Somali diaspora groups mobilize, channel and deliver humanitarian assistance to Somalia during humanitarian crises

Somali Dialogue Platform - Funded by FCDO, this project aims to support the building of an effective Somali Platform for Political Dialogue and Accommodation in Somalia.

Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion: A project in partnership with the institute of Peace & Conflict Studies and funded by GCRF.

OSUN Hubs Support: Administrative support to OSUN Hubs for connected Learning Initiatives funded by Bard College

ICVA PEA in Ethiopia: A Political Economy Analysis for improved Humanitarian Response & Diplomacy funded by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA).

Ethiopia Peace Research Facility- A project funded by FCDO through Conciliation Resources aimed at bridging divides through research & dialogue for inclusive & sustainable peace in Ethiopia.

OSUN Early Career Researchers: Funded by Bard College, the project focuses on supporting displaced persons to carry out research on the impact of higher education learning on their lives and livelihoods in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya.

South Sudan National Archives Project- Funded by UNESCO, this project is dedicated to the conservation and digitisation of the National Archives of South Sudan. A Research Project on the role & potential of customary authorities on the social contract in Kapoeta County, South Sudan, funded by VNG International.

Australian Embassy- A Research Understanding Sudanese Diaspora in Egypt funded by the Australian Embassy

Learning Lessons: A project funded by AHRC on learning lessons from wartime education projects in South Sudan.

Women Research Network- A European Union (EU) funded project to promote local Women's voices in Research and civil society.

History of the Agar Dinka: A project on the concise history of the Agar Dinka in South Sudan funded by Oxford Policy Management

Listening to Histories : A GCRF funded project on listening to Histories , recording songs of conflict, displacement and power in South Sudan.

FAO Seeds Study: A participatory impact assessment of FAO's seed interventions in South Sudan funded by FAO

FAO Seeds Study: A participatory impact assessment of FAO's pastoralism interventions in South Sudan funded by FAO

Climate Change, Livelihoods and Conflict workshop funded by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)

X -Border- A DFID funded project on Cross Border Conflict Evidence and Policy Trends

Research Community of Practice- A project aimed at supporting African Peace Building Research and the development of Communities of Practice funded by Carnegie Corporation.

Just Future: A Project on improved accessibility, responsiveness and accountability of security and Justice institutions in 6 fragile countries.

The RVI Scholarship Fund - The Scholarship Fund is a voluntary donation fund which has the aim of promoting individual educational development of young researchers and activists from countries in Eastern and Central Africa. This may include funding their attendance on courses provided by the Charity. Income from the sale of RVI publications is also allocated to this fund.

The designated funds as at the end of 2022 were set aside at the end of 2021 and had not been utilised by year end. They have been set aside to be re-invested in the Institute to support its development. Investments will be made in: the recruitment of additional core staff in particular a Head of Programmes and a Communications Officer; the re-design and upgrading of the RVI website; and an allocation to the Executive Development fund to be managed by the RVI Executive Director mostly for fundraising and project development.

19 Reconciliation of net Income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 US\$	2021 US\$
Net Income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(22,538)	38,304
Depreciation charges	3,584	1,375
Increase in debtors	185,318	(111,390)
(Increase)/Decrease in creditors	167,304	(181,808)
Net cash provided /(used) by operating activities	333,668	(253,520)

20 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 January 2021 \$	Cash flows \$	Other changes \$	At 31 December 2021 \$
Cash at bank and in hand	1,107,315	323,845	-	1,431,160
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,107,315	323,844	-	1,431,160

21 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Property 2022 US\$	2021 US\$
Less than one year	58,467	51,323
One to five years	4,000	2,200
	62,467	53,523

22 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10 (GBP).

RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1144010

Accounts

RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

COMPANY NUMBER: 4271537 CHARITY NUMBER: 1144010

Company number	4271537
Charity number	1144010
Operating as	Rift Valley Institute
Registered office and operational address	Burghley Yard 106 Burghley Road London NW5 1AL
Trustees	Trustees (who are also directors of Rift Valley Research Limited for the purposes of company law) who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows: Comfort Ero (appointed January 2016, resigned as chair 3 March 2022) Christopher Maynard (Treasurer, appointed 14 February 2017, acting Chair from 3 March 2022) Ali Hersi (appointed 8 January 2018) Leben Moro (appointed 8 January 2018) Margaret Workman Buchanan-Smith (appointed 2 December 2019) Andrew Carl (appointed 8 January 2018, resigned September 2021) Hala El Karib (appointed 16 June 2022) Mary Harper (appointed 16 June 2022) Haile Menkerios (appointed 8 July 2022)
Principal staff	Mark Bradbury
Bankers	I&M Bank (Kenya)
Auditors	Sayer Vincent LLP Chartered accountants and registered auditors Invicta House 108-114 Golden Lane London EC1Y 0TL

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Summary

The Rift Valley Institute (RVI) is an independent, not-for-profit, research and educational organisation founded in Sudan in 2001 and working in the Sudans, the Horn of Africa, East Africa and the Great Lakes. The Institute aims to create a better future for the peoples and communities of Eastern and Central Africa by advancing useful knowledge of the region and its diverse communities, through collaborative research, education and training, public information and promoting culture and heritage. The Institute bridges development practice and policy, elevating local voices, knowledge and action.

In 2021, the peoples and communities of the Horn of Africa, East Africa, the Sudans and the Great Lakes continued to be affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, with partial lockdowns and social distancing measures continuing in some countries for much of the year. The global economic impact of the pandemic on the economies of countries in the region was apparent in the loss of jobs (particularly in tourism), an increase in food prices, and increasing divergence between the rich and poor in society. Politically, the region was affected by the ongoing civil war in Ethiopia, the military coup in Sudan and the protracted election process in Somalia. The violence accompanying these, coupled with climate induced drought emergencies in the Horn of Africa and East Africa, and floods in South Sudan, has left the region once again host to some of the largest and long-term displaced populations in the world.

2021 was the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Institute in 2001. Over two decades, RVI has built an operational presence in Eastern Africa, with its headquarters, since 2017, in Kenya (Nairobi), where the Executive Director and Head of Finance and Operations are both based, with offices in South Sudan (Juba), Somaliland (Hargeysa) and the UK (London). By the end of 2021, the Institute employed twenty-three staff, including two part-time positions, twenty of whom are based in Africa. Two of the RVI Board's nine trustees, are from South Sudan and Kenya. RVI also has a body of 130 Fellows, experts on the countries where RVI works, and many citizens of those countries.

RVI, like other international organisations, responded to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the temporary closure of offices in Nairobi and London, restrictions on domestic travel and a moratorium on international travel. This led to the suspension of some field-based research, the cancellation of residential field courses and in-person forums and dialogues. Nevertheless, during 2021 RVI was able to continue with many projects and diversify its activities. The Juba office remained open due to particular circumstances in South Sudan which made it impractical to work from home. There, RVI was able to develop new activities, such the evaluation of FAO emergency assistance programmes.

Our educational courses and forums continued online utilising digital conferencing platforms. We delivered online courses for the World Food Programme on the Sudans, for the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) on Somalia, and organised expert roundtables for the World Bank on the Horn of Africa. The Somali Dialogue Platform became RVI's largest single project financially. The Institute continued to deliver research

for the UK-funded East Africa Research Hub, the X-Border programme and the Somalia Stability Fund in South Sudan, Sudan, Somaliland and Somalia. Through our projects in South Sudan, the X-Border programme and the Diaspora Humanitarianism project, RVI continued to train and mentor early career researchers in Africa. In 2020, the Institute continued to promote culture and heritage, working with the Hargeysa Cultural Centre in Somaliland and the national archives in South Sudan.

We maintained a prolific publication output, publishing 12 reports, 11 briefing papers, 4 blogs and 3 podcasts. We also launched a new website to improve access to RVI's research, courses and public forums. RVI's social media presence has grown with over 9,000 followers on twitter.

Institutionally, we marked the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Institute with a series of online forums, and the creation of an anthology of writings reflecting the range of research RVI has been engaged in the region.

In 2021, the charity's income rose to US\$3,621,539 an increase of 53% percent on its income of US\$2,360,772 in 2020. The level of general unrestricted reserves as of 31 December 2021 stood at US\$ 722,315 out of which US\$ 150,000 has been designated to be re-invested in the Institute to support its development. At the end of 2020, the balance in the general unrestricted reserve was US\$ 554,573 of which an amount of US\$ 96,538 was designated to cater for the remaining elements from the Bringing Unity, Integrity and Legitimacy to Democracy (BUILD) funds for the Somalia Dialogue Platform project. The funds were utilised for the intended purpose in 2021.

Objectives and Achievements in 2021

The Rift Valley Institute was founded in 2001 as a non-profit organisation operating in eastern and central Africa. The Charity was established in the words of the Articles of Association, to, among other aims, 'advance the education of the general public, particularly but not exclusively in Eastern and Central Africa'; to 'promote research into Eastern and Central Africa and related subjects'; and to 'disseminate the useful results of such research throughout the world'. These objectives are for the public benefit, as set out in the Charities Act of 2006.

In 2020, the Institute adopted the following mission statement: 'The RVI is a research and educational organisation with a social mission: to create a better future for the peoples and communities of Eastern and Central Africa by advancing relevant knowledge of the region through collaborative research, education and training, public information and dialogues, and promoting culture and heritage.'

In furtherance of these objectives, the Institute undertakes four core activities: field-based research and publication; education and training; it convenes public forums for discussion and exchange of knowledge; and the conservation and digitisation of historic archives and promotion of culture. Its programmes, formulated with communities, institutions and individuals from the region, and with donors, are designed to bring local knowledge to bear on political, economic and social developments. They aim to shape aid interventions, expand space for public participation in policy formulation, support local research capacity, preserve communal histories and promote social justice.

In 2020, RVI published a new four-year *Development Strategy 2020–2023* where the principles that guide the Institute's work are articulated:

- Accurate information is an indisputable public good.
- Respect for local knowledge informs equitable development.
- Learning is continuous.
- Research and education encourage the free exchange of knowledge.
- Improved public information and open debate can generate positive social change.
- Integrating research with training and dissemination adds social value.
- Accountability and transparency are key to effective collaboration.

The RVI is a signatory of the Budapest Open Access Initiative of 2002 and seeks to promote free public access to useful knowledge. RVI books, reports, maps, newsletters and the contents of its websites are published and disseminated, wherever possible, under a Creative Commons open-access license. Digital versions of RVI publications are available for download free of charge from the Institute's website. Digital archives created and run by the RVI use UNESCO-endorsed open-source software.

As stated in the development strategy 2020–2023, RVI seeks to bring change to people of eastern and central Africa through four strategic areas of work: 1) advancing knowledge

through original research; 2) transferring knowledge through education and training; 3) exchanging knowledge through public information and dialogue; 4) promoting and conserving knowledge through culture and heritage. These are elaborated below.

2021 Overview

In 2021, several major political developments shaped the operating environment of countries in the regions where RVI operates. In Ethiopia, the war between the federal government and Tigray regional government, which began in 2020, escalated drawing in other adjacent regions, notably Amhara and Afar, and neighbouring Eritrea on the side of the federal government. It also sparked a small-scale border conflict with Sudan over a disputed agricultural region in their borderlands. Sudan's political transition was abruptly interrupted by a military coup, which removed the civilian government and led to the resumption of street protests, especially in Khartoum. In South Sudan, the peace agreement between the SPLM and SPLM-IO held, preventing a return to widespread conflict although smaller conflicts continued in several parts of the country. In Somalia, the failure to hold elections in January 2021 led to a protracted electoral process in federal member states, tense military stand-offs in Mogadishu, the replacement of the Prime Minister, and an extended timeline that continued into 2022.

In 2021, the work of RVI continued to be affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. To safeguard staff welfare and that of its consultants and partners, and in compliance with national health protocol policies to prevent the spread of COVID-19, international travel was halted, and most staff worked from home for long periods as countries rode successive waves of the pandemic. Staff in Kenya and the UK worked from home in line with government guidelines. In South Sudan where government guidelines did not require offices to close, RVI's Juba office remained open, with hygiene and social distancing measures in place.

While the pandemic continued to impose operational restrictions and create funding uncertainties, the Institute continued to undertake a range of research projects, organised online courses, and convened high-level dialogues and community consultations. In South Sudan, RVI expanded its investment in local researchers with the start of the South Sudan Women's Research Network. Consultations were held with African and non-African scholars and research institutes to design trainings for early career researchers as part of new research communities of practice project. Through the diaspora-humanitarianism project we continued to support the training of Somali PhD candidates. In 2020, we had responded to the pandemic by redesigning the RVI educational courses and Forums as online events and delivered several courses and roundtable seminars for organisations working in the Sudans and the Horn of Africa. Under the Somali Dialogue Platform, the Institute was closely engaged in facilitating dialogues on the elections and other contentious political settlement issues. Geographically, RVI increased its engagements in Sudan and Ethiopia. The Institute also continued a prolific publication schedule.

In 2021, progress was made towards achieving several key organisational developments, including recruiting a Research Training Manager and a Head of Organisational

Development. Considerable time and resources were also invested in strengthening human resource systems with a job evaluation system.

RVI was able to continue working with a range of partner organisations, again in some cases making use of online services. In 2021, key partners in eastern and central Africa included: in South Sudan, the Institute of Applied Research and Community Outreach at the Catholic University of South Sudan in Juba and Wau, the National Archives and the Likikiri Collective; in Kenya, the British Institute in Eastern Africa, Nairobi University, United States International University, the Heinrich Boll Foundation, Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat, the International Council for Voluntary Agencies, the Elephant magazine; in Somalia, Puntland State University, Somali Public Agenda; in Somaliland, Redsea Cultural Foundation, and the University of Hargeysa. Many of the meetings of the Rift Valley Forum also involve collaboration with regionally based organisations.

Major activities and progress on 2020-2023 development strategy

During 2021, the Institute continued to pursue its goals articulated in the 2020–2023 Development Strategy. The main achievements are described below.

Research and publications

The RVI was founded to undertake research, and the production and exchange of knowledge remains core to all that RVI does. Producing high quality research and publicly available data on the region is an important underpinning of open societies and critical for evidence-based social policy.

In the politically turbulent regions where RVI operates, with long-running complex emergencies, international mediated peace deals and peace operations, there continues to be a strong demand for applied knowledge and studies that can improve understanding of the dynamic context. At the same time, the countries where RVI works have a structural deficit in terms of social science research capacity. Higher education institutions lack the resources and personnel to compete with the multiplicity of non-governmental organisations and multilateral institutions where better pay and meritocratic opportunities are available. Problems of access and insecurity complicate data collection and much of the knowledge produced is hidden in commissioned research that is not made public.

Despite a growing number of research institutes and think-tanks, RVI remains one of the few ‘field-based’ providers of knowledge. Over two decades, the Institute has undertaken a mixture of multi-year research projects, transregional studies, large participatory research projects, as well as shorter policy-oriented studies. We aim to ensure that all research projects include a training component for African researchers to develop their skills. Our work is evidence of the advantages of the institute’s long-term presence in and commitment to the region. Our research portfolio remains unique with an emphasis on social research, developed from ideas generated by communities or institutions we work with, and being publicly accessible in accordance with the Institute’s commitment to the

freedom of information and open-access publishing. In 2020, despite the constraints of the pandemic we have continued to carry out and undertake high quality original research.

In 2021, the Institute continued multi-year research programmes and short-term studies on a range of themes, governance, conflict, political economy, livelihoods, land, urbanisation, and gender. Long-term research programmes included the South Sudan Customary Authorities (SSCA) project, the X-Border Local Research Network project and the Somali Dialogue Platform. Original short-term studies included the community management of epidemics in South Sudan, a social assessment in Somalia, religion and politics in Somalia. RVI also produced short research-based policy briefings on Somalia and Sudan and published a study on the influence of the Gulf states and Turkey in the Horn of Africa. These studies, which have involved more Africa researchers, have diversified both the Institute's thematic and geographical knowledge-base. The research findings were disseminated through a range of publications, Forum meetings and podcast. A more detailed description of RVI research projects in 2021 can be found below.

Research in South Sudan and Sudan

In 2021, the Institute carried out a wide programme of research in South Sudan and further developed its work in Sudan through several new projects.

The **South Sudan Customary Authorities (SSCA) project** – funded by the Swiss government – concluded with the publication of a report that marked 20-years since the pivotal Wunlit peace conference in 1999, which brought together South Sudan's Nuer and Dinka communities. This phase of the project also involved bringing some of the participants of the original Wunlit conference together in various locations across South Sudan, culminating in a meeting with South Sudan's president Salva Kiir, and Vice-president, Riek Machar in Juba. A public lecture was also held at the Catholic University of South Sudan to mark the end of the project.

Two research projects that had been largely implemented in 2020 – **'Youth, violence and livelihoods'** and **'Community approaches to epidemic management in South Sudan'** (funded by the UK government) – were completed in 2021 with the publication of two research reports.

Other research implemented in South Sudan in 2021 included: A study for the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) on the cross-border dynamics of refugee communities living between South Sudan and Uganda; a study of the roles of customary authorities in Kapoeta commissioned by VNG International; 'Listening to histories' – a study carried out with Cardiff University to record songs of conflict, displacement and power in South Sudan; and work on the history of the Agar Dinka.

The **Sudan elections project**, which had been delayed by the pandemic, was implemented in 2021. Research was carried out in Sudan, largely through a group of early career Sudanese

researchers, on the history of elections in the country, with a particular focus on the 2010 and 2015 polls. Publication of the final report was delayed due to the coup in Sudan in October 2021.

The coup in Sudan also delayed research under the **X–Border Local Research Network**. This was originally to focus on cross–border dynamics between Sudan and Ethiopia’s Blue Nile and Benishangul–Gumuz state/region (building on the report on gold mining in the border region published in early 2021). However, the Institute successfully secured additional funds to produce a series of ‘rapid response’ briefings on the impact of the coup on the ongoing Juba Peace Process. The first briefing in this series was published in December 2021. Research was also carried out on the Sudanese diaspora in Egypt through a grant from the Australian embassy in Cairo.

Research in Somalia

In 2021, RVI continued to manage the Somali Dialogue Platform delivering a range of activities supporting political agreements on the delayed electoral process. This included both research and analysis, and engagement with Somali politicians and the international community. Research produced by the Platform in 2021 included:

- Weekly and monthly situational updates
- Memos and options papers on options for resolving the election crisis in 2021
- Research paper on religion and politics (to be published in 2022)
- Analysis of the electoral process in South West State
- Analysis on the political settlement in Jubbaland
- Research on the role of 4.5 formula for proportional representation of communities in conflict and representation

As part of the **X–Border Local Research Network**, the Institute carried out research on cross–border economies in the Somali regions of the Horn of Africa, producing and publishing three reports on trade between Somaliland and Puntland; Puntland and Ethiopia’s Somali Region; and Somalia and Ethiopia through the contested city of Galkayo.

RVI also continued several pieces of work with the **World Bank in Somalia**. Drafting continued on a public report derived from the seven–city study for the **Somalia Urbanization Review** (published by The World Bank in 2021). RVI was commissioned to organise and facilitate four thematic roundtable discussions on land, governance and institutions, jobs and infrastructure with Somali and international stakeholders. RVI also produced two of a series of podcasts to further disseminate the findings of the Review.

RVI also completed a **Somalia social assessment** for the World Bank, including a study on social mobility, profiles of 7 Federal Member States, and three thematic studies on gender, migration and the diaspora, and religion in society.

For the Somali Stability Fund, RVI produced a literature review on Land conflict in Somalia, building on our previous research on the subject. Progress was made towards publishing a consolidated public version of RVI's **Somaliland Land Study**.

RVI continued to work with the Danish Institute for International Relations (DIIS), the University of Nairobi and Rako Research in Somaliland on a research programme investigating **Diaspora Humanitarianism in Somalia**. Several briefing papers were published during the year and multi-sited research undertaken on responses by Somalis to Covid-19 and notions of humanitarian crises.

In Somaliland, RVI continued supporting the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) at the University of Hargeysa undertake research on 'off-grid' communities in Somaliland, part of a global comparative study led by the Universities of Sussex Institute of Development Studies (the Lead), Durham. Household surveys and focus group discussions were organised in six settlements. The **Inclusive Urban Infrastructure** project also covers Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Research in Ethiopia

In 2021, RVI was commissioned by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies to carry out a **political economy analysis for Improved Humanitarian Response and Humanitarian Diplomacy in Ethiopia**. The study, which will be completed in 2022, aims to provide a better understanding of the drivers and barriers to improved collective Humanitarian diplomacy – at national and international levels – in contested areas.

RVI also partnered with The Policy Practice, to provide a **Facilitated Political Economy Analysis** on elections and service delivery in Ethiopia for the FCDO. RVI had responsibility for dissemination and uptake of the research produced. A dissemination workshop was held in early 2021. Changing priorities of FCDO due to the outbreak of civil war saw the project restructured and RVI's role reduced.

Research in the Great Lakes region

RVI's work on the Great Lakes region has decreased since 2020 due to changes in staffing and funding opportunities. In 2021, the Institute conducted research on land justice in the DRC as part of the Just Future consortium led by CORDAID (research will also be carried out in South Sudan for this project).

Other research projects

The 'Shadow States' project with the Open Society Foundations – involving research into 5 different African countries where a 'shadow state' could be described as existing – was completed. After a legal review of the reports, RVI decided not to publish them and, instead, gave permission for the lead researcher – Professor Nic Cheeseman – to do so via his own web-based project, *Democracy in Africa*.

The project, *Key Influences in the Horn of Africa from the Middle East, Gulf states and Turkey* (funded by the UK government), was also completed in 2021, with the report published in English and Arabic plus dissemination events held (virtually) for FCDO and the general public.

The GARVE project on gender and violent extremism – a collaboration between United States International University (USIU), Leeds University and RVI – came to an end with a conference held in November 2021.

Transferring Knowledge through Education and Training

Field-based education and training have been one of the Institute's methods for transferring knowledge of the region to different constituencies. Absorbing and analysing the large amount of information generated in and about the countries where RVI operates is a big task for development organisations and governments. Institutional memory is often poor, staff turnover can be rapid, and knowledge is often biased and controlled. Starting in 2004 the RVI has run annual week-long residential field courses on Sudan and South Sudan, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes regions. These graduate-level professional training courses for participants from international NGOs, the UN, the diplomatic community and the private sector on the regions and countries where RVI works are taught by RVI staff, Fellows and associates. They provide a dawn-to-dusk programme of instruction and discussion designed to deepen participants' understanding of each country of eastern and central Africa. For some international organisations and governments, they are a mandatory part of pre-deployment training. Each year young researchers and activists receive scholarships to attend from RVI's Shading Tree fund.

In addition, RVI delivers bespoke training courses on different countries and themes. These are co-designed with and tailored to suit the specific interests and requirements of the recipient organisation. The courses are taught by leading experts in their field.

The Institute has also strategically expanded training opportunities for early career researchers from Africa, most notably through our work with universities in Hargeysa in Somaliland, Garowe in Puntland and Juba in South Sudan, as well as through our research projects.

Bespoke Online Courses

In 2021, once again due to the Covid-19 pandemic RVI did not run the annual residential courses. However, building on work carried out in 2020 to develop an online platform for delivering courses, the Institute successfully held a number of bespoke, online courses for different organisations and missions. These included courses on:

- The Horn of Africa for the Canadian embassies of Sudan and Ethiopia
- Somalia for the UK government (FCDO Somalia staff)

- Two courses for the World Food Programme on the political economy of Sudan and South Sudan

Development of Early Career Researchers

In 2021, RVI continued to develop and expand training opportunities for early career African researchers. This involved the implementation of two projects: Research Communities of Practice (Carnegie Corporation of New York); and the South Sudan Women's Research Network (European Union).

The *Research Communities of Practice* project aims to support early career researchers in South Sudan, DRC and the Somali regions of the Horn of Africa. In 2021, as part of the design phase, RVI held consultations with over fifty researchers and research institutes working in eastern and central Africa. A Research Training Manager was also recruited to manage the project.

In December 2021, RVI launched the **South Sudan Women's Research Network**, a three-year project funded through a grant from the European Union. There are few women researchers in South Sudan which limits the engagement and influence of women in development policy. Through the training of women researchers, the project promotes the engagement of women as independent experts in development and policy dialogue.

In addition to these projects, the Institute continued to support the development of early career researchers in Africa through training, mentorship and providing opportunities for research work within existing research projects. For example, in 2021 several researchers from South Sudan developed papers for the X-Border Local Research Network on topics related to the theme of gender and generation in South Sudan. These papers were being prepared for publication in early 2022. Somali researchers in Somalia also undertook field studies on cross-border trade as part of the X-Border programme.

Under the Diaspora Humanitarian research project, RVI also supports three Somali PhD candidates and a post doc researcher. This included organising an online research methodologies course in early 2021.

Exchanging Knowledge through Public Information and Dialogue

Access to accurate public information is essential for open and inclusive societies and supports positive, long-term social change. It is also important for the success of the Sustainable Development Goals. Knowledge is power and biases in information infrastructure, regulation by governments or manipulation by private and non-state actors can adversely affect access to and use of information. Supporting the freedom of information and access to it is a core aim of RVI. Amplifying the voices of people and communities in Eastern and Central Africa is central to RVI's ambition.

RVI supports access to public information and the exchange of knowledge in two main ways: through the *Rift Valley Forum for Research, Policy and Local Knowledge* (*'the Forum'*) and other convening activities; and through the Institute's publications, including digital media.

The Forum, established in 2012, is a programme of seminars, lectures and expert meetings that facilitates the exchange of knowledge between academics, practitioners, policymakers and the public on critical regional issues in a safe and neutral environment. The majority of Forum events have taken place in Nairobi, with some held in Somalia, South Sudan, the DRC and the UK. Annual lectures in Juba and seminars organised with the South Sudan National Archives are other ways RVI facilitates the exchange of knowledge.

RVI's publications include digital and printed books and reports, documentary film, radio, podcasts, and social media outputs. RVI has pioneered open access publishing and everything RVI publishes is free to download in digital form. Both analogue and digital publications are disseminated through the RVI's website and social media platforms. In all forms of publication, we strive for a high production standard. Publications are produced in English, with translations in French, Somali and Arabic.

RVI Forum

Lockdown and social distancing measures meant that RVI Forums continued to take place online in 2021. During the year 11 Forums were organised. These included the continuation of series from 2020 on elections in East Africa, and the Horn of Africa in collaboration with *The Elephant* magazine and the Heinrich Boll Foundation. The forums which covered Ethiopia and Somalia and Somaliland attracted some 270 participants.

To mark the twentieth anniversary of RVI, three forums were organised on two decades of continuity and change in East and Central Africa, culture and development and on climate change. Over 80 people attended these forums.

Other forums organised during 2021 covered the coup in Sudan, and Horn of Africa and Gulf States relationships, and two book launches on shari'a law in Somalia and peace processes in Sudan. Collectively, 180 people attended these forums.

In partnership with Samuel Hall, RVI managed four 'learning events' for the World Bank and government representatives on regional cooperation on response to forced displacement in the Great Lakes countries, including the DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

RVI also ran a number of facilitated roundtable discussions on different topics, including for the World Bank on the Horn of Africa, for WFP on Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan, and for the Dutch Embassy on South Sudan.

Gender and Violent Extremism

Since 2019, RVI has collaborated with the United States International University (USIU), Leeds University, to manage a Gender and Violent Extremism Network (GARVE), organising several online research seminars. In 2021, RVI organised an online three-day conference, which engaged over 220 participants from around the world researching gender and violent extremism. Podcasts of these meetings can be found online (www.garve-network.org) and on *garve network* on SoundCloud.

Promoting and Conserving Knowledge through Culture and Heritage

Culture is integral to the generation and transmission of knowledge. The regions where the RVI operates have a rich and diverse political history, a variety of social systems and cultural formations, and a wealth of communal resources. Appreciating this cultural diversity and communal histories and working with cultural institutions, individual artists and activists, is critical for a shared understanding of the historical and contemporary development of these regions, of relations between generations and genders, and the way that local knowledge works. The conservation of knowledge is of critical importance for constructing post-conflict societies and is of practical utility given the poor retention of knowledge in the aid industry. RVI addresses this through projects that conserve knowledge, such as with the South Sudan National Archives and the RVI's digital Sudan Open Archive, and promote historical and contemporary culture, such as through the Hargeysa Cultural Centre.

South Sudan National Archives

The work under the National Archives project, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Museums and National Heritage (previously the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports) continued in 2021 with funding from the Norwegian Government, through UNESCO.

Throughout the pandemic, RVI and the Ministry continued working together. The key achievements over the past year have been:

- **Digitization of the archival collection reached 50 per cent in 2021.** This is a significant milestone as the scanning work has been ongoing since 2010. The sustained progress over the past three years has dramatically accelerated the work enabling the 50% mark to be reached. This work has been conducted by a team of graduate interns from the Catholic University of South Sudan, supervised and supported by the National Archives staff and RVI.
- **School outreach has started with schools across Juba.** Although the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the closure of schools in South Sudan, RVI worked in partnership with the Ministry and local partner, UNESCO Club, to use creative approaches to connect school children with the archives. This included radio talk shows, tours of the archives and small exhibitions.
- **Catholic University of South Sudan (CuoSS) study project commenced.** Second and third year students were invited to apply for a study project in the National Archives. Nine students were collected and are being mentored through the project by Loes

Lijnders (CuoSS) with support from Prof Douglas Johnson and Dr Zoe Cormack.
Hargeysa Cultural Centre

In 2021, RVI continued to support the Hargeysa Cultural Centre in Somaliland, which the Institute helped to establish and with whom we have partnered since 2014. The Centre has become an important venue for both artistic and cultural production and conservation, including the annual Hargeysa International Book Fair. It is also a critical space for public dialogue on a range of social issues, and for the dissemination of research. RVI's involvement in the centre was affected both by the pandemic which restricted visits, and lack of new sources of funding.

Publications, Communications and Outreach

RVI disseminates findings from its research projects in a variety of ways. Firstly, all RVI publications are open access and freely available via the Institute's website. The website also showcases information about RVI and the different projects that are being run at any one time.

RVI publications come in several different forms; from lengthy research reports (10–20,000 words), to shorter briefing papers (often targeted at a policy audience); and more accessible blog pieces, which often provide an introduction to a complex topic.

Social media has become an increasingly important medium to draw attention to RVI's outputs. The Institute has therefore committed more time to develop its institutional social media accounts, and to encourage individual staff members, and trustees, to promote the Institute's work by building up their own following.

Website and social media

In 2021, RVI recruited a new part-time staff member to manage its website and social media presence. Web-hosting was also shifted to a new company, *Greenhost*. RVI has continued to grow its social media presence, primarily through regular use of its institutional Twitter account, which now has over 9,000 followers.

Publications

RVI's publications are mostly outputs from research projects, and given RVI's commitment to make research publicly available, most projects are designed to include public reports, briefings or blogs.

Overall, in 2021 RVI published 12 reports, 11 briefings and 4 blogs and 3 podcasts.

In addition to public outputs, the Institute also produces a limited number of briefings for donors and project funders, with restricted circulation which enable sensitive analysis and discussion.

Organisational Development: Institutional Policies and Processes

In 2021, progress was made on several development priorities that support the professionalisation of the Institute:

- RVI advertised and recruited a Head of Organisational Development which increases RVI capacity to manage growth, including a growth in staff numbers and operations.
- A Research Training Manager was recruited who will lead RVI strategic goal of investing in African researchers. RVI published a new four-year *Development Strategy, 2020–2023*. Building on the Institute's achievements to-date, the document refines the Institute's development goals, its vision and mission and guiding principles for the next four years.
- A system for transparently evaluating and grading job descriptions was introduced, which will professionalise RVI's recruitment systems.
- RVI began to explore programme opportunities and potential presence in Ethiopia.
- Contract templates were also reviewed.

Fundraising

RVI felt the immediate economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic due to the cancellation of annual residential courses in 2020. These were further postponed in 2021, partly compensated for by online courses. The economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic led to cuts in some UK funding, after the government reduced its commitment of 0.7 percent of GDP to 0.5 percent. The chief casualty of this was the X-Border programme which experienced a budget cut in 2021, but with a commitment to the overall budget spread over additional years. All other donors honoured their funding commitments. Some projects experienced a slow-down in implementation.

Considerable staff time across the Institute was invested in fundraising in 2021. Notable funding successes included funding from FAO for evaluate emergency seed interventions in South Sudan; a renewed commitment for funding for the Somali Dialogue Platform; two-years of funding from the UK government to establish a research facility in Ethiopia; funding from the UK government for research on elections in Kenya and Sudan; World Bank funding for a Social Assessment in Somalia; and funding from the Somali Stability Fund for study of land and conflict in Somalia; funding from the Open Society University Network for administrative support in Kenya.

Offices, Staffing and Board of Trustees

Nairobi

Since 2017, RVI's office in Nairobi has acted as the Institute's headquarters, with the Executive Director and the Finance, Education, Forum and Somalia teams located there. During 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic meant that the office was closed for large periods of the year with staff members working from home due to social-distancing measures.

Juba

RVI's office in Juba is the second largest in terms of number of staff. The Juba office remained open throughout 2021, taking into account at all times COVID-19 prevention protocols advised by the Government of South Sudan and by other health actors.

Hargeysa

RVI has continued to maintain a presence in Hargeysa with an office in the university of Hargeysa, and one part-time representative overseeing our work in Somaliland.

London

In 2021, RVI's international office in London continued to play a varied role in RVI's work, albeit with a reduced staff presence as staff left or changed location, and were not replaced in the UK. London office staff led on publications and communications, including RVI's website and social media.

Board of Trustees

RVI's Board consisted of nine trustees: Comfort Ero (Chair until 3 March 2022), Chris Maynard (Acting Chair from 3 March 2022 & Treasurer), Ali Hersi, Leben Moro, and Margaret Buchannan-Smith, Hala El Karib, Mary Harper, and Haile Menkerios. Andy Carl stepped down in September 2021.

Plans and objectives for 2022

Our immediate priorities in 2022 will be to secure and deliver five significant projects:

1. The Somali Dialogue Platform
2. South Sudan Women's Research Network
3. Research Communities of Practice
4. Ethiopia Conflict Research Facility
5. X-Border project.

Together these projects can provide sustained multi-year funding, providing a secure basis for the Institute to grow. Importantly, together with the appointment of a Research Training Manager, they will also enable us to deliver on our strategic goals to invest in African research capacity.

Programmatically, we will develop an approach to engage more systematically and strategically on climate change and its impact in the countries where we work.

We will also invest in our publications team by appointing an additional part-time staff member. If resources allow, we will invest in an additional senior member of staff to support programme development.

The appointment of a Head of Organisational Development will support the professionalisation of the Institute by addressing several organisational development priorities. These will include:

- Update the Staff Handbook and human resource policies.
- Review RVI's pay policy.
- Review our approach to staff training and development.
- Strengthen the criteria and selection process for new partnerships and consortia, building on our existing partner assessment template.
- Review and update our security systems.
- Develop our institutional relationship with the Open Society University Network
- Improve our in-house capacity to identify and pursue new development opportunities, including more effective use of our tender alert system.
- Improve our system for decision-making on new projects and programmes.
- Further develop a monitoring and evaluation system to better record the impact of our work.
- Review and improve our data and contacts management systems.
- Review RVI's system of Fellows and ways to increase our engagement with them.
- Review our offices needs in the UK and Kenya to meet organisational growth.

Trustees Report

General

The trustees of Rift Valley Research Limited, operating as the Rift Valley Institute (RVI), who are also directors of the company for the purpose of company law, present their statutory report and audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, with the Articles of Association and with the 'Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities' in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) of 2005.

Governance

Rift Valley Research Limited (hereafter 'the Rift Valley Institute', 'the RVI' or 'the Charity') is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The company was incorporated on 16 August 2001 (company number 4271537) and registered as a charity (charity number 1144010) on 27 September 2011.

The objects, powers and governance structure of the charitable company are set out in its Articles of Association (last updated 30 August 2011). The RVI is governed by a Board of Trustees which meets four times annually. The trustees delegate the day-to-day operation of the Charity and management of its staff to the Executive Director who seeks guidance from trustees when important strategic, financial or governance issues arise.

The recruitment, appointment and induction of new trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. The trustees are subject to retirement by rotation and may be re-appointed if re-elected. The Board of Trustees has the power to appoint new trustees by ordinary resolution. Trustees are generally drawn from the body of Fellows of the Institute, which is composed of regional specialists and others. (Fellows of the Institute are elected by existing Fellows.) The appointment of trustees is by recommendation from Fellows and the wider community of those sharing the goals of the Institute. Trustees are recruited with the aim of providing the diversity and skills needed to ensure the good governance of the Charity. These skills may include strategic planning, fundraising, financial management, administration, law, media management, and specialist knowledge of eastern and central Africa. The trustees are not remunerated for their work as trustees.

The procedure for inducting and training a new trustee entails a visit to the RVI Kenya or UK office in order to familiarise the new trustee with the Charity—with its aims, standard procedures and policies—and a meeting between the new trustee and management staff of the Institute. On appointment, trustees receive the Articles of Association and minutes, documents and board books from previous trustee meetings, with copies of the Charity's most recent publications and written policies relevant to the governance and risk management of RVI.

Offices and related parties

The Charity has four offices: its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya; an office in London, in the United Kingdom; in Juba, South Sudan; and an office in Hargeysa, Somaliland. The Charity is registered as a company in Kenya and as an NGO in South Sudan and Somaliland.

RVI has a sister organisation, Rift Valley Institute Inc., in the United States, created to raise and distribute funds and to provide support and coordination to the UK entity, Rift Valley Research Limited. Rift Valley Institute Inc. was incorporated under Section 402 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law in New York State on 30 August 2006 and is registered as a charity with the Charities Bureau, New York State. It has three Board Members: John Ryle, Kenneth Anderson and Kwame Anthony Appiah. The Board Members are not remunerated for their work for Rift Valley Institute Inc. John Ryle was the founder and also a trustee of the Rift Valley Institute (i.e., the UK entity) until 31 December 2016.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees has given consideration to the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. These include operational, financial, and legal risks, risks in matters of governance and risks resulting from external factors. The Charity faces special risks associated with conflict, insecurity, and failures of governance in a number of the countries where it operates. In 2021, the risk register was reviewed at quarterly board meetings and with Africa-based staff. RVI continuously reviews procedures and protocols for managing staff security. A managerial staff member in Nairobi has special responsibility for managing security.

The Board is satisfied that systems or procedures have been established to manage the risks we currently face, including key risks in the following areas:

1. Failure to deliver the 2022 budget

Failure to maintain economies and an overspend on the cost base will jeopardise the financial health of the Institute, as will a failure to meet income projections for 2022. To respond to this risk, the cost base and income projections have been set and agreed following a rigorous budgeting process in December 2021. Stricter project management practices introduced since 2017, holding directors and managers to account for delivering on time and on budget, have improved income and cost recovery and ensured financial control of the cost base. The impact of COVID-19 in the countries where RVI operates and on the UK economy and the further realignment of foreign aid priorities of the UK government would influence the ability of RVI to meet its income projections. Maintaining a focus on diversified fundraising will increase the likelihood of RVI achieving income projections in the year ahead. The situation is closely monitored by trustees.

2. Cost recovery projections not achieved

Not achieving the cost recovery projects would see a decline in organisational reserves with consequential impact on financial health of the Institute. To manage this risk, guidelines on

budgeting and overhead recovery are regularly reviewed and overhead recovery rates specified in contracts with donors. Systems of tracking and oversight of project delivery by Directors, Managers and financial team are also in place. Actions to reduce the cost base may need to be implemented depending on future funding.

3. Introduction of restrictions on NGOs operating in the countries of the region

The introduction of prohibitive administrative and financial burdens on NGOs (e.g., work permits in Kenya, NGO Act in South Sudan and Ethiopia, taxation in Somalia) could have significant operational and financial implications (e.g. payments of taxes, costs of lawyers, restrictions on programme work). To manage this risk, RVI ensures full compliance with Government regulations ahead of time; constant monitoring of political situation, and continuous communications with other organisations working in the countries of the region. More specifically, RVI is continually gathering information from other organisations in Kenya on bureaucratic restrictions and solutions for securing working permits in Kenya, and closely monitoring the enforcement of the NGO Act in South Sudan. Finally, the local recruitment of staff, where possible, avoids the need for work permits.

4. International Financial Compliance

RVI as a registered Charity in the United Kingdom is bound by UK laws related to its activities and transactions. These laws include, but are not limited to, the UK Bribery Act 2010 and sanctions laws ('Compliance Laws'). Non-compliance with Compliance Laws can result in significant administrative, civil and criminal penalties for the Institute, including monetary fines and imprisonment, loss of donors and reputational risks. RVI is committed to conducting its activities consistently with Compliance Laws, and that the affairs of the Institute should be conducted in an honest and ethical manner. In several of the countries where RVI works individuals, organisations and companies may be subject to international financial sanction regimes. RVI has anti-bribery and financial transactions policies in place that are compliant with UK and international and national laws.

5. Safeguarding

RVI has an established equality and diversity policy. The Institute does not discriminate on grounds of gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin or identity, skin colour, nationality, national origin, disability, sexuality, religion or age. The Institute's safeguarding policy is intended to ensure that employees of the Institute, Interns and volunteers and individuals the Institute works with, are protected from any form of discrimination or abuse, including physical, emotional or sexual harm, in the course of RVI's work.

Remuneration

The salaries of Rift Valley Institute staff are periodically benchmarked against those of comparable organisations, including other charities, through market surveys. RVI sets salaries equivalent to the median for such organisations where this is feasible and aims to develop consistent practices for staff in all locations while adhering to local legislation.

The Institute has an annual salary increase policy of local country Consumer Price Index plus 1%. This is detailed in the RVI Staff Handbook. Increases are implemented on 1 January of each year, subject to the approval of the budget by the Board. RVI completed a salary review and a review of the existing salary structure in 2019. A new salary structure was adopted in 2019 and some salaries were adjusted to bring them closer to the median. RVI plans a salary review in 2022.

Public benefit

The trustees are satisfied that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The description of the Charity's objectives and activities below demonstrates the public benefit arising from the work of the Charity.

Financial review

In 2021, the charity's income rose to US\$3,621,539 an increase of 53 percent on its income of US\$2,360,772 in 2020. This increase is partly attributable to the recovery period after the Covid-19 crisis, when the ability to travel meant that projects were implemented at a faster rate compared to 2020 thus leading to more income earned. In addition, several new projects were secured during the year, including the History of the Agar Dinka in South Sudan, the SSCA Kapoeta Project, the NRC Borderland studies all in South Sudan, as well as the Kenya Elections and OSUN Learning Hubs projects in Kenya.

The RVI annual residential courses remained suspended for the second year running because of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, online bespoke courses that were introduced in 2020 performed well financially in 2021. Total income from these courses was US\$ 235,000 compared to only US\$ 24,000 in 2020.

Total unrestricted income in 2021 increased by 76 per cent compared to 2020. The unrestricted income in 2021 was derived from online bespoke courses as well as several deliverable-based assignments undertaken in 2021.

The distribution of income across the institute's workstreams and locations is tabulated below:

Workstream/Location	2021	2020
Institutional Funding	–	1%
Education	7%	1%
Forums	4%	4%
Horn of Africa	49%	47%
Sudan	23%	22%
Great Lakes	–	–
Transregional	14%	25%
Kenya	3%	–

Total	100 percent	100 percent
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The increase in income for the education work as a proportion of the Institute's total income is explained by the uptake of RVI online bespoke courses in 2021 compared to 2020. The Institute's partners who attended these courses in 2021 include the FCDO in Somalia and the WFP for courses on Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia. Income from some of these courses was boosted by extending by the same partners paying for additional access to the course materials. A series of Risk and Resilience Assessment online workshops commissioned by the World Bank also contributed to the income for the education work.

Whilst the proportion of the total income from both the Horn of Africa and Sudan increased only marginally, the actual income between the two years increased significantly. In 2021, income from projects in the Horn of Africa Region stood at US\$ 1.8M up from US\$ 1 M in 2020. Similarly, project income in the Sudans increased from US\$ 303,000 in 2020 to US\$ 800,000 in 2021. The increase in income for the Horn of Africa is attributed to increased funding for the Somali Dialogue Platform project from US\$ 883,000 in 2020 to US\$1.49M in 2021. The increase in the Sudan's income is due to securing new projects in South Sudan during the year. The EU women's research network project also properly commenced in 2021, further contributing to the Institute's income, with US\$ 217,000 earned in 2021 to compared to only US\$ 5,000 in 2020.

We have not had any major project running in the Great Lakes region since 2020 thus the zero income.

The decrease in the Transregional income is largely attributable to the scaling down of activities on the X-Border project because of Covid-19 and donor instructions. Income from X Border in 2020 was US\$ 579,000 compared to US\$ 360,000 in 2021.

In 2022, it is anticipated that charity's total income will increase to over USD 4 million out of which some US\$ 1.6 million is projected to be derived from the Platform.

In 2021, the Institute's overall expenditure increased by 57 percent, from US\$2,273,345 in 2020 to US\$3,567,804. This increase is directly proportional to the increase in income of 53 per cent.

At the end of 2021, the charity's overall reserves on hand increased by 5 percent to US\$ 800,908 compared with US\$ 762,604 in 2020. Unrestricted reserves increased by 30% percent from US\$ 554,573 at the end of 2020 to US\$ 722,315 at the end of 2021. The main reason of the significant increase in unrestricted reserves is the transfer of US\$ 124,000 previously categorised as restricted reserves to unrestricted reserves. The Institute also posted a net surplus of US\$ 43,000 that has been posted to unrestricted reserves. An amount of US\$ 150,000 from the unrestricted reserves balance at the end of 2021 has been designated to be re-invested in the Institute to support its development. This leaves a balance of US\$ 572,315 that still exceeds our unrestricted reserves target by US\$ 142,315.

In 2021, the Institute's largest donors were FCDO (41%), Creative Associates International (11%), the EARF (7%) and the European Union (6%). The FCDO is the Institute's largest donor even though its proportion of total income decreased from 53% in 2020 to 41% in 2021. The reduction is mostly due to the scaling down of the X-Border activities, while funding from the EU rose supporting the South Sudan Women's Research Network Project.

Reserves Policy

The RVI's main source of income is project funding. This is supplemented by fees charged for RVI Field Courses and other training courses and by donor funding for institutional development. Project funding is for both short and long-term projects, with the latter involving significant on-going financial commitments and investment.

RVI's unrestricted reserves are derived from the net income emanating from a number of sources, including surplus from charges for training courses, and surplus on deliverable-based contracts. This net income serves to supplement unrestricted reserves, measured particularly at the end of each financial year.

The Board of Trustees reviews the Reserves Policy annually and considers the known and potential risks to which the charity is exposed and the extent to which RVI is able to mitigate them. The trustees believe that we need to have sufficient unrestricted reserves to allow our charity to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb setbacks and take advantage of changes and opportunities. It is intended that RVI's unrestricted reserves are backed by cash.

The use to which unrestricted funds are put is at the sole discretion of the trustees. Designated Funds are those funds set aside by the trustees to be used for a particular future project or commitment.

The Board has considered the need to provide within unrestricted reserves a) a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work, b) a level of funding for unexpected opportunities, and c) cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income. It is therefore intended that the organisation will hold General Unrestricted Reserves in the range US\$390,000 to US\$430,000, this being broadly equivalent to five months operating costs, covering staff salaries, office leases and redundancy payments to cover closure costs. The level of General unrestricted reserves as of 31 December 2021 less designated funds was US\$ 572,315.

Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed financial forecasts for the next 12 months under three different potential scenarios. In each scenario the trustees believe that the charity will have sufficient cash resources to meet liabilities as they fall due. They have therefore concluded that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was re-appointed as the charitable company's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The report of the trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to the companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 8 July 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Christopher Maynard

Trustee

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rift Valley Research Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Rift Valley Research Limited's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is

necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the board of trustees, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
- Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.

- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Orchard (Senior statutory auditor)

26 August 2022

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor

Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TL

Rift Valley Research Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2021 Total US\$	2020 Total US\$
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	4,367	–	4,367	15,300
Charitable activities					
Education and training	4	235,298	–	235,298	23,690
Research, programmes and publications	4	950,016	2,429,093	3,379,109	2,320,927
Other contributions	4	–	408	408	438
Investments		2,357	–	2,357	417
Total income		1,192,038	2,429,501	3,621,539	2,360,772
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	319,776	–	319,776	255,526
Charitable activities					
Education and training	5	302,949	–	302,949	154,768
Research, programmes and publications	5	510,471	2,434,609	2,945,079	1,863,051
Total expenditure		1,133,196	2,434,609	3,567,804	2,273,345
Net income for the year		58,842	(5,108)	53,735	87,427
Transfers between funds		124,331	(124,331)	–	–
Net income before other recognised gains and losses		183,173	(129,439)	53,735	87,427
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain		(15,431)	–	(15,431)	28,811
Net movement in funds		167,742	(129,439)	38,304	116,238
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		554,573	208,031	762,604	646,366
Total funds carried forward		722,315	78,593	800,908	762,604

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 18 to the financial statements.

Balance sheet

Company no. 04271537

As at 31 December 2021

	Note	US\$	2021 US\$	US\$	2020 US\$
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	12		<u>1,375</u>		<u>2,750</u>
			1,375		2,750
Current assets:					
Debtors	13	755,654		644,262	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,107,315</u>		<u>1,360,835</u>	
		1,862,969		2,005,097	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14,15,16	<u>1,063,436</u>		<u>1,245,244</u>	
Net current assets			<u>799,533</u>		<u>759,853</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	17		<u>800,908</u>		<u>762,603</u>
Total net assets			<u>800,908</u>		<u>762,604</u>
The funds of the charity:	18				
Restricted income funds			78,593		208,031
Unrestricted income funds:					
*Designated funds		150,000		96,538	
General funds		<u>572,315</u>		<u>458,035</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>722,315</u>		<u>554,573</u>
Total charity funds			<u>800,908</u>		<u>762,604</u>

The designated funds as at the end of 2021 have been set aside to be re-invested in the institute to support its development. Investments will be made in: the recruitment of additional core staff in particular a Head of Programmes and a Communications Officer; the re-design and upgrading of the RVI website; and an allocation to the Executive Development fund to be managed by the RVI Executive Director mostly for fundraising and project development.

The designated funds as at the end of 2020 were set aside to cater for the remaining elements from the Bringing Unity, Integrity and Legitimacy to Democracy (BUILD) funds for the Somalia Dialogue Platform project. The funds were utilised for the intended purpose in 2021.

Approved by the trustees on 8 July 2022 and signed on their behalf by

Christopher Maynard
Trustee

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	2021		2020	
		US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Cash flows from operating activities	19				
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(253,520)		580,388	
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of fixed assets		—		—	
Net cash provided by investing activities		—		—	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(253,520)		580,388	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,360,835		780,447	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	20	1,107,315		1,360,835	

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Rift Valley Research Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England & Wales. The registered office address is Burghley Yard, 106 Burghley Road, London, NW5 1AL.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (September 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with an income generating purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of carrying out research, carrying out educational activities including running courses and producing publications undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

1 Accounting policies (continued)**j) Allocation of support costs**

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Where information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is provided to potential beneficiaries, the costs associated with this publicity are allocated to charitable expenditure.

Where such information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is also provided to potential donors, activity costs are apportioned between fundraising and charitable activities on the basis of area of literature occupied by each activity.

● Education and training	7%
● Research, programmes and publications	74%
● Fundraising	6%
● Support costs	9%
● Governance costs	4%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity

● Education and training	10%
● Research, programmes and publications	65%
● Fundraising	25%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

k) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

l) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds \$600.00. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

● Non-IT equipment	4 years
● Computers and other IT equipment	2 years

m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

n) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

o) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1 Accounting policies (continued)**p) Pensions**

The charity offers a pension scheme requiring a 3% contribution from staff which is then matched with a 6% company contribution. There are different schemes in different countries of operation and staff are able to opt out if they choose to. For staff based in countries where there is no company providing pensions (currently South Sudan and Somaliland) these funds are held by the charity and will be dispersed to the employee when they leave the charity's employment.

q) Foreign exchange

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into US Dollars at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the average rate of exchange for the year. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net incoming resources for the year.

r) International operations

The SORP 2015 stipulates that where international offices are legally registered in their country of operations, this is an indication that they should be treated as subsidiaries for accounting purposes. However, having reviewed the governance and management procedures in place, it is the trustees' belief that the practical operation of the charity's international offices means that they are, in substance, branches and are accounted for accordingly.

2 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2020 Total US\$
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	15,300	–	15,300
Charitable activities			
Education and training	23,690	–	23,690
Research, programmes and publications	639,684	1,681,243	2,320,927
Scholarship fund	–	438	438
Investments	417	–	417
Total income	679,091	1,681,681	2,360,772
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	255,526	–	255,526
Charitable activities			
Education and training	154,767	–	154,767
Research, programmes and publications	211,154	1,651,897	1,863,051
Total expenditure	621,447	1,651,897	2,273,344
Net income / expenditure before gains / (losses) on investments	57,644	29,784	87,428
Net gains / (losses) on investments	–	–	–
Net income / expenditure	57,644	29,784	87,428
Transfers between funds	39,435	(39,435)	–
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	97,079	(9,651)	87,428
Foreign exchange gains/ (losses)	28,811	–	28,811
Net movement in funds	125,890	(9,651)	116,239
Total funds brought forward	428,684	217,682	646,366
Total funds carried forward	554,574	208,031	762,604

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2021 Total US\$	2020 Total US\$
Unrestricted grants	2,634	–	2,634	12,753
Gifts – sale of product income	1,733	–	1,733	2,547
	4,367	–	4,367	15,300

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2021 Total US\$	2020 Total US\$
Annual Field Courses	-	-	-	-
Other Training Courses	235,298	-	235,298	23,690
Sub-total for Education and Training	235,298	-	235,298	23,690
SDF Somaliland Land Study	8,000	-	8,000	14,826
Ethiopia Electoral Landscape Political Economy Analysis	-	5,190	5,190	-
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	20,889	20,889	12,363
Somalia Dialogue Platform-FCDO	-	1,103,216	1,103,216	512,634
Somalia Social Impact Assessment-WB	41,699	-	41,699	108,124
Horn of Africa and Gulf Relations	135,713	-	135,713	24,216
An Effective Somali Platform for Political Dialogue and Accommodation	-	-	-	145,302
Somalia Dialogue Platform-BUILD	385,901	-	385,901	225,000
Culture at the Centre: the Expansion and Consolidation of Hargeysa Cultural Centre II	-	-	-	5,254
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	15,692	15,692	380
FCDO Ethiopia PEA Facility TPP	7,988	-	7,988	724
OCHA Round Tables	6,933	-	6,933	1,868
OSUN Learning Hubs	-	108,872	108,872	-
WB Urbanisation Round Tables	12,186	-	12,186	-
SSF Land Conflict Project	52,878	-	52,878	-
ICVA PEA in Ethiopia	-	7,643	7,643	-
Kenya Elections: FCDO	-	11,480	11,480	-
South Sudan National Archives (UNESCO) V	-	129,601	129,601	9,887
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project (SSCA) V	-	85,935	85,935	106,282
SSCA KAPOETA	-	17,563	17,563	-
Understanding Sudan's Diaspora in Egypt	-	11,637	11,637	-
Local Response to Covid -19	-	21,345	21,345	9,429
EARF Youth and Livelihoods Project	70,222	-	70,222	59,753
Community Approaches & Epidemics Management	64,491	-	64,491	71,668
ICRC Mens Perception of Sexual Violence	4,053	-	4,053	6,150
Women's Research Network	-	216,973	216,973	4,623
Sudan Elections	-	36,824	36,824	34,824
Chatham House Round Table	6,105	-	6,105	-
Concise History of the Agar Dinka	-	44,179	44,179	-
NRC Bordelands Study	17,498	-	17,498	-
Sudans Memory Project	-	21,975	21,975	-
Listening to Histories	-	49,597	49,597	-
Re Imagining International Engagement	266	-	266	-
Elephants Pilot Project	-	20	20	-
Deep State Study	-	9,752	9,752	20,011
Small Forum Funders	25,061	-	25,061	32,870
GARVE Project	-	21,407	21,407	30,187
Samuel Hall Forums	111,022	-	111,022	23,946
X Border	-	359,579	359,579	579,353
Research Community of Practice: Carnegie	-	25,048	25,048	2,467
Just Future- Cordaid	-	104,675	104,675	-
Urban Land Administration in Somalia (ReDSS)	-	-	-	65,467
AHRC Learning Lessons	-	-	-	7,234
VNGi Kelehe Report	-	-	-	2,665
Usalama III - Urban Conflict and Resilience	-	-	-	5,000
Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform	-	-	-	2,652
Australian Embassy - Pilot Research Into Diaspora Projects	-	-	-	16,958
Australian Embassy - Research into Transnational South Sudanese networks in Ethiopia	-	-	-	3,971
South Sudan National Archives (UNESCO) III	-	-	-	64,781
South Sudan National Archives (UNESCO) IV	-	-	-	110,060
Sub-total for Research, programmes and publications	950,016	2,429,093	3,379,109	2,320,927

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

4 Income from charitable activities (continued)

Book sales	-	408	408	438
Other contributions to the scholarship fund	-	-	-	-
Sub-total for Scholarship Fund	-	408	408	438
Total income from charitable activities	1,185,314	2,429,501	3,614,815	2,345,055

In 2021, all income for Education and Training activities was unrestricted and 28% of income from research, programmes and publications activities was unrestricted with the rest being restricted.

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2021 Total US\$	2020 Total US\$
Bank Interest	2,357	-	2,357	417
	2,357	-	2,357	417

5a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities						
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$	2021 US\$	2020 US\$
Direct Staff Costs	206,870	161,898	341,785	62,960	125,921	899,434	727,024
Grants made (note 6)	-	-	49,576	-	-	49,576	23,000
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	-	4	353,832	-	-	353,836	133,977
Consultants Fees	-	90,371	1,727,403	-	-	1,817,773	1,029,276
Events	-	5,513	80,332	-	-	85,845	59,966
Direct publication costs	-	-	72,460	-	-	72,460	47,060
Other Direct Costs	-	-	26,132	62,776	-	88,908	90,520
Office & Other Staff Costs	-	-	-	-	199,973	199,973	162,522
	206,870	257,786	2,651,519	125,736	325,894	3,567,804	2,273,345
Support costs							
Staff Costs	47,220	18,888	122,773	(62,960)	(125,921)	-	-
Office & Other Staff Costs	49,992	19,997	129,983	-	(199,973)	-	-
Governance Costs	15,694	6,278	40,803	(62,776)	-	-	-
Total expenditure 2021	319,776	302,949	2,945,078	-	-	3,567,804	2,273,345
Total expenditure 2020	255,526	154,768	1,863,051	-	-	2,273,345	

5b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities					
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$	2020 US\$
Direct Staff Costs	159,945	109,054	305,350	50,892	101,783	727,024
Grants made (note 6)	–	–	23,000	–	–	23,000
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	–	221	133,756	–	–	133,977
Consultants Fees	–	5,755	1,023,521	–	–	1,029,276
Events	–	1,259	58,707	–	–	59,966
Direct publication costs	–	118	46,942	–	–	47,060
Other Direct Costs	–	127	23,260	67,133	–	90,520
Office & Other Staff Costs	–	–	–	–	162,522	162,522
	159,945	116,534	1,614,536	118,025	264,305	2,273,345
Support costs						
Staff Costs	38,169	15,268	99,239	(50,893)	(101,783)	–
Office & Other Staff Costs	40,629	16,253	105,640	–	(162,522)	–
Governance Costs	16,783	6,713	43,635	(67,133)	–	–
Total expenditure 2020	255,526	154,768	1,863,051	–	–	2,273,345

6 Grant making

Grants were made in accordance with funder agreements. These include sub-grants and support to the Somali Public Agenda and the South Sudan National Archives amounting to \$49,576 (2020: \$23,000).

7 Net incoming resources for the year

This is stated after charging / crediting:

	2021 US\$	2020 US\$
Depreciation	1,375	1,375
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	60,303	52,261
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit – UK	11,095	10,652
Audit – Kenya	3,500	3,352
Foreign exchange (loss)/ gain	(15,431)	28,811
	89,842	96,451

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021 US\$	2020 US\$
Salaries and wages	802,738	665,792
Social security costs including Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	61,812	54,225
Other forms of employee benefits	34,884	7,007
	899,434	727,024

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) during the year between:

	2021 US\$	2020 US\$
\$61,000–\$73,999	2	1
\$74,000–\$85,999	2	1

The total employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions and national insurance contributions) of the key management personnel were \$349,020 (2020: \$154,612).

Two trustees, Andy Carl and Leben Moro were paid remuneration during the year of \$15,490 for their work as consultants for the charity (2020: – One Trustee \$9,525). No balances were outstanding at the end of the year.

No Trustees' expenses were paid during the year (2020: Nil).

9 Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Raising funds	4.3	3.2
Education and training	3.4	2.7
Research, programmes and publications	7.1	6.7
Support	2.6	2.2
Governance	1.3	1.2
	18.7	16.0

10 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2021 (2020: none)

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

11 Taxation

The company is exempt from UK corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. RVI is registered as a company in Kenya and therefore is subject to Kenyan corporate tax on the deemed surplus arising on activities in that country. In these financial statements 2021 resources expended include \$ 13,182 paid to Kenyan Revenue Authority as Company Tax (2020: \$ 8,484 in respect of Kenyan tax).

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment US\$	Total US\$
Cost or valuation		
At the start of the year	83,877	83,877
Additions in year	-	-
Disposals in year	-	-
At the end of the year	83,877	83,877
Depreciation		
At the start of the year	81,127	81,127
Charge for the year	1,375	1,375
At the end of the year	82,502	82,502
Net book value		
At the end of the year	1,375	1,375
At the start of the year	2,750	2,750

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

13 Debtors

	2021 US\$	2020 US\$
Grant Income	650,572	560,944
Other debtors	69,872	57,050
Prepayments	35,210	26,268
	755,654	644,262

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 US\$	2020 US\$
Other creditors	78,615	146,148
Accruals	409,460	177,727
Deferred income (Note 15)	575,361	921,369
	1,063,436	1,245,244

15 Deferred income

Deferred income comprises of funds received in 2019, to be spent in future years.

	2020 US\$	2019 US\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	921,369	272,233
Amount released to income in the year	(921,369)	(272,233)
Amount deferred in the year	575,361	921,369
Balance at the end of the year (Note 14)	575,361	921,369

16 Pension scheme

RVI does not have a company pension scheme. Staff are automatically enrolled in a private pension plan. They may request their own or alternate pension scheme, or opt out of the pension provision altogether. However, for staff based in countries where there is no company providing pensions (currently South Sudan and Somaliland) these funds are held by the charity and will be dispersed to the employee when they leave the charity's employment.

17a Current year analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted \$	Restricted \$	Total funds \$
Tangible fixed assets	1,375	-	1,375
Net current assets	720,940	78,593	799,533
Net assets at the end of the year	722,315	78,593	800,908

17b Prior year analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted \$	Restricted \$	Total funds \$
Tangible fixed assets	2,750	-	2,750
Net current assets	551,823	208,031	759,854
Net assets at the end of the year	554,573	208,031	762,604

18a Current year movements in funds

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
Restricted funds:					
Ethiopia Electoral Landscape PEA	-	5,189	-	-	5,189
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	20,889	(20,889)	-	-
Somali Dialogue Platform- FCDO	-	1,103,216	(1,103,216)	-	-
Somalia Research Capacity Building	4,352	-	-	(4,352)	-
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	15,692	(15,692)	-	-
OSUN Learning Hubs	-	108,872	(108,872)	-	-
ICVA PEA In Ethiopia	-	7,643	(7,643)	-	-
Kenya Elections FCDO	-	11,480	(11,480)	-	-
South Sudan National Archives V	-	129,601	(129,601)	-	-
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project (SSCA) V	-	85,935	(85,935)	-	-
SSCA KAPOEATA	-	17,563	(17,563)	-	-
Understanding Sudanese Diaspora in Egypt	-	11,637	(11,637)	-	-
Local Response to Covid-19	-	21,345	(13,009)	-	8,336
Women Research Network	-	216,973	(216,973)	-	-
Sudan Elections	33,029	36,824	(65,617)	-	4,236
Concise History of the Agar Dinka	-	44,179	(44,179)	-	-
Sudan Memory Project	-	21,975	(21,975)	-	-
Listening to Histories	-	49,597	(49,597)	-	-
Elephants Pilot Project	-	20	(20)	-	-
Deep State Study	-	9,752	-	-	9,752
GARVE	-	21,407	(21,407)	-	-
X-Border	-	359,579	(359,579)	-	-
Research Community of Practice-carnegie	-	25,048	(25,048)	-	-
Just Future-Cordaid	-	104,675	(104,675)	-	-
Rift Valley Forum	91,375	-	-	(91,375)	-
Political Settlements Research Programme	1,501	-	-	(1,501)	-
Museum Network -Durham	356	-	-	(356)	-
Sub-total	130,613	2,429,092	(2,434,608)	(97,584)	27,513

18a Current year movements in funds (continued)

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
Total brought forward	130,613	2,429,092	(2,434,608)	(97,584)	27,513
Local Response to Covid-19	-	-	-	-	-
RVI Scholarship fund	25,778	408	-	-	26,186
PEA Somalia	2,067	-	-	(2,067)	-
UNICEF in Somalia	3,408	-	-	(3,408)	-
Remittances and Vulnerability in Somalia	21,251	-	-	(21,251)	-
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	24,893	-	-	-	24,893
South Sudan National Archives I	21	-	-	(21)	-
Total restricted funds	208,031	2,429,501	(2,434,608)	(124,331)	78,592
Total unrestricted funds	554,573	1,176,607	(1,133,196)	124,331	722,315
Total funds	762,604	3,606,108	(3,567,804)	-	800,908

Transfers between Funds

The transfer of funds from restricted to unrestricted reserves relates to historic balances that have previously been categorised as restricted, but are now being re-categorised as unrestricted. To the best of RVI Management's knowledge, and following a review of the relevant documentation, there are no restrictions by donors on the funds being transferred. The Trustees have therefore concluded that it is appropriate to make the transfers.

18b Previous year movements in funds

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
Restricted funds:					
An effective Somali Platform for Political Dialogue and Accommodation	-	145,302	(148,838)	3,536	-
Somali Dialogue Platform- FCDO	-	512,634	(512,634)	-	-
Somalia Research Capacity Building	4,352	-	-	-	4,352
The Expansion and Consolidation of Hargeysa Cultural Centre II	-	5,254	(5,254)	-	-
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	12,363	(12,363)	-	-
OCHA Round tables	-	1,868	(1,868)	-	-
FCDO Ethiopia PEA Facility	-	724	(724)	-	-
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	380	(380)	-	-
AHRC Learning Lessons: Education History in South Sudan	-	7,234	(7,234)	-	-
South Sudan Customary Authorities III	-	-	-	-	-
Power in the Shadows – understanding the deep state in African politics	-	20,011	(20,011)	-	-
Sudan Elections	-	34,824	(1,795)	-	33,029
Women Research Network	-	4,623	(4,623)	-	-
Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform	-	2,652	(2,652)	-	-
EARF Women in Politics	21,334	-	-	(21,334)	-
Research Community of Practice	-	2,467	(2,467)	-	-
South Sudan National Archives III	-	64,781	(64,781)	-	-
South Sudan National Archives IV	-	110,060	(110,205)	145	-
Rift Valley Forum	91,375	-	-	-	91,375
Political Settlements Research Programme	1,501	-	-	-	1,501
South Sudan National Archives V	-	9,887	(9,887)	-	-
Pilot Research Into Diaspora Projects	-	16,958	(16,958)	-	-
Pilot Research Into Diaspora Projects II	-	-	-	-	-
Australian Embassy-Understanding Sudanese Diaspora in Egypt	-	3,971	(3,971)	-	-
EARF Kenya Elections	21,781	-	-	(21,781)	-
GARVE	-	30,187	(30,187)	-	-
Museum Network –Durham	356	-	-	-	356
Sub-total	140,699	986,180	(956,832)	(39,434)	130,613

18b Prior year movements in funds (continued)

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
Total brought forward	140,699	986,180	(956,832)	(39,434)	130,613
Local Response to Covid-19	-	9,429	(9,429)	-	-
RVI Scholarship fund	25,343	435	-	-	25,778
HMG Ethiopia Phase III	-	-	-	-	-
PEA Somalia	2,067	-	-	-	2,067
X-Border	-	579,353	(579,353)	-	-
UNICEF in Somalia	3,408	-	-	-	3,408
Remittances and Vulnerability in Somalia	21,251	-	-	-	21,251
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	-
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	24,893	-	-	-	24,893
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project (SSCA) V	-	106,282	(106,282)	-	-
South Sudan National Archives I	21	-	-	-	21
Total restricted funds	217,682	1,681,679	(1,651,896)	(39,434)	208,031
General funds	428,684	707,903	(621,448)	39,434	554,573
Total unrestricted funds	428,684	707,903	(621,448)	39,434	554,573
Total funds	646,366	2,389,582	(2,273,344)	-	762,604

Purposes of restricted funds

Restricted funds comprise grants and donations received for specific purposes as follows:

Diaspora in Humanitarianism in Complex Crises- A project funded by the Danish Research Council. It explores how Somali diaspora groups mobilize, channel and deliver humanitarian assistance to Somalia during humanitarian crises

Platform for Political Dialogue Project - Funded by FCDO, this project aims to support the building of an effective Somali Platform for Political Dialogue and Accommodation in Somalia.

Ethiopia PEA Facility- A Political Economy Analysis funded by FCDO through the The Policy Practice Organisation.

Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion: A project in partnership with the institute of Peace & Conflict Studies and funded by GCRF.

OSUN Hubs Support: Administrative support to OSUN Hubs for connected Learning Initiatives funded by Bard College

ICVA PEA in Ethiopia: A Political Economy Analysis for improved Humanitarian Response & Diplomacy funded by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA).

Kenya Elections: A project on Early Warning & Long term monitoring of Kenya's 2022 elections funded by FCDO.

South Sudan National Archives Project- Funded by UNESCO, this project is dedicated to the conservation and digitisation of the National Archives of South Sudan.

South Sudan Customary Authorities - Supported by the Swiss Development Corporation in Juba, this project aims to ingrate Customary Authorities into the peace building Processes in South Sudan.

SSCA Kapoeta: A Research Project on the role & potential of customary authorities on the social contract in Kapoeta County, South Sudan, funded by VNG International.

Research into Diaspora Projects - A Research Project into Transnational South Sudanese Networks in Ethiopia funded by the Australian Government via the Australian Embassy in South Sudan.

Australian Embassy- A Research Understanding Sudanese Diaspora in Egypt funded by the Australian Embassy

Local Response to Covid-19- A project funded by the Civilian protection Opportunities fund for Community Based Covid -19 messaging in South Sudan.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

ICRC Men's Perception on sexual exploitation: A study funded by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on how young men in South Sudan perceive and define sexual violence

Women Research Network- A European Union (EU) funded project to promote local Women's voices in Research and civil society.

Sudan Elections- A project to inform advocacy and planning for Sudan's upcoming elections funded by the British Council.

History of the Agar Dinka: A project on the concise history of the Agar Dinka in South Sudan funded by Oxford Policy Management

Sudan Memory Project: A project on conserving and promoting Sudanese cultural and documentary Heritage funded by Kings College London.

Listening to Histories : A GCRF funded project on listening to Histories , recording songs of conflict, displacement and power in South Sudan.

GARVE- A GCRF funded project on Gender & Violent Extremism Networks

X -Border- A DFID funded project on Cross Border Conflict Evidence and Policy Trends

Power in the Shadows: Funded by the Foundation Open Society Institute, this project aims to understand the deep state in African Politics.

Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Research Community of Practice- A project aimed at supporting African Peace Building Research and the development of Communities of Practice funded by Carnegie Corporation.

Just Future: A Project on improved accessibility, responsiveness and accountability of security and Justice institutions in 6 fragile countries.

The RVI Scholarship Fund – The Scholarship Fund is a voluntary donation fund which has the aim of promoting individual educational development of young researchers and activists from countries in Eastern and Central Africa. This may include funding their attendance on courses provided by the Charity. Income from the sale of RVI publications is also allocated to this fund.

19 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021 US\$	2020 US\$
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	38,304	116,238
Depreciation charges	1,375	1,375
Increase in debtors	(111,390)	(241,319)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	(181,808)	704,094
Net cash provided /(used) by operating activities	(253,520)	580,388

20 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 January 2021 \$	Cash flows \$	Other changes \$	At 31 December 2021 \$
Cash at bank and in hand	1,360,835	(253,520)	–	1,107,315
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,360,835	(253,520)	–	1,107,315

21 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Property 2020 US\$	2019 US\$
Less than one year	51,323	44,127
One to five years	2,200	8,754
	53,523	52,881

22 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10 (GBP).

RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED

England & Wales - Charity number 1144010

Accounts

RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

COMPANY NUMBER: 4271537

CHARITY NUMBER: 1144010

Reference and administrative information

Company number	4271537												
Charity number	1144010												
Operating as	Rift Valley Institute												
Registered office and operational address	Unit 2.11 Islington Studios Islington Studios 159/163 Marlborough Road London N19 4NF												
Trustees	Trustees (who are also directors of Rift Valley Research Limited for the purposes of company law) who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows: <table><tr><td>Margie Buchanan-Smith</td><td>(appointed 2 December 2019)</td></tr><tr><td>Andrew Carl</td><td>(appointed 8 January 2018)</td></tr><tr><td>Comfort Ero (Chair)</td><td>(appointed 15 January 2016)</td></tr><tr><td>Ali Hersi</td><td>(appointed 8 January 2018)</td></tr><tr><td>Christopher Maynard (Treasurer)</td><td>(appointed 14 February 2017)</td></tr><tr><td>Leben Moro</td><td>(appointed 8 January 2018)</td></tr></table>	Margie Buchanan-Smith	(appointed 2 December 2019)	Andrew Carl	(appointed 8 January 2018)	Comfort Ero (Chair)	(appointed 15 January 2016)	Ali Hersi	(appointed 8 January 2018)	Christopher Maynard (Treasurer)	(appointed 14 February 2017)	Leben Moro	(appointed 8 January 2018)
Margie Buchanan-Smith	(appointed 2 December 2019)												
Andrew Carl	(appointed 8 January 2018)												
Comfort Ero (Chair)	(appointed 15 January 2016)												
Ali Hersi	(appointed 8 January 2018)												
Christopher Maynard (Treasurer)	(appointed 14 February 2017)												
Leben Moro	(appointed 8 January 2018)												
Principal staff	Mark Bradbury (Executive Director)												
Bankers	HSBC (UK) I&M Bank (Kenya)												
Auditor	Sayer Vincent LLP Chartered accountants and registered auditors Invicta House 108-114 Golden Lane London EC1Y 0T												

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Summary

The RVI is an independent, not-for-profit, knowledge-based organization founded in Sudan in 2001, working in the Sudan, the Horn of Africa, East Africa and the Great Lakes. The Institute aims to create a better future for the peoples and communities of Eastern and Central Africa by advancing useful knowledge of the region and its diverse communities, through collaborative research, education and training, public information and promoting culture and heritage. The Institute bridges development practice and policy, elevating local voices, knowledge and action.

In 2020, the peoples and communities of the Horn of Africa, East Africa, the Sudan and the Great Lakes were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, with several countries instituting partial lockdowns. The political dynamics in the countries where the Institute works were dominated by the outbreak of conflict in Ethiopia, the change of government in Sudan, the peace process in South Sudan, a stalled election process in Somalia, and the consolidation of the new government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). These political transitions were accompanied by violent contestations in places and climate induced emergencies leaving the region once again host to some of the largest displaced populations in the world.

2021 is the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Institute in 2001. During this time, RVI has built an operational presence in Eastern Africa, with its headquarters, since 2017, in Kenya (Nairobi), where the Executive Director and Head of Finance and Operations are both based, with offices in South Sudan (Juba), Somaliland (Hargeysa) and the UK (London). By the end of 2020, the Institute employed eighteen staff, including two part-time positions, fifteen of whom are based in Africa. The RVI Board has six trustees, two of whom are from South Sudan and Kenya, and the Chair of the board is herself based for half of the year in Kenya.

During 2020, RVI like other international organizations, had to respond to the challenges created by the Covid-19 pandemic, including the temporary closure of the Nairobi and London offices, restrictions on domestic travel and a moratorium on international travel. This led to the suspension of some field-based research, the cancellation of residential courses and in-person forums and dialogues. Nevertheless, during 2020 RVI was able to expand and diversify its activities. The Juba office remained open due to particular circumstances in South Sudan which makes it impractical to work from home. There, RVI was able to undertake innovative research, such as a project on the community management of epidemics.

Our educational courses and forums moved online utilising digital conferencing platforms like Zoom. We delivered a bespoke online course on the Horn of Africa for Canadian diplomats in the region. We organised a number of online public forums, including on the impact of Covid-19 in the countries where RVI operates and on mobility and security. The Somali Dialogue Platform grew into a major project as RVI took on its sole management. We continued to deliver research for the UK-funded East Africa Research Hub in South Sudan and the Horn of Africa and for the World Bank in Somalia. Through our projects in South Sudan, the X-Border programme and the Diaspora Humanitarianism project we continued to train and mentor early career researchers in Africa. In 2020, the Institute continued to promote culture and heritage, working with the Hargeysa Cultural Centre in Somaliland and the national archives in South Sudan

We maintained a prolific publication output, publishing 9 reports, 20 briefing papers, 10 blogs and 3 podcasts. We also launched a new website to improve access to RVI's research, courses and public forums. RVI's social media presence has grown with over 8,000 followers on twitter.

Institutionally, in 2020 we published new four-year organisational *Development Strategy* for the years 2020-2023. As part of this we began to develop a monitoring, evaluating and learning framework to track the progress of the strategy.

In 2020, the charity's total income was US\$2,360,772, a 10 percent decrease from US\$2,612,187 in 2019. General funds of unrestricted reserves, however, increased to US\$ 458,035 by December 2020, compared to US\$428,684 at the end of 2019, demonstrating stability of the Institute's finances.

Objectives and Achievements in 2020

The Rift Valley Institute was founded in 2001 as a non-profit organization operating in eastern and central Africa. The Charity was established in the words of the Articles of Association, to, among other aims, 'advance the education of the general public, particularly but not exclusively in Eastern and Central Africa'; to 'promote research into Eastern and Central Africa and related subjects'; and to 'disseminate the useful results of such research throughout the world'. These objectives are for the public benefit, as set out in the Charities Act of 2006.

In furtherance of these objectives, the Institute undertakes four core activities: field-based research and publication; education and training; it convenes forums for public discussion; and the conservation and digitization of historic archives and promotion of culture. Its programmes, formulated with communities, institutions and individuals from the region, are designed to bring local knowledge to bear on political, economic and social developments. They aim to shape aid interventions, expand space for public participation in policy formulation, support local research capacity, preserve communal histories and promote social justice.

In 2020, RVI published a new four-year *Development Strategy 2020-2023* where the principles that guide the Institute's work are articulated:

- Accurate information is an indisputable public good.
- Respect for local knowledge informs equitable development.
- Learning is continuous.
- Research and education encourage the free exchange of knowledge.
- Improved public information and open debate can generate positive social change.
- Integrating research with training and dissemination adds social value.
- Accountability and transparency are key to effective collaboration.

The RVI is a signatory of the Budapest Open Access Initiative of 2002 and seeks to promote free public access to useful knowledge. RVI books, reports, maps, newsletters and the contents of its websites are published and disseminated, wherever possible, under a Creative Commons open-access license. Digital versions of RVI publications are available for download free of charge from the Institute's website. Digital archives created and run by the RVI use UNESCO-endorsed open-source software.

As stated in the development strategy 2020-2023, RVI seeks to bring change to people of eastern and central Africa through four strategic areas of work:

- Advancing Knowledge through Original Research.
- Transferring Knowledge through Education and Training.
- Exchanging Knowledge through Public information and Dialogue.
- Promoting and Conserving Knowledge through Culture and Heritage.

These are elaborated below:

2020 Overview

In 2020, several significant political developments took place in RVI's main region of operations. In Ethiopia, war erupted between the federal government and the Tigray region, drawing in other adjacent regions, notably Amhara. The war in Tigray also implicated Eritrea, fighting on the side of the federal government, and Sudan, which became involved in a border conflict with Ethiopia over a disputed agricultural region in their borderlands. Sudan's political transition continued, but the work of the civilian government was made more challenging by an economic downturn. In South Sudan, the peace agreement between the SPLM and SPLM-IO held, preventing a return to widespread conflict—particularly in Juba—but smaller regional conflicts continued, often serving as proxy battles for the country's political leaders. In Somalia, negotiations over national elections eventually produced an agreement that one-person-one-vote polls would not be held, and the country would revert to an indirect electoral model (a variation of the system used in 2017).

In 2020, the work of RVI, like all organizations, was affected by the Coronavirus pandemic. The impact of this was first felt in Kenya and the UK in March. RVI's first priority was the health, safety and wellbeing of its staff, consultants and other partners. Working across several countries in Africa, RVI also has a responsibility to support international efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. To this end, international travel was halted, Forums (previously planned to take place in Nairobi) were cancelled and annual courses postponed. Staff in Kenya and the UK worked from home in line with government guidelines. Government guidelines in South Sudan did not require offices to close, so RVI's office in Juba remained open, with stringent hygiene and social distancing measures in place.

The immediate impact on operations was severe, resulting in the relocation of some staff, the cancellation of fieldwork and residential courses, and a general reduction in spending. Nevertheless, RVI was able to respond to the pandemic through its research, publications and convening by repurposing some of the work to address the crisis directly, and to find new ways to continue existing work. We invested in online conferencing packages as a way of continuing our work at a distance. Some existing research projects, such as the X-Border Local Research Network, was adapted to focus on the impact of COVID-19.

In South Sudan, the benefits of RVI's investment in a network of local researchers became apparent as we were able to raise UK government funding to undertake a study on community management of epidemics to inform the health response to Covid-19. Through the diaspora-humanitarianism project we contributed to briefings assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the remittance economy in Somalia, publishing several briefings. The Rift Valley Forum in April and May hosted a series of online webinars on the impact of COVID-19 on mobility, movement and migration in eastern and central Africa. Under the Platform for Political Dialogue, we organised an online forum to examine the social, economic, and political impact of the health crisis in Somalia, including on planned elections.

Our educational courses were redesigned in response to the pandemic and moved online, along with Rift Valley Forum seminars. Training and mentoring of researchers in South Sudan was also moved online. We also continued a prolific publication schedule.

We also make progress on organisational developments. A new four-year Development Strategy 2020-2023 was finalised and published; an upgraded website was launched; the finance manual was updated, and a revised safeguarding policy was finalised and rolled out.

During this period RVI was able to continue working with a range of partner organizations, again in some cases making use of online services. In 2020, key partners in eastern and central Africa included: in South Sudan, the Institute of Applied Research and Community Outreach at the Catholic University of South Sudan in Juba and Wau, the National Archives and the Likikiri Collective; in Kenya, the British Institute in Eastern Africa, Nairobi University, United States International University, the Heinrich Boll Foundation, Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat; in Somalia, Puntland State University, Somali Public Agenda; in

Somaliland, Redsea Cultural Foundation, the University of Hargeysa, and Rako Research Organisation. Many of the meetings of the Rift Valley Forum also involve collaboration with regionally based organizations.

Major activities and progress on 2020-2023 development strategy

During 2020, the Institute continued to pursue its goals articulated in the 2020-2023 Development Strategy. The main achievements are described below.

Advancing Knowledge through Original Research

The RVI was founded to undertake research, and the production and exchange of knowledge remains core to all that RVI does. Producing high quality research and publicly available data on the region is an important underpinning of open societies and critical for evidence-based social policy.

In the politically turbulent regions where RVI operates, with long-running complex emergencies, international mediated peace deals and peace operations, there continues to be a strong demand for applied knowledge and studies that can improve understanding of the dynamic context. At the same time, the countries where RVI works have a structural deficit in terms of social science research capacity. Higher education institutions lack the resources and personnel to compete with the multiplicity of non-governmental organisations and multilateral institutions where better pay and meritocratic opportunities are available. Problems of access and insecurity complicate data collection and much of the knowledge produced is hidden in commissioned research that is not made public.

Despite a growing number of research institutes and think-tanks, RVI remains one of the few 'field-based' providers of knowledge. Over two decades, the Institute has undertaken a mixture of multi-year research projects, transregional studies, large participatory research projects, as well as shorter policy-oriented studies. We aim to ensure that all research projects include a training component for African researchers to develop their skills. Our research portfolio remains unique with an emphasis on social research, developed from ideas generated by communities or institutions we work with, and being publicly accessible in accordance with the Institute's commitment to the freedom of information and open-access publishing. In 2020, despite the constraints of the pandemic, we continued to carry out and undertake high quality original research.

In 2020, the Institute continued multi-year research programmes, such as the South Sudan Customary Authorities (SSCA) project, a study of South Sudanese Diaspora, the transnational X-Border Local Research Network project and a multi-country study on the 'shadow state' in Africa. It undertook original studies of community management of epidemics in South Sudan, a social assessment in Somalia, and religion and politics in Somalia. These generated long form reports and short policy briefings.

Thematically, the research covered issues of governance, conflict, political economy, livelihoods, land, urbanisation, and gender. These studies diversified both the Institute's thematic and geographical knowledgebase and expanded our engagement in countries outside East and Central Africa. The research findings were disseminated through a range of publications, Forum meetings and podcast. A more detailed description of RVI research projects in 2020 can be found below.

Research in the Sudan

South Sudan Customary Authorities Project

In 2019 a team of RVI and Catholic University of South Sudan researchers conducted research with participants from the original Wunlit Peace Conference of 1999 to record their memories of the event and to discuss lessons to be learnt for South Sudan today. In 2020, work progressed on putting these interviews together into a full report. An analysis workshop was held in February 2020 with SSCA lead researcher, John Ryle, and Loes Lijnders of the Catholic University. The full report is expected in 2021.

This flexibility of the Swiss Government donors allowed this project to adapt some activities to ensure our work was responsive to the outbreak of the COVID-19. In April 2020, when COVID-19 was first confirmed in South Sudan, several RVI researchers, trained under this project, expressed an interest to return to their communities and to use their established links with chiefs to conduct messaging on COVID-19. RVI therefore supported researchers with material from WHO and the South Sudan Ministry of Health, and PPE (soap, masks), to carry out messaging to chiefs, critical actors in the spread of accurate information amongst communities. This work with chiefs garnered interest from other donors and two subsequent projects were developed (see below).

Community Approaches to Epidemic Management in South Sudan

This project drew on archival research and field research to study communities' traditional responses to diseases, to draw lessons for the COVID-19 response. RVI trained researchers conducted in-person and remote research on a weekly basis over a period of eight weeks in Yei, Juba, Wau, Malakal, Aweil West and Rubkona. Their data was analyzed and shared regularly with a project steering group made of NGOs, UN agencies and donor representatives (led by the funder, FCDO) to inform the COVID-19 response. The final report and briefing was co-authored by the research team and disseminated back to the local communities, with the recommendations translated to relevant languages, and with the Ministry of Health and other key stakeholders in Juba.

COVID-19 community messaging

RVI received additional funds from Wellspring charitable foundation to further the COVID-19 messaging work across local communities in South Sudan. This supported the production of short video messages from chiefs and used the research produced under the Community Approaches project to conduct messaging on local radio stations and through meetings with key stakeholders, including women and local traditional health workers.

South Sudan: Youth, Violence and Livelihoods

This project was designed to understand opportunities and challenges facing youth in South Sudan, putting young people intimately familiar with the dynamics in the country at the centre of the research. The COVID-19 pandemic had a serious impact on this project. The inception workshop took place as planned in February 2021 with the research team from RVI and the Catholic University, and the technical advisors Dr Nicki Kindersley, Dr Naomi Pendle and Marv Koop. Research in one field site was conducted prior to the pandemic but all subsequent research had to be adjusted due to an inability for research teams to travel. Those who were already in their home locations were able to conduct some research on site and this was complemented by remote interviewing. In spite of the circumstances the researchers managed to collect rich amount of data and a full report will be finalised in 2021.

South Sudan Women's Research Network

In December 2020, RVI secured a new project with the European Union in South Sudan to support the development of women's research in South Sudan and to further develop the National Archives. The

project also has a conflict analysis element and this work got underway at the end of the year. The project will get fully underway in 2021.

Sudanese diaspora in Egypt

Following a series of delays, due to challenging research contexts, this study got underway in 2020. Work was conducted through remote interviewing due to the COVID-19 pandemic with a mixed research team based in Khartoum and Cairo. The project seeks to understand Sudanese migrant's experiences in Egypt and a full report will be finalised and published in 2021.

Sudan Elections Project

In December 2020, RVI started a short study on the history of elections in Sudan—particularly the 2010 and 2015 elections. The study is a collaboration between RVI, and Durham and Khartoum Universities. A delay and budget reduction due to Covid-19 pandemic and changes in UK government priorities reduced the scope of work. Nevertheless, the research team headed by Professor Justin Willis (Durham) and Professor Munzoul Assal (Khartoum) carried out in Sudan across a number of electoral constituencies in the first quarter of 2020, coupled with desk-based research. The project has produced 5 briefing papers and a report in being drafted. A dissemination phase—in Sudan and through virtual meetings—is underway. All publications will be in English and Arabic for maximum impact in Sudan.

Research in Somalia

Somalia Social Assessment

Building on an excellent series of studies for the World Bank in Somalia, RVI secured a six-month grant to produce a social assessment of Somalia and Somaliland and a report that will provide a baseline of analysis and information for the World Bank Country Team. We were able to influence the shape of the research in response to their original requirements. The work commenced in June with a team of international and Somali consultants. The project produced seven Federal Member States profiles, three thematic studies on Gender and Households, Migration and Diaspora and Religion and Society. We also produced an original, study on class and social mobility in Somalia, working with several Somali researchers who carried out empirical field work in Baidoa, Hargeisa and Mogadishu.

Urban Land in Somalia

RVI completed a study commissioned by ReDDS on urban land governance and displacement in the Somali cities of Kismayo, Baidoa and Mogadishu. RVI was able to build on its previous research in Somalia on urbanization and on land in Mogadishu, Somaliland and Jubaland, and worked with three of the same Somali researchers. The project was also funded by the World Bank, via ReDSS, thus expanding RVI's contributions to the World Bank's larger Urbanization Review. Two online roundtables were held with policy makers and Somali stakeholders to share the findings of the study.

Taxation in Somalia

Drawing on research carried out in Mogadishu in 2018, RVI published a briefing paper on the economic and cultural constraints to increasing domestic revenue mobilization in Somalia, entitled *Tax and the State in Somalia: Understanding domestic revenue mobilization*. This was an important activity to make some of the findings of this work public. The primary authors were the two Somali researchers who carried out the original research in Mogadishu.

Infrastructure and Inclusion

In 2020, RVI became part of an international research consortium led by Sussex University— *Towards Trajectories of Inclusion*—investigating how urban infrastructure can be made available and be made to work for the most marginalised. RVI's role in the project is to support its partner, the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies University of Hargeysa as the primary investigator in Somaliland. The project start was delayed by the pandemic until the autumn of 2020, with field research to start in 2021.

Diaspora Humanitarianism

Since September 2019, RVI has been collaborating with the Danish Institute for International Relations, the University of Nairobi and Rako Research in Somaliland on a five-year research programme on Diaspora Humanitarianism in Somalia. The research is investigating the role of the Somali diaspora in responding to humanitarian crises in Somalia. Three PhD scholarships and a post doc scholarship have been given to Somali researchers. The pandemic delayed some of the activities planned for 2020. During the year, RVI Forum supported the formal launch of the project in Nairobi, the RVI Executive Director has helped supervise the PhD students as they develop their research concept notes and has contributed to several policy briefs published by the project, and RVI organised and designed an online research methodologies course that was held in early 2021.

Research in Ethiopia

Political Economy Analysis

In 2020, RVI was invited to join The Policy Practice, to provide a Facilitated Political Economy Analysis on various sectors in Ethiopia for the FCDO. RVI was had responsibility for dissemination and uptake of the research produced related to elections and service delivery. Changing priorities of FCDO due to the outbreak of civil war saw the project restructured and RVI's role reduced. A dissemination workshop was held in early 2021.

Transnational Research

X-Border Local Research Network

With the COVID-19 pandemic making travel impossible most of the year, RVI moved to a model of remote mentoring and support to the research teams. In South Sudan, this involved weekly coaching sessions between researchers in the UK and the team in South Sudan to support analysis and write up of data collected in 2019.

A number of quick response pieces were produced to put our various research streams into the COVID-19 context.

Plans were laid for fieldwork in Somalia in 2021.

More than 20 publications were produced under the project in 2020, with a particular focus on publishing the work of local researchers.

The Horn of Africa, Gulf and Turkey

In 2020, RVI funded by the East Africa Research Fund undertook a study on relations between the Gulf States and Turkey in the Horn of Africa. The study was carried out by a team of seven experts on the Horn (Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea), the Gulf (Saudi Arabia, UAE and Qatar) and Turkey. Due to restrictions on travel caused by the pandemic, research was carried out remotely and the lead researcher—

based in the UK—was unable to travel to the region. The final report, and an accompany policy briefing, were published in May 2021. Dissemination included a close roundtable discussion for FCDO personnel and a public panel discussion.

Shadow States Research in Africa

In January 2019, RVI began work on a research project to investigate the so-called shadow state in Africa. Funded by the Open Society Foundation's Africa (OSIEA) Regional Office, research was undertaken in Uganda, DRC, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Nigeria to investigate the existence of a state within a state, where real power is said to be wielded by private business, unelected bureaucrats and the security services. Four country studies and a synthesis report were produced by the end of 2019. These required a legal review to determine which has slowed the publication RVI is engaged in a discussion with OSIEA about publication in 2021.

Transferring Knowledge through Education and Training

Field-based education and training have been one of the Institute's methods for transferring knowledge of the region to different constituencies. Absorbing and analysing the large amount of information generated in and about the countries where RVI operates is a big task for development organizations and governments. Institutional memory is often poor, staff turnover can be rapid, and knowledge is often biased and controlled. Starting in 2004 the RVI has run annual week-long residential field courses on Sudan and South Sudan, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes regions. These graduate-level professional training courses on the regions and countries where RVI works are taught by RVI staff, Fellows and associates. They provide a dawn-to-dusk programme of instruction and discussion designed to bring depth to the understanding of each sub-region and country of eastern and central Africa. Participants attend from international NGOs, the UN, the diplomatic community and the private sector. For some international organizations and governments, they are a mandatory part of pre-deployment training. Each year young researchers and activists receive scholarships to attend from RVI's Shading Tree fund.

In addition, RVI delivers bespoke training courses on different countries and themes. These are co-designed with and tailored to suit the specific interests and requirements of the recipient organization. The courses are taught by leading experts in their field.

The Institute has also strategically expanded training opportunities for early career researchers from the region, most notably through our work with universities in Hargeysa in Somaliland, Garowe in Puntland and Juba in South Sudan, as well as through our research projects.

Bespoke Online Courses

In 2020, the pandemic brought a halt to annual residential courses for the first time in sixteen years. RVI responded to this by developing alternative online courses for international partners. This involved identifying a suitable online platform and designing hybrid courses scheduled over several weeks that involve a mixture pre-recorded talks and resource material with live interactive sessions. In 2020 we were able to pilot a successful first course for Canadian diplomatic missions in countries in the Horn of Africa.

Development of Early Career Researchers

In 2020, RVI continued to develop and expand training opportunities for early career African researchers. In South Sudan, remote online trainings were organised for South Sudanese on research methods and research ethics under the Customary Authorities and X-Border projects. We were able to organise an oral history training course with the Hargeysa Cultural Centre in February, and with our OSUN partnership we were able to find places for several researchers on an oral history course run by Bard College.

We have been able to engage researchers trained by RVI in South Sudan and in Somalia, with Joseph Diing in South Sudan, for example, a co-lead researcher on the youth and violence study. Through the Danida-funded D-Hum research programme, we continue to support three Somali PhD students. We have continued to develop our partnerships with universities in the region, including Hargeysa (where our office is located), Puntland State University, the Catholic University in South Sudan, the University of Nairobi and the United States International University in Kenya.

RVI successfully applied for and received two grants to further develop this work: a two-year grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York (CCNY) for a programme of support—*Research Communities of Practice*—for early career researchers in South Sudan, the DRC and Somali regions; and a three-year grant from the European Union to support the development of a women's research network in South Sudan. Both grants started in 2020 and will enable us to scale up our investment in African researchers in 2021.

Exchanging Knowledge through Public Information and Dialogue

Access to accurate public information is essential for open and inclusive societies and supports positive, long-term social change. It is also important for the success of the Sustainable Development Goals. Knowledge is power and biases in information infrastructure, regulation by governments or manipulation by private and non-state actors can adversely affect access to and use of information. Supporting the freedom of information and access to it is a core aim of RVI. Amplifying the voices of people and communities in Eastern and Central Africa is central to RVI's ambition.

RVI supports access to public information and the exchange of knowledge in two main ways: through the *Rift Valley Forum for Research, Policy and Local Knowledge ('the Forum')* and other convening activities; and through the Institute's publications, including digital media.

The Forum, established in 2012, is a programme of seminars, lectures and expert meetings that facilitates the exchange of knowledge between academics, practitioners, policymakers and the public on critical regional issues in a safe and neutral environment. The majority of Forum events have taken place in Nairobi, with some held in Somalia, South Sudan, the DRC Goma and the UK. Annual lectures in Juba and seminars organised with the South Sudan National Archives are other ways RVI facilitates the exchange of knowledge.

RVI's publications include digital and printed books and reports, documentary film, radio, podcasts, and social media outputs. RVI has pioneered open access publishing and everything RVI publishes is free to download in digital form. Both analogue and digital publications are disseminated through the RVI's website and social media platforms. In all forms of publication, we strive for a high production standard. Publications are produced in English, with translations in French, Somali and Arabic.

RVI Forum

Lockdown and social distancing measures meant that all in-person forums stopped in 2020. But, the Forum continued through the use of digital conference platforms. During the year 18 Forums were organised. These included a series on elections in East Africa and the Horn of Africa in collaboration with The Elephant and funded by the Heinrich Boll Foundation. Other subjects covered included the impact of Covid on mobility and security in East Africa. One opportunity that comes with online meetings has been the increased international participation and coverage, both within and outside Africa.

In 2020, for the Gender and Violent Extremism (GARVE) network project, RVI established a website and organised several forums.

OCHA Roundtables

In December 2020 we began a series of roundtables for the humanitarian community in response to the conflict in Tigray. Two meetings were convened in December with Ethiopian and regional experts. The first session covered the TPLF and internal Tigray dynamics and the second was on Tigray's borders: Amhara, Oromia as well as Sudan and Eritrea.

Somali Dialogue Platform

The Somali Dialogue Platform (formerly the Platform for Political Dialogue established in January 2019) is a multi-donor funded project that aims to create a neutral platform to facilitate political dialogues on electoral, constitutional and resource-sharing issues that will contribute to an inclusive political settlement in Somalia. Until March 2020, RVI was part of a consortium, leading on the research and analysis to inform the dialogue process. In April 2020, RVI was asked to take over the management of the consortium for an interim six month phase working together with FDF-Synergy. In November 2020, a new 18-month programme was approved with funding from the governments of the UK, Denmark and the USA.

During this period the Platform continued to implement a range of engagement and research activities in support of greater political consensus in Somalia. These included:

- Regular bilateral engagements with Somali political actors (government, political parties, civil society etc.), providing technical and facilitation support to the political process around elections, including a critical national agreement on 17 September 2020.
- Facilitating regular dialogues with the Federal Government of Somalia, Federal Member states and opposition representatives at different stages in the process, including on prospects for a government of national unity, electoral models at the Dhusamareb conference in November, and meetings of the electoral technical committees
- Facilitating meetings of a meeting with civil society leaders on the election process in Jubaland.
- Monthly situational updates for the international community on the political situation, with a focus on elections
- Weekly updates on political dynamics for the Platform's donor committee
- Political analysis on critical issues, such as an analysis on the Hir-Shebelle elections
- A database of key Somali stakeholders, and pilot analyses on the composition of parliament.
- An extensive range of public and internal policy briefings and papers on options for consensus on the elections, including a policy briefing on the prospects of a Government of National Unity, an extensive literature review on constitution-making in Somalia,
- Research on religious actors and contemporary politics
- Four roundtables engaging international partners in discussions on political scenarios and the way forward with elections
- A range of policy dialogues with international community partners, including expert meetings and workshops, to support policy developments
- Regular briefings with the international community on the latest political updates
- Support to Somali Public Agenda, a Somali think tank, to produce podcasts and monthly civil society forums in Mogadishu

Promoting and Conserving Knowledge through Culture and Heritage

Culture is integral to the generation and transmission of knowledge. The regions where the RVI operates have a rich and diverse political history, a variety of social systems and cultural formations, and a wealth of communal resources. Appreciating this cultural diversity and communal histories and working with cultural institutions, individual artists and activist, is critical for a shared understanding of the historical and contemporary development of these regions, of relations between generations and genders, and the way that local knowledge works. The conservation of knowledge is of critical importance for constructing post-conflict societies and is of practical utility given the poor retention of knowledge in the aid industry. RVI addresses this through projects that conserve knowledge, such as with the South Sudan National Archives and the RVI's digital Sudan Open Archive, and promote historical and contemporary culture, such as through the Hargeysa Cultural Centre.

South Sudan National Archives

The work under the National Archives project, implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Museums and National Heritage (previously the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports) continued in 2020 with funding from the Norwegian Government, through UNESCO.

Despite the pandemic, RVI and the Ministry managed to adapt work plans together to continue activities. The key achievements over the past year have been:

- **Digitization of the archival collection reached 50 per cent in 2020.** This is a significant milestone as the scanning work has been ongoing since 2010. The sustained progress over the past three years has dramatically accelerated the work enabling the 50% mark to be reached. This work has been conducted by a team of graduate interns from the Catholic University of South Sudan (CuoSS), supervised and supported by the National Archives staff and RVI.
- **School outreach with schools across Juba.** Although the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the closure of schools in South Sudan, RVI worked in partnership with the Ministry and local partner, UNESCO Club, to use creative approaches to connect school children with the archives. This included radio talk shows, tours of the archives and small exhibitions.
- **Catholic University of South Sudan study project commenced.** Second and third year students were invited to apply for a study project in the National Archives. Nine students were selected and are being mentored through the project by Loes Lijnders (CuoSS) with support from Prof Douglas Johnson and Dr Zoe Cormack.

Hargeysa Cultural Centre

In 2020, RVI continued to support the Hargeysa Cultural Centre in Somaliland, which the Institute helped to establish and with whom we have partnered since 2014. The Centre has become an important venue for both artistic and cultural production and conservation, including the annual Hargeysa International Book Fair. It is also a critical space for public dialogue on a range social issues, and for the dissemination of research. The Centre's premises were closed for several months in 2020 due to the pandemic so public debates and trainings could not take place. RVI's involvement in the centre was affected as visits to the centre were restricted. The Centre, however, transitioned some of their forums online.

Publications, Communications and Outreach

RVI disseminates findings from its research projects in a variety of ways. Firstly, all RVI publications are open access and freely available via the Institute's website. The website also showcases information about RVI and the different projects that are being run at any one time.

RVI publications come in several different forms; from lengthy research reports (10-20,000 words) to shorter briefing papers (often targeted at a policy audience); and more accessible blog pieces, which often provide an introduction to a complex topic.

Social media has become an increasingly important medium to draw attention to RVI's outputs. The Institute has therefore committed more time to develop its institutional social media accounts, and to encourage individual staff members, and trustees, to promote the Institute's work by building up their own following.

Website update

In 2020, RVI launched an upgrade of its website with the support of Nairobi-based web-designer Haba Haba. The updated website design is simpler, more user-friendly and visually attractive. It provides a more effective medium to display RV research projects, communicate news and post video and audio content.

Social media

RVI has continued to grow its social media presence, primarily through regular use of its institutional Twitter account, which now has over 8,000 followers (up from 6,500 the year before). The regularity of tweets, and diversity of content, has increased with tweeting duties being taken by different staff members in London, Nairobi and Juba. RVI has continued to live tweet during online Forum events and numbers of followers increase notably when publications come out, underlining the demand for high-quality, original material.

Publications

RVI's publications are mostly outputs from research projects, and given RVI's commitment to make research publicly available, most projects are designed to include public reports, briefings or blogs. In 2020, this included (amongst others) the X-Border Local Research Network; the Diaspora Impacts project; the South Sudan Customary Authorities; and the Somali Dialogue Platform, which all produced a combination of reports, briefings and blogs aimed at communicating with different RVI audiences. Overall, in 2020 RVI published 9 reports, 20 briefings and 10 blogs.

In addition to public outputs, the Institute also produces a limited number of internal briefings for donors and project funders. In particular, the Somali Dialogue Platform and X-Border project include some briefings with restricted circulation, which enable analysis and discussion of more sensitive material.

Organisational Development: Institutional Policies and Processes

In 2020, progress was made on several development priorities that support the professionalization of the Institute:

- In 2020, RVI published a new four-year *Development Strategy, 2020-2023*. Building on the Institute's achievements to-date, the document refines the Institute's development goals, its vision and mission and guiding principles for the next four years.
- 21 new RVI Fellows were elected bringing the total number to 130.
- The RVI Financial Manual was redrafted and adopted.
- Safeguarding policies were approved and adopted. The policies apply to all permanent staff, short term consultants, partner organisations and suppliers. The policy encourages staff to raise, without fear, any suspicion of malpractice with RVI senior management or a trustee.

- Amendments were made to RVI's data protection policies to address new data management practices within the Institute, while ensuring alignment with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that is applicable across Europe.
- The development of a monitoring and evaluation framework was started. In support of RVI's development strategy, the Institute aims to strengthen systems for monitoring, evaluation and learning in order to better capture and understand the changes we are making and contributing to. To take this forward, a Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) working group was established and a review of RVI's existing MEL practices commissioned.
- A professional review of our security policy and procedures in Somalia was undertaken.

Fundraising

RVI felt the immediate economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic due to the cancellation of annual residential courses. The economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic are expected to impact on the future funding of the Institute, with cuts in some UK government funding anticipated. In 2020, we did not feel the impact of this as all donors honoured their funding commitments. Furthermore, considerable staff time across the Institute was invested in fundraising in 2020 to meet our income targets.

Key funding successes include multi-donor grants for the Somali Dialogue Platform; a three-year grant from the EU to support the development of a women's research network in South Sudan; a two-year grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to support the professional development of African early career researchers; two grants from the East Africa Research Fund for a study on Community Management of Epidemics in South Sudan and a study of relations between the Horn of Africa, Gulf States and Turkey; and UNESCO support for the South Sudan archives.

Offices, Staffing and Board of Trustees

Nairobi

Since 2017, RVI's office in Nairobi has acted as the Institute's headquarters, with the Executive Director and the Finance, Education, Forum and Somalia teams located there. The office also runs a successful internship programme for graduates, and during 2020 hosted one intern. During 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic meant that the office was closed for large periods of the year with staff members working from home. When the office has been open numbers of staff using the space has been limited.

Juba

RVI's office in Juba is the second largest in terms of number of staff. The Juba office remained open throughout 2020, taking into account at all times COVID-19 prevention protocols advised by the Government of South Sudan and by other health actors. Some of the team chose to return to their home locations for a period when the pandemic first hit and worked remotely.

Hargeysa

RVI has continued to maintain a presence in Hargeysa with an office in the university of Hargeysa, and one part-time representative overseeing our work in Somaliland.

London

In 2020, RVI's international office in London continued to play a varied role in RVI's work. This included management of activities in Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan. London office staff led on publications and communications, including RVI's website and social media. The lockdown response to the coronavirus meant that the series of London-based X-border Forum events was not possible in 2020.

Board of Trustees

In 2020, RVI's Board consisted of six trustees. The current members are: Comfort Ero (Chair), Chris Maynard (Treasurer), Ali Hirsi, Leben Moro, Andy Carl, and Margie Buchanan-Smith.

Plans and objectives for 2021

Our immediate priorities in 2021 will be to secure and deliver three significant new projects – the Somali Dialogue Platform, the Women's Research Network in South Sudan and the Research Communities of Practice. Together with the X-Border these projects can provide sustained multi-year funding providing a secure basis for the Institute to grow and deliver on our strategic goals. It will also enable us to recruit additional staff. We also intend to

At the same time, we will endeavour to further professionalize the Institute by addressing several organizational development priorities. These will include:

- Update the Staff Handbook and human resource policies
- Establish a job evaluation system
- Review our approach to staff training and development
- Strengthen the criteria and selection process for new partnerships and consortia, building on our existing partner assessment template
- Develop funding relationships with new donors such as Open Society University Network
- Improve our in-house capacity to identify and pursue new development opportunities, including more effective use of our tender alert system
- Improve our system for decision-making on new projects and programmes
- Further develop a monitoring and evaluation system to better record the impact of our work
- Review and improve our data and contacts management systems
- Recruit new Fellows and increase our engagement with them

Trustees Report

General

The trustees of Rift Valley Research Limited, operating as the Rift Valley Institute (RVI), who are also directors of the company for the purpose of company law, present their statutory report and audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, with the Articles of Association and with the 'Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities' in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) of 2005 and FRS102.

Governance

Rift Valley Research Limited (hereafter 'the Rift Valley Institute', 'the RVI' or 'the Charity') is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. The company was incorporated on 16 August 2001 (company number 4271537) and registered as a charity (charity number 1144010) on 27 September 2011.

The objects, powers and governance structure of the charitable company are set out in its Articles of Association (last updated 30 August 2011). The RVI is governed by a Board of Trustees which meets four times annually. The trustees delegate the day-to-day operation of the Charity and management of its staff to the Executive Director who seeks guidance from trustees when important strategic, financial or governance issues arise.

The Recruitment, Appointment and Induction of New Trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. The trustees are subject to retirement by rotation and may be re-appointed if re-elected. The Board of Trustees has the power to appoint new trustees by ordinary resolution. Trustees are generally drawn from the body of Fellows of the Institute, which is composed of regional specialists and others. (Fellows of the Institute are elected by existing Fellows.) The appointment of trustees may be through recommendation from Fellows and the wider community of those sharing the goals of the Institute. Trustees are recruited with the aim of providing the diversity and skills needed to ensure the good governance of the Charity. These skills may include strategic planning, fundraising, financial management, administration, law, media management, and specialist knowledge of eastern and central Africa. The trustees are not remunerated for their work as trustees.

The procedure for inducting and training a new trustee entails a visit to the RVI Kenya or UK office in order to familiarize the new trustee with the Charity—with its aims, standard procedures and policies—and a meeting between the new trustee and management staff of the Institute. On appointment, trustees receive the Articles of Association and minutes, documents and board books from previous trustee meetings, with copies of the Charity's most recent publications and written policies relevant to the governance and risk management of RVI.

Offices and Related Parties

The Charity has four offices: its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya; an office in London, in the United Kingdom; in Juba, South Sudan; and an office in Hargeysa, Somaliland.

The Charity is registered as a branch of the UK company in Kenya (registration number: F.C 30/2003); in South Sudan as international NGO (registration number:810); in Somaliland as an international NGO (registration number: L.43.31.2087.2020 M/J).

In 2006, Rift Valley Institute Inc. was incorporated under Section 402 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law in New York State on 30 August 2006 and is registered as a charity with the Charities Bureau, New York State. Rift Valley Institute Inc. was registered in the United States to raise funds and to provide support and coordination to the UK entity.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees has given consideration to the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. These include operational, financial, and legal risks, risks in matters of governance and risks resulting from external factors. The Charity faces special risks associated with conflict, insecurity, and failures of governance in a number of the countries where it operates. Since 2020 this includes risks associated with Covid-19. In 2020, the risk register was reviewed at quarterly board meetings and with Africa-based staff. RVI continuously reviews procedures and protocols for managing staff security. A managerial staff member in Nairobi has special responsibility for managing security.

The Board is satisfied that systems or procedures have been established to manage the risks we currently face, including key risks in the following areas:

1. Failure to deliver the 2021 budget

Failure to maintain economies and an overspend on the cost base will jeopardize the financial health of the Institute, as will a failure to meet income projections for 2021. To respond to this risk, the cost base and income projections have been set and agreed following a rigorous budgeting process in December 2020. Project management practices introduced since 2017, holding directors and managers to account for delivering on time and on budget, have improved income and cost recovery and ensured financial control of the cost base. The impact of Covid-19 since 2020 and in 2021 in the countries where RVI operates and on the UK economy and the realignment of foreign aid priorities of the UK government will influence the ability of RVI to meet its income projections. Maintaining a focus on diversified fundraising will increase the likelihood of RVI achieving income projections in the year ahead. The situation is closely monitored by trustees.

2. Cost recovery projections not achieved

Not achieving the cost recovery projects would see a decline in organizational reserves with consequential impact on the financial health of the Institute. To manage this risk, guidelines on budgeting and overhead recovery are regularly reviewed and overhead recovery rates specified in contracts with donors. Systems of tracking and oversight of project delivery by Directors, Managers and financial team are also in place. Actions to reduce the cost base may need to be implemented depending on future funding.

3. Introduction of restrictions on NGOs operating in the countries of the region

The introduction of prohibitive administrative and financial burdens on NGOs (e.g., work permits in Kenya, NGO Act in South Sudan) could have significant operational and financial implications (e.g. payments of taxes, costs of lawyers, restrictions on programme work). To manage this risk, RVI ensures full compliance with Government regulations ahead of time, constant monitoring of political situation, and continuous communications with other organizations working in the countries of the region. More specifically, RVI is continually gathering information from other organizations in Kenya on bureaucratic restrictions and solutions for securing work permits in Kenya, and closely monitoring the enforcement of the NGO Act in South Sudan. Finally, the local recruitment of staff, where possible, avoids the need for work permits.

4. International Financial Compliance

RVI as a registered Charity in the United Kingdom, is bound by UK laws related to its activities and transactions. These laws include, but are not limited to, the UK Bribery Act 2010 and sanctions laws ('Compliance Laws'). Non-compliance with Compliance Laws can result in significant administrative, civil and criminal penalties for the Institute, including monetary fines and imprisonment, loss of donors and reputational risks. RVI is committed to conducting its activities consistently with Compliance Laws, and that the affairs of the Institute should be conducted in an honest and ethical manner. In several of the countries where RVI works individuals, organizations and companies may be subject to international financial sanction regimes. RVI updated its anti-bribery policy in 2018 to include measures to ensure that financial transactions are compliant with UK and international and national laws. RVI sees to remain updated on changes in Compliance Laws.

5. Safeguarding

RVI has an established equality and diversity policy. The Institute does not discriminate on grounds of gender, marital status, race, ethnic origin or identity, skin colour, nationality, national origin, disability, sexuality, religion or age. This policy was revised in 2020 to incorporate best practice on safeguarding, and to ensure that employees of the Institute, Interns and volunteers and individuals the Institute works with, are protected from any form of discrimination or abuse, including physical, emotional or sexual harm, in the course of RVI's work.

Remuneration

The salaries of Rift Valley Institute staff are periodically benchmarked against those of comparable organisations, including other charities, through market surveys. RVI sets salaries equivalent to the median for such organisations where this is feasible, and aims to develop consistent practices for staff in all locations while adhering to local legislation.

The Institute has an annual salary increase policy of local country Consumer Price Index plus 1%. This is detailed in the RVI Staff Handbook. Increases are implemented on 1 January of each year, subject to the approval of the budget by the Board. RVI completed a salary review and a review of the existing salary structure in 2019. A new salary structure was adopted, and some salaries were adjusted to bring them closer to the median.

Public Benefit

The trustees are satisfied that they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The description of the Charity's objectives and activities above demonstrates the public benefit arising from the work of the Charity.

Financial Review

At US\$2,360,772 the charity's total income in 2020 decreased by 10 percent from its total income in 2019 of US\$2,612,187. This is a net movement (both increments and reductions) across all the income streams. A major contributor to the reduction is the cancellation of the RVI annual residential courses because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The loss of income as a result of this was partly compensated for by securing other projects, especially in South Sudan. In addition, the Somali Dialogue Platform was restructured and RVI appointed by FCDO to implement it. This new arrangement resulted in additional income from the Platform project.

In the absence of income from annual courses, the total unrestricted income in 2020 declined by 35 per cent compared to 2019. The unrestricted income in 2020 was derived from several deliverable-based assignments undertaken in 2020 as well as a bespoke online course that was organised towards the end of the year for the Canadian government.

The distribution of income across the institute's workstreams and locations is tabulated below:

Workstream/Location	2020	2019
Institutional Funding	1 %	3%
Education	1%	18 %
Forums	4%	6 %
Horn of Africa	47 %	19%
Sudan	22 %	12%
Great Lakes	-	7%
Transregional	25%	35 %
Total	100 percent	100 percent

The reduction in income under education as a proportion of the total Institute's income is explained by the cancellation of the RVI annual courses because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Bespoke courses that were initially planned for were similarly cancelled.

The main reason for the increase in the Horn of Africa income is because of the Somali Dialogue Platform project which contributed over US\$882,000 to the income pool. The Platform project was previously being implemented by a consortium of which RVI was a member, but was restructured from April 2020 and RVI appointed to solely manage the project. This new arrangement involved in a larger budget for RVI to manage and thus more income.

The increase in the Sudan's income is mostly due to securing new projects in South Sudan during the year. Examples include the Youth and Livelihood project as well as the Community Approaches to Epidemics Management project, both of which are funded by the East Africa Research Fund. Others are the Local Response to Covid-19 project funded by Wellspring and the Sudan's election project funded by the British Council. The cumulative value of these projects was around US\$ 176,000 in 2020 alone. Furthermore, despite the Covid-19 crisis, the RVI office in Juba remained opened which meant that most of the other projects continued.

We did not have any major project running in the Great Lakes region in 2020 thus the nil income. The 2019 income relates to the Usalama III project that was funded by Management Systems International (MSI) as well as the KMF funded Building a Framework for Ethical Research project that both came to an end.

The decrease in the Transregional income is largely attributable to two reasons. Firstly, there were less activities on the X-Border project because of scaling down as a result of Covid-19. Income from X Border in 2019 was US\$782,000 compared to US\$579,000 in 2020. In addition, the Deep State Study came to an end in early 2020 with most of its income (US\$120,000), being recorded in 2019 as opposed to only US\$20,000 in 2020.

In 2021, it is anticipated that charity's total income will increase to slightly over USD 4 million out of which an amount of USD 2 million is derived from the Platform.

In 2020, the Institute's overall expenditure decreased by 11 percent, from US\$2,549,095 in 2019 to US\$2,273,344. The reduction is directly proportional to the decrease in income of 10 per cent.

At the end of 2020, the charity's overall reserves on hand, excluding designated funds increased by 3 percent to US\$666,066 compared with US\$646,366 in 2019. General funds under unrestricted reserves also increased by 7 percent from US\$428,684 at the end of 2019 to US\$458,035 at the end of 2020.

In 2020, the Institute's largest donors were FCDO (53%), Creative Associates International (10%), UNESCO (8%), EARF (7%) and the World Bank (5%). FCDO continues to be the Institute's largest donor with its proportion of total income increasing from 37% in 2019 to 53% in 2020. The increase is mostly because of the Somalia Dialogue Platform project which is largely funded by FCDO.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees reviews the reserves policy annually and has determined the increase the level of General unrestricted reserves, taking into consideration both the income growth and financial environment.

The RVI's main source of income is project funding. This is supplemented by fees charged for RVI Field Courses and other training courses and by donor funding for institutional development. The project funding is for both short and long-term projects, with the latter requiring significant on-going financial commitment and investment.

RVI's unrestricted reserves are derived from the net income emanating from a number of sources, including any surplus from charges for training and courses, and any surplus on project income after having charged the cost of overheads against the unrestricted element allowed. This net income serves to supplement unrestricted reserves, measured particularly at the end of each financial year.

The Board of Trustees reviews the Reserves Policy annually, having considered the known and potential risks to which the charity is exposed and the extent to which RVI is able to mitigate those risks. The trustees believe that we need to have sufficient unrestricted reserves to allow our charity to cover known liabilities and contingencies, absorb set-backs and take advantage of change and opportunity. It is intended that RVI's unrestricted reserves are backed by cash

The use to which all Unrestricted Funds are put is at the sole discretion of the trustees. Designated Funds are those funds set aside by the trustees to be used for a particular future project or commitment.

The Board has therefore considered the need to provide within unrestricted reserves a) a level of working capital that protects the continuity of our core work, b) a level of funding for unexpected opportunities, and c) cover for risks such as unforeseen expenditure or unanticipated loss of income. It is therefore intended that the organisation will hold General unrestricted reserves in the range US\$390,000 to US\$430,000, this being broadly equivalent to five months operating costs, covering staff salaries, office leases and redundancy payments to cover closure costs. This is an increase from the previous unrestricted reserves target of US\$350,000. The level of General unrestricted reserves as at 31 December 2020 was US\$458,035.

In addition to this amount, US\$96,538 has been assigned as Designated unrestricted reserves to cater for the remaining elements of the Bringing Unity, Integrity and Legitimacy to Democracy (BUILD) funded deliverables of the Somali Dialogue Platform to be implemented in 2021, and for which RVI has already met the terms of the contract.

Going Concern

Recognising the difficulties brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Trustees have reviewed financial forecasts for the next 12 months under three different potential scenarios. In each scenario the trustees believe that the charity will have sufficient cash resources to meet liabilities as they fall due. They have therefore concluded that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was re-appointed as the charitable company's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The report of the trustees has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

Approved by the trustees on 29 June 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Comfort Ero
Trustee

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rift Valley Research Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Rift Valley Research Limited's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our

knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- The directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' annual report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit

conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the board of trustees, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
- Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Jonathan Orchard (Senior statutory auditor)

23 August 2021

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor

Invicta House, 108-114 Golden Lane, LONDON, EC1Y 0TL

Rift Valley Research Limited

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2020 Total US\$	2019 Total US\$
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	15,300	–	15,300	67,871
Charitable activities					
Education and training	4	23,690	–	23,690	479,998
Research, programmes and publications	4	639,684	1,681,243	2,320,927	2,062,771
Other contributions	4	–	438	438	722
Investments		417	–	417	825
Total income		679,091	1,681,681	2,360,772	2,612,187
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	255,526	–	255,526	194,062
Charitable activities					
Education and training	5	154,767	–	154,767	503,007
Research, programmes and publications	5	211,154	1,651,896	1,863,051	1,852,026
Total expenditure		621,448	1,651,896	2,273,344	2,549,095
Net (expenditure)/income for the year		57,644	29,784	87,428	63,092
Transfers between funds		39,435	(39,435)	–	–
Net income before other recognised gains and losses		97,079	(9,651)	87,428	63,092
Foreign exchange gain		28,811	–	28,811	840
Net movement in funds		125,889	(9,651)	116,238	63,932
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		428,684	217,682	646,366	582,434
Total funds carried forward		554,573	208,031	762,604	646,366

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 18 to the financial statements.

Balance sheet

Company no. 04271537

As at 31 December 2020

	Note	US\$	2020 US\$	US\$	2019 US\$
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	12		2,750		4,125
			<u>2,750</u>		<u>4,125</u>
Current assets:					
Debtors	13	644,262		402,944	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,360,835		780,447	
		<u>2,005,097</u>		<u>1,183,391</u>	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14,15,16	1,245,244		541,150	
				<u>541,150</u>	
Net current assets			<u>759,854</u>		<u>642,241</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	17		<u>762,604</u>		<u>646,366</u>
Total net assets			<u><u>762,604</u></u>		<u><u>646,366</u></u>
The funds of the charity:	18				
Restricted income funds			208,031		217,682
Unrestricted income funds:					
*Designated funds		96,538		–	
General funds		458,035		428,684	
		<u>554,573</u>		<u>428,684</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>554,573</u>		<u>428,684</u>
Total charity funds			<u><u>762,604</u></u>		<u><u>646,366</u></u>

*The designated funds have been set aside to cater for the remaining elements from the Bringing Unity, Integrity and Legitimacy to Democracy (BUILD) funds for the Somalia Dialogue Platform project to be implemented in 2021.

Approved by the trustees on 29 June 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Comfort Ero
Trustee

Rift Valley Research Limited

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	2020		2019	
		US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Cash flows from operating activities	19				
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities			580,388		399,857
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of fixed assets		—	—		(5,500)
Net cash provided by investing activities			—		—
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			580,388		394,357
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			780,447		386,090
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	20		1,360,835		780,447

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Rift Valley Research Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England & Wales.

The registered office address is Unit 2.11 Islington Studios 159/163 Marlborough Road, London N19 4NF.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (September 2015) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of the provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with an income generating purpose
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of carrying out research, carrying out educational activities including running courses and producing publications undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

j) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned on the following basis which are an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity.

Where information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is provided to potential beneficiaries, the costs associated with this publicity are allocated to charitable expenditure.

Where such information about the aims, objectives and projects of the charity is also provided to potential donors, activity costs are apportioned between fundraising and charitable activities on the basis of area of literature occupied by each activity.

● Education and training	5%
● Research, programmes and publications	71%
● Fundraising	7%
● Support costs	12%
● Governance costs	5%

Support and governance costs are re-allocated to each of the activities on the following basis which is an estimate, based on staff time, of the amount attributable to each activity

● Education and training	10%
● Research, programmes and publications	65%
● Fundraising	25%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

k) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

l) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds \$600.00. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

● Non-IT equipment	4 years
● Computers and other IT equipment	2 years

m) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

n) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account. Cash balances exclude any funds held on behalf of service users.

o) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

p) Pensions

The charity offers a pension scheme requiring a 3% contribution from staff which is then matched with a 6% company contribution. There are different schemes in different countries of operation and staff are able to opt out if they choose to. For staff based in countries where there is no company providing pensions (currently South Sudan and Somaliland) these funds are held by the charity and will be dispersed to the employee when they leave the charity's employment.

q) Foreign exchange

Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into US Dollars at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the average rate of exchange for the year. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the net incoming resources for the year.

r) International operations

The SORP 2015 stipulates that where international offices are legally registered in their country of operations, this is an indication that they should be treated as subsidiaries for accounting purposes. However, having reviewed the governance and management procedures in place, it is the trustees' belief that the practical operation of the charity's international offices means that they are, in substance, branches and are accounted for accordingly.

2 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2019 Total US\$
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	67,871	–	67,871
Charitable activities			
Education and training	479,998	–	479,998
Research, programmes and publications	502,237	1,560,534	2,062,771
Scholarship fund	–	722	722
Investments	825	–	825
Total income	1,050,931	1,561,256	2,612,187
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	194,062	–	194,062
Charitable activities			
Education and training	503,007	–	503,007
Research, programmes and publications	261,249	1,590,777	1,852,026
Total expenditure	958,318	1,590,777	2,549,095
Net income / expenditure before gains / (losses) on investments	92,613	(29,521)	63,092
Net gains / (losses) on investments	–	–	–
Net income / expenditure	92,613	(29,521)	63,092
Transfers between funds	(34,770)	34,770	–
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	57,843	5,249	63,092
Foreign exchange gains/ (losses)	840	–	840
Net movement in funds	58,683	5,249	63,932
Total funds brought forward	370,001	212,433	582,434
Total funds carried forward	428,684	217,682	646,366

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2020 Total US\$	2019 Total US\$
Unrestricted grants	12,753	–	12,753	60,112
Gifts – sale of product income	2,548	–	2,548	7,760
	15,300	–	15,300	67,872

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2020 Total US\$	2019 Total US\$
Annual Field Courses	-	-	-	318,016
Other Training Courses	23,690	-	23,690	161,982
Sub-total for Education and Training	23,690	-	23,690	479,998
An Effective Somali Platform for Political Dialogue and Accomodation	-	145,302	145,302	182,070
Somalia Dialogue Platform-FCDO	-	512,634	512,634	-
Somalia Dialogue Platform-BUILD	225,000	-	225,000	-
Culture at the Centre: the Expansion and Consolidation of Hargeysa Cultural Centre I	-	-	-	(18,568)
Culture at the Centre: the Expansion and Consolidation of Hargeysa Cultural Centre II	-	5,254	5,254	41,034
Ethiopia Electoral Landscape Political Economy Analysis	-	-	-	38,411
Somalia Social Impact Assessment	108,124	-	108,124	-
PEA Land in Ethiopia	-	-	-	9,629
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	12,363	12,363	12,841
CRRF & common research agenda in Ethiopia	-	-	-	73,361
Urban Land Administration in Somalia (ReDSS)	65,467	-	65,467	12,818
Horn of Africa and Gulf Relations	24,216	-	24,216	-
OCHA Round Tables	-	1,868	1,868	-
FCDO Ethiopia PEA Facility	-	724	724	-
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	380	380	-
AHRC Learning Lessons	-	7,234	7,234	11,571
Deep State Study	-	20,011	20,011	120,237
KMF Building a framework for ethical research	-	-	-	14,484
VNGi Kelehe Report	2,665	-	2,665	4,511
NEP Project	-	-	-	2,180
Energy on the Move	-	-	-	11,085
Radicalisation	-	-	-	-
X Border	-	579,353	579,353	781,630
Sudan Elections	-	34,824	34,824	-
South Sudan National Archives II	-	-	-	97,688
32 States	-	-	-	13,796
Women's Research Network	-	4,623	4,623	-
SDF Somaliland Land Study	14,826	-	14,826	1,024
Usalama III – Urban Conflict and Resilience	5,000	-	5,000	154,429
LPI Forum	-	-	-	58,907
UNSOM	-	-	-	3,703
Political Economy Analysis on Tax (World Bank)	-	-	-	53,131
The Political Economy of Urban Networks in Somalia (World Bank)	-	-	-	91,904
Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform	-	2,652	2,652	-
ICRC Mens Perception of Sexual Violence	6,150	-	6,150	-
Australian Embassy – Pilot Research Into Diaspora Projects	-	16,958	16,958	-
Australian Embassy – Research into Transnational South Sudanese networks in Ethiopia	-	3,971	3,971	27,985
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project (SSCA) IV	-	-	-	(11,408)
Community Approaches & Epidemics Management	71,668	-	71,668	-
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project (SSCA) V	-	106,282	106,282	130,504
Political Settlements Research Project	-	-	-	1,289
Research Community of Practice	-	2,467	2,467	-
Juba Lectures	-	-	-	288
South Sudan National Archives (UNESCO) I	-	-	-	43,948
South Sudan National Archives (UNESCO) III	-	64,781	64,781	-
South Sudan National Archives (UNESCO) IV	-	110,060	110,060	-
South Sudan National Archives (UNESCO) V	-	9,887	9,887	-
Small Forum Funders	32,870	-	32,870	98,288
GARVE Project	-	30,187	30,187	-
Samuel Hall Forums	23,946	-	23,946	-
Local Response to Covid –19	-	9,429	9,429	-
Youth and Livelihoods Project	59,753	-	59,753	-
Sub-total for Research, programmes and publications	639,684	1,681,243	2,320,927	2,062,770

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

4 Income from charitable activities (continued)

Book sales	-	438	438	722
Other contributions to the scholarship fund	-	-	-	-
Sub-total for Scholarship Fund	-	438	438	722
Total income from charitable activities	663,374	1,681,681	2,345,055	2,543,490

In 2020, all income for Education and Training activities was unrestricted and 28% of income from research, programmes and publications activities was unrestricted with the rest being restricted.

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2020 Total US\$	2019 Total US\$
Bank Interest	417	-	417	825
	417	-	417	825

5a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities						
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$	2020 US\$	2019 US\$
Direct Staff Costs	159,945	109,054	305,350	50,892	101,783	727,024	661,286
Grants made (note 6)	-	-	23,000	-	-	23,000	-
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	-	221	133,756	-	-	133,977	647,561
Consultants Fees	-	5,755	1,023,521	-	-	1,029,276	879,476
Events	-	1,259	58,707	-	-	59,966	59,351
Direct publication costs	-	118	46,942	-	-	47,060	59,492
Other Direct Costs	-	127	23,260	67,133	-	90,520	74,574
Office & Other Staff Costs	-	-	-	-	162,522	162,522	167,355
	159,945	116,534	1,614,536	118,025	264,305	2,273,345	2,549,095
Support costs							
Staff Costs	38,169	15,268	99,238	(50,892)	(101,783)	-	-
Office & Other Staff Costs	40,629	16,252	105,639	-	(162,522)	-	-
Governance Costs	16,783	6,713	43,635	(67,133)	-	-	-
Total expenditure 2020	255,526	154,767	1,863,049	-	-	2,273,345	2,549,095
Total expenditure 2019	194,062	503,007	1,852,027	-	-	2,549,096	

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 2019

5b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities						
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$	2019 US\$	2018 US\$
Direct Staff Costs	105,806	138,871	277,739	46,290	92,580	661,286	636,885
Grants made (note 6)	–	–	–	–	–	–	55,310
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	–	180,897	466,664	–	–	647,561	554,053
Consultants Fees	–	121,122	758,354	–	–	879,476	962,323
Events	–	6,436	52,915	–	–	59,351	73,638
Direct publication costs	–	15,425	44,067	–	–	59,492	89,827
Other Direct Costs	–	4,952	22,820	46,801	–	74,574	72,444
Office & Other Staff Costs	–	–	–	–	167,355	167,355	144,430
	105,806	467,704	1,622,559	93,091	259,935	2,549,095	2,588,910
Support costs							
Staff Costs	34,718	13,887	90,265	(46,290)	(92,580)	–	–
Office & Other Staff Costs	41,838	16,736	108,781	–	(167,355)	–	–
Governance Costs	11,700	4,680	30,421	(46,801)	–	–	–
Total expenditure 2019	194,062	503,007	1,852,026	–	–	2,549,095	2,588,910
Total expenditure 2018	121,572	446,748	2,020,590	–	–	2,588,910	

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2020

6 Grant making

Grants were made in accordance with funder agreements. These include sub-grants to UNESCO Club of \$23,000 (2019: Nil).

7 Net incoming resources for the year

This is stated after charging / crediting:

	2020 US\$	2019 US\$
Depreciation	1,375	1,765
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	52,261	55,715
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit – UK	12,744	9,360
Audit – Kenya	3,352	2,500
Foreign exchange gain	28,811	840

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2020 US\$	2019 US\$
Salaries and wages	665,792	590,353
Social security costs including Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension	54,225	46,818
Other forms of employee benefits	7,007	24,115
	727,024	661,286

The following number of employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) during the year between:

	2020 US\$	2019 US\$
\$61,000–\$73,999	1	1
\$74,000–\$85,999	1	1

The total employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions and national insurance contributions) of the key management personnel were \$154,612 (2019: \$106,092).

One trustee, Andy Carl was paid remuneration during the year of \$9,525 for his work as consultant for the charity (2019: 5,681). The payment to Andy Carl was a one off payment for his specialist skills in dialogue that were required in the Somali Dialogue Platform project. No balances were outstanding at the end of the year.

No Trustees' expenses were paid during the year (2019: Nil).

9 Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Raising funds	3.2	2.4
Education and training	2.7	3.2
Research, programmes and publications	6.7	6.4
Support	2.2	2.2
Governance	1.1	1.1
	16.0	15.3

10 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2020 (2019: none)

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

11 Taxation

The company is exempt from UK corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes. RVI is registered as a company in Kenya and therefore is subject to Kenyan corporate tax on the deemed surplus arising on activities in that country. In these financial statements 2020 resources expended include \$8,484 paid to Kenyan Revenue Authority as Company Tax (2019: \$10,830 in respect of Kenyan tax).

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Office equipment US\$	Total US\$
Cost or valuation		
At the start of the year	83,877	83,877
Additions in year	–	–
Disposals in year		–
At the end of the year	83,877	83,877
Depreciation		
At the start of the year	79,752	79,752
Charge for the year	1,375	1,375
At the end of the year	81,127	81,127
Net book value		
At the end of the year	2,750	2,750
At the start of the year	4,120	4,120

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

13 Debtors

	2020 US\$	2019 US\$
Grant Income	560,944	331,888
Other debtors	57,050	42,348
Prepayments	26,268	28,709
	644,262	402,945

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 US\$	2019 US\$
Other creditors	146,148	110,730
Accruals	177,728	158,187
Deferred income (Note 15)	921,369	272,233
	1,245,244	541,150

15 Deferred income

Deferred income comprises of funds received in 2019, to be spent in future years.

	2020 US\$	2019 US\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	272,233	229,668
Amount released to income in the year	(272,233)	(229,668)
Amount deferred in the year	921,369	272,233
	<u>921,369</u>	<u>272,233</u>
Balance at the end of the year (Note 14)	<u>921,369</u>	<u>272,233</u>

16 Pension scheme

RVI does not have a company pension scheme. Staff are automatically enrolled in a private pension plan. They may request their own or alternate pension scheme, or opt out of the pension provision altogether. However, for staff based in countries where there is no company providing pensions (currently South Sudan and Somaliland) these funds are held by the charity and will be dispersed to the employee when they leave the charity's employment.

17a Current year analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted \$	Restricted \$	Total funds \$
Tangible fixed assets	2,750	–	2,750
Net current assets	551,823	208,031	759,854
	<u>554,573</u>	<u>208,031</u>	<u>762,604</u>
Net assets at the end of the year	<u>554,573</u>	<u>208,031</u>	<u>762,604</u>

17b Prior year analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted \$	Restricted \$	Total funds \$
Tangible fixed assets	4,125	–	4,125
Net current assets	424,559	217,682	642,241
	<u>428,684</u>	<u>217,682</u>	<u>646,366</u>
Net assets at the end of the year	<u>428,684</u>	<u>217,682</u>	<u>646,366</u>

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For the year ended 31 December 2020

18a Current year movements in funds

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
Restricted funds:					
An effective Somali platform for Political Dialogue and Accommodation	-	145,302	(148,838)	3,535	-
Somali Dialogue Platform- FCDO		512,634	(512,634)		-
Somalia Research Capacity Building The Expansion and Consolidation of Hargeysa	4,352	-	-	-	4,352
Cultural Centre II	-	5,254	(5,254)	-	-
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	12,363	(12,363)	-	-
OCHA Round tables	-	1,868	(1,868)	-	-
FCDO Ethiopia PEA Facility	-	724	(724)	-	-
Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion	-	380	(380)	-	-
AHRC Learning Lessons: Education History in South Sudan	-	7,234	(7,234)	-	-
Power in the Shadows – understanding the deep state in African politics	-	20,011	(20,011)	-	-
Sudan Elections	-	34,824	(1,795)	-	33,029
Women Research Network	-	4,623	(4,623)	-	-
Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform	-	2,652	(2,652)	-	-
EARF Women in Politics	21,334			(21,334)	-
Research Community of Practice	-	2,467	(2,467)	-	-
South Sudan National Archives III	-	64,781	(64,781)	-	-
South Sudan National Archives IV	-	110,060	(110,205)	145	-
Rift Valley Forum	91,375			-	91,375
Political Settlements Research Programme	1,501	-	-	-	1,501
South Sudan National Archives V	-	9,887	(9,887)	-	-
Pilot Research Into Diaspora Projects	-	16,958	(16,958)	-	-
Australian Embassy-Understanding Sudanese Diaspora in Egypt	-	3,971	(3,971)	-	-
EARF Kenya Elections	21,781	-	-	(21,781)	-
GARVE	-	30,187	(30,187)	-	-
Museum Network –Durham	356	-	-	-	356
Sub-total	140,699	986,179	(956,830)	(39,435)	130,612

18a Current year movements in funds (continued)

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
Total brought forward	140,699	986,179	(956,830)	(39,435)	130,612
Local Response to Covid-19	–	9,429	(9,429)	–	–
RVI Scholarship fund	25,343	438	–	–	25,781
HMG Ethiopia Phase III	–	–	–	–	–
PEA Somalia	2,067	–	–	–	2,067
X-Border	–	579,353	(579,353)	–	–
Context Analysis on Gender for the JPLG and UNICEF in Somalia	3,408	–	–	–	3,408
PEA Tax Ethiopia	–	–	–	–	–
Remittances and Vulnerability in Somalia	21,251	–	–	–	21,251
SDF Somaliland Land Study	–	–	–	–	–
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	24,893	–	–	–	24,895
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project (SSCA) V	–	106,282	(106,282)	–	–
South Sudan National Archives I	21	–	–	–	21
Total restricted funds	217,682	1,681,681	(1,651,894)	(39,435)	208,031
Total unrestricted funds	428,684	707,902	(621,448)	39,435	554,573
Total funds	646,366	2,389,582	(2,273,342)	–	762,604

18b Previous year movements in funds

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
Restricted funds:					
Platform for Political Dialogue Project	–	182,070	(182,070)	–	–
Somalia Research Capacity Building	4,352	–	–	–	4,352
The Expansion and Consolidation of Hargeysa Cultural Centre I	–	(18,568)	–	18,568	–
The Expansion and Consolidation of Hargeysa Cultural Centre II	–	41,034	(41,034)	–	–
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	–	12,841	(12,841)	–	–
Learning Lessons: Education History in South Sudan	–	11,571	(11,571)	–	–
Power in the Shadows – understanding the deep state in African politics	–	120,237	(120,237)	–	–
Building a framework for ethical research (KMF)	–	14,484	(14,484)	–	–
Juba Lectures Series	–	288	(288)	–	–
Women in Politics	21,334	–	–	–	21,334
LPI Forum	–	58,907	(59,031)	124	–
UNSOM	–	3,703	(3,703)	–	–
NEP Project	–	2,180	(2,180)	–	–
Rift Valley Forum	91,375	–	–	–	91,375
Political Settlements Research Programme	1,501	1,289	(1,289)	–	1,501
Usalama	–	–	–	–	–
Pilot Research Into Diaspora Projects	(477)	–	–	477	–
Australian Embassy– Research into Transnational South Sudanese Networks in Ethiopia	–	27,985	(27,985)	–	–
EARF Kenya Elections	21,781	–	–	–	21,781
Energy on the Move	–	11,085	(11,085)	–	–
Museum Network –Durham	356	–	–	–	356
Sub-total	140,222	469,106	(487,798)	19,169	140,699

18b Prior year movements in funds (continued)

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
Total brought forward	140,222	469,106	(487,798)	19,169	140,699
Radicalisation in EA	–	–	–	–	–
RVI Scholarship fund	24,621	722	–	–	25,343
HMG Ethiopia Phase III	(1,400)	–	–	1,400	–
PEA Somalia	2,067	–	–	–	2,067
X-Border	–	781,630	(781,630)	–	–
REF Project	–	–	–	–	–
Context Analysis on Gender for the JPLG and UNICEF in Somalia	3,408	–	–	–	3,408
PEA Tax Ethiopia	(2,264)	–	–	2,264	–
Remittances and Vulnerability in Somalia	21,251	–	–	–	21,251
SDF Somaliland Land Study	–	1,024	(1,024)	–	–
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	24,893	–	–	–	24,893
PEA on Land Ethiopia–	–	9,629	(9,906)	277	–
PEA of Electoral Landscape in Ethiopia	–	38,411	(38,411)	–	–
South Sudan National Archives II	–	97,688	(97,688)	–	–
South Sudan Customary Authorities IV	(385)	(11,408)	133	11,660	–
South Sudan Customary Authorities V	–	130,506	(130,506)	–	–
South Sudan National Archives I	21	43,948	(43,948)	–	21
UNESCO II	–	–	–	–	–
Total restricted funds	212,434	1,561,256	(1,590,778)	34,770	217,682
General funds	370,001	1,051,771	(958,318)	(34,770)	428,684
Total unrestricted funds	370,001	1,051,772	(958,318)	(34,770)	428,684
Total funds	582,435	2,613,028	(2,549,096)	–	646,366

Purposes of restricted funds

Restricted funds comprise grants and donations received for specific purposes as follows:

Platform for Political Dialogue Project – Funded by FCDO, this project aims to support the building of an effective Somali Platform for Political Dialogue and Accommodation in Somalia.

Somali Dialogue Platform– This is a continuation of the above project funded by FCDO

Hargeisa Cultural Centre Project– This is a project funded by the European Union to support the expansion and consolidation of the Hargeisa Cultural Centre

Diaspora in Humanitarianism in Complex Crises– A project funded by the Danish Research Council. It explores how Somali diaspora groups mobilize, channel and deliver humanitarian assistance to Somalia during humanitarian crises

Ocha Round Tables– A series of Round Table discussions to discuss the Tigray Conflict in Ethiopia funded by OCHA.

Ethiopia PEA Facility– A Political Economy Analysis funded by FCDO through the The Policy Practice Organisation.

Somaliland Trajectories of Inclusion: A project in partnership with the Institute of Peace & Conflict Studies and funded by GCRF.

AHRC Learning Lessons: Education History in South Sudan: A project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to support research into contemporary histories of informal educational projects during displacement in South Sudan.

Power in the Shadows: Funded by the Foundation Open Society Institute, this project aims to understand the deep state in African Politics.

Sudan Elections– A project to inform advocacy and planning for Sudan's upcoming elections funded by the British Council.

Purposes of restricted funds (continued)

Women Research Network– A European Union (EU) funded project to promote local Womens voices in Research and civil society.

Research Community of Practice– A project aimed at supporting African Peace Building Research and the development of Communities of Practice funded by Carnegie Corporation.

South Sudan National Archives Project– Funded by UNESCO, this project is dedicated to the conservation and digitisation of the National Archives of South Sudan.

Research into Diaspora Projects – A Research Project into Transnational South Sudanese Networks in Ethiopia funded by the Australian Government via the Australian Embassy in South Sudan.

Australian Embassy– A Research Understanding Sudanese Diaspora in Egypt funded by th Australian Embassy

GARVE– A GCRF funded project on Gender & Violent Extremism Networks

Local Response to Covid-19– A project funded by the Civilian protection Opportunities fund for Community Based Covid – 19 messaging in South Sudan.

The RVI Scholarship Fund – The Scholarship Fund is a voluntary donation fund which has the aim of promoting individual educational development of young researchers and activists from countries in Eastern and Central Africa. This may include funding their attendance on courses provided by the Charity. Income from the sale of RVI publications is also allocated to this fund.

X –Border– A DFID funded project on Cross Border Conflict Evidence and Policy Trends

South Sudan Customary Authorities – Supported by the Swiss Development Corporation in Juba, this project aims to ingrate Customary Authorities into the peace building Processes in South Sudan.

19 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020 US\$	2019 US\$
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	116,238	63,932
Depreciation charges	1,375	1,765
Increase /(decrease) in debtors	(241,318)	333,474
Increase in creditors	704,094	686
Net cash provided /(used) by operating activities	580,388	399,857

20 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 January 2020 \$	Cash flows \$	Other changes \$	At 31 December 2020 \$
Cash at bank and in hand	780,447	580,388	–	1,360,835
Total cash and cash equivalents	780,447	580,388	–	1,360,835

21 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Property 2020 US\$	2019 US\$
Less than one year	44,127	34,078
One to five years	8,754	5,600
	<u>52,881</u>	<u>39,678</u>

22 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £10 (GBP).