

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
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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. 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

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2022

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	

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

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).