

# RIFT VALLEY RESEARCH LIMITED

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

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**Company number** 4271537

**Charity number** 1144010

**Operating as** Rift Valley Institute

**Registered office and operational address** Unit 107  
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**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)  
Andrew Carl (appointed 8 January 2018)  
Comfort Ero (Chair from 7 March 2018)  
Ann Grant (appointed 9 September 2011, Resigned 2 December 2019)  
Ali Hersi (appointed 8 January 2018)  
Christopher Maynard (appointed 14 February 2017)  
Leben Moro (appointed 8 January 2018)

**Principal staff** Mark Bradbury

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## Summary

The RVI is an independent, not-for-profit, knowledge-based organization founded in Sudan in 2001 and working in the Sudans, the Horn of Africa, East Africa and the Great Lakes. The Institute advances useful knowledge of the region and its diverse communities, bringing a deeper understanding of local realities to bear on social and political action. Through research, education and public information RVI seeks to elevate local voices and inform social and political action, providing a deeper understanding of local realities generated with and by local communities, institutions and individuals.

In 2019, the political dynamics in the countries where the Institute works were dominated by the on-going reform process in Ethiopia, the popular uprising in Sudan which led to the change of government after thirty years, the protracted peace process in South Sudan and the installation of a democratically elected government in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In Somalia, progress on economic fronts towards debt relief contrasted with a continuing fragility of the Federal state model. These political transitions were accompanied by violent contestations and climate induced emergencies leaving the region once again host to some of the largest displaced populations in the world.

Since it was founded in 2001, RVI has gradually built an operational presence in Eastern Africa. Since 2017, the Institute has been headquartered in Kenya (Nairobi), where the Executive Director and Head of Finance and Operations are both based, with offices in South Sudan (Juba), Somaliland (Hargeysa) and the UK (London). The South Sudan office, which has expanded over recent years, moved into new premises. By the end of 2019, the Institute employed sixteen staff, including two part-time positions, thirteen of whom are based in Africa. The RVI Board has six trustees, two of whom are from South Sudan and Kenya, and the Chair of the board is herself based for half of the year in Kenya.

During 2019, RVI was able to both develop and diversify its activities in Kenya, South Sudan, the DRC, Somalia, Somaliland, and Ethiopia, and ran courses in several countries in southern Africa. Notable achievements in our research workstream in 2019, include more published studies from the Institute's long-term research programme on customary authorities in South Sudan; six published studies and briefings for the X-Border Local Research Networks programme; the completion of a large study on urbanisation in Somalia funded by the World Bank; a study on urban violence in the DRC producing sixteen reports, briefs and blogs; and a multi-country study on the shadow state in Africa. We also started a major new project on political dialogue in Somalia as part of a consortium. Working in consortiums is becoming a regular modality for some of the Institute's work.

In terms of our education work, RVI's flagship Annual Field Courses took place for the first time in Ethiopia in 2019, taking advantage of a more conducive political environment there. The courses attracted fewer participants than previous years, but managed to generate a surplus. RVI continued to run bespoke courses for UNICEF beyond the Rift Valley region in Southern Africa, including in Lesotho. We also ran bespoke courses for other clients, such as the US Embassy in South Sudan and the Open Society Foundation in East Africa. Through the South Sudan and X-Border programmes, the Institute also ran training courses for researchers and partners from the region on oral history and research methodologies and ethics.

In support of the right to information, the Institute organise 18 public meetings and discussions in 2019 through the Rift Valley Forum, the Sudan National Archives, and the Hargeysa International Book Fair, which together attracted over 700 participants.

The Institute published 31 reports, briefing papers and blogs in 2019, and its social media presence has grown with over 7,000 followers on twitter.

Culture and heritage are important ways that knowledge is generated and provides an understanding of the societies RVI works with. In 2019, the Institute continued to promote culture and heritage, working with the Hargeysa Cultural Centre in Somaliland and the national archives in South Sudan

Institutionally, a new development strategy for the Institute was drafted through a number of organisational meetings. The new development strategy (2020-2023) will be launched in 2020. A compensation review was finalised and a new salary structure introduced, and new data protection and safeguarding policies were drafted.

In 2019, the Institute's income grew by 5 per cent to US\$2,612,188 from US\$2,494,823 in 2018, and 2017 of US\$2,592,913. Unrestricted reserves also increase by 16 per cent from US\$370,001 at the end of 2018 to US\$428,684 at the end of 2019, demonstrating the stability of the Institute's finances.

## Objectives and Achievements in 2019

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

In furtherance of these objectives, the Institute undertakes four core activities: field-based research and publication; education and training; it convenes forums for public discussion; and the conservation and digitization of historic archives and promotion of culture. Its programmes, formulated with communities, institutions and individuals from the region, are designed to bring local knowledge to bear on political, economic and social developments. They aim to shape aid interventions, expand space for public participation in policy formulation, support local research capacity, preserve communal histories and promote social justice.

The principles that guided the Institute's work in 2019, are articulated in RVI's *Development Strategy 2016-2020*, are:

- Accurate information is an indisputable public good. [L] [SEP]
- Respect for local knowledge informs equitable development. [L] [SEP]
- Public research and education encourage the free exchange of knowledge. [L] [SEP]
- Improved public information and open debate generate positive social change. [L] [SEP]
- Long-term local partnerships are the basis for successful projects. [L] [SEP]
- Accountability and transparency are key to effective collaboration. [L] [SEP]
- Integrating research with training and dissemination adds social value.

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

Under its founding principles, and re-stated in the strategic plan 2016-20, RVI measures its progress in three core areas: 1) advancing knowledge through research; 2) transferring knowledge through education and training; 3) exchanging knowledge through public information. These are elaborated below:

### **Advancing Knowledge through Research**

The RVI was founded to undertake research, and the production and exchange of knowledge remains core to all that RVI does. Over the years, the Institute has undertaken multi-year research projects, such as the Usalama Project on security and armed groups in the DRC, the transregional X-Border Local Research Network project (on-going), large participatory research projects, such as the Impact of War on Somali Men and the South Sudan Customary Authorities project in South Sudan, and shorter policy oriented studies, such as on Land Matters in Mogadishu, Women's Participation in Politics in Kenya, or the Political Economy of Taxation in Somalia. All research projects include a training component for local researchers to develop their skills.

The countries where RVI works have a structural deficit in terms of social science research capacity. An expansion of higher education in the region contrasts to a general deterioration of the university-based research community. Many of the best and brightest from underfunded public universities (students and academics) are attracted to the multiplicity of non-governmental organisations and multilateral institutions in the region or abroad, which offer better pay, and meritocratic opportunities. Consequently, academic institutions in the region have very weak 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. Producing high quality research and publicly available data on the region is critical for evidence-based policy and an important underpinning of open societies.

In this politically turbulent region, with long-running complex emergencies, international mediated deals and peace operations, there will continue to be a strong demand for local contextual 'applied' knowledge, and studies that can improve understanding of the 'local', whether that is the politics of transition in Ethiopia, elections in Kenya, armed groups in the DRC, localised maritime trade between Somalia and Yemen, or for bringing communities together around research as evidenced by our work with customary authorities in South Sudan.

The research arena has become more crowded with research institutes and think-tanks, but RVI remains one of the few 'field-based' providers of knowledge. Our work is evidence of the advantages of the institute's long-term presence in and commitment to the region. Our research portfolio remains unique with an emphasis on social research, developed from ideas generated by communities or institutions we work with, and being publicly accessible in accordance with the Institute's commitment to the freedom of information and open-access publishing.

### **Transferring Knowledge through Education and Training**

Field-based education and training are one of the Institute's methods for transferring knowledge of the region to different constituencies. A large amount of information is generated in and about the countries where RVI operates. Absorbing and analysing that information is a big task for development organizations and governments. Institutional memory is often poor, staff turnover can be rapid, and knowledge is often biased and not passed on. Since 2004, the RVI has run annual week-long field courses on Sudan and South Sudan, the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes regions, attracting participants from international NGOs, the UN, the diplomatic community and the private sector. The courses, taught by RVI staff, Fellow and associates, provide a historical and contemporary understanding of the region for decision-makers working there. Over a thousand participants have attended RVI's annual courses. For some international organizations and governments, they are a mandatory part of pre-deployment training. Each year young researchers and activists receive scholarships from RVI's Shading Tree fund to attend.

Since 2015 the Institute has expanded its educational work to include bespoke courses, designed together with the clients, for a range of institutional partners, including UNICEF's Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Open Society Institute in East Africa.

The Institute has also strategically expanded training opportunities for researchers from the region, most notably through our work with universities in Hargeysa in Somaliland, Garowe in Puntland and Juba in South Sudan, as well as through our research projects.

## Exchanging Knowledge through Public Information

It is RVI's conviction that access to accurate public information is essential for open societies and supports positive, long-term social change. Supporting the freedom of information and access to it is a core aim of RVI. It is also important for the success of the Sustainable Development Goals. The growth of digital media has expanded hugely the opportunities to access knowledge across the regions where RVI works. However, knowledge is power and biases in information infrastructure, regulation by governments or manipulation by private and non-state actors can adversely affect access to and use of information.

RVI disseminates information in three main ways: through the Rift Valley Forum ('the Forum') for Research, Policy and Local Knowledge and other convening activities; through the Institute's publications, including digital media; and through its support to archives and libraries. The Forum, established in 2012, is a programme of seminars, lectures and expert meetings that facilitates the exchange of knowledge between academics, practitioners, policymakers and the public on critical regional issues in a safe and neutral environment. The majority of Forum events have taken place in Nairobi, but are also held elsewhere in Kenya, Mogadishu, Hargeysa, Juba, Goma and London. Other influential dissemination events include the annual Juba Lectures, and seminars organised with the South Sudan National Archives.

RVI's publications include digital and printed books and reports, documentary film, radio, podcasts, and social media outputs. RVI has been a pioneer in the field of open access publishing and everything we publish is free to download in digital form. Our publications are disseminated in both analogue form and digitally through RVI's website and social media platforms. In all forms of publication, we strive for a high production standard. All publications are published in English and we strive to also publish in French, Somali and Arabic.

Conserving knowledge and access to it is core to RVI's work with the South Sudan National Archives and the RVI's digital Sudan Open Archive. The retention of knowledge particularly in the aid industry is poor, but is of critical importance for constructing post-conflict societies. The conservation of knowledge therefore has practical utility of informing contemporary actions and decision-making and fostering communal history.

## Progress on 2016-2020 Development Strategy

During 2019, progress was made against the Institute's aims articulated in the 2016-2020 Development Strategy. More details on the activities referenced below can be found in the following section on 'Summary of Major Activities 2018-19'.

### Aim 1: Research: to expand high quality research and publications

**Progress:** In 2019, the Institute has continued to maintain and expand its output of high-quality research. It continued multi-year research programmes, such as the South Sudan Customary Authorities (SSCA) project, a study of South Sudanese Diaspora, the transnational X-Border Local Research Network project, and Usalama III in the DRC. It completed a large study on urbanisation in Somalia, and a study on land governance in Kismayo, Somalia. It also initiated a multi-country study on the 'shadow state' in Africa. Thematically, the research covered issues of governance, conflict, political economy, livelihoods, land, urbanisation, and gender. These studies diversified both the Institute's thematic and geographical knowledge-base and expanded our engagement in countries outside East and Central Africa. The research findings were disseminated through a range of publications, Forum meetings and podcasts.

#### Aim 2: Education and Training: to expand customized courses and locations where they are offered

**Progress:** In 2019, the three annual Field Courses held for the first time in Ethiopia attracted 74 participants. In addition, RVI organized six bespoke courses covering the AU, Ethiopia (twice), Ethiopia and Eritrea, Lesotho and the Sudans for different organizations, with 98 participants. In South Sudan, trainings were also organised for South Sudanese on research methods and research ethics under the Customary Authorities and X-Border projects, and in the DRC, Congolese researchers were supported through writing workshops.

#### Aim 3: Communication: to improve communication about the communities where we work and RVI's programmes

**Progress:** In 2019, the Institute has continued to expand coverage of its work on social media, particularly on Twitter, and through its website. Work on upgrading the website continued. We launched publications in various locations – Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, London - including a film, of our Customary Authorities research in South Sudan in Juba. In South Sudan, outreach about the national archives was organised through local radio stations. RVI publish 12 high-quality research reports in 2019, as well as 5 policy-orientated briefing papers and 14 blogs in English and French. Platforms like the Rift Valley Forum also provided opportunities to show-case RVI's work in collaboration with other organisations.

#### Aim 4: Event management: to expand RVI's corporate services for event management

**Progress:** Through courses, lectures, workshops and conferences, RVI creates opportunities for the face-to-face exchange of knowledge to advance understanding of the communities and countries of eastern and central Africa. The Rift Valley Forum has continued to be an important vehicle for this. In 2019 18 workshops, roundtable meetings, book launches, exhibitions, films, and conferences were organised under the auspices of the Forum.

#### Aim 5: Partners: to deepen ties with local partner organizations with a view to strengthening local research capacity and developing RVI's work in countries where it does not yet maintain offices

**Progress:** RVI undertakes many projects in partnership with national and regional organizations and supports them to bring their knowledge and voices to bear on development. Collaboration takes the form of mutual assistance, the exchange of skills and knowledge, joint projects, technical training, material support, shared resources, research assistance, sub-contracts, and co-hosting of events. In 2019, key partners included: in South Sudan, the Institute of Applied Research and Community Outreach at the Catholic University of South Sudan, the National Archives and the Likikiri Collective; in Kenya, the British Institute in Eastern Africa, Nairobi University, United States International University, the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat; in Somalia, the Heritage Institute for Policy Studies, Puntland State University, Somali Public Agenda; in Somaliland, Redsea Online Cultural Foundation, and the University of Hargeysa; in Ethiopia, the Institute for Peace and Security Studies. Many of the meetings of the Rift Valley Forum also involve collaboration with regionally-based organizations.

#### Aim 6: Fundraising: to expand and diversity funding

**Progress:** Considerable staff time across the Institute was invested in fundraising in 2019, resulting in an increase in overall income on 2018. Key funding successes include the Platform for Political Dialogue in Somalia funded by DFID; the SSCA phase IV funded by the Swiss government; UNESCO

support for the South Sudan archives; a study on Youth violence in South Sudan funded by East Africa Research Fund; Open Society Foundation funding for the study on the shadow state in Africa.

#### Aim 7: Human Resources: to retain and advance staff development

Progress: Retaining staff and giving them opportunities to advance their skills and responsibilities continues to be institutional priority. Staff are engaged in policy development and in participatory planning and budgeting processes, including the 2020 annual plan and the development strategy. Funds for staff training allocated from the Open Society Foundation grant have been utilised by several staff.

#### Aim 8: Organizational Development: to improve organizational management practices

Progress: The institute continues to improve collective financial and project management practices. The annual planning and budgeting process for 2020 was all done in-house, and discussed at the annual organisational meeting. In addition, a draft development strategy was prepared, a compensation review was completed and a new global salary structure was introduced, terms of reference for the Board were agreed, and new safeguarding policies were drafted and discussed, among other developments.

#### Aim 9. Strategy Development: development of a long-term strategy for the development of the Institute

Progress: The process of designing a new development strategy was started in 2018 and concluded in 2019. The four-year strategy which refines the Institute's development goals, its vision and mission and guiding principles and its organizational structure, will be published in 2020.

## Summary of Major Activities in 2019

### Research and publications

#### Research in the Sudans

##### **South Sudan Customary Authorities**

The South Sudan Customary Authorities (SSCA) project has been running since 2015 with funding from the Swiss Government. The goal of the project is to deepen understanding of traditional authority in South Sudan, to examine how this has changed over decades of conflict, and to engage chiefs and elders and other community representatives—youth in particular—in discussion about the findings and their role in the political transition and future governance.

During 2019, RVI implemented phase V of the project, focussing on furthering public discussion of chiefship, and the development of a South Sudanese research network. A [synthesis report by Cherry Leonardi](#), based on reports the reports produced under phase IV, was published in 2019 and launched at an event in Juba in July with more than 70 in attendance. In September, the film, *And The Country Still Needs Us*, was launched at the French Institute at Juba University with more than 150 in attendance. Further screenings were held at the UN Compound and the Swiss Tukul in Juba.

2019 marked twenty years since South Sudan's famous Wunlit peace meeting. To recognise this anniversary, RVI worked with Fellow John Ryle to conduct research with chiefs across the country who were involved with the original Wunlit meeting. This work was conducted by researchers from RVI and the Catholic University of South Sudan. A publication based on the research will be published in 2020 and will be shared and discussed during a meeting bringing together past participants planned for the end of 2020.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, RVI's network of South Sudanese researchers collaborated with chiefs and elders to carry out public messaging around the virus in urban, rural and cattle-camp locations, contributing to a [rapid response briefing](#) on the importance of local knowledge in any response.

##### **Diaspora Impacts project**

The aim of this research project, supported by the Australian Embassy, is to build on work conducted in 2017/18 on the significance and complexity of South Sudanese transnational kinship networks. Specifically, it seeks to explore the role and impact of populations living in South Sudan's neighbouring countries, including refugees, in these wider networks. The project focussed on Gambella region of Ethiopia, where research was conducted in early 2019 by a team of international, South Sudanese and Ethiopian researchers. Fieldwork in South Sudan was complemented by interviews and FGDs in Australia, UK and US. The [final report was published](#) in March 2020, followed by a dissemination event in Addis Ababa in March. The report aims to better inform those working on humanitarian assistance, particularly to populations on the move, peace and development in South Sudan and the region, particularly international actors less familiar with transnational dynamics.

### **Sudanese Diaspora in Egypt**

This project, funded by the Australian Embassy in Cairo, will be implemented in 2020 in collaboration with researchers from the University of Khartoum and is designed to increase understanding of the Sudanese diaspora in Egypt. This project draws on research questions and methods developed under the Diaspora Impacts project (above).

### **South Sudan's 32 States**

This joint research project between RVI and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) looks at the history of boundaries and boundary making in South Sudan. Research was conducted in Juba in June and July, utilising the South Sudan National Archives under the guidance of international experts.

### **Energy on the Move**

RVI worked with Durham University under an Economic and Social Research Council grant to examine changing energy usage in South Sudan. The project, involving indepth interviews, addresses the need to understand better and develop routes to successful energy transition among marginal women, men and youth in low income countries who are coping with challenges of climate change and/or other environmental disasters. It explores barriers to better energy access and identifies strategies and pathways which can enable people to move from dependence on biomass to more sustainable energy solutions such as solar power or biogas. The report will be disseminated in 2020.

### **Youth, Violence and Livelihoods**

At the end of 2019, RVI was awarded an East Africa Research Fund grant to study youth, violence and livelihoods in South Sudan, in collaboration with the Catholic University of South Sudan. The study aims to understand:

- How young men and women are navigating the country's economy and livelihoods;
- How networks of information and political influence intersect with young people's struggles, choices and strategies; and
- Whether certain aid interventions have had a sustained and positive impact on the lives of young people over the last 30 years.

The project will be led by young South Sudanese researchers supported by RVI staff and technical experts. The research team will receive training throughout the project, building on RVI's existing investments in capacity-building in South Sudan.

## **Research in Somalia**

### **Land Governance in Jubbaland**

The ownership, access and control of land and real-estate has been a major driver of Somalia's protracted conflict. RVI was commissioned by the Somali Stability Fund to undertake a study of land governance in Kismayo, the capital of Jubbaland State of Somalia, and an analysis of the opportunities and challenges of forming a land commission. An initial study was conducted in late 2018, with an assessment after six months of progress on establishing a land commission. The study proposed a principled approach for dealing with the complexities of land governance in Somalia.

## **Urbanization in Somalia**

Somalia has one of the fastest rates of urbanization in Africa and major donors, including the World Bank and DFID, are developing strategies to support investment in urban infrastructure, as well as how to help cities cope with fragility and build resilience. In 2018, RVI was commissioned by the World Bank to undertake research on urbanization and its impact in Somalia. Led by RVI Fellow, Tobias Hagmann, a team of seven Somali researchers and assistants undertook fieldwork in seven Somali cities: Mogadishu, Baidoa, Beledweyne, Kismayo, Boroma, Bosasso and Galkayo. The synthesis study was presented to donors in May 2019. This was well received, with DFID reportedly making much use of it to design their urban strategy. A policy briefing based on the findings will be published in 2020.

## **Urban land in Somalia**

RVI was commissioned by ReDDS to conduct a study on urban land governance and displacement in the Somali cities of Kismayo, Baidoa and Mogadishu. In this work RVI was able to build on its previous work in Somalia on urbanization and worked with three of the same Somali researchers. The project was also funded by the World Bank, via ReDSS, thus expanding RVI's contributions to the Bank's broader urbanization review.

## **Diaspora Humanitarianism**

In September, RVI started a five-year research programme on Diaspora Humanitarianism in collaboration with the Danish Institute for International Relations, the University of Nairobi and Rako Research in Somaliland. The research will look at the role of the Somali diaspora in responding to humanitarian crises in Somalia. Three PhD scholarships and a post doc scholarship have been given to Somali researchers. RVI will support the Somali researchers and international researchers involved from Nairobi and host several workshops.

## **Platform for Political Dialogue**

The Platform for Political Dialogue is a DFID-funded project that aims to create a neutral platform to facilitate political dialogues on pressing issues of constitution-making, elections and resource sharing, that will contribute to an inclusive political settlement in Somalia. Working as part of a consortium, RVI's role has been to lead the research and analysis that informs the Platform and dialogue process. The project started in January 2019 and is intended to last four years.

## **Research in Ethiopia**

### **Refugee reintegration policy**

RVI was commissioned by ReDSS to conduct a study on Ethiopia's new refugee reintegration policy. The study was led by RVI fellow, Freddie Carver, with Ethiopian academic Alemu Asfaw. The report – *Towards a Common Research Agenda* – was published in March 2020. The study aspired to enable the development of a common narrative among the key refugee stakeholders in Ethiopia about how best to support displacement and durable solutions processes in the country, informed by evidence drawn from existing literature.

## Research in the Great Lakes Region

### Usalama III

In late 2018, RVI began the third phase of the Usalama Project (Swahili for security) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), funded by USAID. The present phase, entitled *Insecurity in the City*, examines urban security, conflict dynamics and social cohesion in the cities of Goma and Bukavu in the eastern DRC. Specifically, the project investigates the role of state and non-state actors in the provision of security, and citizens' perceptions of, experiences with and responses to insecurity. RVI carried out the project in partnership with the Congolese research institute, *Groupe d'Etudes sur les Conflits et la Sécurité Humaine* (GEC-SH). From May–August 2019, the project produced a [series of ten blogs, two policy briefings and three reports](#) in English and French.

### Governing local security in the eastern Congo

At the end of 2019, RVI was commissioned by the Dutch organization, VNGi, to edit and design a report written by RVI Fellow, Michel Thill and Abel Cimanuka, on local security governance in the eastern DRC. The report examines the implementation of Local Councils for Proximity Security, an initiative, alongside police reform, that aims to bring government closer to the people. The report offers valuable insights into how rural entities manage security in the context of resource scarcity, armed groups, intercommunal conflict and competition among state authorities. The report was published in January 2020 in [English](#) and [French](#).

## Transnational Research

### X-Border Local Research Network

Beginning in March 2018, the X-Border Local Research Network, is a research consortium funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). Its members are: RVI, Carnegie Middle East Centre (CMEC) and The Asia Foundation (TAF). It aims at developing a better understanding of the causes and impacts of conflicts in border areas of north-east Africa, the Middle East and Asia, by studying the flow of people, goods and ideas across borders. The project supports more effective policymaking and development programming and builds the research capacity of local partners based in the region.

X-Border brings together researchers from the three regions working on cross-border issues to share ideas, expertise and experience. In 2019 this has been achieved through several cross-consortia workshops and conferences held in Juba, Nairobi, Addis Ababa and London on research ethics, data visualization and project planning.

RVI's work under X-Border is focused on Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia, and the countries that they border and is implemented in partnership with researchers and research institutions from South Sudan and Somalia, including the Catholic University of South Sudan and Puntland State University. In 2019, there were four main research streams:

1. *Displacement, economic transitions and the regional state system in South Sudan;*
2. *Militarised labour, livelihoods and resource flows in Central Sudanic Africa;*
3. *Somalia's maritime economy;*
4. *Political economy of Aid and understanding transnational dynamics.*

Four reports will be published in 2020 as outputs from the second year of the project along with a range of publications, including articles, briefing papers and blogs posts, disseminated through podcasts, webinars and public events.

### **OSF Shadow State Research**

In January 2019, RVI began work on a research project to investigate the so-called shadow state in Africa. That is, the existence of a state within a state, where real power is said to be wielded, which may include private business, unelected bureaucrats and the security services. Funded by the Open Society Foundation's Africa Regional Office, research was undertaken in Uganda, DRC, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Nigeria. Draft country studies and a synthesis report were produced at the end of 2019, with the final reports to be published in 2020.

### **Research Collaboration project**

In January 2019, RVI began a project in partnership with the Congolese research institute, *Groupe d'Etudes sur les Conflits et la Sécurité Humaine* (GEC-SH), on Global North-South research collaboration and ethics, funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs' *Knowledge Management Fund*. The project aims to examine the political economy of knowledge production and the consequences of inequalities on the security of researchers in conflict-affected settings. The project produced three blogs ([here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)) on research ethics and experiences of Congolese researchers during collaborative projects, and organized a [Forum event](#) with the research team to discuss the challenges of, and opportunities for, collaboration.

## Education

The education programme at RVI organizes graduate-level professional training courses on the regions and countries where RVI works. Its annual Field Courses on Sudan and South Sudan, the Great Lakes, and the Horn of Africa offer a dawn-to-dusk programme of instruction and discussion designed to bring depth to the understanding of each sub-region and country of eastern and central Africa. In addition, RVI delivers bespoke training courses on different countries and themes. These are co-designed with and tailored to suit the specific interests and requirements of the recipient organization. The courses are taught by leading experts in their field.

### Annual Field Courses

#### *2019 courses*

In 2019, RVI's three annual Field Courses—Horn of Africa, Great Lakes and Sudans—were held in Ethiopia for the first time, during May and June. The courses were taught by 35 regional and international experts and scholars. While participant numbers were down on previous years, the courses still attracted 74 participants, including three scholarship students, from a range of professional backgrounds and nationalities.

### UNICEF ESARO courses

Since 2014, RVI has been organizing bespoke courses for UNICEF country representatives and senior management teams in eastern and southern Africa. The courses, which are taught by regional and international experts, are designed with the country teams and variously cover history, state-society relations, social issues and the political economy of the country in question. In 2019, RVI was granted a contract to continue these courses in nineteen countries for a further three years. In 2019, courses were organised for UNICEF on the African Union, Ethiopia and Lesotho.

### Other bespoke courses

In addition to UNICEF ESARO, RVI has organized courses in 2019 on Sudan and South Sudan for various Embassies in Juba and a course on the Ethiopia and Eritrea for the Open Society in East Africa (OSIEA).

## Public Information

### RVI Forum

The RVI Forum continued to host regular events in 2019, ranging from launches of books, journals, reports and projects, to panel discussions, photo exhibitions and film screenings. During the year 18 Forums were organised with over 720 attendees. These included 3 workshops, 4 roundtables, 6 book launches, 2 exhibitions, 2 film screenings and a conference on Borderlands organized in partnership with the Nairobi-based Borders Working Group. Subjects includes elections, drought, civil protests, business and peace, infrastructure, green energy, peace processes, art and popular music. Forums were organized in collaboration with universities, authors, artists, NGOs and journal publishers, and with existing and new partners. While RVI no longer has core funding to cover the Forum's operations, the costs of organizing Forums are generally covered by partner organizations, particularly those using the Forum as a platform for launching their publications.

## Cultural Production and Heritage

The region where the RVI operates has a rich and diverse political history, a wide variety of social systems and cultural formations, and a wealth of communal resources. Appreciating this cultural diversity is critical for a shared understanding of the historical and contemporary development of the region and the way that local knowledge works. Working with cultural institutions, and individual artists and activist RVI aims to leverage cultural production, heritage and intercultural engagement to enhance inclusive and equitable development.

### South Sudan National Archives

RVI has a long-standing relationship with the South Sudan National Archives and has worked in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports on the development of the archives since 2007. The National Archives remain at the centre of much of RVI's work in South Sudan and is integrated into various projects to increase exposure for the historic collection. Much of the work involved preserving, cataloguing and digitization of the precious resource. RVI works with the Catholic University of South Sudan to train students to digitize documents under the direction of the National Archives staff and oversight from RVI.

In February 2019, RVI received Norwegian Government funding, through UNESCO, to continue the digitization work and to catalogue the archival papers in storage at the Ministries in Juba. RVI Fellow and historian, Douglas Johnson continued to advise on the digitization and cataloguing work. A new team of interns started in March 2019, with UNESCO funding. RVI is also collaborating with UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports to develop an outreach programme for the archives through public exhibitions and radio shows. Documents from the National Archives are used as a basis for discussion amongst experts on the history and contemporary relevance of a particular topic, such as women and customary law in South Sudan.

### Hargeysa Cultural Centre

In 2019, RVI continued to support the Hargeysa Cultural Centre in Somaliland, which RVI helped to establish and with whom we have partnered since 2014. The Centre has become an important venue for both artistic and cultural production and conservation, including the annual Hargeysa International Book Fair. It is also a critical space for public dialogue on a range social issues, and for the dissemination of research. For six months in 2019, RVI member of staff Ahmed Omar was based at the Centre providing project management support.

## Communications and Outreach

### Website update

In 2019, RVI continued to upgrade its website with the support of Nairobi-based web-designer Haba Haba, with an upgraded website launched in early 2020.

### Social media

RVI has continued to grow its social media presence, primarily through regular use of its institutional Twitter account, which now has 7,700 followers (up from 6,500 the year before). The regularity of

tweets, and diversity of content, has increased with tweeting duties being taken by different staff members in London, Nairobi and Juba. RVI has continued to live tweet from Forum events and has experimented with a Twitter Q&A with the authors of an RVI report and graphics to accompany social media posts. Numbers of followers increase notably when publications come out, underlining the demand for high-quality, original material.

### Publications strategy

RVI's publications are mostly outputs from research projects, and given RVI's commitment to make research publicly available, most projects are designed to include public reports, briefings or blogs. In 2019, this included (amongst others) the X-Border Local Research Network, the *Usalama* project and the South Sudan Customary Authorities project, which all produced a combination of reports, briefings and blogs aimed at communicating with different RVI audiences.

In addition to public outputs, the Institute also produces a limited number of internal briefings for donors and project funders. In particular, the Somali Dialogue Platform and X-Border project include some briefings with restricted circulation, which enable analysis of more sensitive material.

### Institutional Policies and Processes

In 2019, a new development strategy for the Institute was drafted, involving consultations within the Institute, including trustees, and with external supporters and stakeholders. The draft strategy was presented to the Board in early 2020 and will be launched in 2020.

Parallel to the development strategy, a compensation review was undertaken and a new salary structure introduced. New **safeguarding** policies were drafted that supplement existing policies on bullying and harassment, and will be introduced in 2020. The policy applies to all permanent staff, short term consultants, partner organisations and suppliers. The policy encourages staff to raise, without fear, any suspicion of malpractice with RVI senior management or a trustee. Once finalised and approved, a safeguarding working group will operationalize and embed safeguarding practice across the institute. RVI's new data protection policies bring the Institute into alignment with the **General Data Protection Regulation** (GDPR) that is applicable across Europe. This involved deleting some files, like mailing lists for the Forum.

We have improved our in-house capacity to identify and pursue new development opportunities, including more effective use of our tender alert system. New calls are more readily shared internally via Slack. A 'live', regularly updated spreadsheet is now used to monitor the progress of calls.

## Offices, Staffing and Board of Trustees

### Nairobi

Since 2017, RVI's office in Nairobi has acted as the Institute's headquarters, with the Executive Director and the Finance, Education, Forum and Somalia teams located there. The office also runs a successful internship programme for graduates, and in 2018/19 hosted two interns, one sponsored by the Open Society Foundation.

### Juba

RVI's office in Juba is RVI's second largest in terms of number of staff. The Institute moved into new premises out of its former place at the Catholic University. The new office has space to accommodate trainings, seminars and film screenings. It functions as a hub for managing the institute's projects in South Sudan and Sudan, as well as the trans-regional X-Border project, which also works in Somalia and Ethiopia.

### Hargeysa

RVI has continued to maintain a presence in Hargeysa. It has moved its office to the university of Hargeysa, with one part-time representative overseeing our work in Somaliland.

### London

In 2019, RVI's international office in London continued to play a varied role in RVI's work. This included management of activities in Ethiopia, the Great Lakes and Somalia. More specifically, London office staff led on publications and communications, including RVI's website and social media. In early 2019, the London office also coordinated an Impact Partnership with the Royal African Society, raising the visibility of RVI's work in the UK through a series of London-based X-border Forum events.

### Board of Trustees

In 2019, RVI's Board consisted of six trustees, with one new trustee joining in July 2019. The current members are: Ali Hirsi, Leben Moro, Andy Carl, Comfort Ero (Chair), Chris Maynard and Margie Buchannan Smith.

## Plans and objectives for 2020

### Institutional Developments

At the time of writing, the plans and budget that RVI had in place in January for 2020 have been disrupted by the Coronavirus pandemic. The impact of this was first felt in March. RVI's first priority was the health, safety and wellbeing of its staff, consultants and other partners. Working across several countries in Africa, RVI also has a responsibility to support international efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19. To this end, international travel was halted, Forums (previously planned to take place in Nairobi) were cancelled and annual courses postponed. Staff in Kenya and the UK transitioned to working from home in line with government guidelines. Our office in Juba in South Sudan remained open, with stringent hygiene and social distancing measures in place.

While the immediate impact on operations was severe, resulting in the relocation of staff and a reduction in spending, RVI has nevertheless been well-placed to respond to the pandemic through its research, publications and convening. Time was invested in repurposing some of the work to address the crisis directly, and to find new ways to continue existing work. In some cases—for example, through the X-Border Local Research Network— existing research projects were adapted to focus on the impact of COVID-19. In others, we used the Institute's convening role to organising new activities, such as an experts' online roundtable meeting on COVID-19 in Somalia. Rift Valley Forum events were restarted online via video conferencing platforms and in April and May RVI hosted a series of webinars on the impact of COVID-19 on mobility, movement and migration in eastern and central Africa. Under the Platform for Political Dialogue, we organised an online forum to examine the social, economic, and political impact of the health crisis in Somalia including on planned elections. Through the diaspora-humanitarianism project we also contributed to briefings assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the remittance economy in Somalia, publishing several blogs. New opportunities have also arisen. In South Sudan, the benefits of investing in a network of local researchers became apparent as their research on the local knowledge and experience of managing epidemics attracted new donor funding.

In 2020, we will work to deliver existing commitments, start new projects already under negotiation, and develop new opportunities that draw on RVI's existing strengths. We will continue to strike a balance between responding to donor calls for proposals aligned to our strategic interests and actively seeking funding from donors with a shared interest in projects we have identified. Delivering quality projects and using the multiple avenues available to raise our profile in the countries where we work through the production of quality publications, convening online events, and social media outreach, will be key to fundraising efforts. Key will also be to publish the organisational development strategy 2020-2023. The plan to recruit an additional senior position in the Institute may need to be put on hold as will our goal of increasing our presence in the regions where we work.

Specific actions we will undertake in 2020 are:

- Finalise and launch the upgraded website (launched in February 2020)
- Finalise and roll-out the Finance Manual.
- Finalise and roll out the Safeguarding policy.
- Review and update the Staff Handbook.
- Review RVI's security policy and in-country procedures and ensure they are adhered to.
- Review our approach to staff training and development

- Strengthen the criteria and selection process for new partnerships and consortia, building on our existing partner assessment procedures.
- Improve our management system for decision-making on new projects and programmes.
- Introduce a process to review and monitor programme plans.
- Review our education and training activities to enhance this work stream.
- Review and update our data management policy and systems.
- Improve our internal communication systems.
- Expand the board of trustees by two, with at least one co-opted from Africa.

## Major Projects (secured or scheduled in 2020)

For 2020, the Institute has secured or is close to concluding agreements on several large-scale projects. These include:

- *South Sudan Customary Authorities*: the Swiss government has committed to an extension of the project to the end of 2020.
- *X-Border Local Research Networks (5-years)*: as the project enters its second full year, the excellence of the work to-date should guarantee continued donor support for the project.
- *Platform for Political Dialogue*: In January 2020, RVI agreed to a proposal from the donors to take over the management of the project from April for a six months period, with the potential for continuation into 2021. Somalia is at a critical political juncture with upcoming elections in which the need for a neutral platform for dialogue is considered important.
- *Horn-Gulf Relations*: In March, RVI was awarded a grant to study evolving relations between the Horn of Africa and Gulf State countries. The project started in June and will continue to the end of 2020.
- *Somalia Social Assessment*: building on an excellent series of studies for the World Bank in Somalia, RVI secured a further six-month grant to produce a social assessment of Somalia and Somaliland. The work commenced in June.
- *Research Communities of Practice*: In June RVI also received a two-year grant from the Carnegie Corporation to support the training of African researchers in South Sudan, Somalia and the DRC.
- *Community Epidemic Management*: In June, RVI was asked to produce a proposal for a rapid six months study on community management of epidemics in South Sudan to inform the COVID-19 response.

## 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 2019. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, with the Articles of Association and with the 'Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities' in the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) of 2005.

### Governance

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

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

### The recruitment, appointment and induction of new trustees

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

The procedure for inducting and training a new trustee entails a visit to the RVI Kenya or UK office in order to familiarize the new trustee with the Charity—with its aims, standard procedures and policies—and a meeting between the new trustee and management staff of the Institute. On appointment, trustees receive the Articles of Association and minutes, documents and board books from previous trustee meetings, with copies of the Charity's most recent publications and written policies relevant to the governance and risk management of RVI.

### Offices and related parties

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

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

## Risk management

The Board of Trustees has given consideration to the major risks to which the Charity is exposed. These include operational, financial, and legal risks, risks in matters of governance and risks resulting from external factors. The Charity faces special risks associated with conflict, insecurity, and failures of governance in a number of the countries where it operates. In 2018, 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 2020 budget

Failure to maintain economies and an overspend on the cost base will jeopardize the financial health of the Institute, as will a failure to meet income projections for 2020. To respond to this risk, the cost base and income projections have been set and agreed following a rigorous budgeting process in December 2019. 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 2020 in the countries where RVI operates and on the UK economy and the realignment of foreign aid priorities of the UK government will influence the ability of RVI to meet its income projections. Maintaining a focus on diversified fundraising will increase the likelihood of RVI achieving income projections in the year ahead. The situation is closely monitored by trustees.

### 2. Cost recovery projections not achieved

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

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

The introduction of prohibitive administrative and financial burdens on NGOs (e.g. work permits in Kenya, NGO Act in South Sudan) could have significant operational and financial implications (e.g. payments of taxes, costs of lawyers, restrictions on programme work). To manage this risk, RVI ensures full compliance with Government regulations ahead of time; constant monitoring of political situation, and continuous communications with other organizations working in the countries of the region. More specifically, RVI is continually gathering information from other organizations in Kenya on bureaucratic restrictions and solutions for securing 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, organizations and companies may be subject to international financial sanction regimes. RVI has updated its anti-bribery policy to include measures to ensure that financial transactions 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. This policy has been updated to ensure that employees of the Institute, Interns and volunteers and individuals the Institute works with, are protected from any form of discrimination or abuse, including physical, emotional or sexual harm, in the course of RVI's work.

### Remuneration

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

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

### Public benefit

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

## Financial review

At US\$2,612,187, the charity's total income in 2019 increased by 5 per cent from its total income in 2018 of US\$2,494,823. This is a net movement (both increments and reductions) across all the income streams. A major contributor to the increase is the X-Border project that was implemented for the entire year, unlike in 2018 when it was operational for only part of the year. Despite a slight reduction in courses income, the total unrestricted income increased marginally by around 2 percent. This is because of the Institute undertaking a number of deliverable-based assignments whose income is classified as unrestricted.

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

<b>Workstream/Location</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Institutional Funding	3 %	2 %
Education	18 %	20 %
Forums	6 %	7 %
Horn of Africa	19 %	26 %
Sudan	12 %	22 %
East Africa	-	4 %
Great Lakes	7 %	-
Transregional	35 %	19 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 percent</b>	<b>100 percent</b>

The reduction in income for the Horn of African region is explained by several projects that came to an end in 2018 or that were only operational for part of 2019. Examples include the Political Economy Analysis projects in Ethiopia, the World Bank funded projects in Somalia as well as several projects in Somalia funded by the Somalia Stability Fund.

The reduction in the Sudan's income is mostly because of the completion of the SSCA IV project that had a value of US\$ 417,199 in 2018.

The Great Lakes income grew with an income of over US\$ 173,424 largely from the Usalama III project that was funded by Management Systems International (MSI).

The main reason for the increase in the Transregional income is that the X-Border project was implemented for the entire year, unlike in 2018 when it was operational for only part of the year.

In 2020, it is anticipated that charity's total income will increase to around US\$ 2,800,000 after factoring in the likely negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

In 2019, the Institute's overall expenditure decreased marginally by 2 per cent, from US\$2,588,910 in 2018 to US\$2,549,096. This is mainly because no subgrants were made by the Institute to other organisations. In 2018, RVI made subgrants amounting US\$ 55,310 to the University of Hargeisa, Puntland State University and the Life and Peace Institute.

At the end of 2019, the charity's overall reserves on hand increased by 11 per cent to US\$646,366 compared with US\$582,434 in 2018. Unrestricted reserves also increase by 16 per cent from US\$370,001 at the end of 2018 to US\$428,684 at the end of 2019.

In 2019, the Institute's largest donors were DFID (37%), the World Bank (6%), Management Systems International (6%), the Swiss Government (5%) and the Open Societies Foundation (5%). DFID continues to be the Institute's largest donor and its proportion of total income increasing from 32% in 2018 to 37% in 2019.

### **Reserves Policy**

Rift Valley Research Limited'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. The Board of Trustees reviews the reserves policy annually. The Trustees reviewed the reserves policy in 2018 and determined that the Institute will hold restricted reserves (that is reserves tied to projects) and unrestricted reserves (that is funds not designated for specific purposes, or otherwise committed) and that unrestricted reserves should comprise Fixed Reserves and Development Reserves. The Fixed Reserves should be equivalent to five months operating costs, covering staff salaries, office leases and redundancy payments to cover closure costs. Keeping five months of estimated staff and support costs in reserves protects the Charity against temporary shortfalls. Development reserves that are in excess of fixed reserves if managed prudently can be used to cushion the Institute from delays in income and to support the start-up of projects. The target for unrestricted reserves for the end of the financial year in December 2019 was US\$ 350,000. Actual unrestricted reserves by 31 December 2019 were US\$ 428,684, which is US\$ 78,684 above the target.

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

The Trustees have also further reviewed the target for unrestricted reserves as at the date of signing this Report. Whilst the anticipated level of unrestricted reserves as at the end of the 2020 financial year may fall short of the US\$350,000 target, the Trustees are of the opinion that the accounts are correctly based on RVI being a Going Concern, and that the policy of aiming to attain unrestricted reserves of US\$350,000 should remain unchanged.

### **Statement of responsibilities of the trustees**

The trustees (who are also directors of Rift Valley Research Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the net income or expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

There is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 December 2019 was 6 (2018 - 6). The trustees are members of the charity, but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

#### 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 8 September 2020 and signed on their behalf by

Comfort Ero  
Trustee

## Independent auditor's report

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Rift Valley Research Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 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 2019 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- The trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- The trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

### 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. 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. In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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
- 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 trustees 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

## 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 2020

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 2019

	Note	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2019 Total US\$	2018 Total US\$
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	67,871	–	67,871	47,427
Charitable activities					
Education and training	4	479,998	–	479,998	510,994
Research, programmes and publications	4	502,237	1,560,534	2,062,771	1,930,962
Other contributions	4	–	722	722	3,419
Investments		825	–	825	2,021
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,050,932</b>	<b>1,561,256</b>	<b>2,612,187</b>	<b>2,494,823</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	5	194,062	–	194,062	121,572
Charitable activities					
Education and training	5	503,007	–	503,007	446,748
Research, programmes and publications	5	261,249	1,590,777	1,852,026	2,020,590
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>958,318</b>	<b>1,590,777</b>	<b>2,549,096</b>	<b>2,588,910</b>
<b>Net (expenditure)/income for the year</b>		<b>92,613</b>	<b>(29,521)</b>	<b>63,092</b>	<b>(94,087)</b>
Transfers between funds		(34,770)	34,770	–	–
<b>Net (expenditure)/income before other recognised gains and losses</b>		<b>57,843</b>	<b>5,249</b>	<b>63,092</b>	<b>(94,087)</b>
Foreign exchange gain / (loss)		840	–	840	(7,601)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>58,683</b>	<b>5,249</b>	<b>63,932</b>	<b>(101,688)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		370,001	212,433	582,434	684,122
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>428,684</b>	<b>217,682</b>	<b>646,366</b>	<b>582,434</b>

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 2019

	Note	US\$	2019 US\$	2018 US\$
<b>Fixed assets:</b>				
Tangible assets	12		<u>4,125</u>	<u>390</u>
			<b>4,125</b>	<b>390</b>
<b>Current assets:</b>				
Debtors	13	402,944		736,418
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>780,447</u>		<u>386,090</u>
		<b>1,183,391</b>		<b>1,122,508</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>541,150</u>		<u>540,464</u>
<b>Net current assets / (liabilities)</b>			<u><b>642,241</b></u>	<u><b>582,044</b></u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u><b>646,366</b></u>	<u><b>582,434</b></u>
<b>Total net assets / (liabilities)</b>			<u><u><b>646,366</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>582,434</b></u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>	18			
Restricted income funds			217,682	212,433
Unrestricted income funds:				
General funds		<u>428,684</u>		<u>370,001</u>
Total unrestricted funds			<u><b>428,684</b></u>	<u><b>370,001</b></u>
<b>Total charity funds</b>			<u><u><b>646,366</b></u></u>	<u><u><b>582,434</b></u></u>

Approved by the trustees on 8 September 2020 and signed on their behalf by

Comfort Ero  
Trustee

Rift Valley Research Limited

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2019

	Note	2019		2018	
		US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Cash flows from operating activities	19				
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities			399,857		(684,705)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Purchase of fixed assets			(5,500)		
Net cash provided by investing activities			-		-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			394,357		(684,705)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			386,090		1,070,795
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	20		780,447		386,090

**1 Accounting policies**

**a) Statutory information**

Rift Valley Research Limited is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England & Wales. The registered office address is Unit 107, Belgravia Workshops, 159/163 Malborough Road, London N19 4NF.

**b) Basis of preparation**

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

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

**c) Public benefit entity**

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

**d) Going concern**

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

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

**e) Income**

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

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

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

**f) Donations of gifts, services and facilities**

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

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

**g) Interest receivable**

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

**h) Fund accounting**

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

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

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

**1 Accounting policies (continued)**

**i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT**

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

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

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

**j) Allocation of support costs**

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

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

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

● Education and training	18%
● Research, programmes and publications	64%
● Fundraising	4%
● Support costs	10%
● 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\$	2018 Total US\$
<b>Income from:</b>			
Donations and legacies	47,427	-	47,427
Charitable activities			
Education and training	510,994	-	510,994
Research, programmes and publications	94,908	1,836,053	1,930,961
Scholarship fund	2,791	628	3,419
Investments	2,021	-	2,021
<b>Total income</b>	<b>658,141</b>	<b>1,836,681</b>	<b>2,494,822</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Raising funds	121,572	-	121,572
Charitable activities			
Education and training	446,748	-	446,748
Research, programmes and publications	177,883	1,842,707	2,020,590
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>746,203</b>	<b>1,842,707</b>	<b>2,588,910</b>
<b>Net income / expenditure before gains / (losses) on investments</b>	<b>(88,062)</b>	<b>(6,026)</b>	<b>(94,088)</b>
Net gains / (losses) on investments	-	-	-
<b>Net income / expenditure</b>	<b>(88,062)</b>	<b>(6,026)</b>	<b>(94,088)</b>
Transfers between funds	941	(941)	-
<b>Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses</b>	<b>(87,121)</b>	<b>(6,967)</b>	<b>(94,088)</b>
Foreign exchange gains/ (losses)	(7,601)	-	(7,601)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(94,722)</b>	<b>(6,967)</b>	<b>(101,689)</b>
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>464,723</b>	<b>219,399</b>	<b>684,122</b>
Total funds carried forward	<b>370,001</b>	<b>212,432</b>	<b>582,433</b>

**3 Income from donations and legacies**

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2019 Total US\$	2018 Total US\$
Unrestricted grants	60,112	-	60,112	44,849
Gifts – sale of product income	7,760	-	7,760	2,580
	<b>67,872</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>67,872</b>	<b>47,429</b>

## 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	2019 Total US\$	2018 Total US\$
Annual Field Courses	318,016	-	318,016	317,218
Other Training Courses	161,982	-	161,982	193,777
Sub-total for Education and Training	479,998	-	479,998	510,995
An Effective Somali Platform for Political Dialogue and Accomodation	-	182,070	182,070	-
Somalia Stability Fund	-	-	-	92,000
Culture at the Centre: the Expansion and Consolidation of Hargeysa Cultural Centre I	-	(18,568)	(18,568)	-
Culture at the Centre: the Expansion and Consolidation of Hargeysa Cultural Centre II	-	41,034	41,034	-
Ethiopia Electoral Landscape Political Economy Analysis	-	38,411	38,411	11,868
PEA Ethiopia III DFID Advisory	-	-	-	123,662
PEA Land in Ethiopia	-	9,629	9,629	69,419
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises	-	12,841	12,841	-
CRRF & common research agenda in Ethiopia	73,361	-	73,361	-
Urban Land Administration in Somalia ( ReDSS)	12,818	-	12,818	-
AHRC Learning Lessons	-	11,571	11,571	-
Deep State Study	-	120,237	120,237	-
KMF Building a framework for ethical research	-	14,484	14,484	-
VNGi Kelehe Report	4,511	-	4,511	-
NEP Project	-	2,180	2,180	64,798
Energy on the Move	-	11,085	11,085	28,706
Radicalisation	-	-	-	74,571
X Border	-	781,630	781,630	317,409
Women in Politics	-	-	-	2,954
South Sudan National Archives II	-	97,688	97,688	25,000
32 States	13,796	-	13,796	33,279
Museum Network ( Durham)	-	-	-	1,239
SDF Somaliland Land Study	-	1,024	1,024	845
Usalama III – Urban Conflict and Resilience	154,429	-	154,429	5,647
LPI Forum	-	58,907	58,907	75,568
UNSOM	-	3,703	3,703	14,865
Political Economy Analysis on Tax ( World Bank)	53,131	-	53,131	109,505
The Political Economy of Urban Networks in Somalia ( World Bank)	91,904	-	91,904	162,389
DFID – PEA Ethiopia	-	-	-	15,175
East African Research Fund – Kenya Elections	-	-	-	31,433
Australian Embassy – Pilot Research Into Diaspora Projects	-	-	-	29,517
Australian Embassy – Research into Transnational South Sudanese networks in Ethiopia	-	27,985	27,985	880
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project ( SSCA) IV	-	(11,408)	(11,408)	417,199
The Swiss Confederation SSCA III	-	-	-	(16,952)
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project ( SSCA) V	-	130,504	130,504	-
Political Settlements Research Project	-	1,289	1,289	6,608
SOAS university of London – REF Project	-	-	-	64,571
Juba Lectures	-	288	288	29,127
South Sudan National Archives ( UNESCO) I	-	43,948	43,948	4,515
Small Forum Funders	98,288	-	98,288	73,536
SSF Kismayo Land Commission 1	-	-	-	39,132
SSF Kismayo Land Commission 2	-	-	-	22,497
Sub-total for Research, programmes and publications	502,237	1,560,534	2,062,771	1,930,962
Book sales	-	722	722	628
Other contributions to the scholarship fund	-	-	-	2,791
Sub-total for Scholarship Fund	-	722	722	3,419
Total income from charitable activities	982,235	1,561,256	2,543,491	2,445,376

**4 Income from charitable activities (continued)**

In 2017, all income for Education and Training activities was unrestricted and all income for research, programmes and publications activities was restricted. In 2017 Scholarship Fund income consisted of restricted Book sales income and unrestricted other contributions to the scholarship fund.

	Unrestricted US\$	Restricted US\$	<b>2019 Total US\$</b>	2018 Total US\$
Bank Interest	825	–	<b>825</b>	2,021
	<u>825</u>	<u>–</u>	<u><b>825</b></u>	<u>2,021</u>

## 5a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities					2019 US\$	2018 US\$
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$		
Direct Staff Costs	105,806	138,871	277,740	46,290	92,580	661,286	636,885
Grants made (note 6)	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,310
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	-	180,897	466,664	-	-	647,561	554,053
Consultants Fees	-	121,122	758,354	-	-	879,476	962,323
Events	-	6,436	52,915	-	-	59,351	73,638
Direct publication costs	-	15,425	44,067	-	-	59,492	89,827
Other Direct Costs	-	4,952	22,820	46,801	-	74,574	72,444
Office & Other Staff Costs	-	-	-	-	167,355	167,355	144,430
	105,806	467,704	1,622,560	93,091	259,935	2,549,095	2,588,910
Support costs							
Staff Costs	34,718	13,887	90,266	(46,290)	(92,581)	-	-
Office & Other Staff Costs	41,838	16,736	108,781	-	(167,355)	-	-
Governance Costs	11,700	4,680	30,420	(46,801)	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure 2019</b>	<b>194,062</b>	<b>503,007</b>	<b>1,852,027</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,549,095</b>	<b>2,588,910</b>
Total expenditure 2018	121,572	446,748	2,020,590	-	-	2,588,910	

## 5b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities					2018 US\$	2017 US\$
	Cost of raising funds US\$	Education and training US\$	Research, programmes and publications US\$	Governance costs US\$	Support costs US\$		
Direct Staff Costs	31,844	108,271	343,918	38,213	114,639	636,885	538,906
Grants made (note 6)	-	-	55,310	-	-	55,310	174,509
Travel, subsistence and associated costs	-	137,975	416,078	-	-	554,053	460,507
Consultants Fees	-	129,891	832,432	-	-	962,323	746,441
Events	-	23,236	50,402	-	-	73,638	130,400
Direct publication costs	-	6,058	83,769	-	-	89,827	37,492
Other Direct Costs	-	5,426	5,388	61,630	-	72,444	93,120
Office & Other Staff Costs	-	-	-	-	144,430	144,430	132,812
	<b>31,844</b>	<b>410,857</b>	<b>1,787,297</b>	<b>99,843</b>	<b>259,069</b>	<b>2,588,910</b>	<b>2,314,187</b>
Support costs							
Staff Costs	38,213	15,285	99,354	(38,213)	(114,639)	-	-
Office & Other Staff Costs	36,107	14,443	93,880	-	(144,430)	-	-
Governance Costs	15,408	6,163	40,059	(61,630)	-	-	-
<b>Total expenditure 2018</b>	<b>121,572</b>	<b>446,748</b>	<b>2,020,590</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,588,910</b>	<b>2,314,187</b>
Total expenditure 2017	253,945	447,867	1,612,375	-	-	2,314,187	

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

**6 Grant making**

Grants were made in accordance with funder agreements. These include sub grants to University of Hargeysa –IPCS (Nil ; 2018: \$21,790) , Punt land State University (\$Nil ; 2018: \$15,360) and Life & Peace Institute (\$Nil ; 2018: 17,160)

**7 Net incoming resources for the year**

This is stated after charging / crediting:

	2019 US\$	2018 US\$
Depreciation	1,765	390
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	55,715	52,679
Auditor's remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit – UK	9,360	12,796
Audit – Kenya	2,500	2,500
Foreign exchange gain/(losses)	840	(7,601)
	<u>840</u>	<u>(7,601)</u>

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

Staff costs were as follows:

	2019 US\$	2018 US\$
Salaries and wages	590,353	583,488
Social security costs including Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension	46,818	30,640
Other forms of employee benefits	24,115	22,757
	<u>661,286</u>	<u>636,885</u>

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

	2019 US\$	2018 US\$
\$61,000–\$73,999	1	–
\$74,000–\$85,999	1	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The total employee benefits (including employer's pension contributions and national insurance contributions) of the key management personnel were \$ 106,092 (2018: \$91,417).

Two trustees, Leben Moro and Andy Carl were paid remuneration during the year of \$5,681 for their work as consultants for the charity (2018: 1,010). No balances were outstanding at the end of the year.

No Trustees' expenses were paid during the year (2018: Nil).

**9 Staff numbers**

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

	2019 No.	2018 No.
Raising funds	2.4	0.8
Education and training	3.2	2.6
Research, programmes and publications	6.4	8.2
Support	2.1	2.7
Governance	1.1	0.9
	<u>15.3</u>	<u>15.2</u>

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

**10 Related party transactions**

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2019 (2018: 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 2018 resources expended include \$10,830 paid to Kenyan Revenue Authority as Company Tax (2018: \$ 11,837 in respect of Kenyan tax).

**12 Tangible fixed assets**

	Office equipment US\$	Total US\$
<b>Cost or valuation</b>		
At the start of the year	78,377	78,377
Additions in year	5,500	5,500
Disposals in year		-
At the end of the year	<u>83,877</u>	<u>83,877</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At the start of the year	77,987	77,987
Charge for the year	1,765	1,765
At the end of the year	<u>79,752</u>	<u>79,752</u>
<b>Net book value</b>		
At the end of the year	<u>4,125</u>	<u>4,125</u>
At the start of the year	<u>390</u>	<u>390</u>

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

**13 Debtors**

	2019 US\$	2018 US\$
Grant Income	331,888	431,522
Other debtors	42,348	21,672
Prepayments	28,709	16,872
	<u>402,944</u>	<u>470,066</u>

**14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	2019 US\$	2018 US\$
Other creditors	110,730	112,873
Accruals	158,187	94,051
Deferred income	272,233	650,595
	<u>541,150</u>	<u>857,519</u>

**15 Deferred income**

Deferred income comprises of funds received in 2019, to be spent in future years.

	2019 US\$	2018 US\$
Balance at the beginning of the year	229,668	650,595
Amount released to income in the year	(229,668)	(650,595)
Amount deferred in the year	272,233	229,668
Balance at the end of the year	<u>272,233</u>	<u>229,668</u>

**16 Pension scheme**

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

**17a Current year analysis of net assets between funds**

	General unrestricted \$	Restricted \$	Total funds \$
Tangible fixed assets	4,125	-	4,125
Net current assets	424,559	217,682	642,241
Net assets at the end of the year	<u>428,684</u>	<u>217,682</u>	<u>646,366</u>

**17b Prior year analysis of net assets between funds**

	General unrestricted \$	Restricted \$	Total funds \$
Tangible fixed assets	390	-	390
Net current assets	369,611	212,433	582,044
Net assets at the end of the year	<u>370,001</u>	<u>212,433</u>	<u>582,434</u>

## Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2019

## 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 \$
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Platform for Political Dialogue Project	-	182,070	(182,070)	-	-
Somalia Research Capacity Building	4,352	-	-	-	4,352
The Expansion and Consolidation of Hargeysa Cultural Centre I		(18,568)	-	18,568	0
The Expansion and Consolidation of Hargeysa Cultural Centre II		41,034	(41,034)		-
Diaspora Humanitarianism in Complex Crises		12,841	(12,841)		-
Learning Lessons: Education History in South Sudan		11,571	(11,571)		-
Power in the Shadows – understanding the deep state in African politics		120,237	(120,237)		-
Building a framework for ethical research (KMF)		14,484	(14,484)		-
Juba Lectures Series	-	288	(288)	-	-
South Sudan Customary Authorities III	-				-
Women in Politics	21,334			-	21,334
LPI Forum	-	58,907	(59,031)	124	-
UNSOM	-	3,703	(3,703)	-	-
NEP Project	-	2,180	(2,180)	-	-
Rift Valley Forum	91,375			-	91,375
Political Settlements Research Programme	1,501	1,289	(1,289)	-	1,501
Pilot Research Into Diaspora Projects	(477)			477	0
Australian Embassy– Research into Transnational South Sudanese Networks in Ethiopia		27,985	(27,985)		0
EARF Kenya Elections	21,781			-	21,781
Energy on the Move	-	11,085	(11,085)	-	-
Museum Network –Durham	356			-	356
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>140,222</b>	<b>469,106</b>	<b>(487,798)</b>	<b>19,169</b>	<b>140,699</b>

## 18a Current year movements in funds (continued)

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
<b>Total brought forward</b>	140,222	469,106	(487,798)	19,169	140,699
RVI Scholarship fund	24,621	722	-	-	25,343
HMG Ethiopia Phase III	(1,400)	-	-	1,400	-
PEA Somalia	2,067	-	-	-	2,067
X-Border	-	781,630	(781,630)	-	-
Context Analysis on Gender for the JPLG and UNICEF in Somalia	3,408	-	-	-	3,408
PEA Tax Ethiopia	(2,264)	-	-	2,264	-
Remittances and Vulnerability in Somalia	21,251	-	-	-	21,251
SDF Somaliland Land Study	-	1,024	(1,024)	-	-
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	24,893	-	-	-	24,895
PEA on Land Ethiopia-	-	9,629	(9,907)	277	()
Ethiopia Electoral Landscape Political Economy	-	38,411	(38,411)	-	-
South Sudan National Archives II	-	97,688	(97,688)	-	-
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project IV	(385)	(11,408)	133	11,660	
South Sudan Customary Authorities Project (SSCA) V		130,504	(130,504)		-
South Sudan National Archives I	21	43,948	(43,948)	-	21
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>212,434</b>	<b>1,561,256</b>	<b>(1,590,778)</b>	<b>34,770</b>	<b>217,682</b>
<b>General funds</b>	<b>370,001</b>	<b>1,051,772</b>	<b>(958,318)</b>	<b>(34,770)</b>	<b>428,684</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>370,001</b>	<b>1,051,772</b>	<b>(958,318)</b>	<b>(34,770)</b>	<b>428,684</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>582,435</b>	<b>2,613,027</b>	<b>(2,549,096)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>646,366</b>

## 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 \$
<b>Restricted funds:</b>					
Somalia Research Capacity Building	4,473	92,000	(92,121)	-	4,352
Juba Lectures	-	29,127	(29,127)	-	-
South Sudan Customary Authorities III	-	(16,952)	(7,081)	24,033	-
Women in Politics	26,111	2,954	(7,731)	-	21,334
LPI Forum	-	75,568	(75,568)	-	-
UNSOM	-	14,865	(14,865)	-	-
NEP Project	-	64,798	(64,798)	-	-
Rift Valley Forum	94,047	73,536	(76,208)	-	91,375
Political Settlements Research Programme	2,027	6,608	(7,133)	-	1,502
Usalama	-	5,647	(5,647)	-	-
Pilot Research Into Diaspora Projects	-	29,517	(29,995)	-	(478)
Australian Embassy- Research into Transnational South Sudanese Networks in Ethiopia	-	880	(880)	-	-
EARF Kenya Elections	43,952	31,433	(53,604)	-	21,781
Energy on the Move	-	28,706	(28,706)	-	-
Museum Network -Durham	-	1,239	(883)	-	356
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>170,610</b>	<b>439,926</b>	<b>(494,347)</b>	<b>24,033</b>	<b>140,222</b>

## 18b Prior year movements in funds (continued)

	At the start of the year \$	Income & gains \$	Expenditure & losses \$	Transfers and gains/(losses) \$	At the end of the year \$
<b>Total brought forward</b>	170,610	439,926	(494,347)	24,033	140,222
Radicalisation in EA	-	74,571	(74,571)	-	-
RVI Scholarship fund	23,993	628	-	-	24,621
HMG Ethiopia Phase III	(1,400)	-	-	-	(1,400)
PEA Somalia	2,067	-	-	-	2,067
X-Border	-	317,409	(317,409)	-	-
REF Project	29	64,571	(39,626)	(24,974)	-
Context Analysis on Gender for the JPLG and PEA Tax Ethiopia	3,408 (559)	- 15,175	- (16,880)	-	3,408 (2,264)
Remittances and Vulnerability in Somalia	21,251	-	-	-	21,251
SDF Somaliland Land Study	-	845	(845)	-	-
PEA Advisory in Ethiopia	-	123,662	(98,772)	-	24,890
PEA on Land Ethiopia-	-	69,419	(69,419)	-	-
PEA of Electoral Landscape in Ethiopia	-	11,868	(11,868)	-	-
World Bank PEA Tax Somalia	-	109,505	(109,505)	-	-
SSNA Swiss Project	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
World bank Somalia Urbanisation	-	162,389	(162,389)	-	-
South Sudan Customary Authorities IV	-	417,199	(417,584)	-	(385)
UNESCO II	-	4,515	(4,494)	-	21
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>219,399</b>	<b>1,836,682</b>	<b>(1,842,709)</b>	<b>(941)</b>	<b>212,433</b>
<b>General funds</b>	<b>464,723</b>	<b>650,540</b>	<b>(746,203)</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>370,001</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>464,723</b>	<b>650,541</b>	<b>(746,203)</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>370,001</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>684,122</b>	<b>2,487,223</b>	<b>(2,588,912)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>582,434</b>

**Purposes of restricted funds**

Restricted funds comprise grants and donations received for specific purposes as follows:

Platform for Political Dialogue Project – Funded by DFID, this project aims to support the building of an effective Somali Platform for Political Dialogue and Accommodation in Somalia.

Hargeisa Cultural Centre Project– This is a project funded by the European Union to support the expansion and consolidation of the Hargeisa Cultural Centre

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

Learning Lessons: Education History in South Sudan: A project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council to support research into contemporary histories of informal educational projects during displacement in South Sudan.

Power in the Shadows: Funded by the Foundation Open Society Institute, this project aims to understand the deep state in African Politics.

Building a framework for ethical research– This project was funded by the Knowledge Management fund with the aim of building a framework for ethical research.

Juba Lecture Series – This was the seventh year of the annual Juba lecture series, funded by the Australian Embassy in Addis Abbaba

LPI Forum–Facilitation of the Borderlands conference to provide a platform for learning and discussion on the borderlands, including cross border programming and policy making funded by Life and peace Institute.

UNSOM–This was the facilitation of an inception meeting for the Community of Practice funded by UNSOM

**Purposes of restricted funds (continued)**

NEP Project. This was a project funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth office in support of obtaining a better understanding of the North Eastern part of Kenya.

Rift Valley Forum – Rebranded from the Nairobi Forum, the Rift Valley Forum is a public space for engagement, exploring topics under 7 themes affecting the region. Events are held in Nairobi and other cities in East and Central Africa.

Political Settlements Research Programme – This is a DFID-funded research project on Political Settlements as part of a consortium led by the University of Edinburgh, which aims to examine how different types of political settlements emerge, how they can be improved through internal initiatives and how external actors may change them. This is funded by UK DFID.

South Sudan Diaspora Impact Project– A Research Project into Transnational South Sudanese Networks in Ethiopia funded by the Australian Government via the Australian Embassy in South Sudan.

Energy on the Move: A Comparative Study on longitudinal perspectives on energy transitions among marginal populations Funded by the Economic & Social Research Council

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

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

SDF Somaliland Land Study – A project funded by the Somaliland Development fund for the development of the Somaliland Land Policy development.

PEA on Land Ethiopia– This was a DFID funded political Economy Analysis on Land.

PEA on electoral Landscape in Ethiopia– This was a research of Political Economy Analysis of the emerging 2020 electoral landscape in Ethiopia funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

South Sudan National Archives Project– Funded by UNESCO, this project is dedicated to the conservation and digitisation of the National Archives of South Sudan.

South Sudan Customary Authorities – Supported by the Swiss Development Corporation in Juba, this project aims to ingrate Customary Authorities into the peace building Processes in South Sudan.

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

	2019 US\$	2018 US\$
<b>Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)</b>	<b>63,932</b>	<b>(101,688)</b>
Depreciation charges	1,765	390
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	333,474	(266,352)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	686	(317,055)
<b>Net cash provided / (used) by operating activities</b>	<b>399,857</b>	<b>(684,705)</b>

**20 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	At 1 January 2019 \$	Cash flows \$	Other changes \$	At 31 December 2019 \$
Cash at bank and in hand	386,090	394,357	–	<b>780,447</b>
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>386,090</b>	<b>394,357</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>780,447</b>

**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 2019 US\$	2018 US\$
Less than one year	34,078	19,482
One to five years	5,600	-
	<u>39,678</u>	<u>19,482</u>

**22 Legal status of the charity**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each member in the event of