

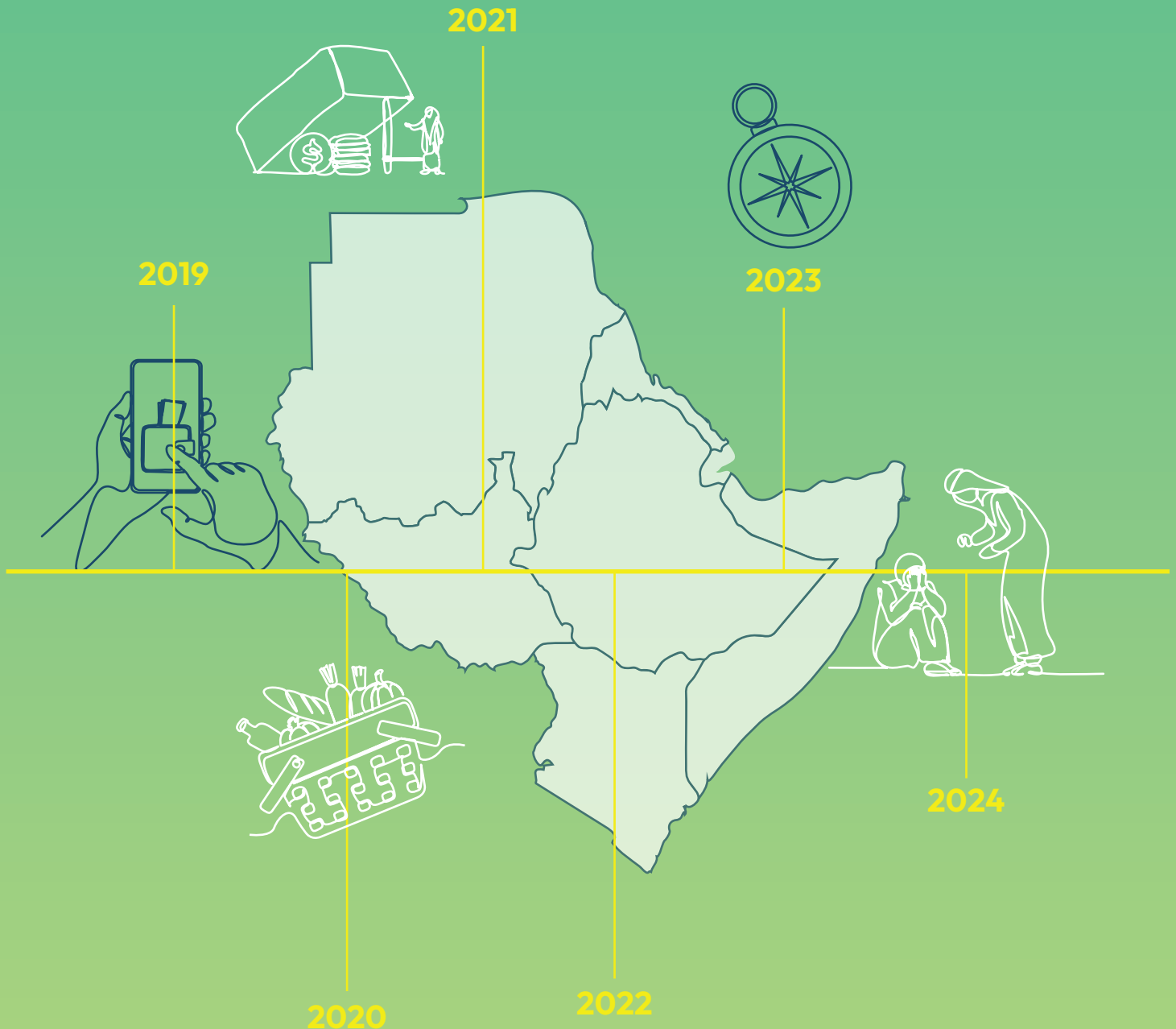


**Rift Valley Institute**  
MAKING LOCAL KNOWLEDGE WORK

**XCEPT**  
CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT  
EVIDENCE / POLICY / TRENDS

# RVI's Cross-Border Insights

Unveiling Six Years of Impact



**RESEARCH DISSEMINATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING WORKSHOP**

**SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

**IMPERIAL HOTEL, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN**

# Introduction

In South Sudan, conflict and instability endure causing multiple, intersecting crisis. As [previous research](#) has revealed, “the crisis is rooted in fundamental restructuring through generations of armed conflict, forced resettlements, and a long-term but significant shift towards a cash and market economy across South Sudan”. With vast and porous borders and a rapidly increasing movement of people and goods, internal dynamics in South Sudan connect with external social, economic, political and security issues in neighboring countries.

Regional dynamics, particularly, the ongoing war in Sudan and the instability in neighboring Ethiopia, have both caused disruptions of cross-border trade and mobility, and increased the numbers of refugees and displaced persons arriving in South Sudan, and further complicated border relations, particularly, between local communities themselves and with central authorities. These issues also intricately interlink with gender questions, especially, on the socio-cultural norms and the role that women play negotiating relationships and sustaining livelihoods.

The Cross-Border Conflict, Evidence, Policy and Trends (XCEPT) is FCDO funded research project that seeks to better understand conflict-affected borderlands, how conflicts connect across borders, and the factors that shape violent and peaceful behaviour, to inform effective policy and programme responses. XCEPT works to deliver new quantitative and qualitative research in conflict-affected borderlands, extend methods to measure violence to new regions, and support the wider programme to work effectively with local research networks in priority regions. Since 2018, the Rift Valley Institute has produced research reports covering the gamut of political, social, economic (trade), and security dynamics in South Sudan and Sudan.

The dissemination workshop will centre on the work that Rift Valley Institute since 2018 covering the following three thematic areas:

## i. War, Migration and Work: South Sudan’s Changing Borderland Economy

South Sudan’s borderland with Sudan is an area deeply affected by conflict, large-scale displacement and ongoing economic crisis. This has enabled powerful, military actors to control, and exploit, the borderland economy, including a capture pool of cheap, mobile labour. Residents of the borderland have long relied on a system of seasonal labour migration into Sudan in search of cash to supplement what they can grow on their own farms. Others have been drawn into systems of militarized labour, joining militias or the South Sudan armed forces. Discussions under this theme will reflect on RVI’s research in the South Sudan - Sudan borderlands, particularly in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal state. It also reflects on a preliminary insights based on a new research project, currently in progress, examining the dynamics on the border between the Ruweng Administrative Area and South Kordofan in the context of the current conflict in Sudan.

Discussions will be centred on three key reports in this series:

- [War and the Borderland: Northern Bahr el-Ghazal During Sudan’s Conflict](#) by Joseph Diing Majok
- [War, Migration and Work: Agricultural Labour and Cross-Border Migration from Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, South Sudan](#) by Joseph Diing Majok
- [Breaking Out of the Borderlands: Understanding migrant pathways from Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, South Sudan](#) by Nicola Kindersley & Joseph Diing Majok



Themes under discussion will include the social and economic crisis in South Sudan’s border region; the militarization of governance; and the significance of cross-border migration to people living and working in the borderland.

## ii. Displaced Tastes: Conflict, Displacement and South Sudanese Changing Food Tastes

Displaced Tastes is a collaborative research undertaken by the Rift Valley Institute (RVI) and the Catholic University of South Sudan (CUoSS). The studies examine how experiences of conflict, regional displacement and mobility, and the shift to an increasingly market-oriented and import-dependent economy have changed what people in South Sudan grow and eat. It focuses on the country’s borderland spaces, and locations where South Sudan’s interaction with the regionalized market in grains and other foods is most evident, like food markets in major towns like Juba.

Discussions under this theme will centre on the following key reports:



- [Trading Grains in South Sudan: Stories of opportunities, shocks and changing tastes](#) by Jovensia Uchalla
- [Migrating with Seeds: Women, agricultural knowledge and displacement in South Sudan](#) by Elizabeth Nyibol
- [‘You Can Now Get Engaged’: Meanings of cassava among the Pojulu of South Sudan](#) (Luga Aquila)

### iii. The Triple Burden: Land, Labor and Women in South Sudan

This study explores the labour burdens of women in agriculture, based on interviews conducted in Western Bahr al-Ghazal and other areas of Sudan. As food, labour, and land become commodities, women's working lives are transforming. The process of 'commodification' shifts rural life towards producing surplus food for profit rather than household subsistence. This change has led to the devaluation of unpaid work, adding to the cultural and social shifts in South Sudanese communities.

Discussions will centre on a recent report:

- [The Triple Burden: Women Selling their Labour in South Sudan](#) by Elizabeth Nyibol



Wednesday, September 18, 2024 Public Dissemination and Knowledge Sharing Workshop		
9:00am -9:30am	Arrival and Registrations	
9:30pm – 10:00pm	Welcome & Opening of the dissemination event	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mark Bradbury</b> – Executive Director, Rift Valley Institute</li><li>• <b>Prof. Venecia Moloding, Dr. John Garang</b>, Memorial University</li><li>• <b>Hon. Pia Philip Michael</b>, Undersecretary Ministry of Peacebuilding, GOSS</li></ul>
10:00am – 10:30am	Health Break	All
10:30pm – 11:30pm	<p>Session I: Presentations</p> <p><b>Conflict, Migration &amp; Work: South Sudan's Changing Borderland Economy</b></p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Joel Otieno</b>, XCEPT Programme Manager, RVI</li></ul> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>John Diing Majok</b> – RVI researcher &amp; PhD Student, Edinburgh</li><li>• <b>Nicki Kindersley</b> – RVI researcher,</li></ul>
11:30pm – 11:50pm	Plenary Q&A session	
11:50am – 12:40am	<p>Session II: Presentations</p> <p><b>Displaced Tastes: Conflict, Displacement &amp; Changing Food Tastes</b></p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Loes Lijnders</b>, Lecturer, Catholic University of South Sudan</li></ul> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Elizabeth Nyibol</b>, RVI Local Researcher</li><li>• <b>Luga Aquila</b>, RVI Local Researcher</li><li>• <b>Jovensia Uchalla</b>, RVI Local Researcher</li></ul>
11:40am – 1:10pm	Plenary Q&A Session	

1:10pm – 2:00pm	Lunch	All
2:00pm – 2:30pm	Session III: Presentations  <b>The Triple Burden: Women, Displacement &amp; Labour in South Sudan</b>	Moderator: <b>Rebecca Glade</b> , Independent Research Expert  Presenter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elizabeth Nyibol</b>, RVI Local Researcher</li> </ul>
2:30pm – 3:00pm	Q&A Session	All
3:00pm – 4:00pm	Session IV: Panel Discussion  <b>Reflections for Policy, Programme and Practice</b>	Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Programmes, Rift Valley Institute</li> </ul> Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rose Wright</b>, Conflict Advisor, British Embassy, South Sudan</li> <li>• <b>Nohman Khalil</b>, Humanitarian and Conflict Analyst, NRC</li> </ul>
4:00pm – 4:30pm	Vote of Thanks and Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mark Brudbury</b>, Executive Director, RVI</li> </ul>
4:30pm – 7:00pm	Networking, Cocktails and Drinks	All