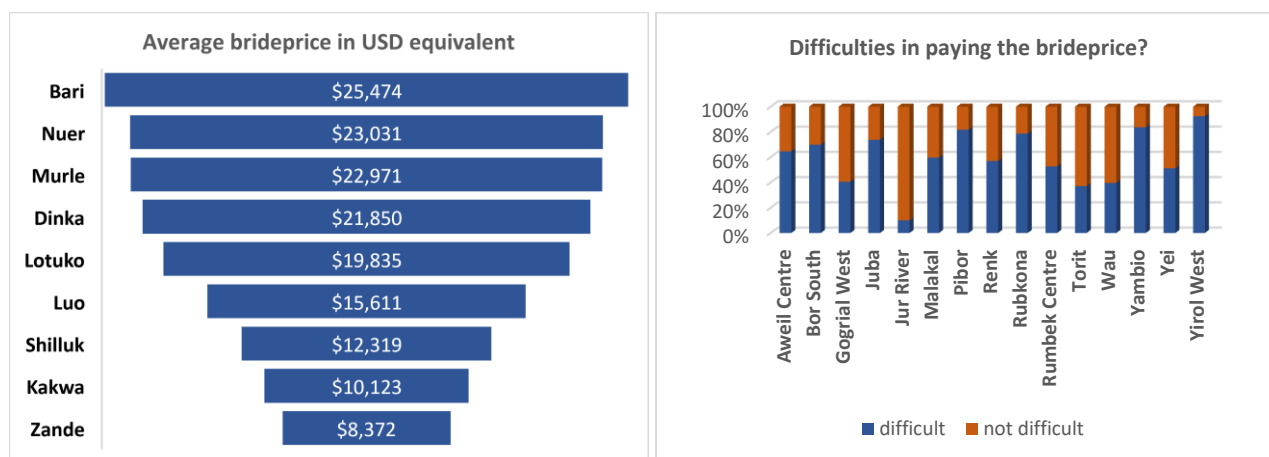


Press Release, 27 February 2024

Unveiling the Economic and Social Implications of Brideprice in South Sudan

In a groundbreaking study titled *“Bring Enough Cows to Marry: Brideprice Conflict and Gender Relations in South Sudan,”* a research team from the UK-funded **Peace and Conflict Evidence Platform (PeaceRep)** programme led by Dr Jan Pospisil (University of Coventry, UK) and including Adut Alaak Garang, Nyachangkuoth Rambang Tai and Melissa Johnson (University of Queensland, Australia) provides the **first comprehensive empirical assessment of brideprice practices in South Sudan**, shedding light on their profound economic, social, and gender ramifications. The report is based on survey data gathered in April and May 2023 involving more than 4,400 respondents from all ten states of South Sudan and insights from qualitative interviews and focus group discussions.

The report reveals that brideprice, a longstanding tradition integral to marriage and societal status in South Sudan, **varies significantly across regions and communities**. The findings underscore the substantial financial burden brideprice places on families, often leading to economic strain and challenges. The **highest brideprices in the country are common among Bari, Nuer, Murle and Dinka communities** (based on an average rate of 400 US\$ per head of cattle). Most respondents of the survey reveal **substantial difficulties in paying the brideprice**.



Key statistics from the study indicate a wide range of brideprice amounts, with **many families facing demands that exceed their financial capabilities**. This has profound implications for gender relations, contributing to inequalities and, in some cases, violence against women. The report shows that brideprices are commonly paid in instalments, with **failed instalment payments acting as a potential conflict trigger** in some parts of the country.

The report calls for **actionable solutions, advocating for manageable brideprice practices and pragmatic regulations to mitigate the socio-economic and gender issues** stemming from these traditional practices. By addressing these challenges, the study aims to foster a more equitable and sustainable societal framework in South Sudan.

The full report can be accessed via <https://peacerep.org/publication/bring-enough-cows-to-marry/>

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