

# X-Border Local Research Network

In Asia, the Middle East and Africa, conflict and instability endure in contested border regions where local tensions connect with regional and global dynamics. The Asia Foundation, the Malcolm H. Kerr Carnegie Middle East Center, the Rift Valley Institute and their local research partners established the X-Border Local Research Network in 2018 to develop a better global understanding of political, economic and social dynamics in conflict-affected borderlands. The X-Border Local Research Network produces research to inform more effective policymaking and programming. It is a component of FCDO's Cross-border Conflict Evidence, Policy and Trends (XCEPT) research programme.



XCEPT local researchers at the Transnational Everyday workshop in Addis Ababa, November 2019.

## Border Towns, Markets and Conflict



This report focuses on cities, towns, and informal settlements around conflict-affected national borders, and the flows of people, goods, and ideas through them. These border settlements and the trade that sustains them are vital aspects of conflict and contested politics in frontier areas across much of the world.

Across six case studies, the report draws out the overlapping trends around increased state securitisation efforts, the precarity of informal markets, and how the militarisation of border economies is negatively affecting local communities. Each chapter features data and analysis collected as part of the ongoing field research conducted by the project's local teams, providing a grounded understanding of the everyday reality of communities in fragile border areas, and how conflict shapes their lives.

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### Chapters

- Introduction by Nathan Shea and Cedric Barnes
- Torkham, Afghanistan–Pakistan Border by Azeema Cheema
- Makha, Yemen–Maritime Border by Ahmed Nagi
- Sarmada, Syria–Turkey Border by Armenak Tokmajyan and Kheder Khaddour
- Northern Bahr el-Ghazal State, South Sudan–Sudan Border by Joseph Diing Majok
- Maiwut, South Sudan–Ethiopia Border by Freddie Carver and Dual Ruach Guok
- Shwe Kokko, Myanmar–Thailand Border by Naw Betty Han

## In their own words: XCEPT researchers on the importance of local perspectives of conflict

The X-Border Local Research Network emphasises partnering with local researchers and research institutions based in the regions that they study. It builds, maintains and expands research networks in remote and difficult-to-reach conflict-affected regions such as the Afghanistan-Pakistan borderlands, Iraq, Syria and Yemen, Sudan and South Sudan. Finally, it supports improvements in local research methods and capacity.

Watch 'In their own words' on Youtube to learn more about our researchers and to hear their experiences working on policy-focused research for the XCEPT programme.

Watch on YouTube



The Asia Foundation



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For more information: <https://xcept-research.org>