

XCEPT

CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT
EVIDENCE / POLICY / TRENDS

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY: WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CROSS-BORDER CONFLICT CONTEXTS

Q&A – 23 August 2023

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Q&A agenda

- 1 Q&A housekeeping
 - 2 Introduction to XCEPT
 - 3 About this funding opportunity
 - 4 Who can apply?
 - 5 How to apply?
 - 6 How will we assess your application?
 - 7 Timelines
 - 8 Questions
-

Q&A housekeeping



Turning on your camera is preferable, though optional of course.



Your microphone will remain muted until the Q&A section.



Please write any questions into the chat, or, when we get to the Q&A section, use the raised hand button and the XCEPT team will enable you to unmute and ask any questions.



We will record this session. The first part will be shared on the website. The Q&A will not be shared but will be recorded for transcription purposes, so that we can be sure we accurately represent all the questions asked.



We may not get to all the questions today, or there may be some that we are not able to answer immediately. In that case, we will make sure that we respond to those questions in writing within a few days of the clarification questions deadline.

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Introduction to XCEPT



About XCEPT

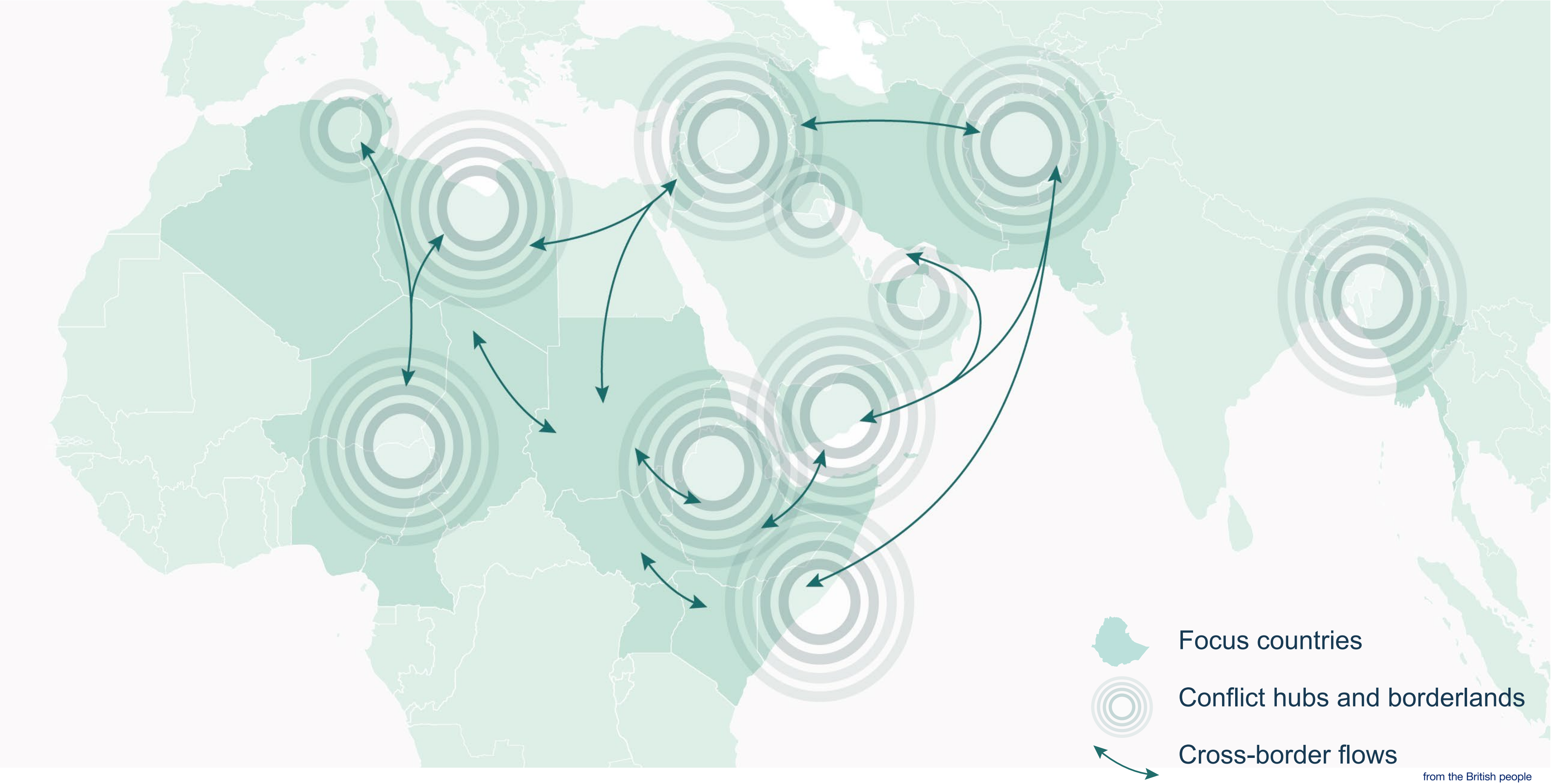
The UK aid-funded Cross-Border Conflict Evidence, Policy and Trends (XCEPT) research programme examines **transnational conflict dynamics**, the **drivers of violent and peaceful behaviour**, and **more effective international policy responses**.

XCEPT melds **mixed-methods research** with innovative use of **satellite and open data** to deepen insight on hard-to-access areas.

The **XCEPT Research Fund** enables research on emerging issues and what works to stabilise, resolve, and prevent conflict.



XCEPT research focuses on borderland dynamics and how conflicts connect across borders



An aerial photograph of a city, likely St. Louis, with a river winding through it. Overlaid on the map are eight red circles, each containing a white number. Circle 3 is the largest and is positioned in the center of the image. Circles 1 through 8 are arranged in a horizontal line at the top of the image. The background is a dark blue overlay on the aerial map.

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About this funding opportunity

Key info

Estimated number of awards:	5
Budget range for each award:	£10,000 – £35,000
Estimated period of performance:	3 – 9 months
Current application phase:	Expression of interest phase

Thematic and geographic scope

Examining the complex roles that women and girls play in cross-border conflict systems, and their prevention, stabilisation, and resolution.

The research proposed must demonstrate a clear link to:

- **Violent conflict**, addressing its **transnational dimensions**, and
- Issues related to **women and girls**.

Geographic scope: Africa, particularly West Africa, Sahel, North Africa, and the Horn of Africa; Middle East; Asia, particularly Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar; Ukraine and its bordering countries; and the Western Balkans.

Expected outputs

The main research output will be a manuscript prepared for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, or as an XCEPT research report.

Expected outputs:

- Kick-off meeting
- Research manuscript (5,000-7,000 words)
- Briefing note (max. 3,000 words)
- Policy and public uptake of research

Applicants may propose a different combination of outputs depending on the budget they are seeking.

Our expectations

High-quality, novel research

Projects should:

1. Undertake **novel** research;
2. Use **rigorous and robust research methodologies**, including adherence to internationally recognised **ethical standards**;
3. Achieve **policy impact** and **public benefit**;

Methods

We are interested in a range of different methodological approaches. Whatever is appropriate to answer the question.

Desk-based reviews; primary data collection; participatory methods; case studies; etc.

Applicants are encouraged, though not required, to consider:

- Would leveraging **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** to enhance their research?
- Would using **satellite imagery and open-source investigations** enhance their research? (XCEPT has in-house capacity, funded separately)



Using satellite data to analyse changes in activity of goldfields in Libya

Using satellite data to understand how the Taliban are managing border crossings in Afghanistan



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Who can apply?

Who can apply?

This funding opportunity is open to individual researchers AND research organisations or institutions

Applications from **Global South** researchers are strongly encouraged to apply, independently or in collaboration with other researchers.

XCEPT encourages **collaborative research**:

- Interdisciplinary
- Partnerships between academics and policy professionals.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely London, with a river (the River Thames) winding through it. The image is overlaid with a dark blue filter. Eight red circles, each containing a white number, are positioned along the top edge of the image. The numbers are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, arranged from left to right. Circle 5 is significantly larger than the others and is positioned in the center of the image, directly above the main text.

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How to apply?

How to apply?

Application form + CV

1. Fill out the Expression of Interest Application Form linked on the website.
2. Include a CV of the lead researcher(s)

All materials should be submitted as email attachments sent to XCEPT-Fund@chemonics.com by **18:00 BST on 13 September 2023**.

Application form (1)

If applying as an individual, fill out this box:

If applying as an organisation, fill out this box:

Applicant information

If you are applying as an **individual researcher**, please fill out table 1 below labelled 'Individual Researcher'. If you are co-leading the project with another researcher, please copy table 1 and repeat it below, with the information of the other researcher.

If you are applying as an **organisation**, or through your organisation, please fill out table 2 below labelled 'Organisation'.

1. Individual Researcher	
Legal Name	Enter Name
Address	Enter Address
Contact Details	Enter Name Enter Email Address Enter Phone Number
Overview	In no more than 50 words, very briefly describe your research activities – including themes, geographies, etc.

2. Organisation	
Organisation Legal Name	Enter Name
Organisation Address	Enter Address
Organisation Point of Contact and Contact Details	Enter Name Enter Email Address Enter Phone Number
Organisation Overview	In no more than 50 words, very briefly describe your organisation and its activities – including founding year, and mission/purpose, etc.
Organisation Website	Enter Website URL (if applicable)

Application form (2)

2

Eligibility check

Please check that you are eligible for this opportunity by working through the checklist below. Please note that applicants will be required to go through a due diligence process before an award is made, which will take place at a later stage in the application process.

Are you prepared to submit a full proposal and budget, as well as fill out due diligence forms, within three weeks of notification of successfully passing the Expression of Interest stage?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Can you provide at least two references of past performance? <i>These will be needed at the next stage if you are asked to submit a full proposal.</i>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Can you provide a writing sample? <i>This may be needed at the next stage if you are asked to submit a full proposal.</i>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

Application form (3)

1. Research idea and evidence gaps (approx. 900 words) – 40 points
2. Methodology (approx. 300 words) – 20 points
3. Global South participation (approx. 300 words) – 20 points

Use this box to write your project proposal. Maximum word count: 1,500 words.

Application form (4)

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Estimated budget

The available budget for this opportunity is £10,000 - £35,000, inclusive of all labour, material, and other applicable fees. Use the below table to provide an estimated budget for this activity, showing a breakdown of the amount to be spent on labour and that spent on materials. Please express all cost information in pounds sterling (GBP). Further details are not required at this stage.

Item	Cost (GBP)	Reasons for cost:
Labour		
Materials (all other expenses)		
Estimated total cost		

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**How will we assess
your application?**

Two-stage application

(1) Expression of interest + (2) Full proposal

Expressions of interest will be assessed by an evaluation panel. A shortlist will be asked to submit a full proposal.

At the full proposal stage, applicants will be asked to complete a **technical application form** (approx. 3,500 words), including questions about methods, research ethics, research team, etc.; to provide **past performance examples**; complete **due diligence** forms; and submit a **detailed budget**.

Full proposals will be assessed by an evaluation panel. Finalists will then move to advanced due diligence checks, negotiation and award.

Scoring criteria

- Research idea and evidence gaps – 40 points.
 - Statement of the project's focus and the problem or issue(s) it will address.
 - Questions and hypotheses the research will examine, and relevance to policy.
 - Current evidence gaps in relation to the research idea, with reference to the literature.
- Methodology – 20 points.
 - Methods and procedures the research will employ.
- Global South participation – 20 points.
 - The extent to which individuals and/or organisations from the Global South lead and meaningfully participate during different stages of the research cycle, from research design to data collection, analysis, validation, authoring, and uptake.
- Experience and track record – 20 points.

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Timeline

Timeline

30 August 2023	Clarification question deadline
13 September 2023	EOI Submission deadline
02 October 2023	Shortlisted candidates notified (estimated)
27 October 2023	Deadline for full proposals (estimated)
06 November 2023	Winning candidates notified (estimated)
Late Nov / early Dec 2023	Approx. project start date

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Questions

Contact information:

XCEPT Fund team – XCEPT-Fund@chemonics.com

