

IDRC in Brazil

IDRC-supported research in Brazil has informed policy debates on a variety of issues, including democracy, economic growth, health, social services, innovation, forestry, and water.

During the military dictatorship that ended in 1985, IDRC supported democratically minded intellectuals to help keep relevant social science research alive. One of these IDRC-funded researchers, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, served as Brazil's president from 1995 to 2003.

Deepening democracy

In the 2000s, as part of a move to entrench democracy, Brazil set out to harness the energy of its 34 million young people. IDRC-supported researchers organized innovative dialogues that led to the creation of the National Council for Youth, where young people discuss policies with politicians and officials.

When Brazil began to lead the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti and support sustainable and democratic development in that country, Brazilian researchers sought to guide the effort with evidence. IDRC support enabled them to research Haitian development and collaborate with counterparts in Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Uruguay as each country team strengthened their governments' activities in Haiti. Each team has become a national centre of excellence, informing policies regarding Haiti on reconstruction after the 2010 earthquake, food security, and public-private sector partnerships.



FILICKR/GABRIEL CABRAL

IDRC-supported research has focused on promoting the political participation of youth and improving people's health.

Tackling key health issues

In response to dramatic increases in obesity among Brazilian adults, IDRC-supported researchers have been analyzing policies to promote healthy eating habits, as well as barriers to their adoption.

Health research in the state of São Paulo helped to implement reforms in the early 2000s to transfer responsibility for health care to local governments. A model to regulate public and private health care emerged and was later adopted by other states.

When mercury contamination in the Amazon water system became a concern, Brazilian and Canadian researchers discovered that slash-and-burn agriculture was the primary cause. Working with local farmers — particularly women — researchers identified fish with the least amount of contamination, as well as a tree whose fruit could reduce mercury levels in humans.

Total support

241 activities
CA\$60 million
since 1972

Our support helps

- Fishers diversify income
- Coastal dwellers adapt to a changing climate
- Creative industries embrace digital technologies
- Employees enjoy greater wage equality
- City dwellers understand the roots of violence



WORLD BANK

Research aims to translate economic growth into better jobs.



The boundaries and names shown on the map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IDRC.

Some current activities

Here are some examples of IDRC-supported research in Brazil.

■ Pairing Canadian and Brazilian research chairs

Funding: \$1,500,000

Duration: 2009–2014

IDRC research chairs in Brazil:

Alpina Begossi, State University of Campinas (Unicamp) and **Adalto Bianchini**, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS)

Research chairs Alpina Begossi of Unicamp and Fikret Berkes of the University of Manitoba are collaborating to improve fishers' livelihoods in Rio de Janeiro State. Research chairs Adalto Bianchini of UFRGS and Christopher Wood of McMaster University, Canada, have teamed up to develop strategies to control pollution in the Patos Lagoon and Amazon estuaries. Their work is part of a larger collaboration between IDRC and the Canada Research Chairs program.

■ Severe weather alerts

Funding: \$530,464

Duration: 2011–2015

Grantee: Universidade Federal do Pará, Brazil

Researchers are examining changing weather patterns and their socio-economic impacts in Caboclo communities in the

Amazon region. In collaboration with these communities, the research team is identifying climate-resilient practices and changes in livelihoods that would reduce people's vulnerability to tidal floods. An early-warning system for extreme tidal events and a data library will also help local authorities manage the effects of climate change.

■ Creative industries and the digital divide

Funding: \$381,500

Duration: 2011–2014

Grantee: Fundação Getúlio Vargas, Brazil

Digital technologies are transforming how businesses produce, sell, and distribute goods. This is especially true in the music, film, and publishing industries. Researchers are exploring how Brazil could better exploit its diverse and vibrant culture through digital technologies. They will identify incentives that help the government promote creativity and entrepreneurship.

■ Wage inequalities in Brazil and India

Funding: \$247,200

Duration: 2013–2015

Grantee: Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento, Brazil

Although poverty in Brazil and India has diminished, inequality among wage earners remains high. Think tanks in São Paulo and New Delhi are jointly examining the factors that explain wage inequality, such as labour

supply and demand, minimum-wage policy, race, gender, and caste. By comparing the two countries, the research will help emerging economies spread the benefits of growth more equitably.

■ Promoting male non-violence in cities

Funding: \$499,700

Other donor: Department for International Development, United Kingdom

Duration: 2013–2016

Grantee: Instituto Promundo, Brazil

Through surveys, interviews, and focus groups, researchers are documenting how social factors influence whether men choose peaceful rather than criminal and violent behaviour. They focus on two cities: Rio de Janeiro, marked by high levels of urban violence from drug traffickers and other armed groups; and Maputo, Mozambique, suffering from the lingering effects of a long civil war. Their results will guide policymakers in designing strategies to reduce urban violence.

For more information visit the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) website:

www.idrc.ca/lacro

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About Canada's International Development Research Centre

A key part of Canada's foreign policy efforts, IDRC supports research in developing countries to promote growth and development. The result is innovative, lasting solutions that aim to improve lives and livelihoods.

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