

# IDRC in South Africa

South Africa has enjoyed considerable growth since the end of apartheid in 1994, but the distribution of benefits has been highly unequal. Many citizens still lack clean water, proper health care, and economic opportunity. IDRC support has focused on finding solutions to address these challenges in South Africa and throughout the African continent, making the most of the country's strong research capacity.

IDRC began supporting research in South Africa through a program designed to prepare the country's future leaders to govern in a multi-racial democracy. Early IDRC-funded research focused on health, urban issues, and economic and industrial policy. Other research resulted in more effective diagnosis and treatment of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

## Building a strong competition regime

IDRC supported the government's efforts to establish a strong competition regime that would guarantee a fair marketplace. The Trade and Industrial Policy Strategies organization has provided high-quality, policy-relevant research on competition issues. To strengthen competition authorities in the region, IDRC supported the creation of the African Competition Forum in 2010.

IDRC-funded research also helped increase competition and reduce taxes on information and communication technologies, to extend their reach. Enhancing public access points, through telecentres, was another key area of support.



IDRC-supported researchers are developing a new livestock vaccine to reduce losses for smallholder farmers.

## Protecting against climate change

Livestock raising is the backbone of the country's agriculture. But infectious diseases take a heavy toll. Researchers from the University of Alberta and the Agricultural Research Council in South Africa are developing an innovative livestock vaccine that will protect goats, sheep, and cattle against five important viral infections with a single dose.

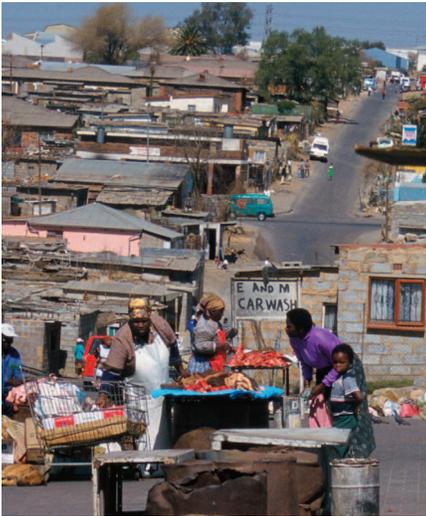
While South Africa's agriculture sector faces considerable impact from climate change, so do its urban residents. In the Cape Flats, a low-lying coastal zone outside Cape Town, researchers recently identified better ways to address flooding. As a result of their work, the municipality is collaborating more closely with communities and civil society organizations as it looks for solutions to flood risk and carries out educational campaigns.

## Total support

**325** research activities  
CA\$79 million since 1989

### Our support is helping:

- African scholars excel in math and science
- Authorities reduce alcohol-related harm, including violence
- Urban planners increase safety in cities
- Economists find solutions to environmental challenges
- Educators meet the demand for postsecondary schooling



Research focuses on urban planning to reduce violence.



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

## Some current activities

Here is a sample of the research IDRC supports in South Africa.

### ■ Supporting mathematical excellence

**Funding:** \$18,063,500  
**Duration:** 2011–2017  
**Grantee:** African Institute for Mathematical Sciences – Next Einstein Initiative, South Africa

*Graduates from African universities do not generally have access to advanced training in mathematical sciences. The Next Einstein Initiative seeks to remedy this situation. The funding, provided by the Government of Canada through IDRC, supports the continental expansion of an original pioneering centre in South Africa. Already, new centres in Senegal, Ghana, and Cameroon are training exceptional African students to tackle urgent environmental, health, and economic issues.*

### ■ Reducing violence from alcohol abuse

**Funding:** \$287,300  
**Duration:** 2013–2016  
**Grantee:** University of Cape Town, South Africa

*High levels of alcohol consumption fuel escalating levels of interpersonal violence in Western Cape Province and also contribute to a number of diseases. Researchers are assessing the best means of reducing*

*consumption, such as relocating sales outlets and legislating and policing their opening and closing times. Findings will inform the allocation of scarce resources to address this pervasive problem.*

### ■ Developing safer cities

**Funding:** \$502,300  
**Other donor:** UK Department for International Development  
**Duration:** 2013–2016  
**Grantee:** University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

*Cities are being transformed by rapid, unregulated urbanization, which often leads to forced evictions and endemic violence. As part of the global research program, Safe and Inclusive Cities, researchers in Durban are examining the role of urban planning in reducing tensions, inequality, and violence. In a comparative study with teams in Mumbai and Rio de Janeiro, they will draw lessons and recommend policies for more equitable and secure cities.*

### ■ Saving lives, money, and ecosystems

**Funding:** \$675,000  
**Duration:** 2013–2016  
**Grantee:** University of Pretoria, South Africa

*Environmental economists seek to identify the underlying causes of environmental degradation and design effective, equitable solutions. Since 2001, the Centre for Environ-*

*mental Economics and Policy in Africa (CEEPA) has worked to boost the skills of promising young African researchers in this field. CEEPA offers training programs and competitive research grants on issues related to economy-wide environmental challenges, such as climate change and resource management.*

### ■ Opening access to postsecondary education

**Funding:** \$2,000,000  
**Duration:** 2013–2016  
**Grantee:** University of Cape Town, South Africa

*Throughout the developing world, the number of postsecondary educational opportunities has not kept pace with demand. Open education resources—that may be freely accessed, reused, modified, and shared by anyone—are one potential solution. A research network, coordinated by the University of Cape Town, will study the use and impact of these resources to inform education policy and practice in developing countries.*

**For more information** visit the Regional Office for Sub-Saharan Africa website: [www.idrc.ca/rossa](http://www.idrc.ca/rossa)  
 Subscribe to the *IDRC Bulletin* and *IDRC News in sub-Saharan Africa*: [www.idrc.ca/subscribe](http://www.idrc.ca/subscribe)

## 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.

International Development Research Centre  
 PO Box 8500, Ottawa, ON Canada K1G 3H9

[idrc.ca](http://idrc.ca)