

Call for Proposals

Safe and Inclusive Cities

Research to Reduce Urban Violence, Poverty and Inequalities

Date issued: June 7, 2012

Deadline for submission of proposals: August 26, 2012 at 23:59 EDT (Ottawa time)

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is launching a call for proposals as part of the Safe and Inclusive Cities research initiative. In partnership with the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, this jointly-funded initiative aims to build an evidence base on the connections between urban violence, poverty and inequalities. It also seeks to identify the most effective strategies for addressing these challenges.

This document contains the following sections:

1. About IDRC and DFID	2
2. Background, rationale and key objectives.....	3
3. Priority research questions and focus	4
4. Funding scope and duration	4
5. Eligibility criteria	4
6. Selection process	5
7. Application guidelines	6
8. Evaluation criteria.....	7
9. Guidelines for submitting applications.....	8
10. Communication with applicants.....	9
11. Country clearance requirements.....	9
12. IDRC standard grant conditions.....	9
13. Permission for use and disclosure of information.....	9
Annex 1: Selection Process Overview.....	10
Annex 2: List of Non-Eligible Countries for Research Focus.....	11

1. About IDRC and DFID

IDRC is a Crown corporation created in 1970 by the Parliament of Canada. IDRC builds the capacity of people and institutions in developing countries to undertake the research that they identify as most urgent. It works with researchers as they confront contemporary challenges within their own countries and contribute to global advances in their fields.

IDRC supports research in four broad areas, making knowledge a tool for improving lives across the developing world through the following program areas:

- Agriculture and the Environment
- Global Health Policy
- Social and Economic Policy
- Science and Innovation

IDRC builds on decades of work on gender issues, international relations and global governance, and the role of information and communication technologies in development, and integrates these dimensions into all research themes.

Launched in 2011, IDRC's Governance, Security and Justice (GSJ) program funds research that is focused on states that are weak or fragile, as well as on communities and marginalized groups that suffer from persistent insecurity, injustice, and abuse of power at the local level in otherwise democratic states. GSJ supports the creation of policy-relevant knowledge on the conditions for increasing the legitimacy and accountability of public authorities in the areas of governance, security and justice. The program focuses on state-society dynamics, in particular the interactions between state and non-state actors, and between formal and informal institutions. This focus emphasizes the importance and complexity of local dynamics. Through its portfolio of project grants, GSJ works with both high capacity and new researchers to enhance evidence-based policy-making at multiple levels.

DFID leads the UK government's effort to fight global poverty. DFID's overall aim is to reduce poverty in poorer countries, in particular through achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). DFID's Business Plan for 2011-15 sets out a number of priorities for the Department aimed at supporting achievement of these goals. These are to: Honour International Commitments; Introduce transparency in aid; Boost wealth creation; Strengthen governance and security in fragile and conflict-affected countries; Lead international action to improve the lives of girls and women; and Combat climate change.

DFID has a strong commitment to commissioning world class research which directly improves people's lives, and ensuring that it is readily available to those who can use it around the world. DFID has funded long-standing research programmes on governance, conflict and social development that have deepened knowledge about the political dimensions of poverty and development. DFID's research aims to understand the dynamics of poverty and exclusion, and to provide practical policy solutions. In order to gain the best possible results, DFID works with expert partners from the public and private sectors, including many of the world's leading universities, the UK Research Councils and Foundations, other UK Government Departments and major multilateral agencies.

Both organizations are convinced that rigorous and innovative research is essential to designing interventions that effectively tackle the host of challenges related to urbanization, violence, poverty and inequalities. Safe and Inclusive Cities represents a collaborative approach to funding policy- and operationally-relevant research that will help address critical gaps in knowledge and evidence, providing policymakers and practitioners with credible data on what works, what doesn't and why.

2. Background, rationale and key objectives

In 2007, the world became predominantly urban. Urbanization brings with it possibilities of improved access to jobs, goods and services for poor people in developing countries and beyond as globalization trends connect cities world-wide. However, with most urban growth occurring in the larger cities and slums of developing countries, a number of development challenges have emerged. Many of the fastest growing cities are witnessing a sharp escalation in the incidence and severity of various forms of violence, which has a number of implications for the prospects of achieving sustainable and equitable development.

The 2011 *World Development Report* highlighted that the gap in poverty is widening between countries affected by violence. It concluded that for every three years a country is affected by major violence – which includes deaths from homicide – poverty reduction efforts lag by 2.7 percentage points. And according to the 2011 *Global Burden of Armed Violence* report, high rates of intentional homicide are accompanied by significantly higher levels of extreme poverty and hunger (MDG1), lower primary education enrolment (MDG2), and higher infant mortality and adolescent birth rates (MDGs 4 and 5).

A [baseline study](#) commissioned by IDRC in 2012 confirmed that considerable knowledge exists on the impacts of urban violence and that the urban poor suffer most from violence. However, the study concluded that much of the research and debate on urban violence, poverty and inequalities continues to be segmented and compartmentalized within certain disciplines and certain geographic settings. Several theories have emerged since the early twentieth century to explain variations in urban violence within and between cities and neighborhoods, but most of these are rooted in the Western European and North American experience, and the explanatory power of these theories when applied to developing country contexts is being challenged. Finally, while a number of policies and programs – as well as a range of formal and informal strategies – have been developed and implemented in an effort to address the challenges of urban violence, poverty and inequality, the evidence base for what works and what does not is extremely thin.

To help fill these gaps in knowledge and contribute to more effective policymaking and programming, IDRC and DFID have launched “Safe and Inclusive Cities.” Through support of research excellence, the core objectives of this initiative are to:

1. Generate a better understanding of the relationship between urban violence, poverty and inequalities, and identify the most effective strategies for tackling these challenges;
2. Contribute to the shaping of theoretical and conceptual frameworks and methodological approaches that will guide future research on these issues;
3. Support a cadre of researchers, particularly in the Global South, in enhancing their skills to design and execute cutting edge, policy relevant, rigorous, and gender sensitive research projects in cities affected by violence in Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.
4. To widely disseminate project- and program-level research results among local, regional, and international stakeholders with a view to influencing policy and practice.

Research projects funded as part of this initiative will be selected through this competitive Call for Proposals.

3. Priority research questions and focus

Proposed research projects should seek to answer the following questions:

1. What are the most important drivers of urban violence (social, cultural, political, economic, gender-based, etc.), and how are these both a cause and consequence of poverty and inequality? Why do communities that are comparable in terms of social and economic inequality and exclusion suffer different levels of violence?
2. What are the most effective strategies and interventions (both formal and informal) for tackling the problems of urban violence, poverty and inequalities and why? How have these strategies improved the livelihoods and security of the most vulnerable and marginalized individuals and groups, in particular those of women, girls and minorities? How have these strategies and interventions affected the legitimacy and accountability of public authorities whose responsibility it is to promote the safety and well-being of citizens?
3. What conditions facilitate the development of effective policies and practices (both formal and informal) that promote security and protect the livelihoods of the most poor and vulnerable individuals and groups? How can incentives be framed to facilitate their development and to what extent – if at all – can these be replicated in other contexts?

Cutting across these questions is a commitment to support research that will benefit the poorest and most vulnerable. As such, projects that are funded through this call will place particular emphasis on approaches that strengthen citizen security for the poorest; promote social empowerment at different life phases (i.e. youth, older persons, etc.); document the priority connections between violence, poverty and inequality reduction; and determine the differential impacts of violence on women and girls not only as victims but also as agents for change. This new knowledge will not only advance our understanding of the connection between violence, poverty and inequality reduction in urban areas, but also help ensure that investments for development and security are informed by evidence of what works.

4. Funding scope and duration

As a result of this Call, a series of grants of **up to CAD 500,000** will be awarded.

Projects should be scheduled to be completed by **April 2016**, including all research activities and final reporting.

IDRC's obligations herein are subject to sufficient funds being made available to IDRC by the Parliament of Canada and DFID. IDRC reserves the right to cancel the process at any time without prior notice and/or at its discretion to grant all or none of the awards under this process.

5. Eligibility criteria

Applications should be completed using the [Safe and Inclusive Cities Application Form](#).

Only applications that meet the following eligibility criteria will be considered for funding:

- Proposed projects are to be undertaken by – or in the case of a research consortium,¹ led by – a research-oriented institution² with legal corporate registration. Preference will be given to projects undertaken/led by Southern-based institutions.³
- Proposed projects are to be carried out in or on one or more cities in Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa and/or South Asia.⁴
- Proposed projects are scheduled to be completed by April 2016.
- Applications are complete and submitted to IDRC by 23:59 EDT on August 26, 2012.

6. Selection process

This Call for Proposals is the first step in a three-staged selection process as outlined below. See Annex 1 for a summary of the key steps and dates.

Stage 1: Call for Proposals

In a first step, applicants are required to submit the Application Form – which includes a research proposal – and supporting documents. Applications deemed to have complied with all eligibility criteria will be reviewed internally by IDRC program staff according to the evaluation criteria outlined in section 8. A short-list of proposals will be shared with DFID for their input and agreement before applicants are contacted about the status of their application.

- Deadline for submitting application: August 26, 2012
- IDRC feedback to applicants: October, 2012

Stage 2: Institutional risk assessment, proposal refinement and revisions and final selection

IDRC will carry out a risk review of the short-listed institutions. If required, at IDRC's sole discretion, a full institutional risk assessment will be undertaken. This engagement could include a site visit. These risk assessments will assess the capacity of the institution to manage and report on the financial aspects of the project activities keeping in mind the economic and political conditions relating to the institution's operating environment. In addition to this, IDRC country clearance requirements will be determined by IDRC and communicated to the short-listed institutions for information and action if necessary. A risk review must be completed to IDRC's satisfaction (see Section 11).

¹ Research consortia comprised of up to three institutional partners may also apply, however one partner must be designated as the lead institution. The lead institution will sign the grant agreement with IDRC and as such be responsible for receiving and administering the funds, and ensuring that all grant conditions are met. Applications to IDRC should be submitted by the lead institution on behalf of the consortium.

² Research-oriented institutions can include academic, governmental, private sector and non-profit organizations. UN, donor and multi-lateral organizations are NOT eligible to apply.

³ Funding for proposals led by Northern-based institutions will not exceed 40% of the overall budget.

⁴ A list of non-eligible research focus countries is available in Annex 2.

Throughout this phase, IDRC program staff will also engage with short-listed institutions as they refine and revise their proposals. Once the revised proposals of short-listed applicants are submitted, an expert review committee – comprised of five external international experts, IDRC program staff and DFID program staff– will review the proposals.

Informed by the institutional risk assessment and the expert review committee’s feedback on the technical merit of the proposals, IDRC and DFID program staff will select proposals for approval.

- Deadline for submitting revised proposals: October 31, 2012
- IDRC feedback to applicants: Early December 2012

Phase 3: Project approval and grant negotiation

Once a list of projects has been agreed to by IDRC and DFID, IDRC will conduct internal project approval and grant negotiation processes, as per IDRC’s standard rules and procedures. Country clearance must be obtained by grantees (see Section 11), and IDRC will determine milestones and other grant terms and conditions (see Section 12).

- Signature of grant agreements and start of projects (subject to internal approval and grant negotiation process): by 31 March 2013

7. Application guidelines

Applications should be written in a concise manner and prepared using the [Safe and Inclusive Cities Application Form](#), which includes the following sections:

- Section A – Project Summary
- Section B – General Information
- Section C – Research Proposal
- Section D – Preliminary Schedule
- Section E – Preliminary Budget Summary
- Section F – Supporting Documents Checklist
- Section G – Permission to Share Information

In addition to the completed Application Form, the following supporting documents should also be provided:

- A letter of intent
- CV of the principal investigator and proposed team members, which should include a list of publications
- Two (2) research samples (e.g. publication, research report, etc.) produced by the principal investigator and/or the proposing/lead institution
- Two (2) communication samples (e.g. policy brief, op ed, link to video, etc.) produced by the principal investigator and/or the proposing/lead institution
- A bibliography
- Proof of legal corporate registration of the proposing/lead institution
- In the case of consortia, a signed official letter of endorsement of the proposing/lead institution.

8. Evaluation criteria

The goal of Safe and Inclusive Cities is to support research excellence and applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Relevance (30%)

- Clear demonstration of how the research will add value to existing knowledge and theoretical debates, citing past work done on the theme and in the region – both by the applicant organization(s) and by other researchers.
- Extent to which research responds to the thematic focus and priority research questions of the Call for Proposals.
- Extent to which research is aimed at benefitting the poorest and most vulnerable by placing emphasis on approaches that:
 - strengthen citizen security for the poorest and most vulnerable;
 - promote social empowerment at different life phases (e.g. youth, older persons);
 - document the priority connections between violence, poverty and inequalities;
 - determine the differential impacts of violence on women and girls not only as victims but also as agents of change;
 - identify not only the drivers of violence, poverty and inequalities, but also effective and innovative solutions to these challenges.

2. Research merit and effectiveness (20%)

- Evidence of innovation, clarity of research questions and objectives.
- Conceptual soundness, rigorousness of methodology and research design.
 - Mix of qualitative and quantitative methods aimed at testing well-grounded and/or new theoretical frameworks.
 - Use of data disaggregated by sex, age and ethnicity.
 - Multi-disciplinary approach and integration of gender analysis.
- Capacity to generate results within the lifetime for the project with potential for scaling up and out (applicability and replicability).

3. Feasibility (20%)

- Sound strategy for mitigating safety and ethical risks for researchers and research participants.
- Feasibility in terms of project concept, timeline, and budget.
- Inclusion of appropriate monitoring and evaluation plan.

4. Organizational and team capabilities (20%)

- Strong track record of applied research in Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa and/or South Asia – or in inter-regional research spanning these regions – on issues of urban violence, poverty and/or inequality reduction.
- Capacity to integrate a range of disciplines, approaches and methods in relation to the study of urban violence, poverty and inequality reduction.
- Commitment to developing local, national and regional research capacity in the Global South on issues of urban violence, poverty and inequality.
- Demonstrated publishing record, including in peer reviewed journals.

5. Potential for research uptake (10%)

- Capacity to facilitate research uptake among policy-makers and/or communities of practice, using a range of strategies throughout the project cycle.

- Commitment to gathering and systematizing local/community-level voices in their research and analysis and to feeding research findings back to local constituencies.
- Demonstration of links between research, policy and practice.
- Well-articulated communication strategy, which proposes a range of outputs, tools and approaches for engaging with a range of target audiences over the course of the project cycle. Outputs should include potential journals and publications, but could also include documentaries, etc.

In evaluating proposals, evaluators will also assess them against the [baseline study](#) to ensure that projects are building on what is known and challenging key areas where evidence gaps exist.

9. Guidelines for submitting applications

Applications should be submitted using the [Safe and Inclusive Cities Application Form](#). Applications can be submitted in **English, French, Spanish or Portuguese**.⁵ An English version of the abstract is requested.

Applications, including all supporting documents, must be submitted by email to cities@idrc.ca, by August 26, 2012 at 23:59 EDT (Ottawa time). Documents can be submitted in PDF and/or word format. Applicants are requested to name their files as instructed below and submit the application form and all supporting documents using the format below.

For an application to be considered complete, each section of the application form should be filled, and all supporting documents should be provided. Incomplete applications, or applications received after the deadline, will not be considered for funding. Complete applications received before the deadline and deemed by IDRC to be compliant with the eligibility criteria set out in this Call for Proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the process outlined above.

From: [Principal investigator] To: cities@idrc.ca Cc: Third-party institutions, if applicable
Attachments: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Letter of intent_[Name of applicant institution] 2. Application Form_[Name of applicant institution] 3. CVs_[Name of applicant institution] 4. Research sample 1_[Name of applicant institution] 5. Research sample 2_[Name of applicant institution] 6. Communication sample 1_[Name of applicant institution] 7. Communication sample 2_[Name of applicant institution] 8. Bibliography_[Name of applicant institution] 9. Corporate documents_[Name of applicant institution] 10. Letter of endorsement_[Name of applicant institution] (only if a research consortium)
Subject: Application from [name of applicant institution] – message # of #

⁵ Application forms can be filled in Portuguese, however corporate documents must be provided in English, French or Spanish. Any contracts with IDRC will only be issued in English, French or Spanish.

10. Communication with applicants

All inquiries related to this Call should be sent to cities@idrc.ca.

All applicants will be advised of their application status by email (at the address used to submit the application package) **in October 2012**.

11. Country clearance requirements

Please see the list of non-eligible countries in Annex 2.

IDRC has concluded general agreements for scientific and technical cooperation with a number of governments. These agreements establish the framework for IDRC cooperation with that country by defining the rights and obligations of both IDRC and the government. As such, the applicant/lead institution may be required to obtain country approval from governmental authorities in relation to the research project. Where this is required obtaining such country approval will be a precondition of receiving funding from IDRC.

In addition, each proposal will be subject to IDRC's risk management process which assesses the ability of IDRC to support programming in proposed countries or territories taking into account Canadian law and IDRC's knowledge of the research setting, and ability to monitor activities. IDRC reserves the right to reject applications proposing research in countries not appearing on this list if the research location or approach is deemed unacceptable to IDRC.

12. IDRC standard grant conditions

As outlined in Section 6, selected applicants shall be required to sign IDRC's standard grant agreement, as amended by IDRC from time to time. In the case of research consortia, the applicant/lead institution will sign the grant agreement with IDRC and will be responsible for receiving and administering the funds, and ensuring that all grant conditions are met.

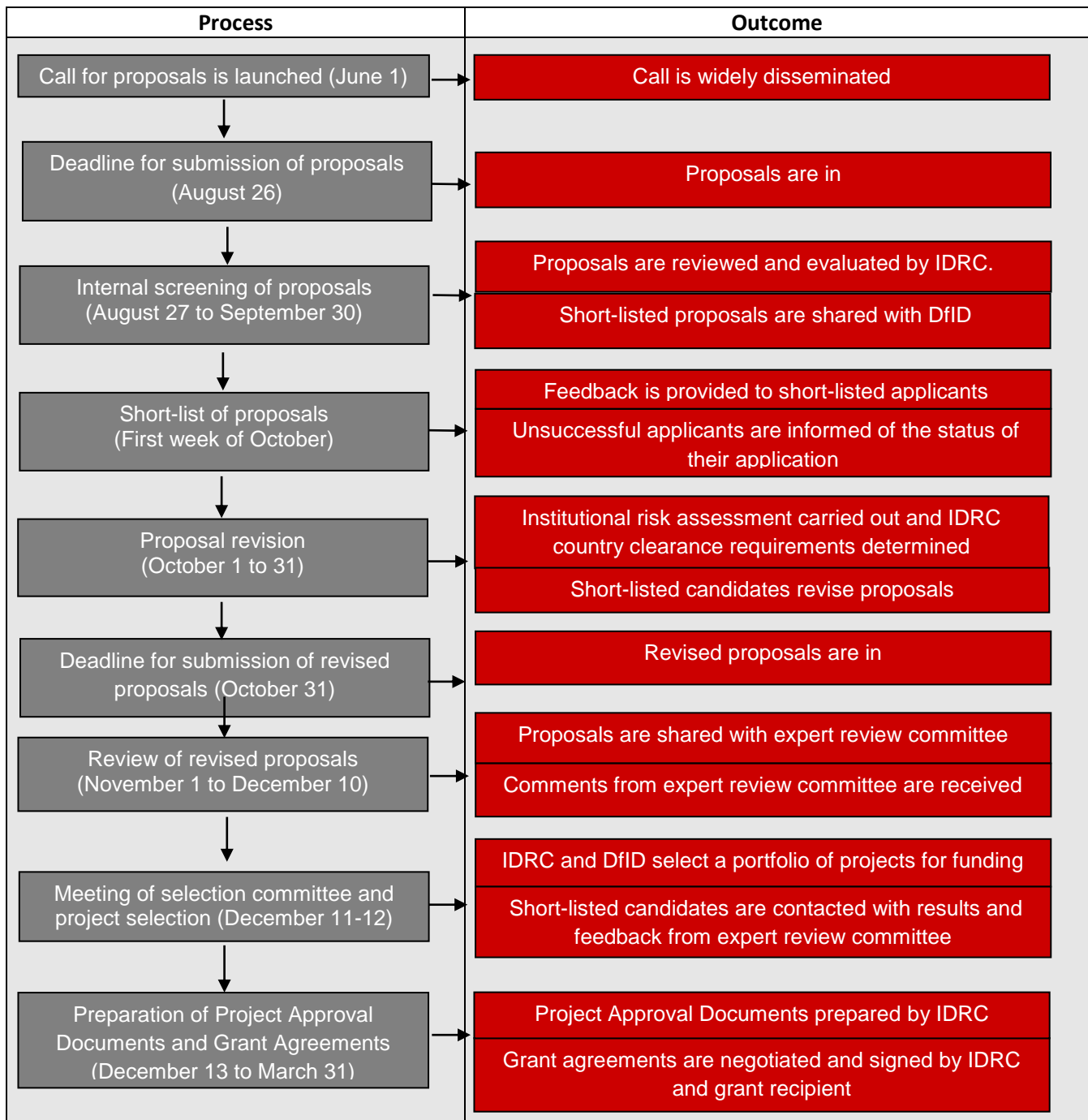
For a sample of the general terms and conditions, please refer to the following link:
http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Funding/Guides_and_Forms/Documents/MGC-Att-A-e.pdf

13. Permission for use and disclosure of information

By way of submitting an application under this Call for Proposals, the applicant consents to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the applicant to the reviewers involved in the selection process, both within IDRC and externally. If selected, the applicant further consents to the disclosure of the name of the applicant, the name of the principal investigator and the title of the proposed project in any announcement of selected projects.

Unsuccessful applications will be destroyed within 180 days after the close of the application period.

Annex 1: Selection Process Overview



Annex 2: List of Non-Eligible Countries for Research Focus

Research can be carried out in or on cities in Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

However, below is a list of countries which are NOT eligible and applications proposing research in these countries will not be considered for funding.

Non-eligible countries:

Latin America and the Caribbean	Sub-Saharan Africa	South Asia
French Guiana Puerto Rico	Cape Verde Comoros Equatorial Guinea Mauritius Sao Tome and Principe Seychelles Somalia	Maldives