



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE

40
YEARS

Ideas. Innovation. Impact.

Canada

Research for development

Working to meet the Millennium Development Goals

6th Annual Global Parliamentarians Summit

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Question

- *How can reproductive health and family planning help to meet MDGs 1,5, and 6?*

What is IDRC?

IDRC supports **research** in **developing countries** to promote growth and **development**. The result is **innovative**, lasting local **solutions** that aim to bring **choice** and **change** to those who need it most.

What is IDRC?

- **Created by Canadian Parliament in 1970**
- **International Board of Governors**
- **Public money – 80%**
- **Partnership with other donors – 20%**

How does IDRC work?

- Gives the lead to local researchers
- Links researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers in networks
- Creates partnerships
- Builds skills of individuals and institutions

FOUR FIELDS OF ENQUIRY

- Agriculture and the environment
- Science, technology, and innovation
- Social and economic policy
- Health and health systems

MDGs



Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger (poverty gap, employment, nutrition)



Goal 5: Improve maternal health (maternal mortality, access to services)



Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (prevention and treatment, increase access)

The central approach: research

- Ensuring **evidence** is used to influence **policy** and programming
- Influencing both **root** and **immediate** causes and actively engages stakeholders in implementing evidence-based **solutions**
- Capacity development for **sustainability**
- **Innovation** to improve the lives of underserved and the vulnerable

Reproductive health and family planning

- **Reduction** in maternal and child mortality
- **Access** to quality health services
- **Empowerment** of women to choose when and with whom to have children
- **KEY: strengthening health systems**
(multi-sectoral action)

In practice what is the solution to improve maternal outcomes?

- From literature: **immediate** care around pregnancy and delivery (antenatal care, safe delivery and post-natal care)
- Technical consensus: combo of professional delivery backed up by effective referral and availability of **emergency obstetric care**
- Root causes: development issue of the intersection of **poverty** and women's status
 - Solution is **complex**, time consuming and with no blueprint. Requires innovation, persistence and commitment

IDRC supported research findings: immediate solutions

- Better quality **information** and concrete referral criteria decreases maternal mortality
 - In Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali and Senegal this research is being used to improve MCH services at **district** level
 - In Kenya – ChildCount + has registered every child under 5 in Sauri (an MVP) and monitoring for **malnutrition**, malaria, diarrhea, immunization through mobile phones

IDRC supported research findings: getting to the root and behind the indicators

- **Governance**

- In Ethiopia and India (UP) strengthening **governance** systems through a better understanding of policies and practices, and improving women's ability to **negotiate** better services

- **Financing**

- Managing the removal of **user fees** in Latin America and west Africa to improve access to health

- **Capacity development**

- In Nigeria, learning by-doing approach to strengthen the health information system which in turn builds capacities and confidence to **allocate resources** to where they are most needed

IDRC supported research findings: getting to the root and behind the indicators

- Gender violence
 - In South Africa addressing **sexual violence** as a means to improve maternal health outcomes and support women's empowerment in **reproductive health decision-making**
- Prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS
 - improving access through building **human resources** to cope with the epidemic and improving delivery of ARVs in South Africa
 - prevention for the **under-served majority** ie the “choice-disabled”: those who do not have the agency to choose HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives or HIV risk in Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Examining the impact of HIV/AIDS **donor funding** on health systems in Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia

Concluding comments

- Research can make a **difference**
- Focus on the **immediate** and root causes
- **Research** *is* the intervention - explains why something is working or failing, explores **interventions** in different context, adapts, reassesses and makes the solution work even better and at the same time develops capacities
- Who **participates**: from **local** to **global**; from health **worker** to the diplomat
- Follow the **problem** not the **technology**

A faint, light blue world map is centered in the background of the slide, showing the outlines of continents and major landmasses.

Thank you

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Ana Luiza d'Avila Viana , Fundação para o Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico em Saúde

Alvaro Cardona , Corporación Interuniversitaria de Servicios

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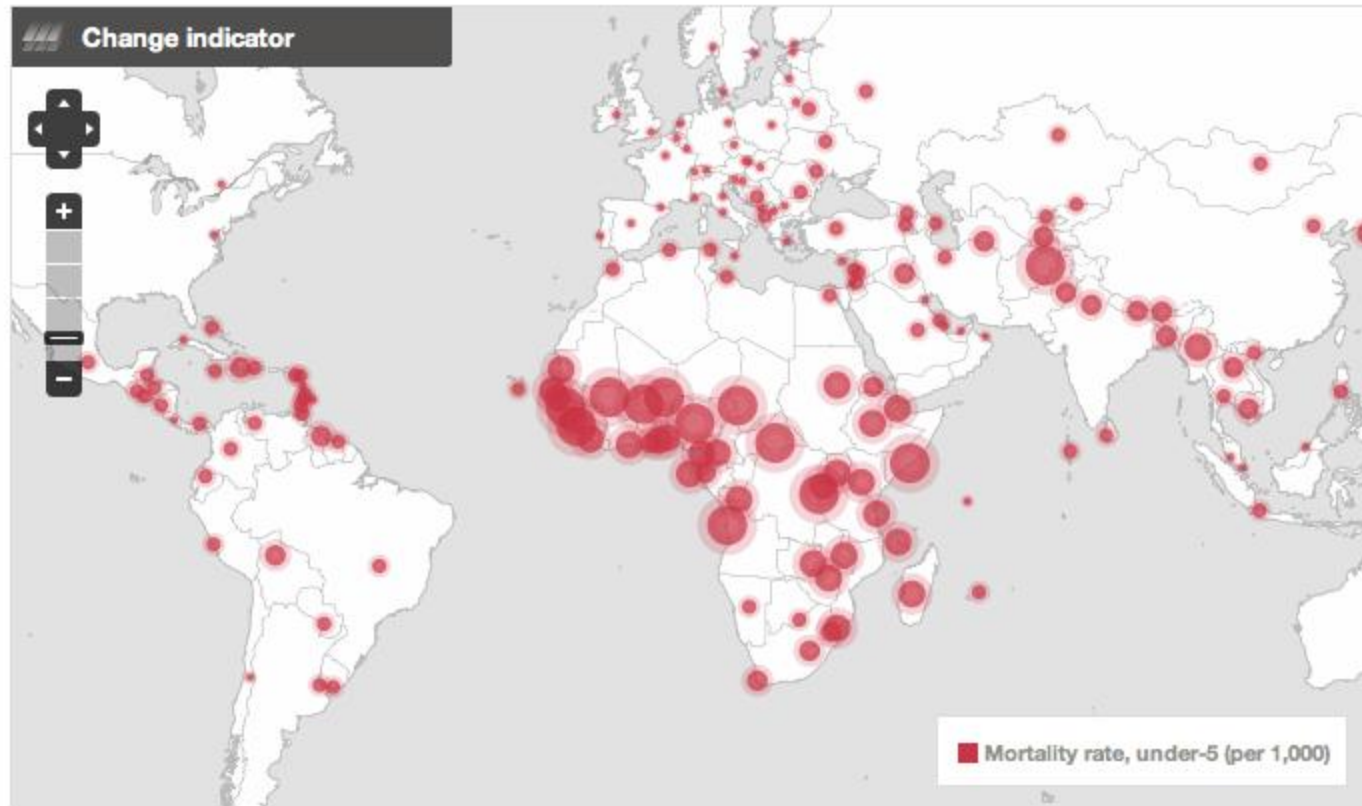
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Indicators



The maps displayed on the World Bank web site are for reference only and do not imply any judgment on the legal status of any territory, or any endorsement or acceptance of such boundaries.