

RESEARCH MATTERS

When does research matter? Research matters most when it addresses urgent needs and priorities. When a range of stakeholders can access it, exchange it, and challenge it. When it reaches the policy level. When its results lead to evidence-based decisions and policies. Research matters when it is communicated, disseminated, and targeted at those who must respond to it, from practitioners to civil society to policymakers at the national, regional and global levels.

Research Matters (RM) is a joint initiative of **IDRC** and **SDC**, designed to support the effective exchange and transfer of sound and innovative research with policy and practice. It connects researchers with the users of research, capturing and synthesizing the lessons, experience, and evidence from Governance, Equity and Health (GEH) and related projects.

GEH A research funding program of IDRC. Its focus is on the often hidden interconnections between governance, equity, and health, with a mission to strengthen health systems, promote civic participation, and make research matter. Since 2002, GEH has supported health-equity research projects across sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

A bridge between researchers and research-users, RM aims to promote the mobilization of knowledge, to build on work led by the South, and to promote policy change and implementation towards a GEH vision.

Part analyst, part communications unit, part advocate, RM assists researchers in presenting or tailoring targeted information, while also advancing--among the spectrum of research-users--an increasing awareness of the links between governance, equity, and health.

Innovation in the Consolidation and Dissemination of GEH Research

The 2004 RM Call for Proposals resulted in support for a variety of projects, activities, and strategies across sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. RM does not fund new research: instead it funds the dissemination, consolidation, amplification and utilization of ongoing results and processes.



Projects, Activities, Strategies for 2004

Strengthening Health Systems through Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART)

- **Equinet:** promoting a system-wide integration of ART throughout southern Africa
www.equinetafrica.org
- **AIDS Bulletin:** GEH research on ART in a South African journal for a lay audience
www.mrc.ac.za/aids/aidsbulletins.htm
- **The Neglected Child:** a documentary on ART's equity effects in Uganda
www.chdc-muk.com
- **ART Conference:** sharing ART experiences/lessons in Free State, South Africa
www.uovs.ac.za
- **Global Access Initiatives:** advancing GEH ART evidence to global organizations
www.theglobalfund.org

Financing for Health and Social Equity

- **Municipal Services Project:** research results broadcast on radio across South Africa
www.queensu.ca/msp
- **Ifakara (Tanzania):** CD-ROM and video on community voice in district planning
www.ihrdc.org
- **Latin America and PAHO:** dissemination of Social Protection for Health research
- **Database:** inventory of IDRC and SDC work on financing for health & social equity
www.research-matters.net

Innovation

- **Fahamu:** mobile phone text-messages (SMS) as new advocacy platform in Africa
www.fahamu.org

Consolidation

- **Networking:** exchange ideas, experience, lessons between researchers in West and southern Africa, in South Africa and Botswana, and between the South and the North

www.hst.org.za

membres.lycos.fr/uerd

www.who.int
www.idrc.ca/tehip
www.sti.ch

Dissemination

- **Website support:** assisting GEH partners in developing and maintaining an internet presence
- **DVDs:** production of 2 DVDs on GEH-supported projects for global distribution
- **RM Website:** researcher interviews, slideshows, brochures, key research papers, databases (projects, articles, summaries), blogs, training opportunities . . .

www.research-matters.net

www.idrc.ca/geh

www.sdc.admin.ch