

IGC Countries - Areas of Focus

The International Growth Centre funds high quality research relevant to growth policy in developing countries. The IGC Research Programme was conceived to help generate a richer understanding of the process of economic growth and the required policy and institutional interventions that support it and in doing so, promote continued development and economic growth in developing countries.

The research priorities for each of IGC's partner countries are listed below. Our current partner countries are Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, India (Central), India (Bihar), Mozambique, Myanmar, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Bangladesh:

The main focus areas are:

- Sustainable urbanization:
 - (i) Innovative ideas to address congestion and pollution in Dhaka and growing secondary cities
 - (ii) Strategies to attract private sector investment (e.g. Public Private Partnerships, FDI, debt financing, etc.) in new transport modes and clustering of settlements to maximize agglomeration effects
 - (iii) Management of urban waste (58% of urban waste generated is currently uncollected)
 - (iv) Improving the economic livelihoods for the urban ultra-poor: Rapid urbanization and rural urban migration has increased urban poverty and, arguably, inequality
- Energy and power:
 - (i) Optimal power pricing, demand management and creating a market in which power can be traded diurnally and across regions within the country, to improve load management
 - (ii) Stronger management practices; introducing competition in power transmission and distribution
- Tertiary education and skills development: Developing a model of skills development for Bangladeshi workers, that can absorb the incremental labour force to tackle unemployment

Ethiopia:

The main focus areas are:

- Industrial Development
- Agricultural development
- Youth employment
- Urbanisation
- Civil service

Ghana:

The main focus areas are:

- Macroeconomic Stability
- Human Capital (Education, Labour and Health)
- Governance, Accountability and the Political Economy
- Natural Resource Management and the Environment
- Agriculture
- Private Sector Development
- Building effective cities for sustainable growth

India (Central):

The main focus areas are:

- Macroeconomic & Financial Sector Policies
- Urbanisation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment
- Human Development; Health, Education and Labour Market
- Governance and public sector programme management
- Firm Productivity

India (Bihar):

The main focus areas are:

- Urbanisation (Infrastructure and Migration)
- Industrialization
- Human Capital
- Governance and Political Economy
- Economic Growth and the Environment
- Firm capabilities

Liberia:

The main focus areas are:

- Natural resource management, including governance and regulation of natural resources, citizen participation, and firm activity in related industries
- Strengthening state capabilities and improving governance and accountability, including bureaucratic capacity, regulation, democracy, governance, transparency, citizen feedback and participation, human resources in government, and education policy
- Macroeconomic management, including fiscal and monetary policy, treasury auctions, liquidity forecasting, taxation, and capital expenditures
- Urbanization, including cities and housing, primacy, urban growth, war-induced population displacement, transportation, sanitation, water, housing, and agglomeration economies in low-density and low-productivity districts

Mozambique:

The main focus areas are:

- Private Sector Development:
 - (i) Worker and firm productivity, with a specific focus on improving our understanding of the existing need for capacity-building in the area
 - (ii) Labour markets and employment, including vocational training, matching, etc.
- State Effectiveness:
 - (i) Public service provision challenge - including quality and quantity— in both education and health
 - (ii) Natural resource management

Myanmar:

The main focus areas are:

- Tax reform of tax structure and incentives: Both economic distortions and compliance incentives
- Natural resource management and revenue mobilisation
- Fiscal decentralization/local governance/accountability mechanisms
- Civil service reform: Recruiting better civil servants (including teachers)
- Privatization of state owned firms: Processes to foster true changes in ownership, management practices and the regulation of service delivery
- Infrastructure: Improving community level infrastructure, with a focus on energy and the framework for rural development
- Access to credit: Private sector led strategies to increase access to finance, besides microfinance initiatives
 - In particular, mobile banking has been recently proposed to piggyback on the newly introduced telecoms licenses issued in 2013, and that will result in 80% telecoms coverage in Myanmar

Pakistan:

The main focus areas are:

- Macroeconomics and the financial sector
- State capabilities
- Firm capabilities
- Urbanization and infrastructure development

Rwanda:

The main focus areas are:

- Urbanization:
 - (i) What level of affordability for housing in Rwanda is consistent with available savings? How can financing schemes for these houses be designed for low-income individuals?
 - (ii) Studies on the interrelation ship between anticipated urban planning for transport and housing, land use plans, building regulations, and affordability that will shape labour and housing markets over the next decade
 - (iii) The Government has removed large tracts of urban slum dwellings and provided alternative locations on the periphery of selected urban zones, together with some investment in related infrastructure. What have been the economic consequences of this programme?
- State capabilities:
 - (i) How can teachers be enabled and incentivised to improve education quality in Rwanda? And how can this progress be effectively tracked?
 - (ii) How can the tax administration be designed to encourage small and medium-scale enterprises to formalize and broaden the tax base?
- Trade and transaction costs:
 - (i) How do barriers to trade within the EAC cause market inefficiencies and how can the costs of this trade be reduced?
 - (ii) How can GPS Trucking data be used to determine what is driving the costs of transport and trade for land-locked Rwanda?
- Financial inclusion:
 - (i) Implications for enterprise growth and macro management
 - (ii) The BNR has under consideration a number of policies that may further the expansion of financial access. What are the merits of these potential interventions in the banking sector and what are the implications of changes in formal savings and related behaviors on the money multiplier and monetary transmission more broadly?
 - (iii) Financial inclusion and mobile money

Sierra Leone:

The main focus areas are:

- The role of the state in natural resource management in Sierra Leone
- Local content laws and linkages in international trade, as well as limitations to growth and diversification that may derive from the current structure of the economy and of production
- Artisanal mining and its impact on traditional livelihoods and the environment
- Fiscal regime harmonization, with a focus on the Mano River Union
- The Sierra Leone programme also generally welcomes proposals within the broader areas of its country strategy, including:
 - (i) State capabilities (including human capital development, governance and accountability, macroeconomic management and health sector financing)
 - (ii) Firm productivity (including access to finance, efficiency of internal trade, infrastructure and technology in agriculture)
 - (iii) Energy

South Sudan:

The main focus areas are:

- Responding to crisis
- Managing the natural resource endowment for growth
- Addressing isolation, economic diversification and job creation
- Borrowing strategies and increasing taxation efforts/compliance
- Vocational training and human capital: Skilling/re-skilling the labour force/ex-combatants

Tanzania:

The main focus areas are:

- State capabilities:
 - (i) Public economics: Improving revenue mobilisation; aid effectiveness; public service delivery and the limits of the state
 - (ii) Political economy: The political economy of infrastructure investment and operation (roads, power and ports); Governance and accountability
 - (iii) Macroeconomic policy issues
- Firm capabilities:
 - (i) Productivity, poverty and employment: Addressing "jobless growth"; the potential role of commercial agriculture; labour- and skill-intensive manufacturing
 - (ii) Industrial development in Tanzania: Firm-level analysis of the industrial sector (e.g. studies on employment, investment, productivity, agglomeration, etc.); special economic zones; industrial policy and government-business coordination
 - (iii) The SME Sector in Tanzania: Issues in financing, productivity, employment, skills and training
 - (iv) Local content: Value-chain analysis of various industrial sectors and their potential contributions to the supply chains of multinational gas companies
- Cities and urbanization:
 - (i) Rural-urban migration: Patterns of migration into cities: employment prospects, risks associated, and typical flows
 - (ii) Property rights, zoning and land use: The relationship between formal and informal land use; the effect of zoning issues on efficiency at Dar es Salaam port
 - (iii) Urban construction and employment generation
 - (iv) Infrastructure and economic geography: Impact on labour demand and supply; firm location
- Energy mix and pricing: How to price energy today given the prospects of falling future marginal costs with development of onshore gas fields and large-bore pipeline

Uganda:

The main focus areas are:

- Employment: Mismatches between job creation and the size of the labour force (especially with regards to young workers)
- Cities: Projects on the Land Sector and dealing with the availability of land, both in rural and urban areas
- Energy: Regional and domestic energy infrastructure investments
- Firms: The integration of service sectors in the East African Community, especially as it pertains to Uganda

- Cities: Creating a sufficient supply of affordable housing
- State capabilities:
 - (i) East African Monetary Union's requirements for the convergence in the tax policies of members. Of particular interest are the effects of competing tax regimes on intra-regional investment
 - (ii) How to increase education and learning outcomes in Uganda
 - (iii) How to raise productivity and innovation in the agricultural sector in Uganda

Zambia:

The main focus areas are:

- Domestic resource mobilisation, tax collection and management of government assets
- Infrastructure investment, including aspects related to logistics and regional integration, as well as capital project budgeting and management
- Financial sector, tradable sector development and competitiveness

Other areas of focus are:

- Human capital development, including higher education and skills development.
- Urban development