



International
Growth Centre

A dark purple silhouette of the African continent is centered in the upper half of the page. A small white circle with a dark purple outline is placed on the map, specifically over the country of Rwanda, to indicate the organization's focus.

IGC Rwanda promotes sustainable growth by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research. Our work focuses around four areas: agriculture; infrastructure; macroeconomic policy and finance; and trade and industry.

Dr. Richard Newfarmer

Country Director, IGC Rwanda



Rwanda has established a dynamic business environment that has produced one of the fastest developing countries in Africa over the last two decades. Economic growth, together with inclusive policies and programs, has lifted millions out of poverty, dramatically reduced child and maternal mortality, and raised educational levels for all Rwandans.

The IGC Rwanda program was launched in November 2010. At the request of the Government of Rwanda, our work focuses around four areas: agriculture; infrastructure; macroeconomic policy and finance; and trade and industry. We have conducted research into such diverse topics as the one-cow poverty-reduction program, land titling, value addition in agriculture (coffee washing), infrastructure, tax policy and administration, and export development. More recently, at the request of the government, we have begun work on urbanisation, public sector performance management and improving service delivery.

Whether you are a policymaker, a talented researcher, or simply one who shares our passion for development, we would value the opportunity to be in touch with you.

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAMME

The IGC began operations in Rwanda in November 2010 at the request of President Paul Kagame. We operate under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), which requests that we “produce demand-driven research outputs that strengthen the evidence base for policy-making relevant to Rwanda’s long-run growth”, with a focus on research and analysis under four main thematic areas: agriculture, infrastructure, macroeconomic policy and finance, and trade and industry.

The IGC in Rwanda has fostered close working relationships with MINECOFIN, the Office of the Presidency’s Strategy and Policy Unit, the National Bank of Rwanda, the Ministry of Infrastructure, Rwanda Revenue



Authority, Rwanda Natural Resources Authority, and the Rwanda Education Board, amongst many other government partners. Through these close working relationships with the government, our researchers have been able to produce effective, evidence-based, demand-led advice to policymakers, from ‘rapid response’ analyses of urgent policy questions, to multi-year nationwide surveys and experimental studies.



IGC Rwanda is currently engaged in a number of projects with leading academics from around the world.

The current work of the [International Growth Centre in Rwanda](#) focuses on urbanisation, tax policy and administration, public sector performance management, educational quality, and trade.

Within [urbanisation](#), the IGC is consulting with government partners and researchers to finalise projects to pursue emergent themes raised at the National Forum on Sustainable Urbanisation in Support of EDPRS2, co-hosted by the IGC in March 2014. These projects will be in the areas of affordable housing, infrastructure, landuse, urban financing, and green cities.

In [tax administration](#), the IGC is assessing the impact of: electronic billing machines (EBM) on VAT receipts and firm competitiveness; mobile-declaration on income tax compliance; and the SME tax regime on firms' productive behaviour and tax declaration.

The IGC is delivering an analysis of the present [imihigo \(performance contract\) system](#) to various government partners including the Ministry of Public Service and Labour, the Office of the Presidency, and the Ministry of Trade and Commerce, to be followed by an in-depth study of performance contracts within the judiciary, and a multi-year randomised controlled trial studying the effects of teachers' performance pay on educational outcomes.

Finally, IGC researchers are studying how import prices affect [firm competitiveness](#), and assessing Rwanda's potential to increase local value-addition through the exploitation of untapped regional value chains.

The IGC operates 15 programmes in 14 partner countries throughout Africa and South Asia. Country offices allow the IGC to be distinctive among international research initiatives in sustaining long-term policy engagement, and helping to ensure our work can be demand-led; they facilitate our work with partners, and deepen sensitivity to the political economy of policymaking.



01 Bangladesh, 02 Ethiopia, 03 Ghana, 04 India (Bihar), 05 India (Central), 06 Liberia, 07 Mozambique, 08 Myanmar, 09 Pakistan, 10 Rwanda, 11 Sierra Leone, 12 South Sudan, 13 Tanzania, 14 Uganda, 15 Zambia

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The International Growth Centre (IGC) aims to promote sustainable growth in developing countries by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research. The IGC directs a global network of world-leading researchers and in-country teams in Africa and South Asia and works closely with partner governments to generate high quality research and policy advice on key growth challenges. Based at LSE and in partnership with the University of Oxford, the IGC is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

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