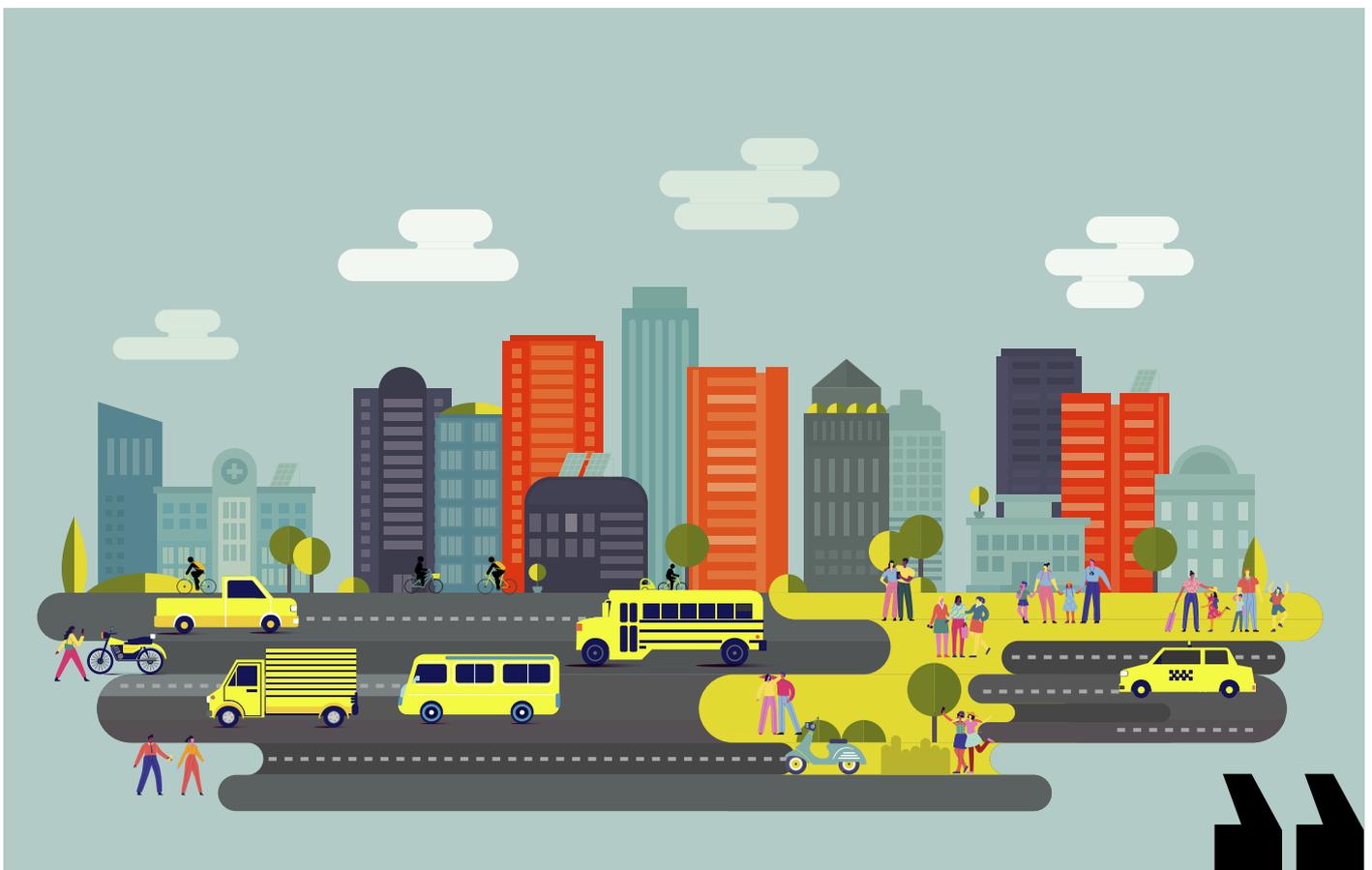


Mobility and Access in African Cities

The Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) launched the Mobility and Access in African Cities (MAC) Program in 2019.

The purpose of the program is to increase the knowledge and capacity base on equitable and sustainable mobility and access in cities in sub-Saharan Africa, in order to contribute to medium and long-term structural innovation and change.



VREF

The VREF inspires, initiates
and supports research and
educational activities.

**Our vision: Sustainable
transport for equitable
access in urban areas.**

In this newsletter

This first newsletter summarises the activities and achievements of the program during its first year and the planned activities for 2020, including all planned calls and a research workshop in Accra, Ghana.

Last year's achievements

Activities during the first year of operation in 2019 included:

Commissioning five position papers on core themes of the MAC Program.

A call for Exploratory Comparative Research Projects, which resulted in eight new projects supported by VREF in 2020.

A research workshop in Addis Ababa in September 2019, co-organised by VREF and TUMI.

Developing a concrete plan for implementation of the MAC Program 2020 – 2022

Activities during 2020

Activities that will be undertaken as part of the program in 2020 include:

A 2nd call for comparative research projects that will be supported by VREF.

A Research Workshop in Accra, Ghana in September 2020.

Publication and dissemination of the five position papers on core themes of the program.

Scholar Mobility Grants for senior and junior researchers/teachers in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarships for researchers in early career stages.

About the Program

The MAC program seeks to contribute to forming a new generation of highly skilled sub-Saharan university researchers and teachers, as well as to engage professionals, policy makers and actors within civil society who are committed to achieving the goals of sustainable and equitable urban mobility and access. Leading international experts can also contribute to the program through collaborative research projects with their sub-Saharan African counterparts.

Within its geographical focus area, the intended outcomes of the program are:

- Increased capacity for research and education in urban access and mobility.
- New locally situated and cross-disciplinary knowledge that can provide solutions and innovation for urban mobility and access.
- Knowledge that is communicated and reaches through to public decision-makers, business managers, opinion leaders, students, media and other agents of change.

Activities in the program in 2020 – 2022 will be centred around initiatives within four strategic focus areas:

1. Building academic capacity and skills
2. Supporting next generation African scholars
3. Supporting research and knowledge building
4. Building communities of learning – dissemination and dialogues

The program encompasses six core themes that have strong relevance for achieving sustainable and equitable urban mobility and access in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA):

- **Theme 1:** User Needs and Practices, Equity Issues
- **Theme 2:** Governance, Politics, Institutions and Finance
- **Theme 3:** Emerging Business Models and Service Options
- **Theme 4:** Safety, Health and the Urban Environment
- **Theme 5:** System Design and Modal Integration
- **Theme 6:** Analytical Tools

Activities completed in 2019

A regional workshop on Mobility and Access

As part of its ambition to support networking and knowledge sharing, as well as build an African research network on mobility and access, a series of regional workshops will be organized within the program.

The 2019 workshop took place 17-19 September in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and was co-organised with TUMI/GIZ (Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative) / GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). The workshop gathered over 50 researchers and practitioners from 15 countries for three days of joint discussions and presentations.

Position Papers

In 2019, VREF commissioned five position papers on “state-of-the-art” knowledge within the themes of the program, which will be published in April/May 2020:

- **User Needs and Practices in African Cities** (authors: Gina Porter, Durham University with Albert Abane, University of Cape Coast and Karen Lucas, University of Leeds)
- **Governing Mobility in African Cities** (authors: Liza Cirolia, University of Cape Town with Jesse Harber, Gauteng City-Region Observatory and Sylvia Croese, University of Cape Town)
- **Emerging Business Models and Service Options in the Shared Transport Sector in African Cities** (authors: Herrie Schalekamp, University of Cape Town with Simon Saddier, Transitec Consulting Engineers)
- **Safety, Health and the Urban Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa** (authors: Geetam Tiwari, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi with Olive Kobusingye, Makerere University, Mark Zuidgeest, University of Cape Town, Meleckidzedek Khayesi, WHO, Winnie Mitullah, University of Nairobi, and Dinesh Mohan, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi)
- **Public Transport System Design and Modal Integration in African Cities** (authors: Christo Venter, University of Pretoria, with Mark Zuidgeest, University of Cape Town, Namatirai Cheure, University of Pretoria, and Ian Barrett, Independent Consultant)

Exploratory Research Projects – a first round

Following an open call for research proposals in 2019, which resulted in approved applications from 38 teams, VREF approved funding for eight exploratory, comparative research projects. The successful research teams represent 19 cities in 14 countries across the SSA regions. The new research projects are:

- **The capabilities approach as a needs assessment framework for vulnerable non-motorised transport users in African Cities** (Project Leader: Mark Zuidgeest, University of Cape Town, South Africa. Participants from South Africa, Zambia, Rwanda, Ethiopia).
- **Towards comparative, historically informed research on contemporary African urban transport issues: A proposal for a research network.** (Project Leader: Njogu Morgan, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. Participants from South Africa, Nigeria).
- **Micro-dynamics and Macro-processes: a Maputo-Johannesburg comparative study of intra-household decision-making.** (Project Leader: Sarah Charlton, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. Participants from South Africa, Mozambique).
- **Exploring the Potential of Minibus Electrification in Three African Cities** (Project Leader: Edna Odhiambo, University of Nairobi, Kenya. Participants from Kenya, South Africa, Egypt).
- **Comparative Analysis of Combined Effects of Transport and Urban Morphology on Public Health in Two African Capitals.** (Project Leader: Charles Adams, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana). Participants from Ghana, Namibia).
- **Urban Spaces Design, Mobility and Transport Safety of Children: A Comparative Study of Nairobi and Kumasi Cities** (Project Leader: Anne Kamau, Institute for Development Studies (IDS), University of Nairobi, Kenya). Participants from Kenya, Ghana).
- **Wheels of Change: Establishing best practices in the urban motorcycle taxi sector in Sub-Saharan Africa** (Project Leader: Patrick Hayombe, University of Science and Technology, Kenya). Participants from Kenya, Liberia, Uganda, Tanzania, Ghana).
- **Comparative Analysis of the E-Hailing Mobility Services in Selected Cities in West, East and Southern Africa** (Project Leader: Samuel Odewumi, Lagos State University, Nigeria). Participants from Nigeria, South Africa, Botswana, Kenya).

Planned Activities for 2020

Research Workshop on Mobility and Access in Accra, Ghana

As part of its ambitions to support networking and knowledge sharing, and in building an African research network on access and mobility, VREF is organising a workshop in Accra, Ghana for the week of 7-11th September. The workshop week will offer a series of related events besides the main event, such as skills and tools workshops, site visits and a workshop/seminar for PhD students and early stage researchers.

Whereas last year's workshop aimed to provide network opportunities between academics and practitioners, 2020's workshop will focus on gathering researchers from university environments in sub-Saharan Africa, who share the interest in access, mobility and transport in cities.



Opportunities for researchers at early career stages and PhD students

One of the four strategic focus areas of the MAC program centres on supporting the next generation of African scholars.

Scholarships available for researchers at early stage of their careers include the Scholar Mobility Grant and the Lee Schipper Memorial Grant.

The Scholar Mobility Grant provides support for researchers, teachers or advanced students to undertake short visits (approximately 2-4 weeks) in order to work with researchers/teachers/students in another research environment within SSA. The grant is open for researchers, teachers and advanced students working at a university or research environment in SSA and aims to 1) assist researchers build networks, undertake fieldwork, hold seminars and discuss research methods and results or 2) contribute to teaching or course development at the university that is visited. While this grant is open for both senior and junior researchers, a special budget is earmarked for younger researchers.

The Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarship for Sustainable Transport and Energy Efficiency awards exceptional candidates a maximum of \$10,000 each to advance transformative research in efficient and sustainable transport. One scholarship in 2020 will be dedicated to the support of a young researcher from the African continent.

Call for Comparative Research Projects

VREF will be inviting applications for research grants to support small, cross-disciplinary projects that will be implemented in 2021 under the MAC program.

The Call is expected to open in April 2020, with deadline for submission of applications by 29 September 2020. The Call is directed at comparative research on issues that are relevant to the six core themes of the MAC program (see information box "Increasing knowledge and capacity"). VREF will welcome applications from the following groups:

- sub-Saharan university-based researchers who have expertise on sustainable and equitable mobility and access in sub-Saharan African cities;
- sub-Saharan university-based researchers who have not previously engaged in transport-related research but who have expertise that could fruitfully be applied to these areas;
- sub-Saharan university-based researchers with strong interests in carrying out interdisciplinary research that can contribute to new knowledge and insights on issues related to sustainable and equitable mobility and access.

Summary

Opportunities for participation within the program 2020

The following opportunities are available through VREF in 2020:

[Grants for comparative research projects](#)

[Participation in the MAC Research Workshop 2020](#)

[Participation in skills and tools workshops \(primarily at the MAC research workshop 2020\)](#)

[Scholar Mobility Grants](#)

[Lee Shipper Memorial Scholarships](#)

[Dissemination of research results, educational information or other relevant materials](#)

For details, see www.vref.se