

problems they face. IDRC's mandate is to 'initiate, encourage, support, and conduct research into the problems of the developing regions of the world and into the means for applying and adapting scientific, technical, and other knowledge to the economic and social advancement of those regions'. To this end, it supports research that is focused on alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable and equitable development. IDRC favours multidisciplinary, participatory research where researchers from different disciplines work with local people to devise solutions to local problems.

IDRC's programing is organized around Program Initiatives (PIs), each of which addresses a specific set of research issues. PIs are run as working networks that link Southern and Northern researchers to set research agendas and share research results. The Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Programme Initiative (or PBR PI) deals explicitly with SALW. The PBR PI supports interdisciplinary, collaborative, and policy-oriented research by established research institutions as well as by non- traditional research partners and peacebuilding practitioners. PBR PI supports research that addresses one or more of the following dimensions of peacebuilding:

- democratization: the key issues of governance that war-torn countries must confront as they transform their political systems;
- human security: the threats to the security of individuals and communities that result from war and the inability of the state to provide protection;
- political economy: the economic and political dimensions of war, violence, and peacebuilding.

PBR PI is especially active in Southern Africa, the Middle East, and Central America, but also supports a limited number of global projects. It is focused on creating North-South partnerships that involve significant capacity- building in the South.

Examples of IDRC research projects that deal directly with the SALW problem are:

- The Small Arms Control in Nicaragua project; and
- The Disarmament and Security in the Horn of Africa Project

Allocations

Total funding for IDRC in 2000-2001 was CDN\$135 million (approximately US\$85 million). Precise levels of funding for SALW related project are not available. As the lines between development, peacebuilding, human security, law enforcement and arms control become increasingly blurred, organizations like the IDRC will likely devote more resources to addressing the problem of small arms and light weapons.