

VREF AND THE FUTURE URBAN TRANSPORT PROGRAM

VREF inspires, initiates and supports research and educational activities promoting sustainable transport for fair access in urban areas. Through the Future Urban Transport Programme, VREF invests in research, education and communication for the purpose of contributing new ideas and solutions for the design of sustainable transportation systems in cities. The challenge is to find urban transport solutions that will provide accessibility for the masses while at the same time radically reducing transportation's negative local and global environmental impacts.

The FUT Program has three thematic profiles:

- Mobility and Access in Cities
- Urban Freight
- Change Processes: Governance, Leadership and Financing

Since 2001 the FUT program has created ten Centres of Excellence (CoE) and a number of projects and events worldwide. The research teams are based at universities and research institutes in Australia, Chile, China, France, India, Kenya, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, the UK, and the US, with partners in cities around the world.

VREF engages in activities to disseminate research findings and to exchange knowledge, such as meeting places and publications through partnerships with universities, institutes, international organizations, foundations and other non-profit organizations.

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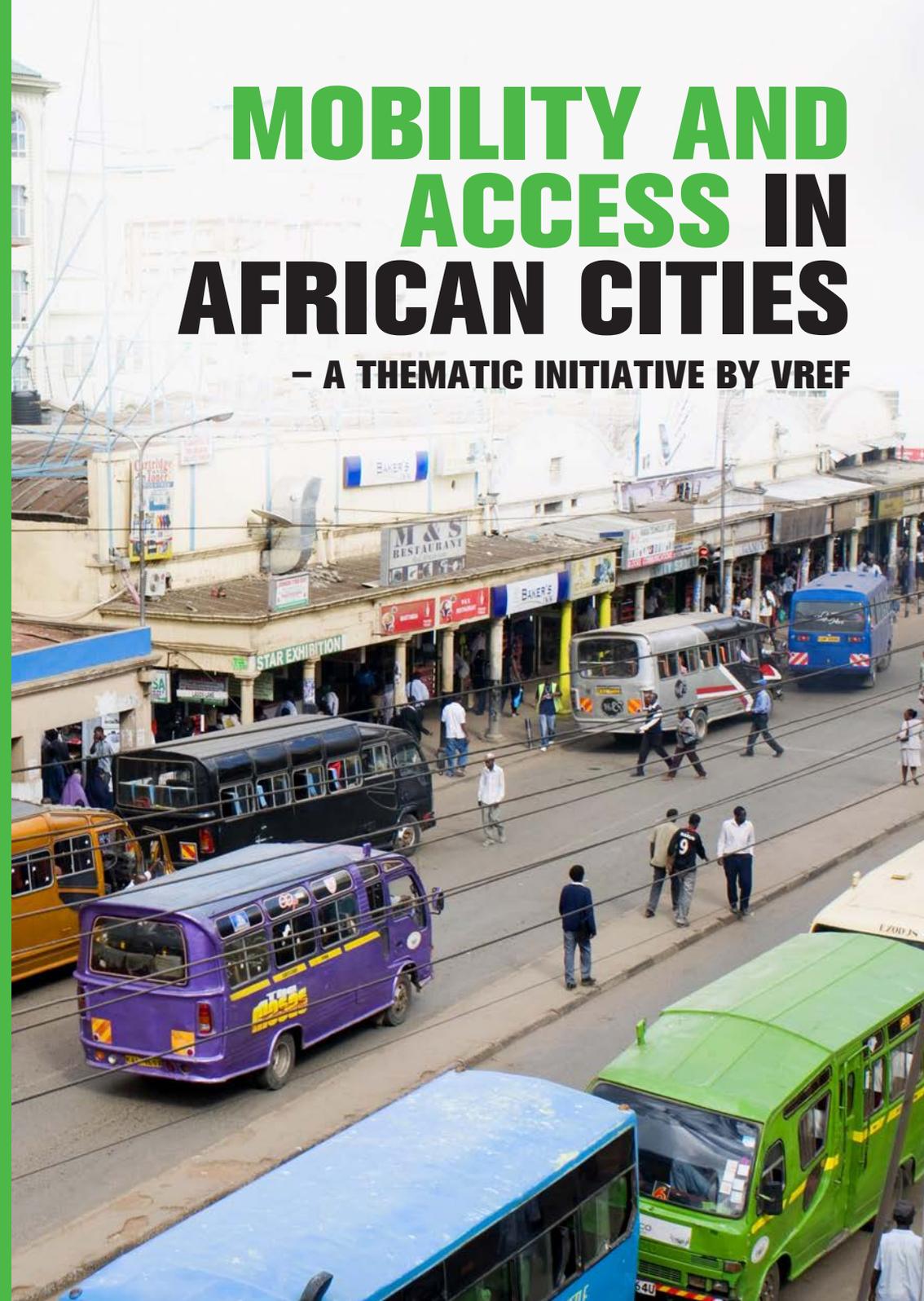
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VREF
A VOLVO FOUNDATION

Volvo Research and
Educational Foundations

MOBILITY AND ACCESS IN AFRICAN CITIES

– A THEMATIC INITIATIVE BY VREF



A NEW VREF INITIATIVE:

MOBILITY AND ACCESS IN AFRICAN CITIES

Mobility and access in African cities are at a critical point.

Growing motorization in combination with insufficient traffic systems has led to severe problems such as congestion, environmental pollution, and dangerous street environments. Increased private car ownership provides mobility for some, but the large majority is dependent on walking and informally operated bus systems. While traffic is increasing, mobility and accessibility remain low and unequal.

The current situation prompts the exploration of new solutions to mobility and access that can avoid these systemic problems. African cities may be on the verge of a major shift in the technological domain of mobility and access, where new knowledge paradigms, new design and social and technical solutions will be at play.

The Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) have launched a new thematic initiative on Mobility and Access in African Cities (MAC). The objective of the theme is to *increase the knowledge and capacity base on mobility and access in cities in sub-*

Saharan Africa, in order to contribute to medium and long-term structural innovation and improvements.

The initiative wishes to contribute to forming a new generation of highly skilled university researchers and teachers, professionals, policy makers and actors within civil society. These groups and individuals can become drivers of research, education, training and communication. Leading experts in other parts of the world can contribute through collaborative partnerships with their African counterparts.



ABOUT THE MAC PROGRAMME

The MAC programme will run 2019-2024, with a first set of pilot projects initiated in 2017-2018. The programme will be geographically focused on Africa south of the Sahara and structured around the three sub-regions of Western Africa, Eastern Africa and Southern Africa.

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

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

The programme hinges on six thematic cluster areas based on challenges and knowledge gaps identified and discussed during the MAC preparations:

- Cluster 1: User Needs and Practices, Equity Issues
- Cluster 2: Governance, Politics, Institutions and Finance

- Cluster 3: Emerging Business Models and Services Options
- Cluster 4: Safety, Health and the Urban Environment
- Cluster 5: System Design and Modal Integration
- Cluster 6 Analytical Tools

Implementing partners are expected to approach these thematic areas by way of transcending disciplines and incorporating perspectives from e.g. engineering, planning, social sciences and the humanities. Moreover, all three modalities of capacity building, research and communication must permeate the work programme of MAC, cutting across all the thematic clusters.

VREF will provide funding, oversight and follow-up, as well as initiate specific strategic activities.

Furthermore, VREF is seeking to establish partnerships with international organizations and existing African networks for dissemination, education, training and policy advice, in order to leverage the VREF investment. VREF invites interested organizations to jointly explore possible cooperation under the Mobility and Access in African Cities initiative.