

2021 Centre for Social Development in Africa



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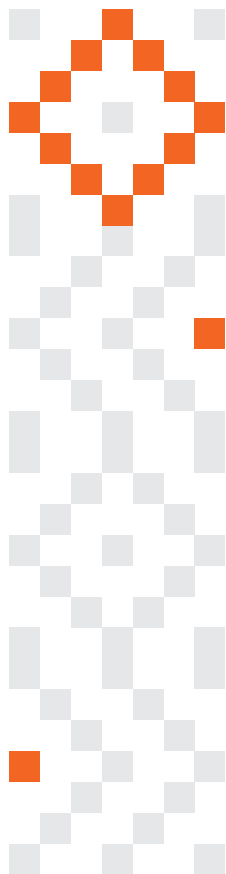
CENTRE FOR
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN AFRICA

ANNUAL REPORT

STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SUPPORT SYSTEMS TO
ADDRESS THE SYSTEMIC CAUSES OF POVERTY

HOME OF THE DSI/NRF SOUTH AFRICAN RESEARCH CHAIR IN
WELFARE AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Future
Reimagined



Contents

1. Director's Report: tackling the systemic nature of poverty through a comprehensive approach	3
2. DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development Report: Grappling with the social development fallout of the pandemic	7
3. 2021 Flagship Projects	11
3.1 Basic Package of Support	11
3.2 Communities of Practice for Social Systems Strengthening to Improve Child Well-being outcomes (CoP)	14
3.3 22 nd Biennial Conference of the International Consortium for Social Development	18
3.4 Masters of Philosophy in Social Policy and Development	19
3.5 Key projects	19
4. Public engagement	29
4.1 Webinars	29
4.2 Policy engagement	30
4.3 Media engagement	32
5. CSDA Team	33
6. Publications	34
6.1 Journal Articles Published 2021	34
6.2 Book Chapters Published 2021	39
7. Acknowledgments	40
7.1 Partners that funded our research	40
7.2 Partners that funded the 22 nd Biennial Conference of the ICSD	40
7.3 Institutional partners	41
7.4 Institutional affiliations	42
7.5 Advisory Board Members 2021	43



1. Director's Report: tackling the systemic nature of poverty through a comprehensive approach

2021 was a challenging year, as expected. Although we have now adjusted to working remotely, wearing masks and observing social distancing, the social, economic, cultural and psychological impact of the pandemic continues. This year we have not seen the economic recovery we had hoped for, unemployment continues to rise and we saw violent looting and protests in many parts of the country in July. These realities affect our staff and students, as the research we do at the CSDA means that we work closely on the socioeconomic fallout of the pandemic and witness first-hand the harsh realities of its consequences. Despite this we are pleased that the CSDA team has had a very productive year and been able to contribute in meaningful ways to promoting social development in communities.

Research to address the systemic nature of poverty

A key focus of our research has been understanding the systemic nature of poverty and testing solutions to tackling the systemic causes. As described in [an article on the Conversation Africa](#), penned by myself and Prof Leila Patel, South Africa has

an expansive social grants system, insurance schemes and social relief – crucial mechanisms for ameliorating poverty. But these interventions alone do not tackle the systemic nature of poverty. What we mean by systemic is that it cannot be shifted with a single intervention. That's because cycles of disadvantage accumulate over long periods, generate multiple barriers, and are transferred across generations. As a recent World Bank report notes, "there appears to be no overt consideration of or attempt to align [social grants] with South Africa's systemic development challenges." What the report is referring to is the need to connect the most vulnerable people with a range of public services that can address the multiple barriers poverty creates. This is crucial if South Africa is to tackle the systemic nature of poverty and disadvantage.

In line with this viewpoint the CSDA and the DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development, held by Prof Leila Patel, have been running two flagship research projects that have been real highlights in 2021. Both are premised on the idea that to overcome poverty and place people on a path to improved outcomes, access to multiple services is required. Income in the form of cash transfers, while crucial, is insufficient. The growing body of literature on "Cash plus Care" increasingly provides evidence of the improved effects of combining cash with other services and support. While South Africa's welfare

and social development policy landscape recognises and endorses this approach, in practice many people in circumstances of poverty struggle to access the wide range of services they need to overcome barriers. We are thus testing solutions to how these barriers can be overcome.

The first flagship project, led by Leila, is the [Communities of Practice for Social Systems Strengthening to improve Child Wellbeing Outcomes](#) (CoP for Child Wellbeing) funded by the National Research Foundation. This truly interdisciplinary project brings together a range of researchers to consider how to build a community of practice at school level to identify barriers to child wellbeing in the early grades (Gr R – Gr2) and how to support teachers and caregivers to overcome such barriers. You can read more on this in Leila's report on page 7 and we provide a detailed project review on page 14.

The second project – The Basic Package of Support for youth not in employment, education or training – led by myself in partnership with Associate Professor Ariane De Lannoy at SALDRU, UCT will pilot a communities of practice approach in three communities. It will bring together local colleges, work-seeker support programmes, health and mental health support facilities, childcare programmes and food support programmes, among others, to collaboratively learn about the challenges that these youth face, and how to better support them. The community

of practice runs alongside a youth-facing intervention in which young people are guided on and referred to the services they need to overcome barriers and reconnect to learning and earning opportunities. You can read more about this project on page 11. We are excited that in late 2021 we received confirmation of funding to roll out a second pilot site in Orange Farm in 2022.

In addition to these two flagship projects the centre has been engaged in several smaller projects covering issues of the future of work, the impact of Covid-19 on families and caregivers and understanding the nature of youth social mobility in developing contexts.

The 22nd Biennial Conference of the International Consortium for Social Development

A major highlight of 2021 was that the CSDA hosted the 22nd Biennial Conference of the International Consortium for Social Development. The conference was delivered completely online with few technical glitches, despite the social unrest that was occurring around us. Many delegates commented on the high quality of the content – not just keynotes and plenaries but the general conference presentations too. There was agreement amongst those who wrote that the conference set a high standard for future ICSD conferences. You can read more about the conference on page 18.

During the conference the ICSD Africa branch was launched. I was nominated to be the chair of the branch and look forward to bringing social development scholars across the continent together.

Several awards were made at the conference too. The CSDA as an entity; Leila and myself were each awarded a Leadership in International Social Development Award and the ICSD also awarded Tessa Hochfeld, a longstanding CSDA staff member and friend, the same award posthumously in recognition of her academic contributions to the field.

Student highlights

A final highlight of this incredibly busy and fruitful year has been the graduation of our first cohort of students on the Interdisciplinary Masters in Social Policy and Development. This programme, targeted mainly at working students, has seen this cohort developing valuable skills in policy analysis, and research to inform and assess social development problems and solutions. We wish these students well in their future studies and careers.

I am indebted to the ongoing support of an excellent complement of staff and thank them for their dedication to the work we do. Our work would also not be possible without the very fruitful collaborations we have with local



and international scholars and organisations, including our research associates, visiting and honorary professors, as well as our funders. I am grateful for the continued support from the Faculty of Humanities, and the Executive Dean Prof Kammila Naidoo in particular, as well as the university as a whole.

Associate Professor Lauren Graham
CSDA: Director



2. DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development Report: Grappling with the social development fallout of the pandemic

In 2021 the social development challenges that South Africa, and countries around the world face, have only deepened. South Africa has been grappling with poverty and inequality for many decades but these challenges have been exacerbated by Covid-19 and the protests and looting in parts of Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal, resulting in worsening income poverty levels, ongoing job losses and food insecurity.

The pandemic has also had a negative impact on families and children, contributing to growing psychosocial and mental health challenges. Children have lost learning time and teachers and caregivers are grappling with the impact on their children's schooling in general. In addition the pandemic has disrupted access to desperately needed services like school nutrition programmes, serving only to highlight even further the numerous vulnerabilities that people in South Africa encounter.

This year the DSI/NRF funded Chair in Welfare and Social Development responded to the fallout of the pandemic by testing innovative solutions and conducting cutting-edge research to help inform solutions to these key social development challenges.

In 2021 we continued work on the NRF supported [Communities of Practice \(CoP\) study to strengthen multi-sectoral responses to improve child well-being of children in the foundation years of schooling](#). This project aims to promote collaboration across different sectors to better address the complex and multiple needs of children growing up in poverty. It also aims to develop innovative, collaborative and breakthrough solutions to promote better outcomes for them.

In 2020 the communities of practice consortium of partners assessed a sample of children who were receiving the child support grant and were in the foundation years of schooling. In 2021 the team rolled out personalised interventions that were based on data gathered in 2020. These interventions, considered the multi-layered nature of poverty and the range of interventions a child may need.

The project is ongoing and data about whether child wellbeing outcomes have improved over time will be released in 2022.

In 2021 year the CoP team published two research reports and three working papers based on this research, the reports can be viewed [here](#). You can read more on this flagship project on page 14.

In 2021 we continued to contribute to the prestigious National Income Dynamics Study – Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (NIDS-Cram) survey that was launched in 2020. The survey aimed to monitor the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on people's material and social well-being. In 2021 the last two waves of data was collected and together with Prof Servaas Van Der Berg, SARChI in Economics of Social Policy at the University of Stellenbosch and his colleagues, we published two [reports](#) on the impact of the pandemic on hunger in South Africa.

This research directly informed government policies and programmes on social grants and the desperate need for additional social protection during the pandemic, resulting in the extension of the Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress Grant. The research was also widely covered in the media resulting in coverage in a range of publications including the *Daily Maverick*, *Beeld*, *Financial Mail*, *City Press*, *News24*, *Radio 702* and *SAfm*.

2021 was a productive year in terms of publications too, helping to build knowledge for social development both locally and around the world. I am excited to have

contributed a chapter titled 'Social Security and Social Development' to a new book edited by Oqubay, Tregenna and Valodia, *The South African Economy* published by Oxford University Press in October 2021. The chapter is part of a section of the book that looks at the labour markets, distribution, and social policy in South Africa.

[Read more here.](#)

My work on cash transfers with Dr Chibuikem Nnaeme and Prof Sophie Plagerson has also been well received. We published two important articles on this topic, one titled 'Livelihood Activities of Cash Transfer Beneficiaries in Soweto, South Africa' in *Development in Practice* and another titled 'Assets, cash transfers and urban livelihoods in South Africa' in the *Journal of International Development*.

I also contributed to a journal article in *Global Social Policy* titled 'How family cash transfers can empower women: Comparative lessons from Brazil and South Africa'. This provided powerful lessons on how grants empower women and provides useful learnings that can be used in both countries. We also produced an article in [The Conversation Africa](#) based on this research.

We continued working on the Sihleng'imizi Family Strengthening Programme in 2021, producing three manuals to support practitioners to implement the programme. The three manuals we produced were the



Facilitator Manual, Childcare Worker Manual and Family Workbook manual. The manuals are the first evidence-based facilitator and care worker manuals and family workbooks to support the implementation of a cash plus care family strengthening programme. You can download them [here](#).

Tessa Hochfeld's book, *Granting Justice: cash, care and the child support grant* will be published posthumously by the HSRC Press at the end of February 2022. Shireen Hassim and I wrote a foreword to this path-breaking book that shows the links between welfare and justice drawing on rich interview data with women grant beneficiaries. Much care was taken by Tessa's colleagues to bring this book to fruition.

We also worked hard to share our work with a wider audience. To achieve this we hosted a series of webinars on the CoP project, we presented our work at a range of conferences and we shared learnings from projects with stakeholders and partners including with UNICEF, University of Southern Denmark and the University of Stellenbosch.

In 2020 I received the Katherine Kendall Memorial Award of the International Association of Schools of Social Work and in 2021 I presented the Kendall Memorial Award Lecture at the International Social Work Education and Development Online Conference. The lecture was titled

"Social Work and Social Development Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Lessons from the Global South." It can be viewed [here](#). The lecture is being published by Springer in a forthcoming book titled *Remaking Social Work for the New Global Era* edited by N.T. Tan and P.K. Shajahan.

Another highlight was our participation in the International Consortium for Social Development (ICSD) 22nd Biennial Conference. Our team participated in seven sessions at the conference including two roundtables sharing learnings from the CoP programme as well as the Sihleng'imizi Family Strengthening Programme. I was also honoured to receive a Leadership in International Social Development Award from the International Consortium for Social Development in July 2021.

Finally 2021 was a very busy year from a teaching and supervision perspective. In the first semester I taught the MPhil in Social Policy and Development course and I supervised three doctoral students and five Master's students, who will hopefully be graduating in early 2022.

Professor Leila Patel **DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development**

Please note that throughout the report the DSI/NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development will be referred to as SARCHI.



3. 2021 Flagship Projects

The Covid-19 pandemic has focused our attention on the many ways in which poverty and inequality impact people in South Africa. Our work on our flagship projects has presented the CSDA team with an opportunity to test our research-led interventions to find innovative solutions breakdown the many and complex barriers that make it extremely difficult for people to be lifted out of poverty.

In addition the Basic Package of Support project and the Communities of Practice for Social Systems Strengthening to Improve Child Well-being outcomes (CoP) both fall under the CSDA work on the thematic area of welfare and social development innovations. Our work in this field focuses on bringing evidence to bear on developing, adapting and testing social development interventions, informed by social development theory; and capacitating practitioners to implement successful interventions.

3.1 Basic Package of Support

According to StatsSA two out of every three young people (under 35 years) in South Africa are unemployed and for under-25s unemployment rises to three out of four.

The CSDA together with the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) at University of

Cape Town are collaborating on the Basic Package of Support (BPS) for youth who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). This innovative pilot study aims to support young people to manage the many challenges they face in order to reconnect to training and labour market opportunities.

The project was in the research and design phase in 2019 and 2020, with young people and community stakeholders being consulted on the programme design. Feedback from these stakeholders has been overwhelmingly positive and in 2021 preparations began to begin implementation in early 2022.

The BPS is a guidance and coaching programme designed to help young people who are not in employment, education and training to access services and opportunities. Young people encounter many barriers that make it hard to apply for a job or education opportunity and this in turn leads to feelings of frustration and discouragement about the process.

The programme gives young people access to Youth Coaches, who get a good understanding of who they are and where they want to be and then help them to craft personal development plans and refer them to support services and opportunities in their community and beyond to put these plans into action.

Youth unemployment is undeniably South Africa's greatest social challenge and the BPS project is an opportunity for CSDA researchers to get a better understanding of the many layers of this complex problem and test an innovative solution that can really impact social development policy and its implementation at the local level.



Research excellence

The BPS programme design draws on an in-depth and evidence-based understanding of the nature of youth unemployment as multidimensional; as well as a [systematic assessment of existing programmes](#) which demonstrates that while there is a great deal of investment in solutions to address youth unemployment, these are not well coordinated, nor do they address the multiple barriers that youth face. The programme design was also influenced by extensive youth engagements conducted in 2019 and [a policy analysis](#). The programme is thus truly evidence-based.



Public and policy engagement

The BPS is now officially recognised as a key partner in the National Pathway Management Network (NPMN) of the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention. The NPMN brings together a range of public, private and not-for-profit partners that are working together to better coordinate services and opportunities for young people. Lauren Graham currently sits on the NPMN pilot project steering committee. The BPS also works with a range of partners including the Department of Employment and Labour, the Department of Higher Education and Training, and the National Youth Development Agency amongst others.



Innovation in application

In 2021 the CSDA, SALDRU and UCT and other BPS programme partners laid the groundwork to enable implementation to begin in January 2022. In the lead up to implementation in Atlantis a community of practice (CoP) including 15 service providers was established with local colleges, work-seeker support programmes, health and mental health support facilities, childcare programmes and food support programmes as well as researchers from CSDA and SALDRU to collaboratively learn about the challenges that young people face and to test the programme design. The pilot in Atlantis will include 100 young

people and in Orange Farm the programme will reach a further 150 young people. The programme is underpinned by a rigorous monitoring and evaluation process that will inform whether and how the programme will be scaled up.



Human capability development

The project continues to involve students and postdoctoral research fellows. Late in 2021 we recruited Child and Youth Care Workers to become Youth Coaches on the project. They will be trained in early 2022. The 15 service providers involved in the (CoP) have also begun to receive skills development and training through exposure to the CoP.

3.2 Communities of Practice for Social Systems Strengthening to Improve Child Well-being outcomes (CoP)

The CoP project is an interdisciplinary project that brings together a range of researchers to build a community of practice at school level to identify barriers to child wellbeing in the early grades (Gr R – Gr2) and how to support teachers and caregivers to overcome such barriers. It aims to promote collaboration across different sectors to better address the complex and multiple needs of children growing up in poverty. It also aims to develop innovative, collaborative and breakthrough solutions to promote better outcomes for them.

In 2020 the CoP assessed a sample of 162 children who were receiving the Child Support Grant and were in the foundation years of schooling. Then in 2021 the team implemented individually tailored interventions to mitigate the risks that these children face to their health, home, psycho-social functioning, and school and learning experiences.

These interventions aimed to address the multi-layered nature of poverty and its impact on children's well-being and were implemented by a team of teachers, principals, social workers, educational psychologists, community-based nurses and other health workers, and NGOs in the relevant community or school.

The project is ongoing and data about whether child wellbeing outcomes have improved over time will be released in 2022.



Research excellence

The CoP project is an interdisciplinary project that brings together three Department of Science and Innovation-National Research Foundation South African Research Chairs: Prof Leila Patel (DSI-NRF South African Research Chair in Welfare and Social Development), Prof Elizabeth Henning (DSI-NRF South African Research Chair in Integrated Studies – Education), Prof Jace Pillay (DSI-NRF South African Research Chair in Education Psychology).

In addition the project is supported by leaders in their fields who bring specialised inter-disciplinary skills and insight to the CoP from a wide range of disciplines. Prof Shane Norris, Director of the NRF Centre of Excellence in Human

Development, specialises in paediatrics with a focus on Developmental Pathways for Health, Dr Wanga Zembe from the Medical Research Council provides input on social policy, Prof Arnesh Telukdarie, Professor in Engineering Management at UJ provides guidance on how best to manage the technical application design aspects of the project specifically the Child Wellbeing Tracking Tool, and Drs Ida Faurie-du Plessis and Nompumelelo Ntshingila from the UJ Department of Nursing support the nursing interventions.

The CSDA team includes Prof Lauren Graham who brings sociology expertise, Dr Sadiyya Haffjee and Sonia Mbowa provide psychology expertise. Tania Sani is a social work specialist and Matshidiso Sello brings demography expertise to the project.

This team of researchers is committed to producing research of the highest quality and in 2021 the following research reports were produced by the team:

1. [Communities of Practice for Social Systems Strengthening to Improve Child Well-being outcomes \(CoP\) Research Brief published on 9 July 2021](#)



2. [Communities of Practice Research Report – Findings from Wave 1: Tracking Child Well-being of Early Grade Learners and their Families](#)
3. [Working Paper 1 – Progress in the First Grade: Assessment of Children in a Social Development Project](#)
4. [Working Paper 2 – Cash Plus School-Based Services](#)
5. [Working Paper 3 – School Staff Awareness of Psychosocial Support Available as per the Integrated School Health Policy \(ISHP\) in South Africa](#)



Public and policy engagement

The CoP continues to require intensive engagement with a range of government stakeholders at various levels, as well as with schools, carers and teachers to ensure successful implementation.

In 2021 the team engaged with the community to share learnings via a radio talk show campaign that was aired on *Alex FM* and *Voice of Tembisa*. The four week programme reached 270 000 listeners, sharing tips to assist caregivers in promoting their child's wellbeing.

In addition the CoP team have presented [seven webinars](#) and presented their research and work at eight conferences as well as a presentation to a partner organisation.

Finally the project has been shared with the public more broadly through media coverage on [SABC News](#), [South Africa Today](#), [Daily Maverick](#) and [The Conversation Africa](#).

The CoP team engaged with a range of government departments, academic and development agencies that play a prominent role in policy research, locally and internationally.

- In October 2021, South African Research Chair (Welfare and Social Development) presented the CoP study to the Director General of Social Development, Deputy Directors General and Heads of Social Development in the provinces.
- A webinar delivered by Prof Jace Pillay (SARCHI Chair, UJ and CoP Co-investigator) presented on integrated school and

health services where Dr Whittle, Deputy Director General from DBE for Support and Care was a discussant.

- Dr Patricia Watson, DBE Chief Director Social inclusion and Partnerships in Education was a discussant at an earlier webinar where the baseline survey findings were presented.
- Dr Carol Nuga Deliwe, Chief Director/Sector Specialist; Education Strategy, Planning, Research and Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation at the national DBE is a member of the Advisory Level CoP.
- Research into Social and Economic Policy - ReSEP, University of Stellenbosch (SARCHI Chair: Prof Servaas Van Der Berg).
- UNICEF South Africa is represented on the CoP and hosted a learning forum of UNICEF Africa offices on models of combining Cash Plus Care and the need for data on monitoring child well-being.



Innovation in application

The project's main innovation continues to be the Child Wellbeing Tracking Tool which shows promise in being used beyond this project and could be adopted by local and provincial governments to assess child well-being and in the delivery of customised interventions as required.



Human capability development

Training and development are critical aspects of the work of the CoP. Nurses, social workers and teachers have gained new skills through their exposure to the social development methodology and have been able to couple this learning with their clinical expertise. In addition the project team includes two post-doctoral fellows.

ICSD^{22ND}

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE



ONLINE 13-16 JULY 2021



3.3 22nd Biennial Conference of the International Consortium for Social Development

From 13 – 16 July leading academics, researchers, students and social development practitioners gathered online for the 22nd Biennial International Consortium for Social Development Conference hosted by the Centre for Social Development in Africa to discuss poverty and inequality and consider innovative solutions and approaches to addressing these intractable social challenges.

The conference which is held bi-annually was hosted together with [Global Social Development Innovations](#) (GSDI) at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, [Centre for Social Development](#) (CSD) at Washington University, St Louis and the [Peking University – Hong Kong Polytechnic University China Social Work Research Centre](#).

The conference aimed to discuss how long-standing issues of poverty and inequality have been shaped by global crises such as Covid-19 and climate change.

'Think differently' was the idea that underpinned the conference, with leading academics from around the

world gathering to discuss social innovations and cutting-edge social development approaches that can be used to address some of the most critical development issues.

The conference brought together over 300 delegates from 42 countries and six continents. 240 presentations were made and over 80 hours of content on social development innovations was generated. Over a third of registrations were from students, highlighting the interest of a new cohort of social development scholars and practitioners in these topics.

The conference covered a vast range of topics including youth transitions, child and family wellbeing and inequality, gender and social exclusion as well as financial capability and asset building. There were also sessions covering politics, institutions and capacity building for social development.

Naturally the conference was an opportunity for researchers, academics and those from social society and government to engage in debate and discussion around critically important social development issues as well as offering opportunities for policy engagement. Read more about the conference on our [website](#).

3.4 Masters of Philosophy in Social Policy and Development

Another highlight this year has been the graduation of the first cohort of Master's students. The first cohort has made massive strides, developing skills in policy analysis and research and using these skills to conceptualise innovative solutions to complex social development problems. In total seven students graduated in 2021 and a further 16 submitted their dissertations for examination. These students should graduate in 2022. This is a significant achievement considering the constraints that the Covid-19 pandemic placed on both supervisors and students. We are also pleased that we received 82 applications for 2022 and we welcomed 12 of these into the programme.

3.5 Key projects

Our work falls into four main thematic areas. Here we capture our key projects in three of these thematic areas and look at how each project shows our operating model in action.

3.5.1 Thematic area 1: Social Policy in the Global South



Our work on emerging social policy solutions brings theoretical insight to understanding these policy developments; analyses social policy outcomes; and makes recommendations for social policy innovation in the global south.

■ **Social Contracts and Informal Workers in the Global South**

Dr Sophie Plagerson has been working on a book titled *Social Contracts and Informal Workers in the Global South*. The book which is edited by Laura Alfes [Women in Informal Employment: Globalising and Organising (WIEGO)], Martha Chen (WIEGO) and Sophie Plagerson (CSDA) will be published by Edward Elgar in June 2022. The book draws on the accounts of informal workers, who represent over 60 per cent of the global workforce, and case studies from several countries to advocate for new conceptualisations of state-society, capital-labour and state-capital-labour relations, which respond to the demands of the working poor in informal economies.

■ **Handbook on social protection and social development in the global South**

Leila Patel, Isaac Chinyoka and Sophie Plagerson are co-editing the Handbook on social protection and social development in the global South to be published by Edward Elgar in 2023.



The book provides a comprehensive overview of contemporary social protection, welfare services and social development theory, policy and practice in the Global South. The focus of this book is novel in that it situates social protection in a wider system of social welfare and development policies and programmes in low and middle-income countries. Thematic overviews of topics such as innovations, gender and social protection responses to Covid-19 are covered in detail. The book consists of 36 chapters, and chapters are authored by over 50 well-established scholars and practitioners in the field of social protection, many of whom are based in the global South, as well as a number of junior and emerging researchers. The book's systemic approach to the field of social protection, welfare and development is an excellent resource for students, academics, researchers, practitioners and policy makers. It is likely that the book will be recommended as supplemental reading for courses in development studies, social policy and international social welfare.

How do these projects bring the CSDA's vision and mission to life?



Research Excellence: Both of these books make a major contribution to our understanding of complex social issues of poverty and unemployment, social protection and social policy and, when published, will be key resources in the field of social development theory. These books will influence the approach to social development, social protection and social and welfare policies for a range of vulnerable groups including informal traders.



Innovation in Application: The books draw on and analyse innovative interventions on the ground and develop lessons for social development theory.



Human capability development: The *Handbook on Social Protection in the Global South* deliberately brings together early career researchers with stalwarts in the field of social development as authors, thus developing new networks and exposure for the next generation of social development scholars.

3.5.2 Thematic area 2: Contemporary social development challenges



Poverty and inequality are complex challenges that require nuanced and in-depth understanding to solve. Our work in this field seeks to understand the complexities of how poverty and various types of inequality (age, gender, class, disabilities and geographic location) shape people's lives. New social challenges including climate change must inform our analysis of poverty and inequality and their effects.

■ Mapping Safety Study

While there is increasing awareness of the central role that neighbourhoods and environmental factors have on child safety, few studies have examined perceptions of the natural and built environment of children, especially those living in challenging circumstances.

To address these issues, we explored children's perceptions and experiences of their challenging physical and natural environments in Orange Farm. In order to understand and characterise these environments, we used high resolution satellite remote sensing (RS) techniques to reveal the environmental parameters or urban forms that children may perceive as safe or unsafe. By so doing, we explored the potential for mapping safe and resilient places for children; an essential activity in highlighting areas where children live in environmental conditions that impact their resilience and long-term development.

Data was gathered in October and November 2021 and data analysis will be completed in 2022.



■ **Children's Vision for a Post-Pandemic Future**

This is a multi-country, multi-disciplinary study focused on children's experiences during the pandemic. Five countries were selected (Pakistan, Turkey, Kenya, South Africa, and Brazil) and within each country, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) acted as local project lead. These lead NGOs were identified through existing global youth mental health networks by the central research team. Within each country, we selected an area of disadvantage. To gather data we invited children and youth to participate in a facilitated focus group discussions (4 per country) and participants were asked to keep diaries, over a period of a month, which they shared with us. We focused on experiences, living conditions, school, access to technology and added a historical perspective as well as a future oriented one. Data was gathered and analysed in 2021. Two articles are currently under review, one [video](#) has been produced and data was presented at a webinar.

■ **Communities and Families under transition during Covid-19 (Co-Fact)**

This research project examined how the Covid-19 pandemic affected everyday family life in a diverse cross-section of households in Gauteng. It explored both how individuals within a family understand and responded to public health measures, how these were negotiated within the family and the impact it had on day-to-day life, education, employment, and well-

being. As such, it unpacked both inter- and intra-household differences, examining how position in the household (such as that determined by gender and generation) and access to various forms of capital (such as that determined by socio-economic class), shaped the ways and means through which individuals responded to challenges in the context of a public health crisis.

In this study, we joined an international consortium of 10 countries. This study began in 2020, and data collection concluded in the first quarter of 2021. Data has been analysed; one joint country paper has been submitted to a peer review journal and one South African chapter has been produced for an edited collection. Two research assistants working at the CSDA presented data at the ICSD conference. Both research assistants have also been included in the research outputs.

The above two research projects are in line with the CSDA's aim of engaging in cutting edge, interdisciplinary research that contributes to our understanding of contemporary challenges in this instance how Covid-19 is challenging countries globally. Understanding how children, families and communities have experienced the pandemic, how they've responded and what they need can guide how we respond to future challenges.



How do these projects show the CSDA operating model in action?



Research excellence: The Mapping Safety Study draws on expertise from the fields of geography, information technology and psychology. It is a partnership between UJ and the University of Leicester. The Children's Vision for a Post-Pandemic Future involved researchers across five countries, while the Co-Fact study brought together researchers from 10 countries. This international collaboration offered opportunities for rich engagement and discussion with global experts. Articles from the studies are being published in top journals within the field.



Public engagement: all three projects required the support and buy-in from local community stakeholders and NGOs, for successful implementation. Data from both projects that focused on the Covid-19 pandemic were presented and shared with stakeholders via webinars and at the ICSD conference contributing to body of knowledge on these topics.



Human capability development: research assistants were involved in the research outputs on the Co-Fact study. The research assistants also had the opportunity to present the findings at the ICSD conference and have been involved in publications arising from the project, providing an opportunity for upskilling and training for emerging academics.

Please note that projects in thematic area three are covered under the flagship projects on pages 11 - 17.

3.5.3 Thematic area 4: Economic and social inclusion



Core to explaining challenges of poverty and inequality is how people and communities are excluded from social and economic opportunities. Our work in this field seeks to understand the nature of various aspects of exclusion, including

how the changing nature of work affects people; and what strategies work to enhance and leverage agency of such groups; and challenge structural inequalities to promote better outcomes.

■ Precarious Work and Future Careers (PWFC) Project

Youth increasingly face precarious work, such as internships and zero-hour contracts, as their first work experience. The growing “gig economy” has contributed to this precarious work. In upper and lower-middle income countries, where youth unemployment rates are growing, such jobs are seen as a panacea; envisaged as fostering pathways to later secure work. Yet there is limited evidence about whether this is the case. This project aims to analyse the labour market trajectories of a sample of youth over time, using equivalent panel datasets, and interpreting these within the labour market and social policy context of China and South Africa.

Understanding the labour market trajectories evaluates whether assumptions that engagement in precarious work

leads to later secure careers hold true. The output will inform policy in the context of the post-Covid-19 recovery period and the growth of the gig economy.

■ Youth Social Mobility (NIHSS) Project

The project is about understanding what contributes to young people’s social mobility in China, South Africa, Ghana and Ethiopia. The aim of the project is to understand what social policy interventions contribute to shifts in youth social mobility over time in order to develop policy recommendations for addressing youth unemployment in emerging economies.

Each country is analysed using panel data to identify which groups of young people are moving into and out of poverty; and into and out of employment (including an assessment of quality of employment). The panel analysis is overlaid with an analysis of policies focused on addressing youth unemployment and youth poverty, to understand which policies have contributed to social mobility shifts for which groups of young people in each country.

■ Gig economy project

A key development in most economies in the world is growing numbers of workers who operate in the “gig economy” – a phrase that captures the phenomenon of people engaging in short-term work opportunities,

often facilitated by a platform such as Uber or Upwork. In popular discourse this kind of work is hailed as providing an exciting opportunity for previously excluded groups, including youth and migrant workers, to engage in the economy. However, such work is also often characterised by many of the difficulties faced by workers in the informal economy including poor pay, limited protections, and blurred lines between employment and self-employment. This project seeks to understand, from the perspective of gig workers, policy makers, and platform owners, how social policy can respond to this area of work.

In 2021 we completed interviews with workers engaged in the Money4Jam platform as well as the Sixty60 platform. We also interviewed platform owners or managers and had policy conversations with the National Department for Social Development. Further policy conversations will be held in 2022 before the final report will be published and a policy roundtable held.

How does this bring the CSDA's vision and mission to life?

Little is known about whether progression towards more stable careers does in fact occur following precarious early work experiences, or whether precarity is a more persistent feature of young people's labour market

trajectories. These research projects touch on the theme of informality in that many young people's first experiences of the labour market are often in the informal economy, particularly with the rise of the "gig economy", which is driving growth of jobs in the informal labour market in developing countries in particular and what factors contribute to social mobility. These research projects are cutting edge and the outputs will challenge and shape the theory about the future of work for young people in developing countries.

How do these projects show the CSDA operating model in action?



Research excellence: These projects address major social development challenges in Africa and globally. We are using advanced statistical techniques to ensure excellence in the research outputs while the work is reported in the simplest format to engage a range of different stakeholders. These projects also promote international collaborations with China, Ghana, and the United Kingdom.



Public engagement: The outputs of the research projects include policy briefs and webinars for policy engagement with relevant stakeholders.



Innovation in application: All of these projects have potential to inform social welfare interventions for young people. On one hand, the youth social mobility project will provide guidance on effective social policies for poverty alleviation. On the other hand, the PWFC project shines light on the real experiences of young people during labour market engagements and how those experiences shape their future careers. While the gig economy project will impact how social policy responds to the growing gig economy sector.



Capability development: Both the youth social mobility and the PWFC projects involve early career researchers who are managing the projects. The PWFC project also involves training in advanced statistical techniques.



4. Public engagement

4.1 Webinars

Amidst the busyness of the year and in addition to hosting the 22nd Biennial Conference of the ICSD, we still hosted our quarterly webinar series.

Our first webinar of the year focused on the findings of our National Minimum Wage study, completed in 2020. At the webinar Mr Benjamin Stanwix, Senior Researcher at the Development Policy Research Unit presented results from economic modelling of the minimum wage. He highlighted that there has not been a marked upward trend in wages since the wage legislation was introduced, nor has there been an effect on employment, such as decreases in hours worked. The results suggest a high level of non-compliance to the wage legislation on the part of employers. Ms Senzelwe Mthembu also presented the findings from a qualitative study conducted with employers and employees in the domestic work and agriculture sectors. The findings from this study demonstrate that employers in the agriculture sector are very aware of the wage legislation but feel that it places a great deal of pressure on them in an already pressurised environment where they have experienced losses due to drought and have already had to increase wages due to

sectoral determinations. Employers in the domestic work sector were not always aware of the wage legislation. Employees in the agriculture sector were far more aware of their rights, due to being organised. In the domestic work sector employees were not aware of what they were entitled to. The implication is that there is a need for far more effort to be placed in communicating wage and employment legislation to private household employers and to promote organisations that advocate for domestic workers. Employees felt that the lower minimum wage that they are subjected to undermines their dignity. This was a finding that influenced the decision of the National Minimum Wage Commission to bring the minimum wage for these sectors into line with the overall minimum wage.

Our second webinar focused was entitled *How well are children and caregivers faring?* It presented results from the first round of data collected for the Communities of Practice for Child Wellbeing project and saw Prof Leila Patel and Dr Sadiyya Haffjee discussing some of the key challenges. They noted that there was a high rate of probable depression amongst caregivers and significant food insecurity levels in the household. Ms Tania Sani also discussed some of the interventions that were planned as part of the communities of practice project. Findings about

Food insecurity were picked up by several organisations who later offered food support to families in the areas in which the study was conducted.

In September Prof Elizabeth Henning and Dr Hanrie Bezuidenhout presented a webinar entitled *Numeracy, literacy and vocabulary assessment of early grades children in a social development programme*. They noted how children at the schools participating in the Communities of Practice for Child Wellbeing study were struggling with the basic literacy they needed to understand numeracy for later learning. This was particularly the case for learners not being taught in their home language. Based on their findings an intervention with early grade teachers is being designed to support how they teach literacy for numeracy.

In November Prof Jace Pillay presented findings of their study, which focused on the *Psychosocial Wellbeing of Children in the Foundation Phase*. They shared how many of the children were struggling in key domains of psychosocial wellbeing. Dr Rubina Sethlare-Kajee also presented findings on teachers' awareness of and engagement with the Integrated School Health Programme, and particularly the psychosocial support that should be offered through this mechanism. The webinar was very well attended, particularly by foundation phase teachers. Dr Granville Whittle, Chief Director of Care and Support in Schools at the Department of Basic Education responded to the findings,

indicating that more needed to be done to strengthen psychosocial support in schools.

4.2 Policy engagement

Revisions to White Paper on Families makes it more inclusive and visionary

In 2021 the CSDA's major policy contribution was to support the revision of the White Paper on Families (WPF). The CSDA is proud to have made a meaningful contribution to a policy framework that takes a more inclusive view of families in South Africa.

Following an extensive consultation process that included representatives from the national, provincial and district Departments of Social Development; representatives from other government departments; and civil society representatives, the revised White Paper provides a policy approach that promotes family well-being and strengthens and support families, no matter their formation.

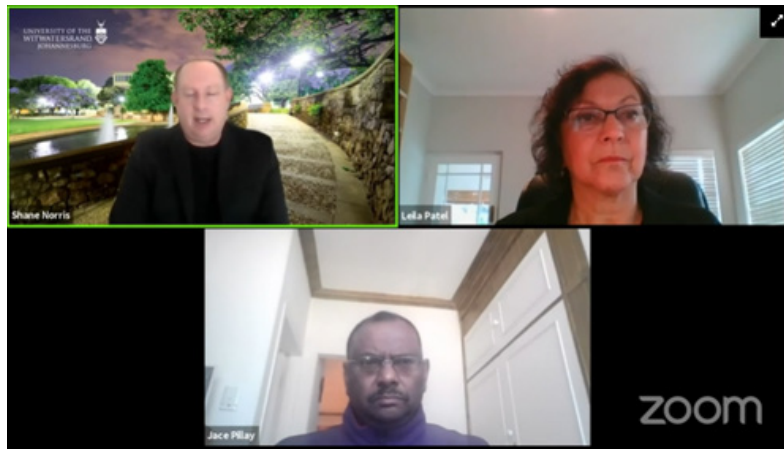
The revised WPF celebrates the diversity of family types and makes recommendations that are suitable to promoting family wellbeing over the family life course regardless of family type. This is a major improvement as the previous version was criticised for over-emphasising the nuclear family, which is not the norm in South Africa.

The new WPF takes a much broader policy approach. Rather than focusing only on the social services required to support families in crisis as was done in the past, the new paper notes that all sectors need to take into account how policy and programming can support family wellbeing. This shift means a policy approach that takes a much broader view of what family wellbeing encompasses. As outlined in strategic priority 1, the economic empowerment of families is critical, families need basic resources and assets to function well.

The revised version also moves away from a family preservation approach to a family wellbeing approach and critically interrogates what needs to be done to promote family wellbeing. This is a departure from the previous version which placed a lot of emphasis on family dysfunction. This version moves towards considering what a promotive environment for family wellbeing and family strengthening looks like.

This new version also takes a family life-course approach noting that families need to be supported through multiple transitions in the family life course. While this may (but also may not) include raising children, it also includes caring for adult family members (in times of illness, or when family members have a disability that requires additional care, and as family members age), and choosing to enter into long-term partnerships or marriage.

Altogether the revision to the White Paper on Families provides a more holistic policy approach that takes into account South African family structures, available services and the economic climate to provide an approach that focused on supporting and promoting family wellbeing.



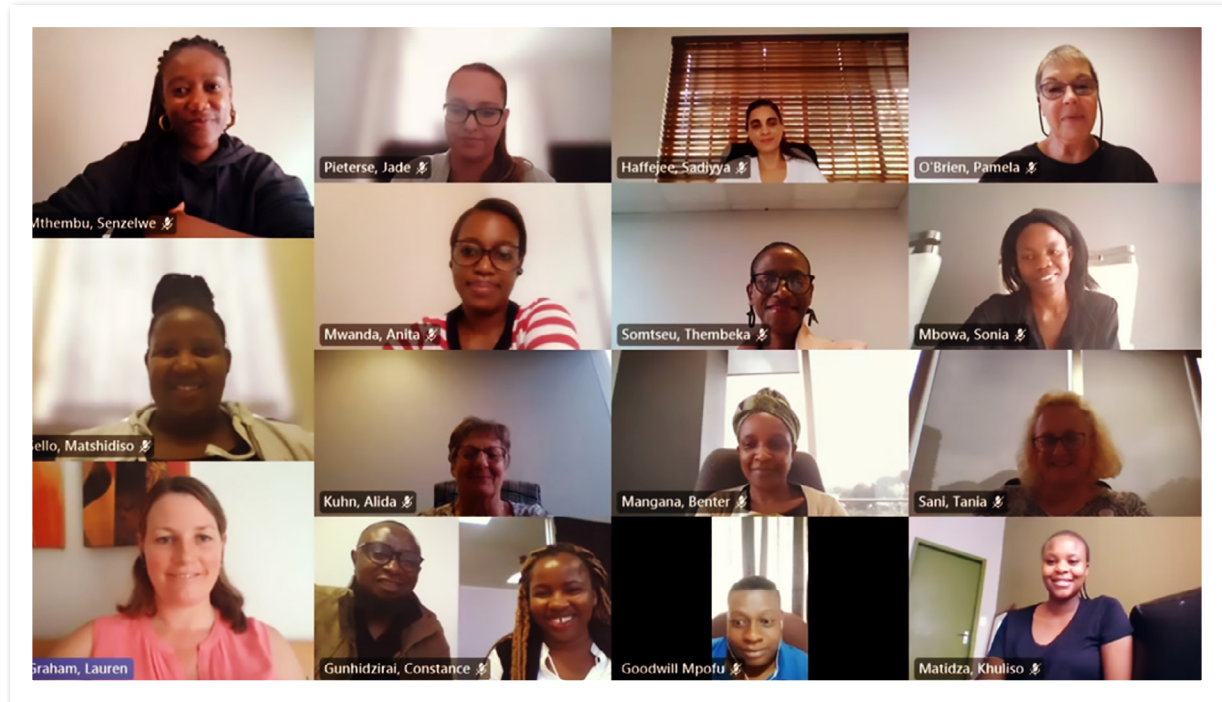
4.3 Media engagement

This year the CSDA team engaged extensively with media in order to influence public debate on key social development issues. In total the CSDA generated over R10 million in Advertising Value Equivalence for the university. This includes both solicited and unsolicited media engagements. Some of the highlights included the extensive media attention given to Prof Leila Patel's findings on [child hunger from the NIDS-CRAM study](#), conducted in collaboration with Prof Servaas van der Berg and Ms Grace Bridgeman. The study received media attention from several media houses including the *Financial Mail*, *The City Press* and *Die Burger*. [Our study](#) on what works in youth employability programmes, which was published in the [Journal of Applied Youth Studies](#) late in 2020 also generated a great deal of media attention, with mentions in *The Star*, *The Daily News* and *The Mercury* and *The Cape Argus*. Lauren Graham was also interviewed on *Power FM* and *702* about the study. Leila's [voter behaviour research](#) also received a great deal of attention in the lead up to local government elections in 2021. She was interviewed on *702* and *Cape Talk* about the study, which was also referenced in print publications including on *News24* and *Polity*.



5. CSDA Team

The CSDA research team has worked incredibly hard in 2021 to delve into the issues that continue to exacerbate poverty and inequality. Grateful thanks to our administrative team, without which none of our research or teaching would be possible.



6. Publications

6.1 Journal Articles Published 2021

1. Abdullah, A., Cudjore, E., Young, S., Choi, AWM., **Jordan, LP**, Chiu, MYL. & Emery, C. (2021). 'Regulating the traditional kinship care practice in Ghana: Reflections from young people with kinship care experience'. *Child Care, Health and Development*, 47(3): 329-335. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cch.12845>.
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10. Dafuleya, G., Tregenna, F. & **Patel, L.** (2021). 'The role of household networks in mutual assistance and emergency relief: Evidence from Zimbabwe'. *Journal of Developing Areas*, 55(4): 27-47 (Project Muse).
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The article was published in the prestigious journal *Global Social Policy*, which has an h-index of 35 and is widely regarded as one of the leading publications in the field. Being featured in this top international journal demonstrates research excellence.

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6.2 Book Chapters Published 2021

1. Makgetla, T., **Graham, L.** (2021). "Post-1994 youth policy: A critique of policy trajectory". In De Lannoy, A., Langa M., Brooks H. (eds). South Africa: Agency, (in)visibility and national development. *Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection*. 978-1-920690-29-8. (Chapter 4). 2022-3280
2. Mlatsheni C., **Graham, L.** (2021). "South Africa's high youth unemployment: Structural features and current responses". In De Lannoy, A., Langa M., Brooks H. (eds) Youth in South Africa: Agency, (in)visibility and national development. *Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection* 978-1-920690-29-8. (Chapter 5).
3. **Mkwananzi, S.** (2021). 'It Takes Two to Tango! - The Relevance and Dilemma of Involving Men in the Realisation of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa'. In E. Durojaye, G. Mirugi-Mukundi and C. Ngweni (eds.). *Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa*. *Routledge*.
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7. Acknowledgments

Collaboration is at the heart of our work at the CSDA. On a day-to-day basis we work with a wide range of partners including academic institutions, the private sector, government, and civil society. Without these partnerships we would not be able to bring together some of the best researchers and implementing partners to conduct research that makes a significant contribution to social development knowledge as well as bring about social change.

We would like to acknowledge and thank all our partners for their support and help in making 2021 a productive and fruitful year. We also give our heartfelt thanks to our generous sponsors, without which much of our work would not be possible.

7.1 Partners that funded our research

- British Academy
- Capacity Building Programme for Employment Promotion
- Centre of Excellence in Human Development
- Department of Social Development
- DSI/NRF South African Research Chair Initiative (SARChI)
- Global Challenges Research Fund
- National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS)
- National Research Foundation

7.2 Partners that funded the 22nd Biennial Conference of the ICSD

- Center for Social Development, Washington University St. Louis
- Crown School of Social Work, University of Chicago
- Global Social Development Innovations, UNC-CH
- National Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIHSS)
- University of Pretoria

7.3 Institutional partners

- Centre for Education Practice Research (Integrated Studies of Learning Language, Science and Mathematics in the primary schools), University of Johannesburg
- Childline Gauteng
- Department of Educational Psychology, University of Johannesburg
- Department of Engineering, University of Johannesburg
- Department of Nursing, University of Johannesburg
- Department of Science & Innovation (DSI)
- Department of Social Development
- DG Murray Trust
- DSI-NRF Centre of Excellence in Human Development, University of the Witwatersrand
- Ekukhanyisweni Primary School (Alexandra)
- Family Life South Africa (FAMSA)
- Gauteng Department of Education
- Gauteng Department of Education: Psychological, Therapeutic and Medical Services, Inclusion & Special Needs Directorate
- Gauteng Department of Health
- Kids Haven Child and Youth Care Centre
- Lejoeleputsoa Primary School (Meadowlands)
- Malvern Primary School (Malvern)
- Mayibuye Primary School (Doornkop)
- Medical Research Council
- MES, Johannesburg
- Mikateka Primary School (Ivory Park),
- Orange Farm Community and Mr Bricks Mokolo
- Prof. Elizabeth Henning Chair Integrated Studies Education (Mathematics and Language development in the early years of schooling), University of Johannesburg

- Prof. Jace Pillay, Chair in Education Psychology, University of Johannesburg
- Save the Children, South Africa
- Soul Food
- Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU), University of Cape Town
- Statistical Consultation Service, University of Johannesburg
- The City of Johannesburg
- The Department of Basic Education; Gauteng
- The National School Nutrition Programme
- UNICEF SA
- University of Leicester
- University of Stellenbosch, Research on Socio Economic Policy (RESEP)
- University of the Western Cape
- University of Ghana
- University of Glasgow
- University of Pretoria
- University of the Witwatersrand

7.4 Institutional affiliations

- Child Protection under Covid
- International Consortium on Family and Community in the Time of Covid-19
- International Consortium for Social Development
- Population Association of Southern Africa
- Southern African Social Protection Experts Network (SASPEN)

7.5 Advisory Board Members 2021

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- Prof Lauren Graham
- Prof Pragna Rugunana
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