



Innovate • Evaluate • Disseminate

Generate evidence to advance youth well-being, globally.

Economic Security. Supportive Systems. Capable Youth.

Quarterly News & Updates

February 4, 2021



Director's Message: A Look Back on 2020

As we embark on a new year, it would be remiss not to reflect on how far we've come. On March 12, over the University holiday, we were given an extended break; little did we know that would be the last time we'd return to our offices for the foreseeable future. However, our team and our partners have managed to pivot, adjust, and continue to make a lasting impact despite navigating the realities and challenges of systemic racism, remote work, and the looming uncertainty of the global pandemic. As political protests erupt in Uganda, farmers' fight for their rights in India, and youth economic livelihoods continue to change across the globe, the necessity of social development work has never been clearer.

[Read more...](#)

Events



International Consortium
for Social Development



Call for Abstracts

Along with Centre for Social Development in Africa at University of Johannesburg and Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis, GSDI is helping to organize the **22nd Biennial Conference of the International Consortium for Social Development** under the theme: **Poverty, Inequality and Social Development Innovations around the World.**

The conference will be held as an **online conference July 13 -16, 2021.** The closing date for abstracts is **15 February 2021 (deadline extended).**

Please submit abstracts to icsd22ndconference@uj.ac.za. For more information about the conference and how you can participate, review the Call for Abstracts linked [here](#). For further inquiries please contact Zoliswa Ntsoko on icsd22ndconference@uj.ac.za.

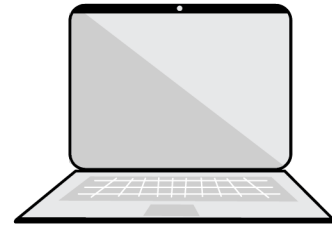
Webinar & Lunch Series Virtual Event Launch

Last Fall, GSDI launched a virtual webinar and lunch series with the intention of cultivating a community willing to discuss prominent topics in social development research and practice. **The webinar and lunch series alternate on a bi-monthly basis and occur on the 4th Thursday of every month.** All recordings are available on our

[YouTube channel.](#)

Past Events:

- **"Ethics in Global Social Development"** - Dr. Neil Bilotta, Assistant Professor UNC School of Social Work
- **"Youth Employment Learnings: Evidence from the Siyakha Youth Assets Project"** - Dr. Rainier Masa, Assistant Professor UNC School of Social Work, GSDI Lead Researcher
- **"Continuing Social Development Work Amidst the COVID-19 Global Pandemic"** - Dr. Suresh Pathare, Center for Studies in Rural Development, Ahmednagar, India; James Byrugaba, Director, YouthAlive Uganda; Dr. Trenette Goings, Sandra Reeves Spears and John B. Turner Distinguished Professor, UNC School of Social Work



Mark your calendars for the next event!

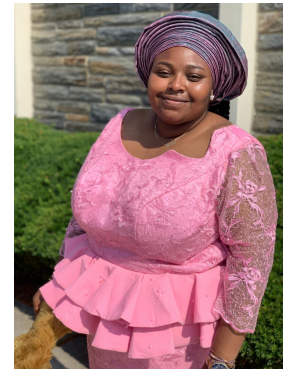
- "Cross-sectoral programs for youth development: the rationale, process, and possible outcomes" **UPCOMING February 25th, 9AM - 10AM EST, Pre-Register for the event [HERE](#)**

Welcoming Our Students

The Spring Semester has brought new opportunities to welcome students aboard GSDI's Team. Join us in welcoming our new MSW Student Intern!

Lucia Opara

Originally from Lagos, Nigeria, Lucia has grown up most of her life in Garner, NC. She attended UNC Chapel Hill for her undergraduate studies and is now in her final year of UNC's MSW program. Lucia has a lot of areas of interests but one thing has remained consistent - she hopes to engage in work that will better the lives of marginalized youths, immigrants, and refugees.

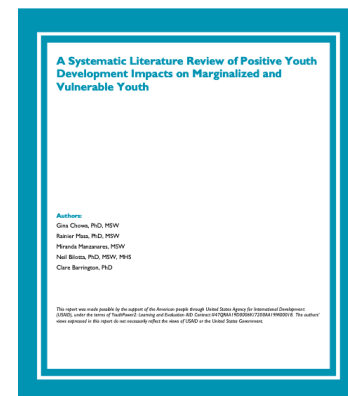


Research & Publications

YouthPower2: Learning and Evaluation

GSDI is part of a consortium, led by [Making Cents International](#), that was awarded the [YouthPower2: Learning and Evaluation \(YP2LE\)](#) grant. The grant is designed to support USAID's Youth in Development Policy by enabling investments in Positive Youth Development (PYD) research and evaluation within and across multiple sectors.

As part of the consortium, Dr's Chowa, Masa, Bilotta and Ms. Manzanares recently concluded their work on ["A Systematic Literature Review of Positive Youth Development Impacts on Marginalized and Vulnerable Youth."](#)



Siyakha Youth Assets Research Briefs

Siyakha Youth Assets was a longitudinal, cluster-randomized study implemented in South Africa between 2015 and 2019. **Siyakha's primary research objective was to examine the causal impacts of youth employment and financial inclusion programs on financial capabilities, employability, and longer-term employment effects for South African youth.** The study was conducted by the Global Social Development Innovations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Centre for Social

Development in Africa at the University of Johannesburg, in partnership with eight organizations providing youth employability programs in South Africa.

Check out our series of research briefs linked here:

- [Effects of Program Matching on Employment Outcomes](#)
- [Effects of Program Work Experience on Employment Outcomes](#)
- [Effects of Program Stipends on Employment Outcomes](#)
- [Effects of Technical Skills Training on Employment Outcomes](#)
- [Effects of Program Duration on Employment Outcomes](#)
- [Effects of Program Accreditation on Employment Outcomes](#)
- [Effects of Soft Skills Training on Employment Outcomes](#)



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