Social Systems Evidence:
Summary of key features and functions

A free online repository of pre-appraised, synthesized research evidence for social-system policymakers and stakeholders
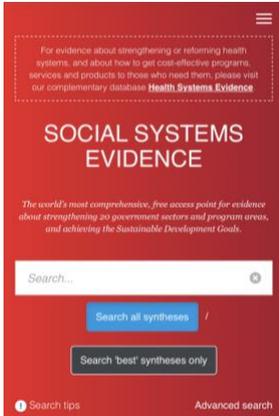
www.socialsystemsevidence.org

Key features

- Social Systems Evidence is the world's most comprehensive, continuously updated repository of pre-appraised, synthesized research evidence about the programs, services and products available in a broad range of government sectors and program areas, as well as the governance, financial and delivery arrangements within which programs and services are provided and the implementation strategies that can support getting these programs and services to those who need them.

- The program and service areas covered include:

o citizenship	o culture & gender	o environmental protection	o infrastructure
o children & youth services	o economic development & growth	o financial protection	o natural resources
o climate action	o education	o food safety & security	o public safety & justice
o community & social services	o employment	o government services	o recreation
o consumer protection	o energy	o housing	o transportation

- These program and service areas cover all of the Sustainable Development Goals, with the exceptions of the health part of goal 3 (which is already well covered by three existing online repositories, namely ACCESSSS for clinical evidence, Health Evidence for public health evidence, and Health Systems Evidence for evidence about how to organize ourselves to get the right health programs and services to those who need them).

- Social Systems Evidence supports policymakers, stakeholders and researchers who want to access the best available research evidence in a timely manner through a number of features, including:

  - a powerful search engine and nested sort function to ensure the most relevant results are quickly identified, and a tool that allows you to search for only the 'best' evidence syntheses for a specific topic of interest (determined by prioritizing syntheses that have completed their search in the last five years, are at least medium quality and have access to a GRADE profile)
  - an intuitive user interface that streamlines the process of conducting advanced searches through the application of filters for program and service areas, social-system arrangements and implementation strategies, the Sustainable Development Goals, populations (e.g., older adults), outcomes of interest (e.g., economic), disciplines from which the evidence has been produced (e.g., business administration), areas of focus (e.g., countries that are the focus of the document), document features (e.g. type of document or publication date range) or any combination of these
  - a guided search tool for users who want additional assistance in applying filters
  - the ability to save documents or searches and subscribe to free, customized, monthly e-newsletters that provide links to newly added content in any area of interest
  - independently assigned quality ratings for each included review
  - hyperlinks to scientific abstracts, user-friendly summaries (when they exist), and all of the included studies (labelled by country to facilitate local applicability assessments)
  - responsive design, which automatically gives users access to the site in a format optimized for use on their device of choice (e.g. mobile, tablet or desktop)
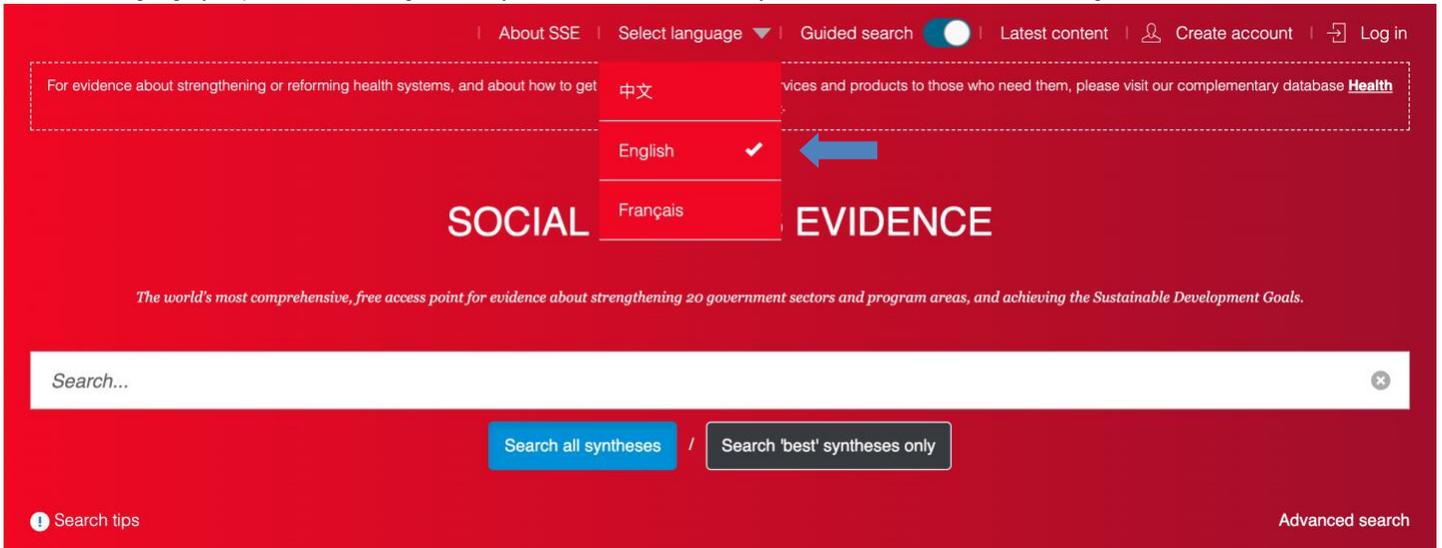 - multi-lingual support – search Social Systems Evidence in English, Chinese or French.

Search Social Systems Evidence on your desktop or mobile device

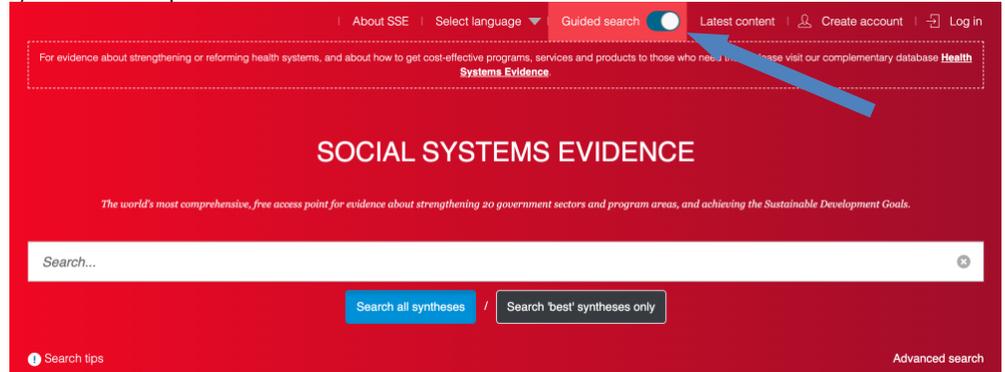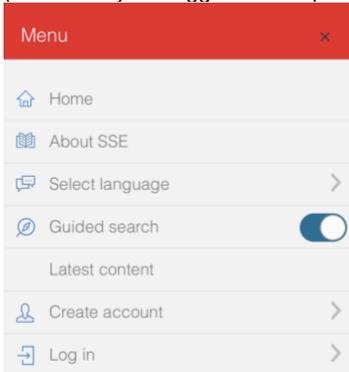Social Systems Evidence optimizes the interface for the device you are using.

Choose your preferred language

Select the language you prefer when using Social Systems Evidence. Social Systems Evidence is available in English and French.

Get help by using the guided search

Respond to these questions to guide you in applying the filters available on Social Systems Evidence. The guided search can be turned off or on (indicated by the toggle at the top of the screen) and can be expanded or hidden on a mobile device.

Search for the 'best' syntheses only

Narrow your search to the 'best' evidence syntheses for a specific topic of interest (determined by prioritizing syntheses that have completed their search in the last five years, are at least medium quality and have access to a GRADE profile).

Sort your results

By default, results are displayed by 'best match.' Alternatively, you can use the nested sorting function to sort your search results by best designation, most recent year or highest quality. From there, you can further sort the results by the other criteria.

Systematic review of the impact of employment guarantee schemes and cash transfers on the poor

Evidence syntheses of effects | Albania (1) Argentina (2) Armenia (1) Azerbaijan (1) Brazil (2) Chile (3) Colombia (2) Czech Republic (1) Dominican Republic (1) Ecuador (1) Estonia (1) Ethiopia (1) Guatemala (1) Honduras (2) Hungary (1) India (3) Malawi (2) Mexico (5) Mongolia (1) Namibia (1) Nicaragua (3) Peru (1) Poland (1) Romania (1) Russian Federation (1) Slovenia (1) South Africa (7) Zambia (2)

This report and short summary present the findings of a systematic review which examines the quantitative evidence currently available on the impact of cash transfers and employment guarantee schemes on the income and expenditure of participating hou

Apply advanced search filters

Explore the full list of search filters available on Social Systems Evidence, which you can then apply to narrow your search.

Narrow your search so that you retrieve documents that address the domains you're most interested in, focus on the country or region you work in and retrieve particular types of documents. Your results can be narrowed by combining filter types (e.g., system arrangements and Sustainable Development Goals) and expanded by selecting more than one filter within a type (e.g. governance arrangements and financial arrangements within system arrangements, or reduced inequalities and sustainable cities and communities within Sustainable Development Goals).

Register for a free account

For users who create an account and log in to use Social Systems Evidence, several advanced features are also available, including the ability to:

- access more than 20 search results
- save documents of interest to a personal clipboard for future reference
- email lists of selected and saved documents to keep for future reference, or for sharing with others
- save searches that are found to be the most useful for finding relevant documents
- subscribe to saved searches (and searches curated by the Social Systems Evidence team) in order to receive monthly updates via email of new evidence that addresses these same topics.

Email and/or save selected documents (when logged in)

Send the list of documents selected from your search results by email to yourself or others, and/or save the list of documents selected from your search results directly to your personal 'saved documents' clipboard.

94 results

BEST MATCH ▼ ✉ Email ⬇ Save 👁 View saved | Select all ⊟

1. Date of last search (or publication if not a synthesis or data not yet extracted): Not available
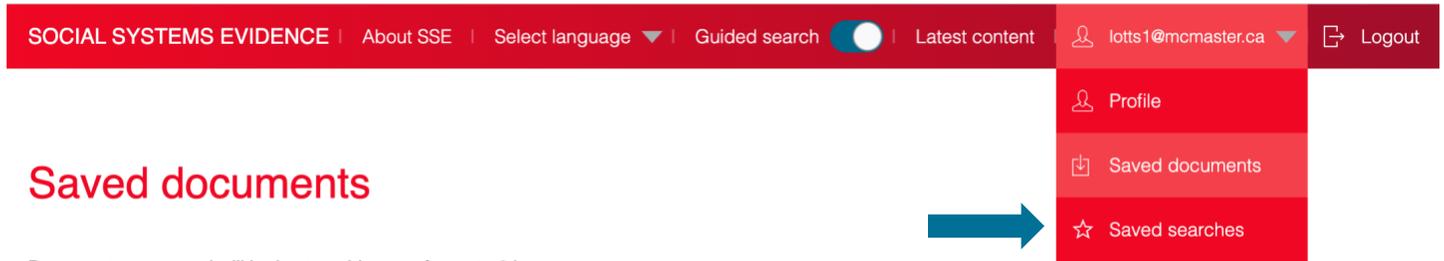   Quality: 9/10   Select: ☑

Systematic review of the impact of employment guarantee schemes and cash transfers on the poor

Evidence syntheses of effects | Albania (1) Argentina (2) Armenia (1) Azerbaijan (1) Brazil (2) Chile (3) Colombia (2) Czech Republic (1) Dominican Republic (1) Ecuador (1) Estonia (1) Ethiopia (1) Guatemala (1) Honduras (2) Hungary (1) India (3) Malawi (2) Mexico (5) Mongolia (1) Namibia (1) Nicaragua (3) Peru (1) Poland (1) Romania (1) Russian Federation (1) Slovenia (1) South Africa (7) Zambia (2)

This report and short summary present the findings of a systematic review which examines the quantitative evidence currently available on the impact of cash transfers and employment guarantee schemes on the income and expenditure of participating hou

View saved documents (when logged in)

View the list of documents you have saved from previous searches. Your saved documents can also be managed (i.e., retained on or deleted from your profile) on this page.

Saved documents

Documents you saved will be kept on this page for up to 6 hours.
You can email or export these documents.

Select all ☐

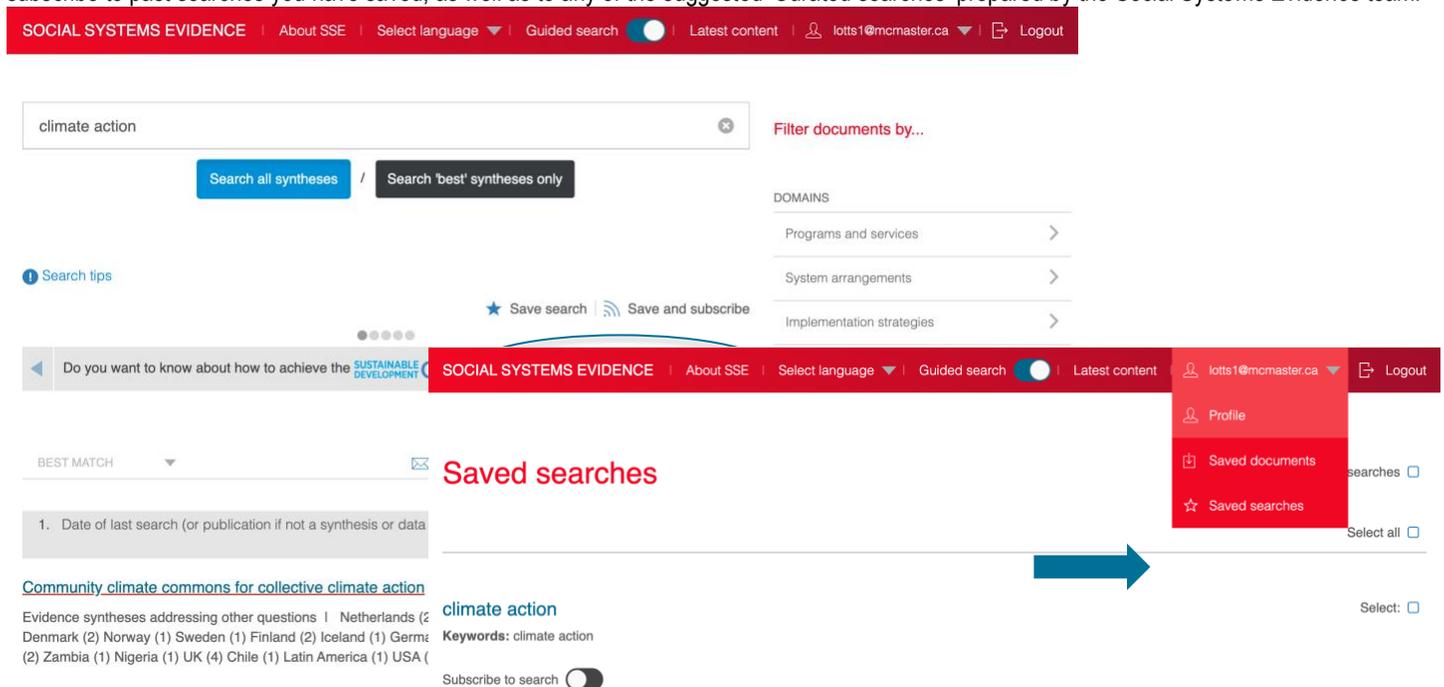| 1. Date of last search (or publication if not a synthesis or data not yet extracted): Not available | Quality: 9/10 | Select: ☐ |

Systematic review of the impact of employment guarantee schemes and cash transfers on the poor

This report and short summary present the findings of a systematic review which examines the quantitative evidence currently available on the impact of cash transfers and employment guarantee schemes on the income and expenditure of participating...

Save and subscribe to your favourite searches (when logged in)

Save your search strategy and subscribe to receive a monthly email containing links to any documents that have been newly added to Social Systems Evidence and meet your search parameters. Your subscriptions can be managed on the 'Saved searches' page, where you can also subscribe to past searches you have saved, as well as to any of the suggested 'Curated searches' prepared by the Social Systems Evidence team.

For more information, please email sse@mcmaster.ca.

Last updated on 18 February 2026

McMaster University | HEALTH FORUM

>> mcmasterforum.org
forum@mcmaster.ca