

Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit

SAMPLE SURVEY OF SQUATTERS IN UNIBELL,  
SEPTEMBER 1977

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UNIBELL SURVEY, SEPTEMBER 1977.

INTRODUCTION

This survey, which was conducted in the last week of September, 1977, covers a random cluster sample of 136 families living in 121 structures in the squatter camp of Unibell.

For the purpose of this survey families have been divided into Head of Household (H/H) and family, which refers to the spouse, or partner, and children (if any). We have assumed that the children live with the spouse who is almost always the mother.

The length of residence in Cape Town has been taken as the length of continuous residence with breaks of three months or less not considered an interruption. In cases where the Head of Household and the family were residing separately before they moved to Unibell (see Tables 2, 3 and 6) the household has been classified according to the previous accommodation of the family.

In analysis of the survey a pattern was noted of groups of families which appear to have remained together as a community in moving from one place and/or type of residence to another, for example, a group of families living together in Unibell had all lived together in Langa zones before, while another clustered group all came from the same district in Transkei.

NOTES ON THE TABLES: IMPORTANT RESULTS

TABLE 1

In this category the families have lived in Cape Town for a long time as is indicated by the average figure of 8,6 years. A large proportion of the families (38%) had previously lived in either Modderdam or Werkgenot.

TABLE 3

The overwhelming majority of families in this category came from Transkei (82%). Only 12% were from Ciskei.

TABLE 4

The majority of the families which had lived together in Cape Town before moving to Unibell had done so in single quarters in the townships as is indicated by the figure of 69% for Langa and Nyanga bachelor quarters.

TABLE 5

Although the Head of Household and family were from outside Cape Town, they were not necessarily in the same place, nor did they necessarily come to Cape Town at the same time. It is noteworthy that even though some of the people in this category had 10(1)(b) rights they had at some stage left Cape Town.

TABLE 6

The Heads of Household in this category had previously squatted alone and then brought their families from outside Cape Town to live with them.

TABLE 7

66% of single Heads of Household are female.

TABLE 8

Of the 121 structures surveyed 13 contained more than one family. 12 were double-family structures, and one was occupied by four families.

This category, however, contains only those double-family structures where the two families had lived in different types of previous accommodation.

TABLE 9B

This table is derived from 9A but categories 7 and 8 have been absorbed into categories 1 to 6. Fifty two percent of the sample of 136 families had previously lived in Cape Town. The total average length of residence of families was 5,2 years. The majority (59%) of Heads of Household are legally in Cape Town, and 25% of all Heads of Household have 10(1)(b) rights.

TABLE 10

There is a low average number of occupants per structure (5,1) and the male/female ratio is close to one.

TABLE 11

75,7% of Heads of Household have been in Cape Town more than 4 years, and only 24,3% less than 4 years. Of spouses/partners 69% have been in Cape Town less than, and 31% more than 4 years.

TABLE 12

The participation rate is the proportion of potentially economically active adults who are working or looking for work. 58% of the labour force are in wage employment in the formal sector. The unemployment rate of 42% is high but the number of people employed in the informal sector has not been taken into account.

TABLE 1 HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS ACCOMMODATION.

1. TOGETHER IN ANOTHER SQUATTER CAMP

39 families 37 structures	Previous Squatter Camp	CROSS ROADS	KRAAI- FONTEIN	BRACKEN- FELL	MODDER- DAM	WERK- GENOT	ESIES RIVER	OTHERS <sup>1</sup>	Total	Average	%
Number of Households		3	7	4	4	11	4	6	39		
% of Households		7,7	17,9	10,3	10,3	28,2	10,3	15,4	100		
Average Length in Unibell (months)		11	13,7	15,3	4,5	14,7	10,3	20		13,6	
Average Length of H/H <sup>3</sup> in C.T. (years)		15,7	11,9	20,3	16,3	15,2	6,9	22,8		15,6	
Average Length of Family <sup>4</sup> in C.T. (years)		18	5,3	4,8	9,5	5,3 <sup>2</sup>	8	16,3 <sup>2</sup>		8,6	
% Male Heads of Households		100	100	100	100	100	100	83		97,4	
<u>Legal Status</u>											
Head of Household:	Borners	1							1		2,6
	IO(1) (b)	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	12		30,8
	Contract		1	1	0	4		1	7		17,9
	Illegal		4	2	2	6	3	2	19		48,7
	Other/Unspecified										
	TOTAL	3	7	4	4	11	4	6	39		100
Spouse/Partner	Borners	1				1	1	1	4		10,3
	IO(1) (b)					1		1	2		5,1
	Contract										
	Illegal	2	7	4	4	9	3	4	33		84,6
	Other/Unspecified										
	TOTAL	3	7	4	4	11	4	6	39		100
% Married (who are living together)		100	86	100	100	100	100	66,7		92,3	

1. Others include:

Airport 1  
Snake Park 1  
Kuils River 1  
K.T.C. 1  
Vrygrond 1  
Milnerton 1

3. H/H - Head of Household

4. Family - Spouse/Partner and children  
(if any)

2. When a person born in C.T. has not specified age,  
a figure of 20 years has been taken.

TABLE 2 HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS ACCOMMODATION.

2. (H/H alone in C.T.). Family elsewhere in C.T.

7 families 7 structures	Previous Accommodation of Family	LANGA	NYANGA	GUGU- LEFU	WORK	LANGA ZONES	To- tal	Aver- age	%
Number of Households		1	2	1	2	1	7		
% of Households		14,3	28,6	14,3	28,6	14,3	100		
Average Length in Unibell (months)		12	12	12	22	5		13,9	
Average Length of H/H in C.T. (years)		12	19,5	12	11,5	1		12,4	
Average Length of Family in C.T. (years)		9	16	1	4,5	23		10,6	
% Male Heads of Households		100	50	100	100	0		71,4	
<u>Legal Status</u>									
Head of Household:	Borners								
	10(1) (b)		1				1		14,3
	Contract	1					1		14,3
	Illegal		1	1	2	1	5		71,4
	Other/Unspecified								
	TOTAL	1	2	1	2	1	7		100
Spouse/Partner	Borners								
	10(1) (b)					1	1		14,3
	Contract								
	Illegal	1	2	1	2		6		85,7
	Other/Unspecified								
	TOTAL	1	2	1	2	1	7		100
% Married (who are living together)		100	50	100	50	0		57,1	

TABLE 3 HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS ACCOMMODATION.

3. (H/H alone in C.T.). Family outside Cape Town.

34 families 27 structures	Previous Accommodation of Family	TRANS- KEI	CISKEI	EASTERN CAPE	PENIN- SULA	To- tal	Aver- age	%
Number of Households		28	4	1	1	34		
% of Households		82,4	11,8	2,9	2,9	100		
Average Length in Unibell(months)		12,2	24	12	12		13,6	
Average Length of H/H in C.T. (years)		12,9	15,3	16	22		13,6	
Average Length of Family in C.T. (years)		1,0	1,5	1	1,0		1,1	
% Male Heads of Households		100	100	100	100		100	
<u>Legal Status</u>								
Head of Household:	Borners							
	10(1)(b)	6	2			8		23,5
	Contract	17		1	1	19		55,9
	Illegal	5	2			7		20,6
	Other/Unspecified							
	TOTAL	28	4	1	1	34		100
Spouse/Partner	Borners							
	10(1)(b)							
	Contract							
	Illegal	26	4	1	1	32		94,1
	Other/Unspecified	2				2		5,9
	TOTAL	28	4	1	1	34		100
% Married(who are living together)		100	100	100	100		100	



TABLE 4 HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS ACCOMMODATION.

4. H/H and Family together in C.T.

16 families 16 structures	Previous Accommodation of H/H and Family	NYANGA	LANGA ZONES	NYANGA ZONES	MANEN- BERG	To- tal	Aver- age	%
Number of Households		4	9	2	1	16		
% of Households		25,0	56,3	12,5	6,3	100		
Average Length in Unibell (months)		16,5	13,2	15	12		14,2	
Average Length of H/H in C.T. (years)		20	18,3	15	33		19,3	
Average Length of Family in C.T. (years)		10	7,7	16	15		9,8	
% Male Heads of Household		100	100	100	100		100	
<u>Legal Status</u>								
Head of Household:	Borners							
	10(1)(b)	2	4	1		7		43,75
	Contract	1			1	2		12,5
	Illegal	1	5	1		7		43,75
	Other/Unspecified							
	TOTAL	4	9	2	1	16		100
Spouse/Partner	Borners							
	10(1)(b)							
	Contract							
	Illegal	4	9	2	1	16		100
	Other/Unspecified							
	TOTAL	4	9	2	1	16		
% Married (who are living together)		100	100	100	100		100	

TABLE 5. HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS ACCOMMODATION.

5. H/H outside C.T. and Family outside C.T.

15 families 15 structures	Previous Accommodation of Family	TRANS- KEI	CISKEI	CAPE WESTERN	PENIN- SULA	To- tal	Aver- age	%
Number of Households		7	1	6	1	15		
% of Households		46,7	6,7	40,0	6,7	100		
Average Length in Unibell (months)		17,7	12	16,7	18		16,9	
Average Length of H/H in C.T. (years) <sup>1</sup>		1,5	1	1,4	1,5		1,4	
Average Length of Family in C.T. (years)		1,5	1	1,2	1,5		1,3	
% Male Heads of Household		85,7	100	100	100		93,3	
<u>Legal Status</u>								
Head of Household:								
	Borners							
	10(1) (b)	1		2		3		20
	Contract	3		3	1	7		46,7
	Illegal	3	1	1		5		33,3
	Other/Unspecified							
	TOTAL	7	1	6	1	15		100
Spouse/Partner:								
	Borners							
	10(1) (b)	2		1		3		20
	Contract							
	Illegal	5	1	5	1	12		80
	Other/Unspecified							
	TOTAL	7	1	6	1	15		100
% Married (who are living together)		85,7	100	100	100		93,3	

1. Some of the Heads of household in this category have spent previous periods in Cape Town but these have not been taken into account for the purposes of this survey.

TABLE 6 HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS ACCOMMODATION.

6. (H/H in squatter camp) and family outside C.T.

7 families 7 structures	Previous accommodation of family	TRANS- KEI	CIS- KEI	CAPE ERN	EAST- CAPE	WEST- ERN	PENIN- SULA	To- tal	Aver- age	%
Number of Households		3	1	1	1	1	1	7		
% of Households		42,9	14,3	14,3	14,3	14,3	14,3	100		
Average Length in Unibell (months)		16,7	6	24	24	36			20	
Average Length of H/H in C.T. (years)		21	3	4	17	6			13,3	
Average Length of Family in C.T. (years)		,9	1,0	2	2	3			1,5	
% Male Heads of Households		100	100	100	100	100			100	
<u>Legal Status</u>										
Head of Household:										
	Borners									
	10(1)(b)	1	1					2		28,6
	Contract	1					1	2		28,6
	Illegal	1		1	1			3		42,9
	Other/Unspecified									
	TOTAL	3	1	1	1	1	1	7		100
Spouse/Partner:										
	Borners						1	1		14,3
	10(1)(b)									
	Contract									
	Illegal	3	1	1	1			6		85,7
	Other/Unspecified									
	TOTAL	3	1	1	1	1	1	7		100
% Married (who are living together)		66,7	100	0	0	100			57,1	

TABLE 7 HOUSEHOLDS ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS ACCOMMODATION.

7, Single Person H/H.

	ANOTHER SQUATTER CAMP	IN CAPE TOWN	OUTSIDE CAPE TOWN	To- tal	Aver- age	%
6 families 6 structures						
Number of Households	1	3	2	6		
% of Households	16,7	50,0	33,3	100		
Average Length in Unibell (months)	18	23	9,5		17,7	
Average Length of H/H in C.T. (years)	5	11	0,8		6,6	
% Male Heads of Household	0	33,3	50		33,3	
<u>Legal Status</u>						
Head of Household: Borners						
10(1) (b)						
Contract		1		1		16,7
Illegal	1	2	2	5		83,3
Other/Unspecified						
TOTAL	1	3	2	6		100

- The other squatter camp was Werkgenot  
The other places in Cape Town were (i) at work  
(ii) single quarters  
The places outside Cape Town were in Transkei.

TABLE 8 HOUSEHOLD ACCORDING TO PREVIOUS ACCOMMODATION.

8. Double family structures with mixed previous accommodation.

12 families <sup>2</sup> 6 structures	Previous Accommodation Category	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	To- tal	Aver- age	Aver- age %
Number of Households		2	2	3	1	2	1	1	12		
% of Households		16,7	16,7	25,0	8,3	16,7	8,3	8,3	100		
Average Length in Unibell(months)		12	12	1,3	12	7	17	12		8,9	
Average Length of H/H in C.T. (years)		11	3,5	10	15	0,6	20	1		8,0	
Average Length of Family in C.T. (years)		4	13	0,25	3	0,6	1,4	-		3,4	
% Male Heads of Household		100	100	100	100	100	100	0		91,7	
<u>Legal Status</u>											
Head of Household:	Borners										
	10(1)(b)			1					1		8,3
	Contract	1	1	1	1	1	1		6		50,0
	Illegal	1	1	1		1		1 <sup>3</sup>	5		41,7
	Other/Unspecified										
	TOTAL	2	2	3	1	2	1	1	12		100
Spouse/Partner	Borners										
	10(1)(b)		1						1		9,1
	Contract										
	Illegal	2	1	3	1	2	1		10		90,9
	Other/Unspecified										
	TOTAL	2	2	3	1	2	1		11		100
% Married (who are living together)		100	50	100	100	100	100	0		90,9 <sup>4</sup>	

1. See Tables 1 to 7 for categories of Previous Accommodation.

2. 6 structures containing 12 families. The families are analysed separately as their histories are different.

3. Single H/H in double family structure.

4. Percentage of couples (i.e. of 11, not 12)

TABLE 9A ANALYSIS OF ALL HOUSEHOLD CATEGORIES.

136 families 121 structures	Previous Accommodation Category <sup>1</sup>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	To- tal	Aver- age	%
Number of Households		39	7	34	16	15	7	6	12	136		
% of Households		29	5	25	12	11	5	4	9	100		
Average Length in Unibell (months)		13,6	13,9	13,6	14,2	16,9	20,0	17,7	8,9		14,1	
Average Length of H/H <sup>3</sup> in C.T. (years)		15,6	12,4	13,6	19,3	1,4	13,3	6,6	8,0		12,6	
Average Length of Family <sup>4</sup> in C.T. (years)		8,6	10,6	1,1	9,8	1,3	1,5	-	3,4		5,2 <sup>2</sup>	
% Male Heads of Household		97,4	71,4	100	100	93,3	100	33,3	91,7		93,4	
<u>Legal Status</u>												
Head of Household:	Borners	1								1		0,7
	10(1)(b)	12	1	8	7	3	2		1	34		25,0
	Contract	7	1	19	2	7	2	1	6	45		33,1
	Illegal	19	5	7	7	5	3	5	5	56		41,2
	Other/Unspecified											
	TOTAL	39	7	34	16	15	7	6	12	136		100
Spouse/Partner	Borners	4					1		1	6		4,7
	10(1)(b)	2	1			3				6		4,7
	Contract											
	Illegal	33	6	32	16	12	6		10	115		89,1
	Other/Unspecified			2						2		1,6
	TOTAL	39	7	34	16	15	7	-	11	129		100,1
% Married (who are living together)		92,3	100	100	100	93,3	57,1	-	90,9		91,5	

1. Previous Accommodation Categories:

1. Together in other squatter camp,
3. H/H in C.T., family outside C.T.,
5. H/H and family outside C.T.,
7. Single person H/H,

2. H/H and family separated in C.T.,
4. H/H and family together in C.T.,
6. H/H squatting, family outside C.T.,
8. Two families per structure with mixed previous accommodation.

2. Note: There are 7 single H/H. The average length of family in C.T. therefore applies to the 129 families

3. H/H - Head of Household.

4. Family - Spouse/Partner and children (if any).

TABLE 9B ANALYSIS OF ALL HOUSEHOLD CATEGORIES (WITH SINGLE PERSON HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND TWO FAMILIES PER STRUCTURE PLACED IN PREVIOUS ACCOMMODATION CATEGORIES).

136 families 121 structures	Previous Accommodation Category <sup>1</sup>	1	2	3	4	5	6	To- tal	Aver- age	%
No. of Households		42	9	37	20	20	8	136		
% of Households		30,9	6,6	27,2	14,7	14,7	5,9	100		
Average Length in Unibell (months)		13,6	13,4	12,6	15,4	15	19,6		14,1	
Average Length of H/H <sup>6</sup> in C.T. (years)		15,1	10,4	13,3	17,8 <sup>3</sup>	1,2	14,1		12,6	
Average Length of Family <sup>7</sup> in C.T. (years)		8,4 <sup>2</sup>	11,1	1,0	9,4 <sup>3</sup>	1,3	1,5		5,2	
% Male Heads of Household		95,2	77,8	100	90	85	100	127	93,4	
<u>Legal Status</u>										
Head of Household:	Borners	1						1		0,7
	10(1) (b)	12	1	9	7	3	2	34		25,0
	Contract	8	2	20	4	8	3	45		33,1
	Illegal	21	6	8	9	9	3	56		41,2
	Other/Unspecified									
	TOTAL	42	9	37	20	20	8	136		100
Spouse/Partner	Borners	4	1				1	6		4,7
	10(1) (b)	2	1			3		6		4,7
	Contract									
	Illegal	35	7	35	17	14	7	115		89,1
	Other/Unspecified			2				2		1,6
	TOTAL	41	9	37	17	17	8	129		100,1
% Married (who are living together)		92,7 <sup>2</sup>	55,6	100	100 <sup>3</sup>	94,1 <sup>4</sup>	62,5	118		91,5 <sup>5</sup>

1. Previous Accommodation Categories:

- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Together in other squatter camp,  | 2. H/H and family separated in C.T.,  |
| 3. H/H in C.T., family outside C.T., | 4. H/H and family together in C.T.,   |
| 5. H/H and family outside C.T.,      | 6. H/H squatting, family outside C.T. |

Single person H/Hs have been placed in categories 1, 4 and 5.

- Average/Percentage of 41 families.
- Average/Percentage of 17 families.
- Average /Percentage of 17 families.
- Percentage of 129 couples.  
There are 7 single Heads of Households.
- H/H - Head of Household.
- Family - Spouse/Partner and children (if any).

TABLE 10 STRUCTURE OCCUPANTS

Previous Accommodation Category <sup>1</sup>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Average
No. of Structures	37	7	27	16	15	7	6	6	121	
Av. No. of Male Adults Per Structure	1,8	2,0	1,6	1,6	1,2	1,3	0,7	2,3		1,6
Av. No. of Female Adults Per Structure	1,6	1,1	1,4	1,3	1,2	1,6	1,5	2,7		1,5
No. of Males per Female	1,1	1,75	1,1	1,2	1	0,8	0,4	0,9		1,07
Av. No. of Males < 18 Per Structure	0,8	0,9	0,7	1,3	1,1	1	0,3	1,5		0,9
Av. No. of Females < 18 Per Structure	1,2	0,3	0,9	1,4	0,9	1	0,8	2		1,1
Av. Total Number of Occupants Per Structure	5,4	4,3	4,6	5,6	4,4	4,9	3,3	8,5		5,1
No. of Males Per Female	0,9	2	0,97	1,07	1,06	0,9	0,43	0,82		0,97
Av. No. of Males < 18 Elsewhere	0,8	0,9	0,5	1	0,5	1,1	1	1,2		0,8
Av. No. of Females < 18 Elsewhere (Per Structure)	0,8	1,4	0,4	1	0,2	1,1	0,5	1,8		0,8
Total No. of Dependants Elsewhere (<18)	62	16	25	32	11	16	9	18		
No. of Households Per Structure	1,1	1,0	1,3	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	2,0		1,1

1. Previous Accommodation Categories:

1. Together in other squatter camp,
3. H/H in C.T., family outside C.T.,
5. H/H and family outside C.T.,
7. Single person H/H,

2. H/H and family separated in C.T.,
4. H/H and family together in C.T.,
6. H/H squatting, family outside C.T.,
8. Two families per structure with mixed previous accommodation.



TABLE 11 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN CAPE TOWN.

Length of Residence	0-1 year	-2 years	-4 years	-8 years	-16 years	longer than 16 years	Total
Heads of Households %	15 11,0	8 5,9	10 7,4	20 14,7	38 27,9	45 33,1	136 100%
Spouses/Partners %	47 36,43	23 17,83	19 14,73	16 12,40	13 10,08	11 8,53	129 <sup>1</sup> 100%
Total %	62 23,4	31 11,7	29 10,94	36 13,58	51 19,25	56 21,13	265 100%

<sup>1</sup> Note: 7 H/H are single

TABLE 12 EMPLOYMENT

Previous Accommodation Category <sup>1</sup>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total	Average
No. of Structures	37	7	27	16	15	7	6	6	121	
No. Working 5 Days or more per week	53	9	36	22	16	7	1	13	157	
% Working 5 Days or more per week	54,6	42,9	58,1	53,7	57,1	43,8	7,7	48,1		51,5%
No Working 4 Days or Less per week	5	3	2	0	3	2	2	3	20	
% Working 4 Days or Less per week	5,2	14,3	3,2	0	10,7	12,5	15,4	11,1		6,6%
No. Unemployed but Looking for work	39	9	24	19	9	7	10	11	128	
% Unemployed but Looking for work	40,2	42,9	38,7	46,3	32,1	43,8	76,7	40,7		42,0%
Labour Force	97	21	62	41	28	16	13	27	305	100 %
Participation Rate	0,8	1	0,78	0,89	0,78	0,89	1	0,9		0,83
No Working per Structure	1,5	1,7	1,4	1,4	1,3	1,3	0,5	2,7		1,5

## Previous Accommodation Categories:

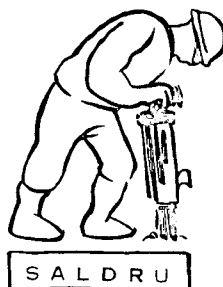
1. Together in other squatter camp,
2. H/H and family separated in C.T.,
3. H/H in C.T., family outside C.T.;
4. H/H and family together in C.T.,
5. H/H and family outside C.T.
6. H/H squatting, family outside C.T.
7. Single person H/H,
8. Two families per structure with mixed previous accommodation.

# SOUTHERN AFRICA LABOUR & DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH UNIT

To anybody interested in what is happening in Southern Africa at the present time, it is clear that an understanding of changes taking place in the field of labour is crucial. The whole debate about the political implications of economic growth, for example, revolves very largely around different assessments of the role of black workers in the mines and factories of the Republic. Many of the questions with which people involved in Southern Africa are now concerned relate, in one way or another, to the field generally set aside for labour economists to cultivate. The impact of trade unions; the causes of unemployment; the economic consequences of different educational policies; the determination of wage structures; the economics of discrimination; all these and more are matters with which labour economists have been wrestling over the years in various parts of the world.

At the same time there are many who would argue that these issues are far wider than can be contained within the narrow context of 'labour economics'. These issues, it is pointed out, go to the heart of the whole nature of development. In recent studies, commissioned by the International Labour Office, of development problems in Columbia, Sri Lanka, and Kenya, for example, leading scholars have identified the three crucial issues facing these countries as being poverty, unemployment, and the distribution of income. Thus the distinction between labour and development studies is becoming more blurred as economists come face to face with problems of real life in the Third World.

It is here too that an increasing number of people are coming to see that study of the political economy of South Africa must not be done on the assumption that the problems there are absolutely different from those facing other parts of the world. Indeed it can be argued that far from being an isolated, special case, South Africa is a model of the whole world containing within it all the divisions and tensions (black/white; rich/poor; migrant/nonmigrant; capitalist west/third-world; etc.) that may be seen in global perspective. Be that as it may, the fact remains that the economy of Southern Africa (for the political and economic boundaries are singularly out of line with each other) is one of the most fascinating in the world. It is one on which far more research work needs to be done, and about which further understanding of the forces at work is urgently required. It is in order to attempt to contribute to such an understanding that Saldru is issuing these working papers.



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