



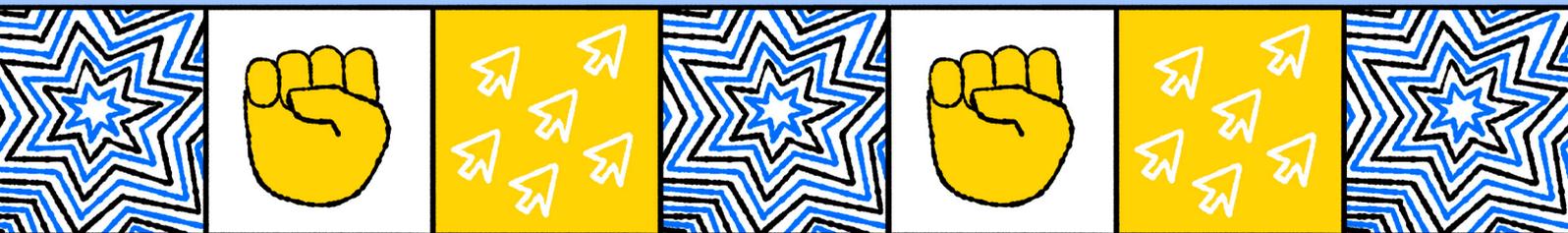
📶 RAPID
▶ RESPONSE
+ FUND
↗ for the Protection of Digital
Rights in Latin America

2021 Milestones

Presentation

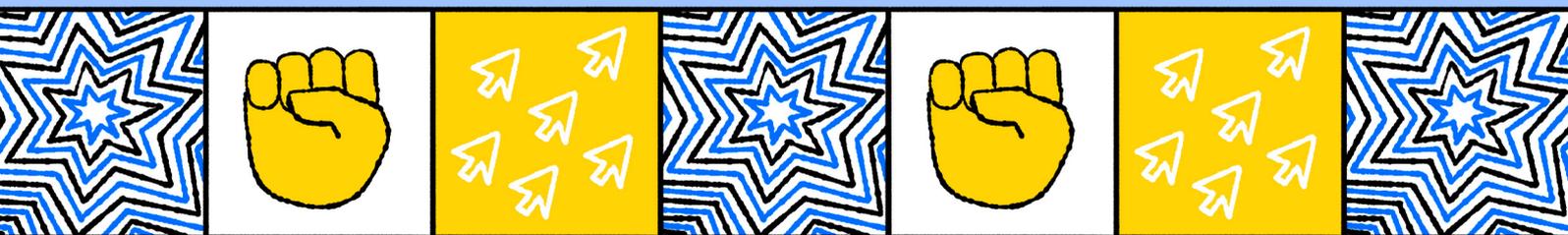
The Rapid Response Fund for the Protection of Digital Rights in Latin America (RRF) arises with the objective of responding in an agile manner to the requirements of Latin American activists, social movements and civil society organizations working at the intersection between human rights and technologies, especially in situations of extreme urgency that cannot be effectively addressed by the regular cycle of project funding.

The last few years have seen great political and social unrest in Latin America, but also great polarization and instability. The struggles for vindication of different causes and for greater social justice have been correlated to an authoritarian reaction in different countries of the region. At the same time, the techno-optimistic impetus of some governments during the pandemic has jeopardized access to economic and social rights, such as education, health and social protection. In a context in which technologies are increasingly central to the exercise and defense of fundamental rights, the RRF is an enabling support for their development.



The RRF is directed to both civil society organizations and activists without formal affiliation, working on digital rights issues in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Through the allocation of amounts ranging from US\$5,000 to US\$8,000, the RRF supports various types of efforts in favor of the development of a free and open digital ecosystem in the region, including applied research, public campaigns and outreach activities, strategic litigation and urgent digital security actions.

In addition to addressing urgent demands, the RRF seeks to include new voices in the discussions on digital rights in the region. To this end, it prioritizes actions led by groups that have had few opportunities to participate in technology policy debates in Latin America or that are negatively impacted by actions of control, surveillance and exclusion, such as women, LGBTQIA+ people, indigenous and Afro-American communities, rural populations and people with disabilities.





The RRF is managed by Derechos Digitales, a Latin American non-profit organization that has been working for the development, defense and promotion of human rights in the digital environment since 2005. The RRF became operational in July 2019 and has resources provided by the Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations and Derechos Digitales. To date, the Fund has supported the implementation of 56 projects in 15 Latin American countries.

Have questions about the RRF?

For a more detailed explanation of how the Fund works, please visit our FAQ section by clicking [here](#). If you need more information, please contact us at frr@derechosdigitales.org.



The Rapid Response Fund in 2021:

More projects, more thematic diversity and increased funding.

The Rapid Response Fund has been built with contributions from the Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations and Derechos Digitales. And since 2019 it hasn't stopped growing.



Since its beginning, the RRF:

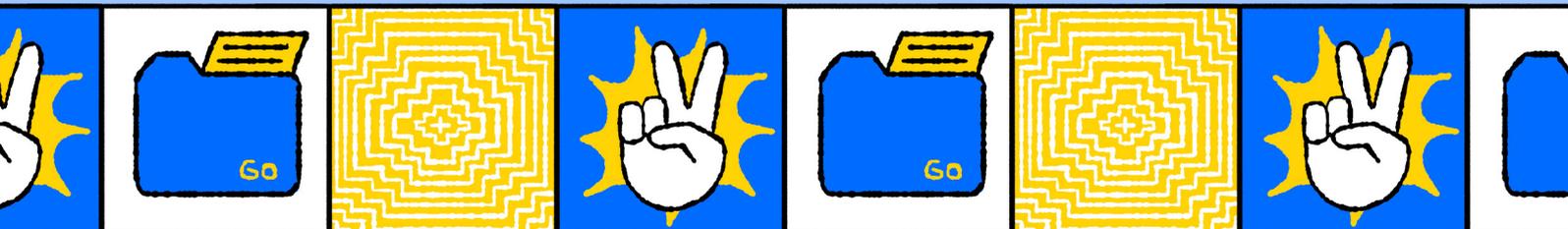
- Has supported the implementation of 56 projects.
- In 15 Latin American countries.
- Contributing an amount of around \$400.000 USD.
- 176 organizations and independent activists have registered to present projects to the Fund.
- Has received more than 200 applications for funding.



The support is not only financial.

An addition to strengthening the ecosystem of digital rights protection in Latin America through monetary contributions to the realization of various activities, the RRF generates new networks and forms of collaboration. Through the RRF, Derechos Digitales offers administrative, communicational and technical support, when required by the participants, and makes its vision, knowledge and experience in issues related to human rights and technologies available for the development of approved projects.

During 2021, participants of the Fund were able to receive digital security training conducted by Derechos Digitales in partnership with the Digital Defenders Partnership and offered within the framework of the RRF initiatives. In addition, they had access to relevant information and materials and were invited to participate in events of their potential interest.



RRF 2019- 2021

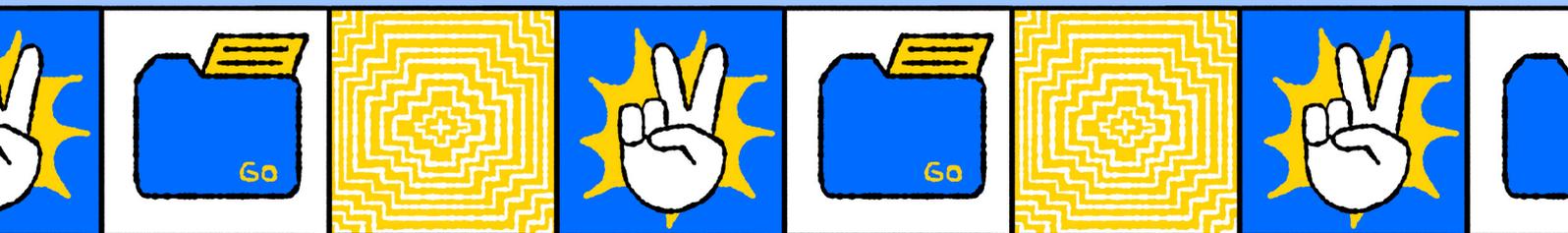
Number of projects approved by country



Project selection and resource allocation: a careful and transparent process

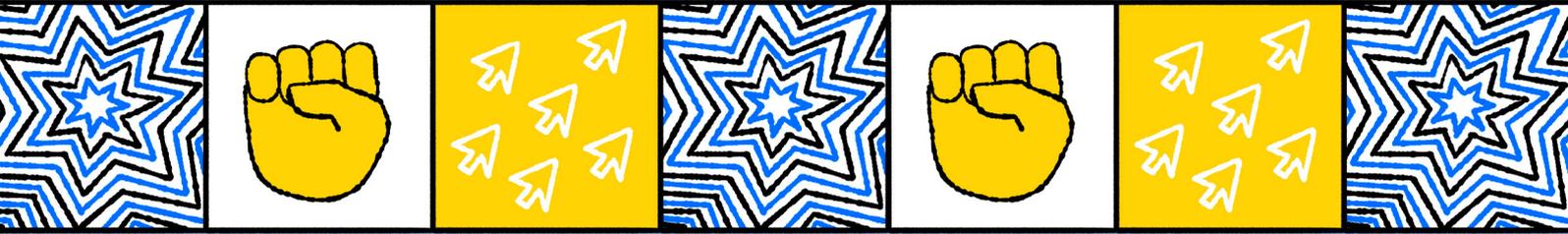
The RRF is funded by the Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations and Derechos Digitales. The decision to allocate funds is made by a Selection Committee, composed of recognized experts in the region on issues of human rights and technology.

The criteria considered in the evaluation include the urgency of the proposal, its relation with digital rights issues, the experience of the organization or person applying, and the feasibility of the proposal to be effective.



In 2021, the Committee was composed of:

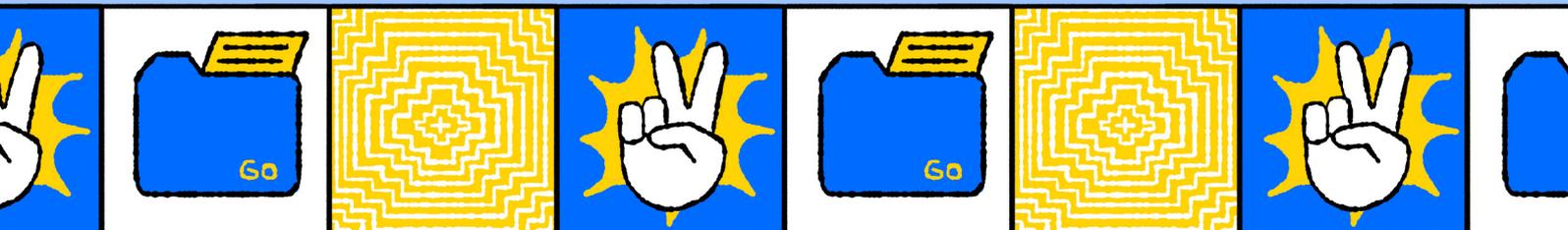
- **Alberto Cerda Silva**, Program Officer in Technology and Society in Ford Foundation.
- **Débora Calderón**, Regional Advocacy Coordinator at Derechos Digitales.
- **Fernanda Bruno**, founding member of the Latin American Network of Surveillance, Technology and Society Studies (LAVITS); Professor of the Postgraduate Program in Communication and Culture of the Institute of Psychology of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ).
- **Florencia Goldsman**, member of the International Network of Journalists with Gender Vision (RIPVG), of the editorial collective Pikara Magazine and of Ciberfeministas Guatemala.
- **Loreto Bravo**, freelance consultant on digital protection and support in the field of Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Paola Ricaurte**, Co-founder of Tierra Común; Professor at Tecnológico de Monterrey and Research Associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society.
- **Valeria Betancourt**, Director of the Information and Communication Polices Program of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC).



⚡ We build the RRF together. Join us and let's ⚡
⚡ defend digital rights in Latin America. ⚡

The RRF is a pioneering initiative in our region, working in the increasingly relevant field of the intersection between technology and human rights, and has proven to have a significant and lasting impact.

With your contribution, we can do much more. Write us at frr@derechosdigitales.org and let's talk about how we can collaborate.



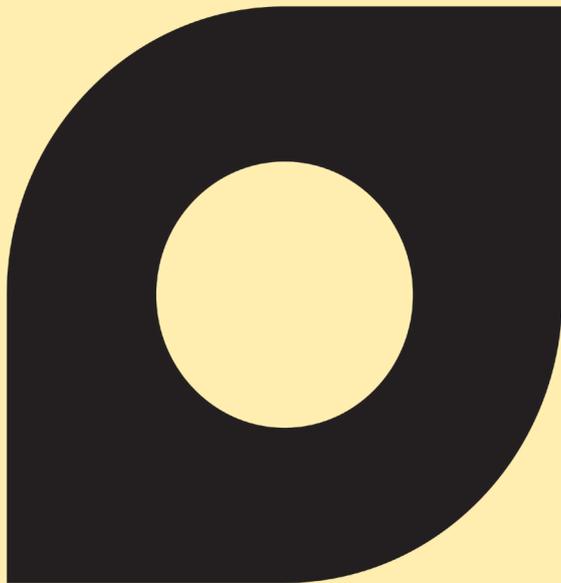
RRF 2021: Highlighted initiatives

Strategic litigation over the implementation of the facial recognition system for fugitives in the City of Buenos Aires

Organization: Observatorio de Derecho Informático Argentino (ODIA)
Web: <https://odia.legal/>
Twitter: @odiaasoc
Type of action: Litigio estratégico
Country: Argentina

With the support of the RRF and through the creation of an international network, ODIA is judicially contesting the Facial Recognition System to detect Fugitives implemented in the City of Buenos Aires. The case is still pending and represents a major opportunity to set a precedent in the region, where this type of technology has become increasingly ubiquitous. In addition, Derechos Digitales supported the legal action by filing an **amicus curiae**, brief, arguing that the implementation of facial recognition system violates fundamental rights of individuals.

More information [here](#).



O.D.I.A.

OBSERVATORIO DE DERECHO
INFORMÁTICO ARGENTINO

¡No lo dejemos pasar! Rights violations against environmental human rights defenders in cyberspace



Organization: Defensoría Ambiental
Web: <https://www.defensoriaambiental.org/>
Type of action: Investigación e incidencia
Country: Chile

The **project carried out by the Defensoría Ambiental** arises in a context of great polarization and violence against environmental activists in Chile. The research aimed to better understand the forms of violence that are exercised through the Internet and their impacts. Based on the results, an advocacy campaign was developed in a joint effort with public and private entities and civil society organizations, with guidelines for the creation of mechanisms for the protection and the prevention and remedy of abuses against environmental defenders.

More information [here](#).



Covid 19 – Digital gender-based violence in Brazil during the pandemic

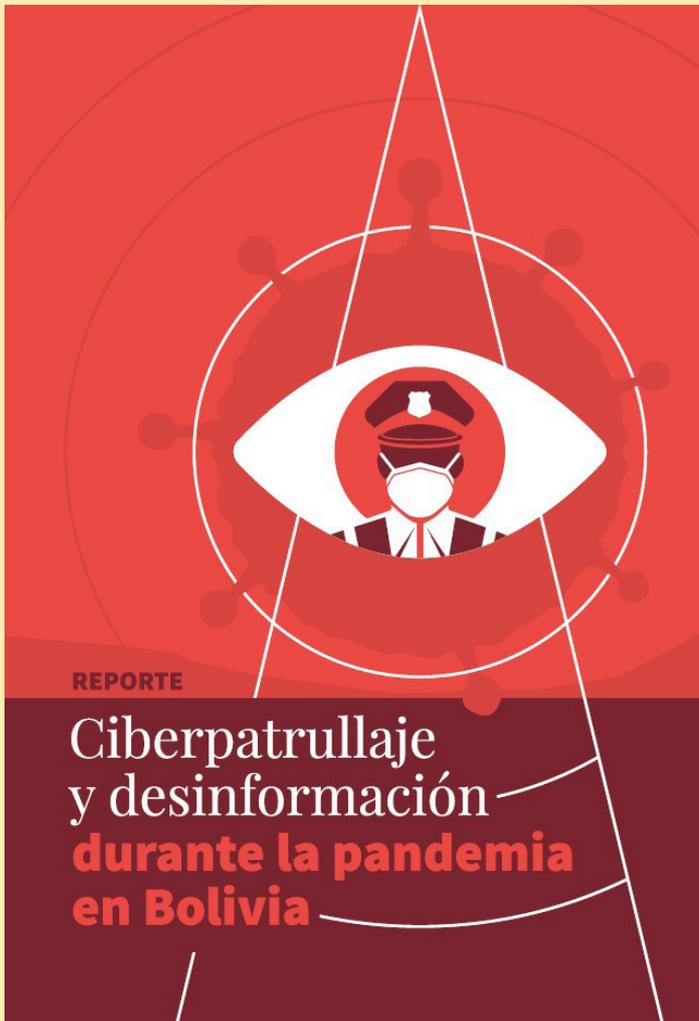


Organization: Coletiva Periféricas
Web: <https://perifericas.netlify.app/>
Type of action: Investigación
Country: Brasil

Coletiva Periféricas from Salvador and the Research Group on Gender, Digital Technologies and Culture (**Gig@**) from Bahia Federal University conducted this research based on the experiences of several feminist women in Brazil, under an intersectional perspective that considers race, age, residence and gender identity. As a result, **a report** was published that includes a characterization of the types of violence suffered by women on the Internet, a mapping and a series of recommendations.

More information [here](#).

Cyberpatrolling and disinformation during the pandemic in Bolivia



Organization: Internet Bolivia
Web: <https://internetbolivia.org/>
Twitter: @InternetBo_org
Instagram: @internetbolivia
Type of action: Investigación
Country: Bolivia

The purpose of this **research** was to document and analyze the use of cyberpatrolling and similar techniques, implemented in the context of the pandemic and political crisis experienced in Bolivia in 2020, which resulted in the arrest and, subsequently, the filing of criminal charges against 68 people. The initiative has drawn attention to the violation of human rights in the digital context in the country and shows the worrying advance of the use of cyberpatrolling techniques in the region.

More information **here**.

Ciberseguras Festival



Organization: Laboratorio Sapiens
Instagram: @laboratoriosapiens
Type of action: Campaña y capacitación
Country: Guatemala

The Ciber Seguras Festival was held in October 2021 and its purpose was the dissemination of tools for the protection and report of online gender-based violence. Through **workshops** for university students, instances for the exchange of experiences and **talks**, participants were made aware of this problem and how to deal with it. In addition, an information **campaign** was created with guidelines for the adoption of strategies to mitigate risks.

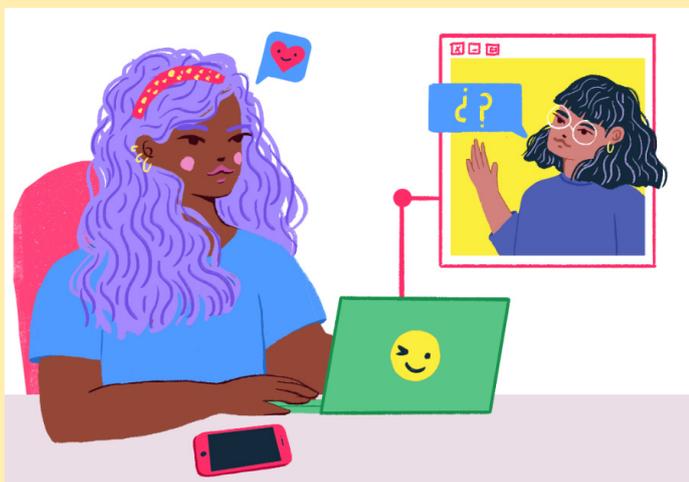
More information [here](#).



A study on the impact of digital violence against adolescent girls in Mexico



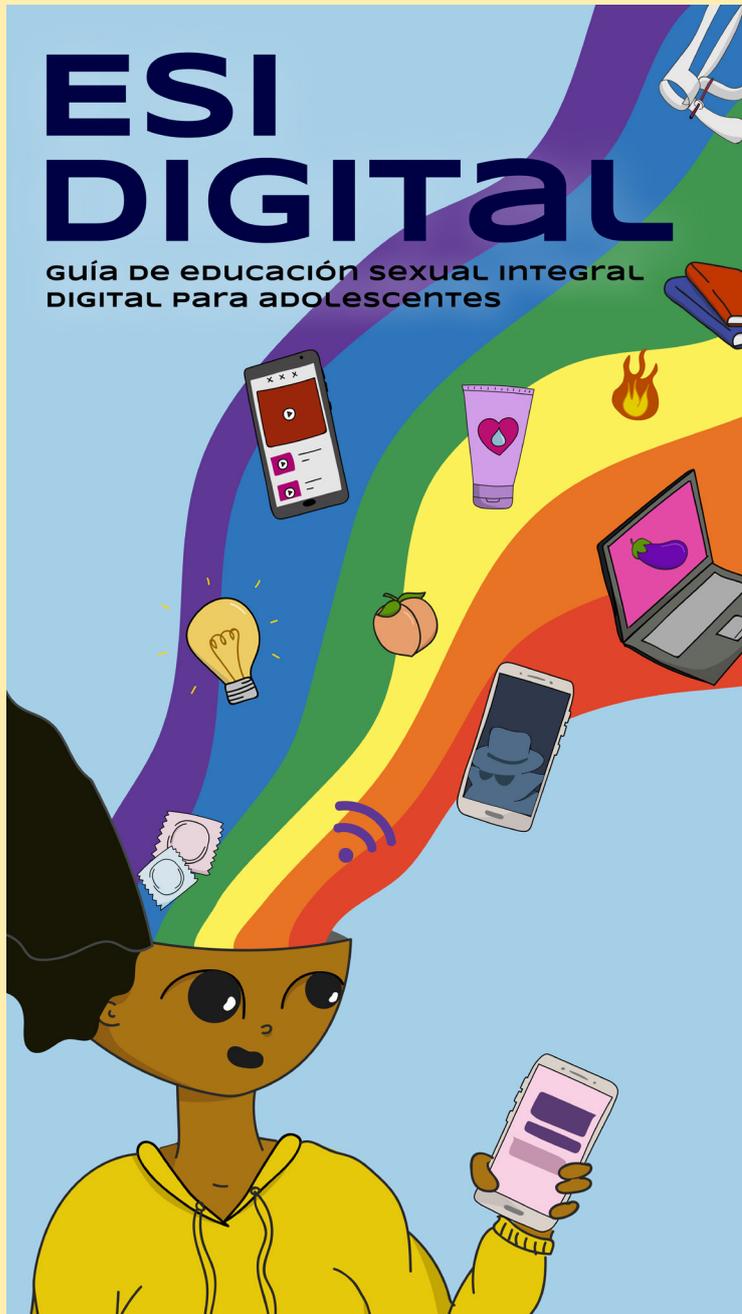
Organization: Chidas en línea
Web: <https://chidasenlinea.org/>
Type of action: Investigación
Country: México



The research conducted by Chidas en Línea documents cases of online violence against young Mexican women between the ages of 12 and 17. By actively listening to their experiences, they sought to characterize the phenomenon in order to understand who the main aggressors are, what are the consequences of this form of violence and what measures have been adopted to overcome the aggressions. In addition to the analysis of the cases, **the final report** incorporates a series of recommended measures for the care, prevention and accompaniment of victims.

More information [here](#).

Adolescent Digital Resilience



Organization: Coletiva Periféricas
Web: <https://jaaklac.org/es/>
Twitter: @jaaklac
Type of action: Capacitación
Country: Uruguay

Through the creation of a **guide and dissemination campaign** aimed at adolescents, the project sought to promote comprehensive sexual education that takes into account the role played by digital technologies today, with the aim of minimizing online sexual risks. The guide covers topics such as sexual and reproductive rights, digital education, Internet risks in adolescence and digital safety strategies. In addition, a series of workshops - in-person, off-site and hybrid - were held to promote the exchange and development of competencies.

More information **here**.

Know your rights



Organización: Ipandetec
Web: <https://www.ipandetec.org/>
Twitter: @ipandetec
Tipo de acción: Campaña
País: Panamá

The project “Conoce tus derechos” (Know your rights) is especially aimed at LGBTQIA+ people and their allies, and its main objective was to provide information on the right to protest -both in physical spaces and online- and the guarantees that protect it. In addition to **offering useful digital security tools**, the campaign sought to better prepare people in the event of a possible violation of their fundamental rights.

More information **here**.





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Designed by: Catalina Viera
April 2022.

