



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Deadline: 21st August 2009

Contributions to a *Participatory Learning and Action (PLA)* Issue on Community-Led Total Sanitation in Africa

A joint initiative of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK and Plan International, Kenya.

PLA Notes

Participatory Learning and Action is an informal journal on participation that reaches approximately 10,000 readers in 121 countries worldwide. Hard copies of the journal are sent out free of charge to readers in the South and most of the readership is Southern-based. The journal is published three times a year by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). <http://www.planotes.org/>

Background

Currently, CLTS, which has its origins in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), is probably the fastest growing and most promising approach to rural sanitation. Pioneered by Kamal Kar together with WaterAid and its local partner VERC in Bangladesh in 2000, CLTS has since spread rapidly and is now in over 20 countries in Asia, Africa, and parts of Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific. It has become very popular among international NGOs and other development agencies.

In Africa, CLTS is still relatively new but since its introduction in Africa in February 2007, international NGOs such as Plan International, Water Aid, World Vision and SNV and UN agencies such as UNICEF have adopted CLTS as their method of choice in rural sanitation programmes and good progress has been made in a number of countries. There are many calls for taking CLTS to scale with attendant efforts made by governments and large institutions such as UNICEF. There is also increased interest by training and research institutions to undertake action research to assess and learn from the experiences in terms of what is working or not and the factors that affect success with the view of developing CLTS as a strategy to bring about sustainable transformation in sanitation and development.

A PLA on CLTS in Africa

Currently there is dearth of literature on CLTS experiences in Africa and this edition of PLA will seek to contribute to the body of knowledge that exists elsewhere. Repeatedly, (better) documentation of practice has emerged as a key issue identified by practitioners and others involved in CLTS, for example at two workshops on CLTS in Africa- one at AfricaSan in Durban in February 2008, the other a workshop jointly hosted by Plan Kenya and IDS in Mombasa in March 2009. The underlying aim of documentation and thus of this issue of PLA would be to share experiences, ensuring that lessons are learned, and to continuously improve practice and policy around CLTS.

The process leading to the publication of PLA Notes on CLTS in Africa will also address another critical issue that has arisen at workshops and conferences on CLTS, namely that of reflection and critical engagement with the questions, issues and challenges that CLST practice throws up.

Despite the publication having a focus on Africa, it will have relevance and bear benefits for the development and practice of CLTS in other regions.

Objectives

The proposed PLA edition on CLTS in Africa will provide an opportunity, for practitioners of CLTS in Africa, to reflect, document and share experiences gained from implementing CLTS in different contexts. In particular, the edition will capture and share experiences, insights and lessons with development practitioners, researchers as well as policy makers and stimulate debate thus influencing approaches and support to sanitation initiatives.

The Process

Following the selection of around 12 potential contributions to the issue of PLA Notes on CLTS in Africa, the authors will work on a first draft of their article. Feedback and advice will be given by the two guest editors, Samuel Musyoki (Plan Kenya) and Petra Bongartz (IDS), as well as other resource persons where appropriate. The process will entail a writeshop in Kenya in autumn 2009 (November/December) and culminate in the publication of the PLA Notes in June 2010. The publication will be disseminated to a wide network of participatory development organizations and practitioners around the globe.

The Articles

We are seeking submissions from those working with CLTS (practitioners from NGOs and agencies, governments, Natural Leaders) who would like to contribute an article to the forthcoming issue of PLA Notes. Proposed contributions should capture practical experiences of practitioners in CLTS: processes they have been engaged in, achievements, lessons, innovations, challenges, ways forward. Each article will be around 2500 words long.

Next Steps

Please send a one-page summary (500 words or less) outlining the focus and content of your proposed chapter to P.Bongartz@ids.ac.uk by the **21st August 2009**.

The note should address the following questions:

- What CLTS experience do you want to document (focus/theme of your article)?
- Why is this important and to whom (major audiences)?
- What will be the key message (key content) of your article?

Petra Bongartz
Coordination, Communication &
Networking Officer: CLTS
Institute of Development Studies
United Kingdom
www.communityledtotalsanitation.org

Samuel M. Musyoki
Strategic Director of Programmes
Plan International
Kenya Country Office