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Editorial

Welcome to issue 61 of *Participatory Learning and Action*!

After the crisis in the financial sector which rocked the world, we are all now having to start paying the price for the bankers' excessive risk taking. Here in the UK, the Department for International Development (DfID) has pledged to maintain, and even increase the International Aid budget. However, this decision will come under severe pressure and scrutiny in the months and years ahead, as the spending cuts elsewhere start to bite. In the current economic climate, finding approaches that are both effective and cost-effective is imperative. Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), the subject of this theme issue, offers much promise in this regard.

Unlike most approaches to sanitation, CLTS does not offer subsidies for communities to build latrines. Instead, it uses participatory rural appraisal (PRA) tools to help communities recognise the health problems associated with defecating in the open – rather than in latrines – and

mobilise them to take collective action to stop open defecation. An important part of the approach is to encourage people to look at, talk about and deal with their **shit** – no polite words or euphemisms here! CLTS also offers the potential to be an entry point for work with communities – 'triggered' communities have gone on to undertake other collective activities as they worked to become open defecation free.

After its successful introduction in Asia, CLTS is now being piloted in some countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This themed issue analyses experiences from these pilots, drawing out what seems to be working, where the challenges are, and how the approach needs to be adapted for this new context.

Structure of the special issue

The special issue is divided into five sections:

- It begins with an **overview** of CLTS: how it developed; how it differs from other sanitation approaches, its key elements and conditions for success, and emerging issues



PLA co-editor Angela Milligan and author Mariama Zombo in discussion during the CLTS writeshop.



Author Cathy Shutt presenting her article to participants at the CLTS writeshop.

Photos: David Ngige

and questions in Africa and elsewhere. There follows a review of CLTS in Africa, drawing out lessons for successful CLTS in Africa and identifying challenges when scaling up.

- **Part I** looks at community-level processes in CLTS in more detail, from innovative forms of triggering, to the importance of language, building on an understanding of local taboos, and the potential of CLTS to empower children and youth.

- **Part II** considers some of the management and organisational changes needed for CLTS to be effective. Many of these lessons also apply to other participatory development approaches.

- **Part III** looks at the opportunities, challenges and lessons for taking CLTS to scale, based on experiences so far in Africa.

- **Part IV** focuses on training, with a piece on training of CLTS facilitators and an extract on triggering from the *Handbook on Community-Led Total Sanitation* (Kar with Chambers, 2008). It also includes a piece on running a writeshop, drawing on the experience of the writeshop we ran for this CLTS issue.

Guest editors

Our guest editors for this issue are **Samuel Musembi Musyoki** from Plan Kenya and **Petra Bongartz** from the Institute of Development of Studies (IDS), UK, with **Angela Milligan** from IIED.

Samuel Musembi Musyoki is currently Director of Programmes for Plan International Kenya. He has a background in

Anthropology and Development Studies (Politics of Alternative Development Strategies) and over 18 years' work experience as a trainer and facilitator of participatory development processes. Over the years he has acquired specialised skills in strategic planning, organisational development, participatory communication, gender and development, human rights-based approaches to development, and participatory approaches to development research and advocacy. During his career, he has been involved in the work of bilateral aid agencies, international and national NGOs and grassroots-based organisations in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Somalia, Nigeria, India and Europe (UK, Finland and Germany). Prior to joining Plan International Kenya, he was the Networking and Capacity Building Coordinator for the Participation Power and Social Change Team at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, UK. His current programmatic passions are Community-Led Total Sanitation and Human Rights Based Approaches to Development.

Petra Bongartz is the Coordination, Communication and Networking Officer for Community-Led Total Sanitation at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). Her background is in English Literature with an MA from the University of Sussex, but she has been working in international development for almost ten years. Prior to coming to IDS, Petra was working at the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. She has been involved in CLTS since 2006, initially

Photos: David Ngige



Guest editor Samuel Musembi Musyoki presents the workshop schedule to participants on Day 1 of the CLTS writeshop, Nairobi, January 2010.

in the three-year DfID funded research, action learning and networking project 'Going to Scale? The Potential of Community-Led Total Sanitation' and since 2009 in ongoing networking and action learning activities funded first by Irish Aid and then the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, together with Robert Chambers and Kamal Kar. Her work involves communication with the global network of CLTS practitioners, running the CLTS website, as well as organising and co-facilitating CLTS Sharing and Learning workshops. Her other work and interests are in the fields of dance, yoga, shamanism, and spiritual practices and communities linked to positive action for a more socially just, environmentally sustainable and spiritually fulfilling world for all.

PLA co-editor **Angela Milligan** worked closely with the guest editors and authors

to coordinate and develop this special issue. Angela attended the CLTS writeshop and provided valuable input as a non-CLTS specialist editor, resource person and co-facilitator.

How this issue came about

The CLTS in Africa issue was initiated over a year ago, following discussions with Petra Bongartz and Robert Chambers from IDS and Samuel Musembi Musyoki from Plan Kenya. Petra and Samuel submitted a concept note which set out why an issue was needed, what it would cover, and the process to be followed, which included a writeshop to bring together CLTS practitioners. Following agreement with the *PLA* co-editors and editorial board, they then circulated a call for contributors to a pre-selected list of CLTS practitioners, and asked them to submit 500-word abstracts. The final contributors were chosen on the basis of these abstracts. Authors were asked to submit at least a first draft of their article before the writeshop, and these were circulated to the other participants beforehand. Articles were revised during the writeshop, and refined further following feedback from the *PLA* editorial board. The writeshop process is described in more detail in 'Let's write! Running a participatory writeshop', this issue.

The articles in this issue bear testimony to the importance of practitioners taking time and making space to reflect on their own practice and experiences with CLTS. Sharing and reflecting on emerging issues, challenges and innovations in CLTS in Africa in this way will ensure that this knowledge is not lost and that practitioners in Africa and elsewhere will benefit from the lessons learnt so far.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our inspirational guest editors for their vast knowledge of CLTS, and the huge amount of time and effort they put into the making of this issue. Many thanks also to Robert Chambers for



Photo: Petra Bongartz

The ignition moment: villagers raise their hands to end open defecation during a CLTS triggering in Kabengele village, Chisamba district, Zambia.

joining us at the CLTS workshop and sharing his writing (and other!) experiences. We would also like to thank Plan International Kenya and IDS for organising and hosting the writeshop, Grace Ogolla for her very efficient administrative support, and David Ngige for his documentary skills. Most of all, we are eternally grateful to our authors who dealt with numerous rounds of revisions with great patience and endurance. We think the final result makes it all worthwhile, and hope they agree! It was a pleasure to meet and work with the authors at the CLTS writeshop.

Thanks also go to our editorial board reviewers, who always keep us on our toes, and to Plan USA, Plan UK, Plan East and Southern Africa Region and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for financial support, enabling the writeshop participants and the editorial team to travel to and attend the writeshop. Thanks also to Irish Aid, who supported Petra and Robert's time at the writeshop, and to DfID and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) who supported Angela's time.

The rest of the issue

In Touch

The In Touch section of this issue is divided into two sections. The first section contains a variety of books, papers, and web-based resources on Community-Led Total Sanitation and related issues. The second section includes resources on other participatory themes.

RCPLA

Find out the latest news from partners and colleagues from the Resource Centres for Participatory Learning and Action Network.

Other news

Back issues now free online

In 2009, the *PLA* co-editors decided to make *PLA* free online as soon as each issue is published. The response has been fantastic.

Issue 59 *Change at hand: Web 2.0 for development* has had over 4000 articles downloaded on the IngentaConnect website, and more than 1800 full issues

downloaded from the IIED website since it was published in July 2009. Since publication in December 2009, *PLA 60 Community-based adaptation to climate change* has been downloaded more than 5300 times, making it the most downloaded resource from the IIED website this year so far!

Free online access is clearly meeting a need and we are delighted that so many more readers are now able to access the series online. As one reader wrote:

I wanted to let you know that your publication/website has been a wonderful resource for me. I have recommended it highly... please accept my thanks for allowing access to your articles for free.

As always, we will continue to provide free hard copy subscriptions for our readers in the global South (as well as paid hard copy subscriptions to readers from the global North) and we encourage readers to spread the word.

Visit our website to start downloading today! www.planotes.org

Success of PLA 60 Community-based adaptation to climate change

PLA 60 continues to attract much interest, and feedback from readers suggests that it has been an extremely timely and useful resource:

Congratulations on your wonderful new online publication on climate change! Thank you very much for so generously sharing it with the international community.

...judging from feedback I've received, the issue has already been widely read by practitioners in the field.

I have received PLA 60 recently. It is very useful. It has many valuable articles and

information which help to enrich my knowledge and to use in my work.

PLA 60 has also been translated into Arabic (available online), and we hope to identify funding so that we can translate into other languages in the future.¹

Publication of *PLA 59* bilingual CD-ROM and how to get hold of it

We hope that our regular subscribers received a copy of the *PLA 59* DVD Rom which was distributed in June. If you have not received it, or would like to order another copy please contact us or order directly online.²

Editorial board

Regrettably we say farewell to Cath Long, an IIED member of our Strategic Editorial Board. Cath is leaving IIED to set up a new small organisation which will aim to assist local groups working for the recognition and respect of the rights of local communities. She will initially be working closely with groups in the Congo Basin, supporting them as they work with communities that are facing huge challenges to their rights to land and resources. And she will continue to work with groups in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in the Central African Republic, as well as working with an organisation in Liberia that is working with forest communities who want to make use of the rights they have just had recognised under new legislation. Cath will continue to be involved with *PLA* – and remain on our review board. We are also hoping to work together on translating more *PLA* resources into French. We would like to thank Cath for all of her valuable input and to giving us insights into her experience and wish her well in her new venture.

But with this departure comes an arrival – and we would like to welcome Krystyna Swiderska to our Strategic Edito-

¹ See: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=G02730

² See: www.iied.org/pubs/display.php?o=14563FIIED

rial Board. Krystyna is a Senior Researcher with the Natural Resources Group at IIED and her expertise is in traditional resource rights and biodiversity governance.

Since our last issue of *PLA* in December 2009, we announced the news of the death of Ivan Bond, an active and passionate former member of our Strategic Editorial Board, who had recently left IIED to join DfID. Ivan died in February this year and in August there was a tribute to him by one of his project partners – Amazonas Sustainable Foundation – in Brazil. An operational base in the Sustainable Development Reserve on the Rio Negro has been named after him in recognition of his positive energy and commitment. Ivan is sorely missed by his colleagues and friends.

Analysis of contributors to *PLA*

We are in the process of analysing contributors to *PLA*, to see what proportion of contributors are women and come from the 'South'. We will also be looking at the extent to which *PLA* articles reflect an awareness of diversity (gender, age, class, caste, and so on) in participatory work, and how practitioners ensure that this diversity is reflected in decision-making, whether at community or policy level. More on this in our next issue.

Next issue

Our next issue focuses on participatory poverty reduction in China. Participatory approaches are playing a significant role in

China's social transformation. In the past rural citizens in China were seen as passive recipients of target focused top-down programmes, but now official development planning in China emphasises 'people-centered development'. Community participation is seen as an important precondition for improved efficiency and effectiveness of national and international poverty reduction projects. Strengthening of community responsibility and feedback has become a key element of local governance, and participation a key ingredient of the policies to build a 'harmonious society'.

This issue will include translated and edited versions of presentations from a workshop held in March 2009, where practitioners from local governments and community organisations met to share their experiences in promoting and implementing participatory approaches.

We feel that this issue is very timely and we hope it will lead to greater engagement with *PLA* practitioners in China.

Final thoughts ...

Whether you are already working in sanitation, or looking for new ways of working with communities, we hope you find this issue both inspiring and practical. CLTS in Africa is only just beginning. There is much scope for developing CLTS and sharing experiences with other practitioners. Why not write about your own experiences of CLTS? We would love to hear from you.

REFERENCES

- Kar, K. with R. Chambers (2008) *Handbook on Community-Led Total Sanitation*. Plan: UK and Institute of Development Studies (IDS): Brighton, UK. Online: <http://tinyurl.com/CLTShandbook>. Full URL: www.communityledtotalsanitation.org/resource/handbook-community-led-total-sanitation

Glossary of CLTS acronyms, terms and definitions

Calculating shit and medical expenses are two exercises used in triggering. In calculating shit, community members are asked to calculate the amount of shit each family produces per day/week/month/year. The amounts can then be added up to estimate the amount of shit produced by the whole community. Naturally, the question arises: where does all this shit go? The community also calculates how much is spent on medical expenses, e.g. payment for medication, doctors, hospital and traditional healers, as well as associated costs like travel, staying in the city where the hospital may be located, etc. The important thing is not that the figures for shit and medical expenses are accurate. Rather, the exercise aims to illustrate the links between the amount of shit produced and implications for health and livelihoods.

Certification is the official confirmation and recognition of open defecation free (ODF) status.

SIMOONGA VILLAGE		
1	GASKISON SIMOONGA	49 KG OF MAIZE
2	AMOS CHIFWALA	175 KG
3	BOYDAN CHIFWALA	259 KG
4	DARITH MASULANI	14 KG
5	MATSON CHIFWALA	14 KG
6	SALIENT HADORE	14 KG
7	COSTER M. SIMOONGA	35 KG
8	MORBEN CHIFWALA	175 KG
9	ENEST MWEENE	71 KG
10	BRAIN MUSONI	21 KG
11	BOYD MUSONI	385 KG
12	RAHAB HACHAMBA	175 KG
13	EDWIN MALAMBO	175 KG
14	ROBERT MUKWIRA	10 SKG

Shit calculations per week, month and year for households in Simoonga village, Zambia.

Photo: Petra Bongartz

CLTS refers to Community-Led Total Sanitation. This is an integrated approach to achieving and sustaining open defecation free (ODF) status. CLTS entails the facilitation of the community's own analysis of their sanitation profile, their practices of defecation and the consequences, leading to collective action to become ODF. CLTS processes can precede and lead on to, or occur simultaneously with, improvement of

latrine design; the adoption and improvement of hygienic practices; solid waste management; waste water disposal; care; protection and maintenance of drinking water sources; and other environmental measures. In many cases CLTS initiates a series of new collective local development actions by the ODF communities.

Food and shit is an exercise commonly used during triggering to illustrate the contamination of food through flies. It makes clear that no one, even those who have a toilet, is protected against the impact of open defecation on health and that what is needed is an open defecation free community.

Handwashing has also been recognised as a key component of CLTS, a factor that has gained prominence since the approach was first developed. Handwashing after shitting and before handling or eating food is just as important in preventing the spread of communicable diseases as stopping open defecation. If people use a latrine but do not wash their hands, they still eat their own shit and spread bacteria. A handwashing facility can consist of e.g. a water-filled jerry-can with a hole that is plugged with a stick and which is hung upside down outside the latrine. Where water is scarce and soap unavailable, ash can also be used for handwashing.

Ignition moment is the critical moment during triggering when there is a realisation that due to open defecation all are ingesting each others' faeces and that this will continue as long as open defecation goes on. Disgust, shock and embarrassment are written large on the faces of those present. A sign of ignition is that some community members start to come forward and talk about stopping open defecation and how this could be done.



Photo: Petra Bongartz

A natural leader in Ndeke village in Zambia presents the village action plan, a village resource map and a latrine design.

Natural leaders (NLs) (also sometimes known as spontaneous leaders) are activists and enthusiasts who emerge and take the lead during CLTS processes. Men, women, youths and children can all be natural leaders. Some natural leaders become community consultants, and trigger and provide encouragement and support to communities other than their own.

OD means open defecation – defecating in the open and leaving shit exposed.

ODF means open defecation free, that is, when no faeces are openly exposed to the air. A direct pit latrine with no lid is a form of open defecation (fixed point open defecation), but with a fly-proof lid (with or without the use of ash to cover the faeces after defecation) qualifies as ODF. Defecating into a trench and covering the faeces (also known as 'dig and bury' or the 'cat method') can be part of the transition from OD to ODF.

Mapping. Triggering usually starts with mapping, which is one of the main tools for involving all community members in a practical and visual analysis of their sanitation situation. A simple map of the community is drawn, usually on the ground, and all households are asked to locate their homes, indicating whether they have latrines and where they go for



Photo: Petra Bongartz

Villagers in Kabengele village, Chisamba district, Zambia creating a map of their sanitation situation during a CLTS triggering.

defecation. The map can highlight how people are defecating virtually on each other's doorstep, how far they have to walk to defecate (and related safety issues), and how water sources are at risk of contamination.

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for sanitation. The MDGs set out eight concrete, numerical benchmarks which are meant to tackle extreme poverty in its many dimensions. MDG 7 is 'to ensure environmental sustainability'. One of the targets of this goal is to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. This is indicated by the proportion of the population using an improved drinking water source; and the proportion of the population using an improved sanitation facility.¹

PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) is a participatory training method that uses visuals to demonstrate the relationship between sanitation and health status. It is geared towards increasing the self-esteem of community members and empowers them to plan environment improvements and to own and operate water and

sanitation facilities. See PHAST Step-by-Step Guide, WHO 1998.

The sanitation ladder shows a range of different latrines that people can adopt, no matter what their circumstances. It is important that people get on to the sanitation ladder and start on the rung that is appropriate for their situation and context – even simple, affordable latrine models can protect against disease and other negative side effects of open defecation. People may move up the ladder, onto more expensive designs, if, and when they can afford it. Some steps on the ladder are:

Pit latrine: has a squat slab cover to stop contact with excreta by humans, animals and insects, a shelter around it for privacy and protection, and a gauze-covered vent pipe to stop smells and prevent flies from entering. The hole may be lined to prevent it collapsing. Regularly adding ash to the pit speeds up the process of decomposition, kills off fly larvae and keeps odours at bay. The pit latrine is cheap and easy to build and maintain but the pit must be moved or emptied regularly.

Self ventilated improved pit latrine (VIP): a little more expensive and uses

¹ Source: www.undp.org/mdg/goal7.shtml

slightly more complicated technology. A vent pipe higher than the shelter reduces the smells and flies. They are still cheap to build and easy to maintain but are dependent on wind and are dark inside.

Pour-flush latrine: uses a pan with a water-seal connected to a pit by a pipe. This stops flies and smells from coming out of the pit, but a water source is needed.

Composting toilets: vary greatly in construction and expense. They all use micro-organisms to break down the waste into organic compost or manure. Various systems of vents or fans may be used to speed up the process of composting. Advantages of composting toilets include reuse of the compost as fertiliser, reduced pollution of ground water and lack of dependence on water, but skilled labour is required for the construction.

Arborloo: uses a very shallow pit (less than one metre in depth) and has an easily movable superstructure (shelter). Once the pit is three-quarters full the slab and shelter are removed and the pit filled in with soil. A young tree is then planted over the contents of the pit and the toilet is erected in another place. As the toilet is moved around, a sanitary orchard or wood lot appears over time. The trees can either provide fruit or construction and fuel wood. The advantages of this system are that there is no handling of excreta and the risk of groundwater contamination is reduced because of the shallowness of the pits. The arborloo has been used in Zimbabwe.

Sanitation marketing introduces conventional marketing approaches to stimulate demand and supply for sanitation products and services by



Photo: Petra Bongartz

A sketch of a self ventilated improved pit latrine design, Kabengele village, Zambia.

encouraging a) households to use their own resources to improve their services and b) suppliers to develop the range of choices that satisfy consumer needs. It is based on the premise that many people, including the poor, are willing to pay for good sanitation that will satisfy their requirements if the technology is packaged and marketed appropriately and the supply mechanism is easily accessible. Applying a marketing approach to sanitation is not just about advertising; it is also about ensuring that appropriate sanitation options are made available and that suppliers have the necessary capacity to provide the desired services. Sanitation marketing is about ensuring a balance between demand and supply.²

Transect walk. As part of CLTS triggering, facilitators and community members conduct a transect walk through the village's open defecation areas. A discussion of village sanitation is easily prompted by asking questions to establish who uses which areas for

² Source: <http://tinyurl.com/sanitation-marketing>. Full URL: www.lboro.ac.uk/well/resources/fact-sheets/fact-sheets-htm/Sanitation%20marketing.htm



Photo: Petra Bongartz

Villagers from Kabengele, Zambia returning from their transect walk during a community triggering.

defecation, where women go, and what happens during the night or in bad weather. When people see the extent of open defecation, and that there are no faeces-free areas, this usually creates a desire to stop open defecation.

Triggering refers to the facilitated process that usually includes a community meeting, mapping, a transect walk to areas of open defecation, exercises that illustrate the faecal-oral contamination route, e.g. 'Food and shit' or 'Water and shit'.

Verification refers to inspection to assess whether a community is ODF (compare with 'Certification').

Water and shit is an exercise commonly used during triggering to illustrate the faecal-oral contamination route and the fact that people routinely drink contaminated water without being aware of it. The facilitator will offer a glass or bottle of water to a community member and ask her/him to take a sip. After the

person has drunk some water, the facilitator will then take a hair, a very small stick or a blade of grass and wipe it through some shit before dipping it into the water. He then offers the water for drinking again, but of course no one wants to touch it now. To make this an even more powerful exercise, some facilitators compare the hair to a fly's leg, pointing out that a fly has six legs, i.e. that it transfers even more shit to food and water when it comes into contact with it.

Acronyms

BVIP	Blair Ventilated Pit Latrine
CLTS	Community-Led Total Sanitation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NL	Natural Leader
OD	Open Defecation
ODF	Open Defecation Free
PHAST	Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
PLA	Participatory Learning and Action
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RESA	Regional Eastern and Southern Africa office of Plan International
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VIP	Self Ventilated Improved Pit Latrine
WASH	Water Sanitation and Hygiene
WatSan	Water and Sanitation
WSP-EAP	Water and Sanitation Programme of the World Bank

International Glossary of Shit

In Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), the crude local word for 'shit' is always used, cutting through the deadly silence around open defecation.

Over the course of several workshops in different countries, a collection of

words for shit in different languages has emerged and is constantly being updated.

Further entries are always welcome. Please send us the crude word for shit in your own language!

Word	Language	Country
Aar	Amhara	Ethiopia
Aca	Quechua	The Andes
Acin	Ateso	Uganda
Amabi	Kikisii	Kenya
Amabyi	Kinyarwahda	Rwanda
Amatuvi	Ndebele	Zimbabwe
Amazi	Kiaaya	Tanzania
Are	Amharic	Ethiopia
Ayee	Tamil	India
Bahaya	Hausa	Nigeria
Bajs	Swedish	Sweden
Bbi	Luganda	Uganda
Behpeh	Fula	Sierra Leone
Bin		Burkina Faso
Bista	Sanskrit	India
Buwo	Maninka	Guinea, Mali, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire
Caca	Spanish	Spain

Photo: CLTS Flickr photostream



A woman laughs at how much shit her neighbour produces in a day, Port Loko, Sierra Leone.



Photo: CLTS Flickr photostream

Ignition moment: community members realise that open defecation means they are eating each other's shit, Sayaya, Nigeria.

Word

Cacca
Chieth
Chilo
Chino
Chiro
Chus
Cócó
Crap
Dai
Ddong
Dodi
Dump
Emi
Enen
Enim
Fun bin
Gaac
Galuscio
Gand
Gandagi
Ghaleez
Ghu
Go
Goo
Gu
Guha
Haar
Hagoo
Hya
Inkik
Jhada
Kaashi

Language

Italian
Luo
Sidama
Kambata, Halaba
Hadiya
Kashmiri
Portuguese
English
Wolof
Korean
Fula
English
Idoma
Timni
Themne
Chinese
Khmer
Genovese
Urdu

Punjabi
Dari
Hindi
Bangla, Nepali, Marathi
Oriya
Somali
Bengali
Khmu
Maasai
Oriya
Hausa

Country

Italy
Kenya
Ethiopia
Ethiopia
Ethiopia
Kashmir
Mozambique
UK
Senegal, The Gambia
Korea
Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea
UK
Nigeria
Sierra Leone
Sierra Leone
Mainland China
Cambodia
Genova, Italy
Pakistan
India
India
India
Afghanistan
India
Bangladesh, Nepal, India
India
Somalia
India
Laos
Kenya
India
Nigeria

Word	Language	Country
Kacke	German	Germany
Kak	Dutch	The Netherlands
Kaka	Creole, Bosnian, Zulu	Sierra Leone, Bosnia, South Africa
Kakashka	Russian	Russia
Kakazaharra	Vasque	Pais Vasquo (Spain)
Kakus	Malayalam	India
Kamafwi	Bukusu	Kenya
Kashi	Hausa	Nigeria
Kelkel	Tigriga	Eritrea
Khah	Kinnaur Tribe	Himachal Pradesh, India
Khara	Arabic	Egypt
Khi	Lao, Thai, Newari	Laos, Thailand, Nepal
Ki-i (KiHe)	Garo	India
Kokoblaai	Loko	Sierra Leone
Kpui	Mande	Sierra Leone
Kuso	Japanese	Japan
Maafi	Chagga	Tanzania
Magoo	Shona	Zimbabwe
Mai	Kikamba, Kikuyu, Kimeru	Kenya
Maidan		India
Malam	Tamil	India
Manyi	Ehichewa	Malawi
Matudzi	Sena	Mozambique
Matusi		Zimbabwe
Matuvo		Burkina Faso
Matuzu	Shona	Zimbabwe
Matximba	Shangana	Mozambique
Mavh	Kiduruma	Kenya
Mavi	Kiswahili, Kitaita, Chitumbuka	Kenya, Malawi
Mazi	Tonga	Zambia
Merda	Italian	Italy
Merda	Catalan	Catalunya (Spain)
Merde	French	France
Mierda	Spanish	Spain, South America
Mifi	Ndamba	Tanzania
Ngachin	Turkana	Kenya
Nshi	Ibo	Nigeria
Pakhana	Hindi/Bangla	India/Bangladesh
Pee	Tamil	India
Phân	Vietnamese	Vietnam
Poep	Dutch	The Netherlands
Poolang	Kissi	Sierra Leone
Rebam	Ufia	Nigeria
Sandaas	Marathi	Maharashtra, India
Scheisse	German	Germany
Schijt	Dutch	Netherlands
Shi	Marathi	Maharashtra, India
Shit	English	UK, USA

Word	Language	Country
Shite	Irish	Ireland
Shiya	Wolaita	Ethiopia
Shonde	Sheng	Kenya
Showch		India
Si	Chinese	Hong Kong
Skat	English	UK
Skiete	Friesian	The Netherlands
Skit	Swedish	Sweden
Stront	Dutch	The Netherlands
Stronzo	Italian	Italy
Tai	Bahasa Indonesia	Indonesia
Tati/Tatti	Hindi, Urdhu	India, Pakistan
Teettam	Malayalam	India
Teifi	Twi	Ghana
Thi	Manipuri	India
Turd	English	UK
Tushi		Zambia
Tutu	Hausa	Nigeria
Udan	Oromo	Ethiopia
Unchi	Japanese	Japan
Unko	Japanese	Japan
Vishtha	Marathi	Maharashtra, India
Waduk	Bahasa Indonesia	Indonesia

Children's shit

Appy	Malayalam	India
Kaka	German, French	Germany, France
Ghul		
Ansanee gozla		
Ghooras		
Cheeki		
Izu	Khandwa tribes	Madhya Pradesh India
Shina		
Brushaski		
Khaka	Krio	Sierra Leone
Poo	English	UK
Bajs	Swedish	Sweden

Source: Community-Led Total Sanitation website
 Website: www.communityledtotalsanitation.org/resource/international-glossary-shit
 Email: p.bongartz@ids.ac.uk

Abstracts

Tales of Shit: Community-Led Total Sanitation in Africa

1. Overview: Tales of Shit: Community-Led Total Sanitation in Africa

Petra Bongartz, Samuel Musembi Musyoki, Angela Milligan and Holly Ashley

Over 2.6 billion of the world's population do not have proper toilet facilities. As a result, diarrhoea and disease kill around 1.8 million people every year, mainly children under the age of five. In this overview article the guest editors provide an introduction to community-led total sanitation (CLTS), a radical new approach to rural sanitation. Although only rolled out in Africa in the last three years, the pace with which CLTS has been taken up and developed is astonishing. Traditional approaches to rural sanitation assume that if people are educated about sanitation and hygiene, they will change their behaviour, and if they are given assistance to build toilets, they will use them. However, these assumptions often prove to be wrong. CLTS does not provide education or monetary incentives. Instead, it uses a participatory process



Photo: CLTS Flickr photostream

Children sing shit songs in Masaffie, Port Loko, Sierra Leone.

called 'triggering' that raises awareness and mobilises collective action for change. Rather than counting latrines built, success is indicated by communities becoming 'open defecation free' (ODF). CLTS emphasises that if even a minority still defecates in the open, instead of using a toilet, then all members of the community are 'eating each others' shit'. CLTS encourages people to break the silence around shit by using crude, explicit language, and exposing the taboos around shit. CLTS requires changes in mindsets

and behaviour at all levels – communities, facilitators, organisations and governments are challenged to think and act differently.

The authors draw out some of the lessons learnt from the growing body of CLTS experience in Africa. At community level they highlight innovative forms of triggering, the importance of language, building on an understanding of local taboos, and the potential of CLTS to empower children and youth. They identify challenges when scaling up and consider some of the management and organisational changes needed for CLTS to be effective as well as the opportunities, challenges and lessons for taking CLTS to scale. They also discuss the importance of quality training and facilitation, identifying CLTS champions and natural leaders, engaging with government and ensuring multi-sector involvement. Issues around verification, certification and follow-up activities that ensure sustainability, and ongoing activities to mobilise further community development are also examined. The authors conclude that documentation and sharing of experiences amongst practitioners needs to be encouraged so that lessons will not be lost but will instead help to continuously improve CLTS practice and policy.

2. Scaling up CLTS in sub-Saharan Africa

Sophie Hickling and Jane Bevan

Of 44 countries in sub-Saharan Africa only four are currently on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 7 target on sanitation. Diarrhoea is a major cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa and is clearly linked to inadequate sanitation, hygiene and water supply. There are an estimated 565 million people in sub-Saharan Africa without access to improved sanitation and, worse, 224 million who practice open defecation – the riskiest sanitation practice of all. Here, the authors describe how the United Nations Children's

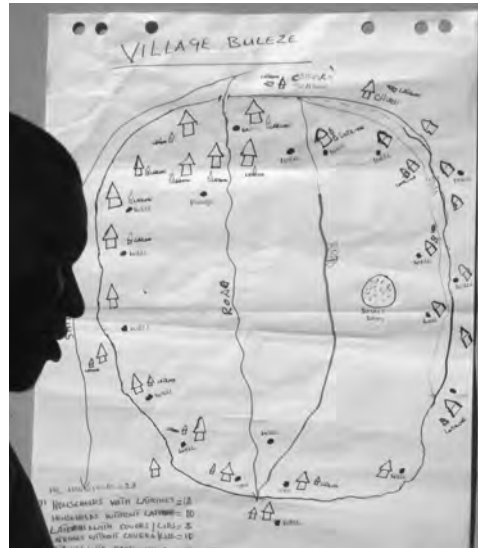


Photo: Petra Bongartz

A map of Buleze village, Zambia, showing number of households with and without latrines, latrines with and without covers and/or handwashing facilities – and the cost of medical expenses incurred due to diarrhoeal treatment.

Fund (UNICEF) has been working with partners to implement Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Community-led approaches to sanitation have been demonstrated to rapidly improve sanitation coverage in Asia and have recently been introduced in Africa. This positive South-South transfer is showing great promise in terms of accelerating coverage. It has real potential, when scaled up, to make a strong impact on the appalling figures cited above. This article examines some of the many opportunities and challenges met during the introduction of CLTS in Africa to date, both by UNICEF and its partners – and considers key issues for scaling up and sustainability.

PART I: COMMUNITY-LEVEL PROCESSES

3. Freeing the imagination: innovations in CLTS facilitation in Zimbabwe

Herbert Kudzanai Chimhova

Good participatory approaches are premised on the argument that communities know their own situations and can work out their own sustainable

solutions. Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) uses participatory tools so that communities can actively and collectively realise and change the realities of their sanitation and hygiene situation. When ‘triggering’ this process in communities, flexibility and innovation is encouraged. Good practice requires CLTS facilitators to adapt to the particular cultural and religious context, and to innovate and share new tools amongst practitioners. CLTS was first introduced in Zimbabwe in November 2008 and this article explores how passionate facilitators and community members (natural leaders) have developed a number of new tools for triggering communities to end open defecation.

4. Walking down the forbidden lane: ‘shit talk’ promotes sanitation

Mariama Munia Zombo

This article explores the power of language in Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). The author discusses facilitators’ experiences in talking about shit with communities in Sierra Leone and shows the hidden cultural blocks which can hinder total sanitation in communities – but which can also be turned into advantages. The author explores the role of songs, humour, religion and children in stopping open defecation (OD). She also shows how the language, words, fables and adages community people themselves use continue to influence their sanitation and hygiene behaviour after attaining open defecation free (ODF) status. The article explores the challenges of maintaining a ‘high level’ of total sanitation in communities. Furthermore, it brings out the challenges associated with breaking the obstacles which trivialise discussions about shit and actions at government and institutional level.

5. From amazzi to amazi: it’s not a water problem

Terry A. Wolfer and Robin W. Kloot

The authors were initially invited to

Uganda to assist a team of American volunteers on a safe water project. But they eventually came to understand the problem and solution quite differently. Their realisation? It’s not a water problem, it’s a shit problem. This article documents their transition from using an externally-subsidised, technology-based approach that focused on safe water to working with local Ugandan colleagues to implement a more participative, grassroots, information-based approach centred on Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). The authors describe the effects of the CLTS intervention on multiple relationships within and between communities, community leaders and the sponsoring NGO.

6. Breaking shit taboos: CLTS in Kenya

Buluma Bwire

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) was introduced in Kilifi district, Kenya by Plan Kenya in 2007, working with the Kenyan Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation. Since that time, there has been a steep uptake in the construction and use of latrines by local communities. From only one in 2007, there are now over 200 open defecation free (ODF) villages. The number of latrines increased from 300 in 2007 to over 4,550 in 2009. The success of CLTS benefited from local sanitation practices, which hinge on cultural beliefs that affect all aspects of the villagers’ day-to-day activities. These helped trigger the communities’ desire to end open defecation and embrace CLTS. This article examines the link between those local sanitation practices and the success of CLTS in Kilifi.

7. CLTS in East Africa: a path to child and youth empowerment?

Cathy Shutt

This article discusses findings from research designed to encourage practitioners and community members to explore the extent and effects of child and

youth involvement in the community level changes crucial for the success of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). The main argument is that triggering equips children and youth with the desire and ability to contribute to these changes, but practical constraints, as well as cultural and social factors, shape the nature of each individual child's ability to do so. There are indications that youth and child involvement in CLTS may, in some circumstances, contribute to shifting relationships between adults and young people, providing a pathway to child and youth empowerment. But findings indicate challenging power relations is never without risk of harm. The author concludes on a cautionary note, posing questions requiring further consideration by practitioners interested in the potential of CLTS to effect more meaningful youth and child participation in community development and governance.

PART II: MANAGEMENT/ ORGANISATIONAL CHANGES

8. Participatory development approaches need participatory management!

Ashley Raeside

Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is a radically different way to help rural villages become and stay safe from the dangers of their own shit. CLTS requires field staff to become both provocative and participatory facilitators of complex individual and collective behaviour change processes. They are no longer simply disseminating leaflets and health messages prepared by experts in the capital city. For field staff to develop into skilful CLTS facilitators, they will require different training and ongoing support from their local managers than they have traditionally been provided with. The directive management style that has historically dominated must evolve into a more conducive coaching management style. But will front-line managers come to

recognise this need to work differently with their field staff? Can they independently develop the attitudes and skills required to be more participatory and strategic managers? This article seeks to engage people who provide technical support to field-level CLTS managers, as a means of enhancing their capacity for management of their facilitators and programmes more broadly. The article shares the author's own trial and error experience providing technical support to 12 local government CLTS management teams in Malawi. If successful, the article might facilitate other technical support providers to be ignited with a desire to change their own style of support for the better.

9. Adopting CLTS: is your organisation ready? Analysing organisational requirements

Jean-François Soublière

In this article, the author draws on his experience with Engineers Without Borders Canada. From February 2008 to October 2009, he was seconded to WaterAid Burkina Faso when the NGO decided to adopt Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). Here, he analyses the practical implications of adopting CLTS for facilitators, managers and organisations. It is particularly relevant to development managers who have heard of CLTS and would like to implement, support or finance the approach. The author argues that not every organisation is ready to adopt CLTS without reassessing its organisational culture, field-level practices, organisational processes and institutional context. The argument is developed by first discussing the reasons that can motivate – or discourage – development agencies to drop their previous approaches to sanitation and take up CLTS. The author then analyses the different implications of CLTS on how development agencies operate.

PART III: GOING TO SCALE

10. Revolutionising sanitation in Zambia: scaling up CLTS

Giveson Zulu, Peter Harvey and Leonard Mukosha

In this article, the authors discuss how Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is helping to revolutionise sanitation coverage in rural Zambia. According to UNICEF/WHO, more than a third of rural Zambians defecate in the open. Past approaches to sanitation promotion were inadequate, even with subsidies. In 2007, the Government of Zambia and cooperating partners sought new strategies to meet the Millennium Development Goal for sanitation target of 66%. A zero subsidy CLTS approach was introduced in Choma district with great success. Sanitation coverage has increased to 67% and the government now plans to scale up the CLTS programme throughout Zambia. Lessons from Zambia include ensuring flexibility in terms of structures, timescales and funding and adapting CLTS to local conditions. Multi-sectoral buy-in, mass media participation and the role of local traditional leadership have also been key to success. The authors conclude that successfully scaling up CLTS requires rigorous monitoring, documentation and dissemination.

11. Challenging mindsets: CLTS and government policy in Zimbabwe

Samuel Rukuni

Here, the author discusses how Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) is challenging perceptions and sanitation policy in Zimbabwe. Its zero subsidy approach has met with mixed reactions. Since the 1980s the government has adopted sanitation standards, with a heavily subsidised National Sanitation Programme. However, the government lacked the resources to support it and latrine designs are unaffordable for most rural communities without subsidies. In contrast, CLTS was piloted in Zimbabwe

in 2008, during a time of devastating economic meltdown and widespread cholera. The dramatic decrease in development assistance and subsidies in Zimbabwe led many communities to seek their own sanitation solutions. CLTS provides the flexibility to do this, and at district and community levels it has been widely embraced. However, at national government levels the approach has been contested. Existing policies, institutional incapacity and uncoordinated approaches to sanitation interventions are major challenges. Yet CLTS has boosted the confidence of many communities to find their own solutions. The author concludes that it is not about prescribing sanitation structures – it is about changing mindsets.

12. Scaling up CLTS in Kenya: opportunities, challenges and lessons

Samuel Musembi Musyoki

Responding to the need for improved access to sanitation may seem extremely daunting in Kenya. For many years Plan Kenya, like many development agencies, constructed latrines. Yet this subsidy-led approach failed. So Plan Kenya changed tactics and now uses Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS). CLTS seems key to transforming communities' attitudes and behaviour towards good hygiene and sanitation. From one open defecation free (ODF) village in Kilifi District in November 2007 there are now over 200. As of May 2010, nearly 400 villages have been triggered across the country. The approach has gained recognition by the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation and others in the sanitation sector. There is increased demand from government, NGOs and UN agencies to scale up CLTS. This article shares insights for those thinking of introducing and/or scaling up CLTS. It first presents the Kenyan sanitation context and makes a case for CLTS, shares Plan Kenya's CLTS journey and experiences and highlights opportunities, challenges and lessons that

institutions and individual practitioners should consider when implementing CLTS.

13. Shit travels fast: towards a global CLTS network

Petra Bongartz

Ten years after Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) was first introduced in Bangladesh, there is a strong, vibrant and continuously growing global network of people working together to end open defecation. Networking, sharing and learning activities such as those coordinated by the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) play a crucial role in supporting CLTS as it goes to scale. Ensuring that practitioners learn from each other and share lessons and challenges can help improve practice and influence policy. Here, the author describes how linking people through email, via the CLTS website and bringing them together in person can be effective tools for change.

PART IV: TIPS FOR TRAINERS

14. A note for trainers, facilitators and those commissioning CLTS training

Samuel Musembi Musyoki

As Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) continues to gain prominence in Africa many organisations increasingly want to go to scale. This has sharply increased the demand for training and supporting facilitators to ensure that quality is not lost in the process of scaling up. Going to scale is necessary if CLTS is to make a significant contribution to the lives of many millions in sub-Saharan Africa. The quality of training and support is essential for effectively scaling-up CLTS. This note provides some tips on what to look out for. The tips are simple and provide a brief 'menu' of dos and don'ts: what has been found to work and what does not. It is based on the author's personal experience as a CLTS trainer, facilitator and manager.

15. Triggering: an extract from the Handbook on Community-Led Total Sanitation

Kamal Kar with Robert Chambers

The Handbook on Community-Led Total Sanitation by Kamal Kar with Robert Chambers contains comprehensive information on CLTS, its pre-triggering, triggering and post-triggering stages, as well as examples and case studies from around the world. This Tips for trainers extract reproduces the chapter on triggering communities. The extract describes a selection of CLTS triggering tools, which some of the authors in this special issue have also referred to in their articles.

16. Let's write! Running a participatory writeshop

Angela Milligan and Petra Bongartz

Participatory development practitioners, particularly those from the South, face a range of barriers to sharing their learning and reflections with a wider audience. These include language constraints, time pressures and lack of experience and confidence in writing papers. These barriers are even more severe for women. This poses a problem for Participatory Learning and Action because the experiences of practitioners, particularly those from the South, are exactly those we want to capture. Recently, we have been experimenting with participatory writeshops as one way to support practitioners to contribute to themed issues. For the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) issue of PLA, Plan Kenya, IDS and IIED held a one-week writeshop in Nairobi, Kenya. This Tips for Trainers describes the CLTS writeshop, draws together some lessons for running successful writeshops, and discusses some of the challenges associated with writeshops.