

# participatory learning and action

Number 57  
December 2007

Photo: Tom Sharman



Joining in with the traditional dance routines during an ActionAid immersion in Khosolo, Malawi.

CONTENTS

## THEME SECTION

1. Overview: Immersions: something is happening  
*Robert Chambers* ..... 9
2. Basrabai, Meeraiben, and the master of Mohadi  
*Ravi Kanbur* ..... 15

## SECTION 1: EVOLUTION OF IMMERSIONS

3. A portrait of the Exposure and Dialogue Programme Association  
*Jörg Hilgers* ..... 18
4. Exposure and Dialogue Programmes at SEWA  
*Reema Nanavaty with contributions from Raziaben, Savitaben, and Seetaben* ..26
5. The World Bank Group: investing in poverty immersions  
*Frederick E. Nunes* ..... 30
6. The World Bank's Village Immersion Programme in South Asia  
*Praful Patel, Qazi Azmat Isa, and Caroline Vagneron* ..... 34
7. Immersions in ActionAid  
*Sonya Ruparel* ..... 36

## SECTION 2: IMMERSION ROLES?

8. Host families  
*Izzy Birch with contributions from Gauriben, Ramilaben, Shantaben and Kamlaben, Ama Gariba, Sam Mpanga, and Saurabh Kumar* ..... 42
9. Not your usual facilitator...  
*Dee Jupp* ..... 47
10. Interpreters  
*Izzy Birch with contributions from Katy Oswald, Hawa Awuro Sam, and Sonya Ruparel* ..... 50
11. Reflections by participants on the interaction with their hosts  
*Izzy Birch with contributions from Katy Oswald, Arjan de Haan, and Edward Bresnyan, and Ravi Kanbur* ..... 53

## SECTION 3: PERSONAL ACCOUNTS ..... 56

12. Extract from immersion report: Funsu, Ghana  
*Koy Thomson* ..... 57
13. Reflections on an immersion: Funsu, Ghana  
*Rosalind Eyben* ..... 60
14. Personal reflection on Funsu immersion: ActionAid Ghana  
*Taaka Awori* ..... 62
15. Reflections on my immersion in India  
*Gary Fields* ..... 65
16. The salt of the earth  
*Praful Patel* ..... 67
17. Everyone at Sida should do an immersion!  
*Olof Sandkull and Göran Schill* ..... 71
18. Legends of Choar Mumtaz: Saleiha Chachi smiles  
*John Samuel* ..... 75

**SECTION 4: INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTS**

Part I: Staff selection, orientation and training .....	77
19. Immersion as a form of apprenticeship at PRADAN <i>The HRD Unit at PRADAN with a contribution from Vishal Jamkar</i> .....	79
20. How SRIJAN uses immersions as part of its recruitment process <i>Raj Kumar with Haridarkee</i> .....	84
21. How SEWA uses Exposure and Dialogue Programmes (EDPs) for internal capacity building <i>Poonam Shroff</i> .....	88
22. The Global Journey: a quest for reality <i>Bosse Kramsjö</i> .....	90
Part II: Programme development and accountability .....	93
23. Programme development and immersions at Plan Bangladesh <i>Haider W Yaqub and Saiful Islam</i> .....	94
24. An extract from 'Views of the Poor' <i>Dee Jupp</i> .....	100
25. Immersion: the soul of development <i>Qazi Azmat Isa</i> .....	103
26. Reality Check: accountability, learning, and practice with the people who matter <i>Ashish Shah</i> .....	107
Part III: Influencing policy and institutional direction .....	117
27. Taking onboard immersions within Sida <i>Esse Nilsson, Olof Sandkull, and Molly Sundberg</i> .....	118
28. Reality Checks: first reflections <i>Dee Jupp with Malin Arvidson, Enamul Huda, Syed Rukonuddin, Nasrin Jahan, Md Amir Hossain, Dil Afroze, Fatima Jahan Seema, Md Mominur Rahman, Sohel Ibn Ali, Rabiul Hasan Arif, Somita, David Lewis, and Hans Hedlund</i> .....	123
29. The impact of Exposure and Dialogue Programmes (EDPs) on German parliamentary work and decisions <i>Ruth Möller</i> .....	126
30. With the strength of the powerless: using immersions for processes of structural change <i>Karl Osner</i> .....	128

**CLOSING EDITORIAL**

31. Immersions and face-to-face learning: reflections on practice <i>Izzy Birch and Raffaella Catani</i> .....	133
---	-----

**REGULAR FEATURES**

Editorial .....	3
In Touch .....	140
RCPLA Network .....	150