

# Final Editorial

Linda Jones

It is with mixed feelings that I write the final editorial for the *Enterprise Development and Microfinance* (EDM) journal, which published its final issue in December 2022. Launched in 1989, the journal was a collaboration between the Committee of Donor Agencies for Small Enterprise Development (DCED) and Intermediate Technology Development Group Publications (now Practical Action Publishing). The EDM journal offered 33 years of continuous publications, typically one issue per quarter.

As noted by William Steel in his article in the December 2009 issue, ‘The initial attention to small enterprise development for its own sake has yielded to broader policy and strategic concerns with enhancing the contributions of enterprises of various sizes to “pro-poor growth” – the emerging shorthand for the dual objectives of economic growth and poverty reduction’. This remained the main focus of the journal over the years, with microfinance being a primary topic for many authors and readers.

I would like to take a moment to reflect on a few of the many accomplishments of the EDM journal. First, the journal filled a critical niche area – enterprise development and poverty reduction – and allowed authors to share experiences, contribute evidence, and participate in building an important body of knowledge that continues to exist in the Practical Action Publishing archives.

Second, the journal encouraged voices from practitioners and researchers, intentionally positioning itself at the nexus of development practice and academia. This was not always an easy space for the journal to inhabit, with tussles around the desire for more academic rigour and ranking versus greater sharing of hands-on experiences and concrete solutions to development challenges.

Third, contributions from northern and southern authors were encouraged, and there was no fee for publication, which further allowed the journal to remain open to a broad range of submissions. This enriched the contents of the journal in many ways. Recently, the journal took the next step to open-source publishing so that a wider audience could benefit from its valuable contents.

Finally, the EDM journal did not become stagnant. In the Steel article referenced above, the author traced how the contents of the journal shifted to meet the interests of the day. For example, enterprise development has been largely absorbed into value chain and market systems approaches, gender equality has become an important cross-cutting theme, and finance has evolved to include bank finance and impact investing.

I am sure our many authors, reviewers, and readers will have their own thoughts on key accomplishments of the journal, including many that I have not referenced here.

I would like to close by saying thank you to the editors, guest editors, authors, reviewers, advisory board, and executive committee members, along with the

dedicated Practical Action Publishing staff, all of whom enabled the EDM journal to make a valuable contribution over the years. In recognition of these many contributions, I thought it would be interesting to share the top 25 downloaded papers of the journal (recognizing that EDM articles were digitized in 2005 and that 2017 had an excellent circulation).

**Table 1** 25 Most downloaded articles in descending order

| <i>Author(s)</i>  | <i>Title</i>   | <i>Volume/issue</i>  | <i>Year</i> |
|---|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Dan Norell, Emily Janoch, Elly Kaganzi, Malini Tolat, Monty L. Lynn, and Emily C. Riley | Value chain development with the extremely poor: evidence and lessons from CARE, Save the Children, and World Vision           | Volume 28<br>Issue 1 | 2017        |
| Karen Moore   | Fostering economic opportunities for youth in Africa: a comprehensive approach   | Volume 26<br>Issue 2 | 2015        |
| Adams Abdulai and Devi Datt Tewari  | Trade-off between outreach and sustainability of microfinance institutions: evidence from sub-Saharan Africa                   | Volume 28<br>Issue 3 | 2017        |
| John Belt, Andrey Kuleshov, and Eline Minneboo  | Development impact bonds: learning from the Asháninka cocoa and coffee case in Peru  | Volume 28<br>Issue 1 | 2017        |
| Susanna Levina Middelberg   | Value chain financing: evidence from Zambia on smallholder access to finance for mechanization                                 | Volume 28<br>Issue 1 | 2017        |
| Dietmar Stoian, Jason Donovan, John Fisk, and Michelle Muldoon                          | Value chain development for rural poverty reduction: a reality check and a warning   | Volume 23<br>Issue 1 | 2012        |
| Judith Krauss   | What is cocoa sustainability? Mapping stakeholders' socio-economic, environmental, and commercial constellations of priorities | Volume 28<br>Issue 3 | 2017        |
| Ruerd Ruben   | Impact assessment of commodity standards: towards inclusive value chains   | Volume 28<br>Issue 1 | 2017        |
| Justin Flynn and James Sumberg  | Youth savings groups in Africa: they're a family affair  | Volume 28<br>Issue 3 | 2017        |
| Simone Anzboeck and Inez Couziniet  | How commercial banks can offer financial products to SMEs for investing in energy efficiency                                   | Volume 25<br>Issue 3 | 2014        |
| Verónica Trujillo-Tejada, Victoria Muriel-Patino, and Fernando Rodríguez-López          | How is microfinance being regulated in Latin America?  | Volume 26<br>Issue 4 | 2015        |
| Jason Donovan, Dietmar Stoian, and Keith Poe  | Value chain development in Nicaragua: prevailing approaches and tools used for design and implementation                       | Volume 28<br>Issue 1 | 2017        |

(Continued)

**Table 1** Continued

| <i>Author(s)</i>  | <i>Title</i>  | <i>Volume/issue</i>  | <i>Year</i> |
|---|---|----------------------|-------------|
| Diego Naziri, Sarah Mayanja, James Ssemwanga, and Jason Donovan   | Approaches and tools for inclusive value chain development: lessons from Uganda for improved impact                   | Volume 28<br>Issue 4 | 2017        |
| Martha Cruz Zuniga, Monty L. Lynn, Elly Kaganzi Mwesigwa, Dan Norell, Vidhya Sriram, and Emmanuel Tumusiime | Better together: improving food security and nutrition by linking market and food systems                             | Volume 30<br>Issue 3 | 2019        |
| Dan Norell, Late Lawson-Lartego, Dan White, Zegeye Bante, and Laura Conn                                    | Improving the food security of the extremely poor by linking them to markets  | Volume 26<br>Issue 1 | 2015        |
| A.K.M. Shahidullah and C. Emdad Haque   | Green microfinance strategy for entrepreneurial transformation: validating a pattern towards sustainability           | Volume 26<br>Issue 4 | 2015        |
| Frédéric Huybrechs, Johan Bastiaensen, and Davide Forcella  | Guest editorial: an introduction to the special issue on green microfinance   | Volume 26<br>Issue 3 | 2015        |
| Joanna Ledgerwood   | Editorial   | Volume 22<br>Issue 2 | 2011        |
| Linda Jones and Katie Turner  | At the nexus of investment and development: lessons from a 60-year experiment in SME impact investing                 | Volume 25<br>Issue 4 | 2014        |
| Linda Jones   | Guest editorial: poverty reduction in the FinTech age   | Volume 29<br>Issue 2 | 2018        |
| Jason Donovan, Dietmar Stoian, and Shaun Ferris   | Editorial: towards leaner and more effective value chain development  | Volume 28<br>Issue 1 | 2017        |
| Thomas DeLuca, Jennifer Meehan, and James Lloyd   | New approaches to MSME lending: challenging traditional credit assessment models in electronic cash-flow environments | Volume 25<br>Issue 3 | 2014        |
| Sally Walkerman, Michael Bowles, Trinnie Cartland, and Sally Ross   | Bringing together push and pull through local entrepreneurs   | Volume 26<br>Issue 1 | 2015        |

Thank you one and all.

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