

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 Issue 1	2017
Karen Moore	Fostering economic opportunities for youth in Africa: a comprehensive approach	Volume 26 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 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 Issue 1	2017
Susanna Levina Middelberg	Value chain financing: evidence from Zambia on smallholder access to finance for mechanization	Volume 28 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 Issue 1	2012
Judith Krauss	What is cocoa sustainability? Mapping stakeholders' socio-economic, environmental, and commercial constellations of priorities	Volume 28 Issue 3	2017
Ruerd Ruben	Impact assessment of commodity standards: towards inclusive value chains	Volume 28 Issue 1	2017
Justin Flynn and James Sumberg	Youth savings groups in Africa: they're a family affair	Volume 28 Issue 3	2017
Simone Anzboeck and Inez Couzinet	How commercial banks can offer financial products to SMEs for investing in energy efficiency	Volume 25 Issue 3	2014
Verónica Trujillo-Tejada, Victoria Muriel-Patino, and Fernando Rodríguez-López	How is microfinance being regulated in Latin America?	Volume 26 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 Issue 1	2017

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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 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 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 Issue 1	2015
A.K.M. Shahidullah and C. Emdad Haque	Green microfinance strategy for entrepreneurial transformation: validating a pattern towards sustainability	Volume 26 Issue 4	2015
Frédéric Huybrechs, Johan Bastiaensen, and Davide Forcella	Guest editorial: an introduction to the special issue on green microfinance	Volume 26 Issue 3	2015
Joanna Ledgerwood	Editorial	Volume 22 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 Issue 4	2014
Linda Jones	Guest editorial: poverty reduction in the FinTech age	Volume 29 Issue 2	2018
Jason Donovan, Dietmar Stoian, and Shaun Ferris	Editorial: towards leaner and more effective value chain development	Volume 28 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 Issue 3	2014
Sally Walkerman, Michael Bowles, Trinnie Cartland, and Sally Ross	Bringing together push and pull through local entrepreneurs	Volume 26 Issue 1	2015

Thank you one and all.

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