AGENDA

Participatory Action Research: A hands-on learning event
ActionAid, February 1-3, 2017

Day One	Tools	Inquiry question
9:00 – 10:15 Knowing the actors	**Stakeholder Rainbow**	Who for? Who needs to be involved?
10:15 - 10:30 BREAK		
10:30 – 12:30 Systems thinking	**Causal Dynamics; Activity Dynamics**	What is the entry point into a complex system?
12:30 – 1:00 LUNCH		
1:00 – 1:30 PAR Overview	**A.R.T.**	What is a learning system?
1:30 – 3:00 Exploring the problem	**Gaps and Conflicts, Problem Tree, Timeline, Force Field**	What are the conditions and factors at play?
3:00 – 3:15 BREAK		
3:15 – 5:00 Seeking evidence and consensus	**Validation**	Do we need more evidence or more consensus?
Day Two	Tools	Inquiry question
9:00 – 10:15 Assessing Options	**Free list and Pile sort; Differences and Misunderstandings**	Setting priorities.
10:15 – 10:30 BREAK		
10:30 – Noon Assessing Options	**Hazards; Carrousel; Contribution and Feasibility**	What are the possible futures?
Noon – 12:45 LUNCH		
12:45 – 3:00 Assessing Options	**Variations on the Wheel**	Setting learning goals and monitoring progress
3:00 – 3:15 BREAK		
3:15 – 5:00	**Values, Interests and Positions**	Conflict of interests or of values?
Day Three	Tools	Inquiry questions
9:00 – 10:15 Understanding Systems	**Domain Analysis**	What is local knowledge?
10:15 – 10:30 BREAK		

10:30 – 12:30 Planning Evaluations	**Evaluation Purpose; Value for Money**	Creating an action-learning system
12:30 – 1:15 LUNCH		
1:15 – 3:00 Learning in Action	**Process Design**	Putting it all together
3:00 – 3:15 BREAK		
3:15 – 5:00	**Skills in Means**	Reconciling democracy and science

Sessions will draw from the following tools, either through practice or as a window for self-study.

Knowing the Actors

Stakeholder Rainbow: helps you identify stakeholders, visualize differences and plan who to engage and in what order.

Social Analysis CLIP: helps you create a grounded stakeholder analysis and build a base for advocacy and strategic action, especially in complex settings involving conflicts of interests or histories of conflict.

Negotiation Fair: helps you assess and negotiate what stakeholders can expect of each other, by assessing current and desired levels of interaction and making offers and requests.

Network Dynamics: helps you assess relations of trust, information flow or influence among stakeholders, and how to overcome problems related to the silo effect in organizations.

Exploring the problem?

Causal Dynamics: helps you identify strategic entry points in complex systems, by assessing the causes of a key problem and the way each cause interacts with other causes in a system. It helps you decide where to start based on the causal weight of different factors, how they interact with each other, and where control can be exercised.

Gaps and Conflicts: helps you identify issues underlying the core problem and find out if these issues are mostly about gaps or conflicts in power, interests (gains and losses), moral values, or information and communication.

Timeline: helps you tell a story of changes over time, significant events of the past or the chronology of steps in a current or planned activity. Use this story to find ways to overcome barriers of the past and apply lessons learned.

Force Field: helps you understand the factors that contribute to a problem, a situation or a project, and those that counteract it. Discuss ways of achieving key objectives by strengthening or reducing the factors at play.

How good is your analysis?

Validation: helps you validate the results of an inquiry and decide whether more evidence and/or consensus is needed before action can be taken based on the results.

What are the Options?

Ranking, Rating and Weighting: Helps you prioritize by developing an order within a hierarchy (ranking), grading elements using one or several criteria (rating), and comparing elements using scores weighted according to the importance people assign to criteria (weighting).

Disagreements and Misunderstandings: Helps you rank stakeholders' goals in order of importance (priorities), and review disagreements and misunderstandings people may have about these goals.

Hazards: Helps you assess and address existing or perceived hazards (risks) using three criteria: their severity, their probability and people's current capacity to respond to them.

Contribution and Feasibility: Helps you choose between several options using two criteria: the contribution associated with each option, and how feasible each option is in light of favorable conditions (strengths and opportunities) and unfavorable conditions (weaknesses, threats).

V.I.P (values, interests and positions): Helps you compare the positions that stakeholders take on a situation or action with their actual interests and the moral values they hold.

The Instructor

Dr. Daniel Buckles is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, and a co-founder of the consulting firm SAS2 Dialogue. As senior staff at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) for 10 years Dr. Buckles helped design more than 60 projects on rural poverty, conflict resolution, biodiversity conservation and urban environment. Previously, he was a Senior Scientist at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) based in Mexico and a Rockefeller Foundation Post-doctoral fellow. He is co-author, with Jacques M. Chevalier, of Participatory Action Research: Theory and Methods for Engaged Inquiry, published in 2013 by Routledge, UK. His recent publications focus on the experience of inequality among India's *adivasi* communities (Fighting Eviction: Tribal Land Rights and Research-in-Action, Cambridge University Press, 2013) and research with farmers in Bangladesh trying to break

their dependency on tobacco production (Tobacco Control and Tobacco Farming: Separating myth from reality, Anthem Press, 2014).

Artisans of PAR: Advanced Coaching Session

Sign up for a half-day of reflection on lessons learned and design options. Open only to practitioners that have taken SAS2 Dialogue training in the past or as a follow-up to the February 1-3, 2017 event. The session offers advanced practitioners the opportunity to flesh-out designs for real-life events. There is no cost, but the pass-on rule applies (commit to pass on PAR skills to novice practitioners by providing a value to them similar to that received from the session). Register here for the Artisans of PAR session, or contact the organizer for more details.