Glossary

This glossary explains the meaning of certain words according to the way they are used in this book.

accountability explaining decisions, actions or use of resources to stakeholders

advocacy helping people to address underlying causes of poverty, bring justice and support good development through influencing the policies and practices of the powerful

beneficiary someone who benefits from an initiative

bias a view in favour of, or against, something

catalyst something that causes change to happen

Christian organisation Christian organisation that seeks to transform communities through development, relief and advocacy work. It is not the same as the local church

church and community mobilisation the act of mobilising a local church to act as a facilitator in mobilising the whole community to address their needs

church mobilisation the act of mobilising a local church to respond to needs in the community

coerce to use pressure to make people do things they do not want to do

congregation the same meaning as ‘local church’

demonstration showing people what it means to be part of God’s kingdom, such as through caring for others. Also called ‘social action’ or ‘social involvement’

denomination a system into which local churches are organised and linked

desertification a process by which land becomes dry until almost nothing can be cultivated, making it a desert

diocese a district under the authority of a bishop

discharged forced to move away from one’s usual home

donor a person or organisation that gives financial support

empowerment the process by which people gain self-confidence and become agents of change

envision to pass a vision to other people

eviction when people are forced to move out of their home

exploit to take advantage of someone or something for personal gain
facilitator someone who enables a process to happen by encouraging people to find their own solutions to problems
gospel the good news of Jesus Christ
hazard a natural or man-made event or situation which could lead to danger, loss or injury
initiative an activity or set of activities carried out by a local church or community to address a community issue
integral mission speaking of and living out our faith in an undivided way in all aspects of life
labour-intensive describing an activity that requires a large amount of human input
local church a sustainable community of local Christian believers, accessible to all, where worship, discipleship, nurture and mission take place
Memorandum of Understanding a document which states the intentions and responsibilities of two or more parties who have agreed to work together on a specific issue
mentor a person who provides advice and support to those less experienced
midwife someone who helps to deliver babies
mobilise to help people to act on a vision and make it happen
multi-dimensional having different aspects
NGO non-governmental organisation
participatory describes a situation where many people are taking part
pilot a noun or a verb related to trying something out before implementing more widely
poor / poverty lacking basic needs, such as food, clothes, shelter, social networks, political voice, faith in God
proclamation telling people the gospel. Also called ‘evangelism’
project an activity carried out by a Christian organisation directly in a community
relief help provided to those in need after a disaster
replication repeating a process somewhere else
secular not concerned with religious or spiritual matters
social action / social involvement the process of a local church addressing material needs in society. Also called ‘demonstration’
sustainability when the benefits of an initiative continue
tangible able to be felt or seen
welfare provision of help to people in need, often without their participation