

6 Glossary

- arid** Description of a dry, parched area or climate.
- can-bashing** Hitting small metal containers with spoons, sticks etc to make as much noise as possible.
- credibility** To be believable, convincing.
- desalination** The removal of salt, and purification process associated with it, from seawater to produce freshwater.
- eutrophication** Occurs when water becomes enriched with nutrients which then stimulate plant and algal growth. Usually occurs over thousands of years but can happen over a matter of years as a result of human activities (sewage, agriculture, household and industrial pollutants). End result is the elimination of oxygen from water, making it uninhabitable for fish and other aquatic life, eg: coral.
- governance** The act or manner of governing.
- groundwater** Water that flows downwards and saturates soil or rock, is stored underground and supplies springs and wells.
- holistic Gospel** Approach to the Gospel that seeks to meet the needs of the whole person: physical, emotional, social, mental and spiritual.
- hydrological** The properties, distribution and circulation of water.
- infrastructure** The basic economic foundations of a country, eg: roads, bridges, sewers.
- intermediation** Acting as a link between two things, eg: people, companies, groups.
- irrigation** A means of providing otherwise unavailable water to farmers to enable crops to be grown. It may involve the flooding of whole fields or the water may be run in channels between rows of plants. Irrigation is extremely water intensive: it can take as much as 1,700 cubic kilometers to grow half a ton of grain.
- mega-cities** A city with a population of five million or more.
- policy process** A process, initiated by government, of drafting or re-making a policy, either at the national or the international level. This process may include surveys of public opinion, consultations with those who have expertise or experience in a particular area, and detailed work by civil servants and parliamentary committees.

- recycling** Converting waste material into a form where it can be used again.
- salinisation** The process through which salt in the soil builds up. This happens when rainfall is low and evaporation is high. Irrigation of land which is used year after year without fallow periods is now a major cause of salinisation.
- sustainability** Meeting human needs without depleting natural resources or permanently damaging the systems which produce those resources.
- wastewater** Water containing waste including greywater, blackwater or water contaminated by waste contact, including process-generated and contaminated rainfall runoff.
- watercourses** Depressions formed by runoff moving over the surface of the earth; any natural course that carries water.
- waterlogging** Saturation of soil with irrigation water so the water table rises close to the surface.
- watershed** Land area from which water drains towards a common watercourse in a natural basin.
- wetlands** Wetlands are areas such as marshes, swamps, bogs and fens. They are highly productive eco-systems. They are important breeding grounds for fish and other wildlife and they also act as a filter – cleaning up polluted water, encouraging plants to grow and improving water quality. They protect coastlines from erosion and act as barriers against storm surges.

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