

GLOSSARY



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A

Absolute poverty	A set standard of measuring poverty internationally, in relation to a person's ability to meet their basic human needs.
Acidification	A process of decreased pH levels in the ocean caused by an increased absorption of carbon dioxide.
Agro-production	The large-scale production, processing, and packaging of food using modern equipment and methods.
Anthropogenic	A process that is human-created.

B

Basic services	Critical services to improve the lives of people, including electricity, energy, water and sanitation, and refuse and waste removal.
Biochar	Charcoal produced from plant matter and stored in the soil as a means of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
Biodiversity	The variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem.
Biofuels	A fuel derived directly from living matter.
Biogas	The mixture of gases produced by breaking down organic matter such as agricultural waste, manure, sewage or food waste; the gases produced can be used for fuel.
Biomass	The total mass of organisms in a given area or volume.



C

Capacity building	Programs that prioritize the ability for individuals and organizations to obtain, improve and retain skills and knowledge to support themselves.
Carbon footprint	The amount of carbon dioxide or other carbon compounds emitted into the atmosphere by the activities of an individual, company, country, etc.
Carbon intensity	The amount of carbon (in terms of weight) emitted per unit of energy consumed. A common measure of carbon intensity is the weight of carbon per British thermal unit (BTU).
Carbon neutral	Having achieved a state in which the net amount of carbon dioxide or other carbon compounds emitted into the atmosphere is reduced to zero because it is balanced by actions to reduce or offset these emissions.
Caregivers	People who are responsible for a child's care and well-being. Can be a parent, relative or community member.
Child credits	A tax credit given to taxpayers for each dependent child in their care.
Child welfare services	A range of services designed to ensure that children are safe and that families have the necessary support to care for their children successfully.
Child-headed households	A family in which a minor (child or adolescent) has become the head of the household.
Chronic hunger	The inability to consume enough food to sufficiently meet dietary energy requirements over a long period of time.
Civic engagement	Individual and collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern.
Climate change	A change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.
CO2 emissions	The release of carbon dioxide, a colourless, odourless and non-poisonous gas formed by combustion of carbon and in the respiration of living organisms.

GLOSSARY



Colonialism	The policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers and exploiting it economically.
Cooperative	A farm, business, or other organization that is owned and run jointly by its members, who share the profits or benefits.
Coral bleaching	A process of expelling the algae that lives inside the tissue of coral, usually caused by acidification and a rise in ocean temperatures. It is a sign of poor coral health.
Corruption	Dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power, typically involving bribery.
Cycle of poverty/ poverty cycle	A set of factors or events that make it difficult for an individual or group of people to get out of poverty without intervention.

D

Decent work	Employment that respects the fundamental rights of the human person as well as the rights of workers in terms of conditions of work safety, physical and mental integrity and earning a wage.
Decolonization	The act of freeing a country from colonization and resuming self-government.
Deforestation	The removal of a forest or stand of trees where the land is converted to non-forest use.
Desalination	The process of removing dissolved salts from water, thus producing fresh water from seawater or brackish water (also called "desalinization" and "desalting").
Desertification	The process by which fertile land becomes desert, typically as a result of drought, deforestation, or inappropriate agriculture.
Discrimination	The treatment or consideration of, or making a distinction in favor of or against, a person or thing based on the group, class, or category to which that person or thing belongs rather than on individual merit.
Disproportionate	When something happens more or less frequently than in the general population.
Double burden/dual burden	The workload of people (often women) who work to earn money, but who are also responsible for significant amounts of unpaid domestic labor.



E

Eco-efficiency	A philosophy of generating more value through technology and process changes while reducing resource use and environmental impact throughout the product or service's life.
Ecological footprint	The impact of a person or community on the environment, expressed as the amount of biologically productive land and sea area required to sustain their use of natural resources.
Employment insurance	A federal insurance program that provides benefits to eligible unemployed people.
Environmental conservation	The practice of protecting an ecosystem on individual or governmental levels, usually through policies, economic incentives, voluntary practices and public campaigns.
Environmental degradation	The deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems; habitat destruction; the extinction of wildlife; and pollution.
Epidemics	Rapid and widespread infectious diseases or conditions, such as tuberculosis and obesity.
Extinction	The end of an organism or group of organisms, typically a species.
Extreme climatic events	Unexpected, unusual or unpredictably severe or unseasonal weather, such as droughts, storms, floods and landslides, making it difficult to provide our basic necessities.

F

Fair trade	The practice of trade and trading partnerships that ensures producers receive a fair price while pursuing improved social and environmental standards.
Family planning	The practice of controlling the number of children in a family and the intervals between their births, particularly by means of artificial contraception, voluntary sterilization and awareness.
Famine	A widespread scarcity of food, often caused by issues including crop failure, population imbalance, or government policies. This phenomenon is usually accompanied or followed by regional malnutrition, starvation, vulnerability to epidemics and increased mortality.



Female genital mutilation (FGM)	A cultural procedure where the female genitals are deliberately cut, injured or changed, but for no medical reason.
Feminism	A range of political, ideological and social movements that seek to define and advance the rights of women, to achieve equality of the sexes.
Food security	The ability for individuals, communities and nations to supply enough food to sustain a growing population and future generations through sufficient demand and access.
Formal education	Learning delivered in an institutional setting, such as in a school with trained teachers.
Fossil fuels	A non-renewable fuel such as coal or gas, formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms.

G

Gender	The socially constructed and personally identified classification as male, female or non-conforming.
Gender discrimination	Prejudice or discrimination based on a person's sex or gender. It can take on many forms including gender stereotypes, sexist language, institutional sexism, glass ceiling effect, objectification, harassment and violence among others.
Gender equality	Equality between women and men: equal ease of access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender, including economic participation and decision-making; valuing different behaviors, aspirations and needs equally, regardless of gender.
Gender neutrality	The idea that policies, language, and other social institutions should avoid distinguishing roles according to people's sex or gender, in order to avoid discrimination arising from the impression that there are social roles for which one gender is more suited than another.
Genocide	The deliberate and systematic killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation.
Gini coefficient	A measurement of inequality in and across particular countries represented by values, with a score of 0 being perfect equality and 1 being perfect inequality.
Glass ceiling	An unofficially acknowledged barrier to advancement in a profession, especially affecting women and members of minority groups.

GLOSSARY



Global citizenship education	The process of learning about the rights, responsibilities and duties that come with being a citizen of a particular nation or place. The concept suggests that one's identity transcends geography or political borders.
Global South	Countries that experience large inequalities in living standards, life expectancy and access to resources. Commonly referred to as the "Third World" or "developing countries," these are countries in Africa, Central and Latin America and Asia. It is understood as the separation of socio-economic inequalities rather than purely geographical.
Greenhouse gases (GHG)	Gases emitted into our atmosphere from natural and man-made sources, like CO ₂ , methane, nitrous oxide and ozone.
Gross domestic product (GDP)	A way to gauge the health of a country's economy, represented in the total dollar value of all goods and services produced over a specific time period.
Gross national income (GNI)	A measurement of a country's income. It includes all the income earned by a country's residents and businesses (GDP), plus those earned abroad or from foreign sources. GDP measures production while GNI measures income.

H

Health literacy	The degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.
Human rights	Rights that are interrelated, interdependent and inherent to all human beings.
Hydrological system	An interrelated processes responsible for management of water on our planet, including precipitation, evaporation, transpiration, infiltration and groundwater flow.
Hypoxic zones	Areas of the ocean with insufficient amounts of oxygen, light and nutrients to support other species, caused by an increase in algae.

I

Inalienable	Something that is unable to be taken away, such as human rights.
Inclusive	Not excluding any section of society or any party involved in something.

GLOSSARY



Inclusive cities	Urban centres seeking to improve opportunities and living conditions for all through spatial, social and economic inclusion.
Indigeneity	The fact of originating or occurring naturally in a particular place.
Informal education	Learning delivered outside of an institutionalized setting, focusing on cultivating knowledge through experience and conversation.
Information and communication technologies (ICT)	A diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicate, and to create, disseminate, store, and manage information. It's a broad term used to refer to everything from telecommunications to data handling to media management.
Institutional sexism	The result of an organization made up of persons who share the same attitudes favouring one sex over another in a given situation.
Integrated water resource management	A process that promotes the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources, in order to maximize resulting economic and social welfare in an equitable manner, without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.
Invasive species	Plants, animals and fungi that are not native to a particular area, with a tendency to spread and damage the environment, economy and health of the local ecosystem.

L

Labour unions	Organizations of workers coming together to achieve common goals such as improving safety standards, achieving fair pay and gender equality.
Land degradation	A process caused by multiple forces, including extreme weather conditions (particularly drought) and human activities that pollute or degrade the quality of soils and land utility, negatively affecting food production, livelihoods and the production and provision of other ecosystem goods and services.
Legal system	The processes of dealing with offences and the institutions (courts, police, prisons, and lawyers) that enforce and enact these laws.



M

Malnutrition	Insufficient levels of specific nutrients needed to grow and be healthy, increasing risk of death, diet-related diseases and chronic health conditions.
Marginalization	The social, economic and political discrimination or exclusion of certain people, impacting their ability to benefit and participate in certain spaces.
Marine conservation	A process of protecting and preserving our ocean's ecosystems by limiting human-caused damage, restoring damaged ecosystems and establishing protective policies and projects to ensure humanity understands and respects the fine balance.
Marine ecosystems	Aquatic ecosystems, including salt marshes, intertidal zones, estuaries, lagoons, mangroves, coral reefs, the deep sea and the sea floor.
Marine protected areas (MPAs)	Marine ecosystems recognized and protected by governments to restore and replenish important biodiversity, and social, cultural and economic resources.
Marine resources	Resources acquired from the sea, such as fish, gas, minerals, renewable energy and tourism.
Market economy	A capitalistic economic system in which there is free competition and prices are determined by the interaction of supply and demand.
Microenterprise	A business operating on a very small scale, often started as part of a micro-finance program to help families in poverty establish businesses.
Microcredit/micro-loan	Small loans provided to impoverished borrowers who lack collateral, steady income and verifiable credit history.
Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)	Eight international development goals established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, including measurable targets and clear deadlines for improving the lives of the world's poorest people by 2015.
Minimum wage laws	The body of law which prohibits employers from hiring employees or workers for less than a given hourly, daily or monthly minimum wage.
Misogyny	Social, economic, cultural and political practices, attitudes and behaviours that oppress women beneath men.
Mobile infrastructure	The cellular networks and technological infrastructure needed to support cellphone usage in the Global South.



N

National debt	The total amount of money that a country's government has borrowed, by various means.
Natural ecosystems	A naturally occurring community of living organisms together with the nonliving components of their environment (things like air, water and mineral soil), interacting as a system.
Natural resources	Materials or substances such as minerals, forests, water, and fertile land that occur in nature and can be used for economic gain.
Neonatal mortality	The likelihood of an infant dying in the first 28 days of life.
Non-governmental organization (NGO)	Any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group that is organized on a local, national or international level.
Non-renewable resource	A resource that cannot be readily replaced by natural means on an equal level to its consumption.
Nutrition	The process by which organisms take in and utilize food material.

O

Official development assistance (ODA)	The term used to measure aid. It represents an indicator of international aid flow.
Old age security	A pension plan run by the Canadian government that is available to most Canadians aged 65 or older.
Overconsumption	The action or fact of consuming something to excess.

P

Permaculture	The development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient.
Political instability	The propensity of a government collapse either because of conflicts or rampant competition between various political parties.
Poverty	The state or condition of having little or no money, goods, or means of support; the state of being extremely poor. (See also: absolute poverty and relative poverty)



Poverty cycle	A set of factors or events which makes it difficult for an individual or group of people to get out of poverty without intervention.
Poverty line	The minimum daily income that will allow you to meet your basic needs. In 2018, the minimum daily income is \$1.90 USD.
Poverty rate	A measurement of the number of people living below a certain daily income level.
Poverty reduction	Strategies, measures and programs intended to enable people in poverty to create wealth for themselves and end their cycle of poverty.

R

Ratification	The action of signing or giving formal consent to a treaty, contract, or agreement, making it officially valid. A formal validation of a proposed law, agreement or action plan.
Relative poverty	A measurement of income inequalities of a particular social context.
Renewable resource	A resource that can be used repeatedly because it naturally replenished, like water, oxygen, solar energy, and biomass fuels.

S

Salinization	The process by which water-soluble salts accumulate in the soil; it may occur naturally or because of conditions resulting from management practices and can cause concern over resources as excess salts hinder the growth of crops by limiting their ability to take up water.
Sanitation	The hygienic means of promoting health through prevention of human contact with the hazards of wastes, in particular via the treatment and proper disposal of human excrement, often mixed into wastewater.
Segregation	The institutional separation of an ethnic, racial, religious, or other minority group from the dominant majority.
Slums	Densely populated and informal communities, often with substandard or non-existent sanitation services, electricity, security and other basic services.
Social determinants of health	Conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age, and the wider set of forces and systems that shape the conditions of their health.

GLOSSARY



Social inequalities	The existence of unequal opportunities and rewards for different social positions or statuses based on characteristics of identity including, but not limited to, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ability, income, and age.
Social justice	Actions taken to ensure the fair and just relationship between the individual and society.
Soil degradation	A decline in soil quality caused by improper use, usually for agricultural, pastoral, industrial or urban purposes.
Solidarity	Mutual support among individuals and communities with a common interest.
South-South cooperation	A development perspective that encouraging shared resources, technology and knowledge between developing countries in the Global South.
Stakeholders	Organizations, communities, individuals and all those who have an interest in the outcome or process of a particular project.
Stigma	Extreme disapproval of (or discontent with) a person or group on socially characteristic grounds that are perceived, and serve to distinguish them, from other members of a society. Stigma may then be affixed to such a person, by the greater society, who differs from their cultural norms.
Stigma reduction	Efforts to educate, inform and bring awareness to negative attitudes and behaviours around people living with certain conditions, illnesses or holding certain identities.
Stunting	Inadequate heights for children based on their age from the effects of under-nutrition and infection.
Sub-watershed	A land area or topographic region that drains into a particular watercourse or body of water. Large watersheds may contain hundreds of thousands of small sub-watersheds that drain into the river or other body of water.
Supply chain	The sequence of processes and actors involved in the production and distribution of a particular good.
Sustainable agriculture	The production of food, plant and animal products using farming products that protect the environment, ensure healthy communities and animal welfare. Examples include permaculture, crop rotation, natural pest predators and soil enrichment.
Sustainable cities	Urban developments that prioritize the energy efficiency and reduced environmental impact through managing energy, water and food inputs along with outputs of heat, air pollution and water pollution.

GLOSSARY



Sustainable consumption and production	The use of services and products which respond to our basic needs and bring better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources, toxic materials and emissions of waste and pollutants, so as to not jeopardize the needs of future generations.
Sustainable development	The promotion and practice of sustainable living through sustainable infrastructure. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	A collection of 17 Global Goals set by the United Nations to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which ended in 2015. Unlike the MDGs, the SDG framework does not distinguish between "developed" and "developing" nations. Instead, the goals apply to all countries.
Systems approach	Examining the interconnected relationships of root causes to an issue such as poverty rather than individual approaches to the effects of an issue.

T

Tied aid	The contribution of resources towards another country's economic development using products and equipment sourced from donor countries.
Trade unions	An organized association of workers, often in a trade or profession, formed to protect and further their rights and interests.
Trafficking	The illegal trading of humans, usually women and children.
Transgender	Noting or relating to a person whose gender identity does not correspond to that person's biological sex assigned at birth.
Transpiration	A natural processes of capturing carbon dioxide and releasing moisture and oxygen carried through plants from roots to small pores on the underside of leaves.
Treaties	Agreements recognized under international law that hold those that sign them accountable to the agreement.

U

Universal basic income	A form of social security or welfare regime, in which all citizens (or permanent residents) of a country receive a regular, livable and unconditional sum of money, from the government.
Urbanization	The process of making an area more urban.



W

Water pollution	The contamination of bodies of water through pollutants directly and indirectly introduced to aquatic ecosystems.
Water scarcity	The lack of sufficient available water resources to meet water usage needs within a region.
Water stress	When demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period.
Welfare	Financial support given to people in need, such as old age security, employment insurance or child credits.

X

Xenophobia	An intense or irrational dislike or fear of people from other countries.
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