Glossary of terms

Absolute poverty A person living in absolute poverty is not able to satisfy his or her minimum requirements for food, clothing or shelter. The *dollar a day* poverty line is accepted internationally as an absolute poverty line. (See *relative poverty*) (DFID 2001:174–186).

Adverse incorporation Where people are included in social, political and economic institutions and processes, but on extremely unfavourable terms.

Assets framework A framework which can be used to identify the poor and vulnerable. The framework takes into account factors that cause *vulnerability* to poverty and considers these in relation to poor people's assets. It is part of the *sustainable livelihoods* framework (DFID 2001:174–186).

Bonded labour People become bonded labourers by taking or being tricked into taking a loan for as little as the cost of medicine for a sick child. To repay the debt, they are forced to work long hours, seven days a week, 365 days a year. They receive basic food and shelter as 'payment' for their work, but may never pay off the loan, which can be passed down through several generations (Anti-Slavery International).

Capabilities A term developed by Amartya Sen that refers to the means which enable people to function. The term is distinguishes intrinsic and instrumental *capabilities* (income, education, health, human rights, civil rights etc). Sen's conceptualisation of poverty as capability deprivation focuses on the failure of some basic capabilities to function, for example, being adequately nourished, leading a long and healthy life, being literate. (Gordon and Spicker, 1999: 22)

Capability deprivation Poverty defined in relation to the failure to achieve basic capabilities such as being adequately nourished, leading a healthy life or taking part in the life of the community. The emphasis on capabilities shifts focus away from moneybased measures such as income or expenditure onto the kind of life the individual can live (DFID 2001:174–186).

Chronic poverty Poverty experienced by individuals and households for extended periods of time or throughout their entire lives. Also called 'persistent poverty'. Chronic poverty must be distinguished from transitory poverty or being non-poor. [For a full definition see *Chapter One*]

Common property resources Assets owned by a group or society whose use is not restricted to a single individual. Communal management is needed to make sustainable use of common property (DFID 2001:174–186).

Coping strategy How a household responds when faced with an unexpected event such as illness, drought or unemployment. Typical responses include taking children out of school, drawing on support from the extended family or other households, or reducing expenditure on food and other items. In addition, some households may migrate (DFID 2001:174–186).

Covariate shock An unexpected event that affects all the members of a group. An example is a drought, which typically reduces the agricultural output of all the households in a village. (See *idiosyncratic shock*) (DFID 2001:174–186).

Decentralisation The process of transferring control over, and administration of, services from national to local level (DFID 2001:174–186).

Dependency ratio The ratio of economicallyactive household members to those who are economically dependant.

Deprivation A lack of welfare, often understood in terms of material goods and resources but equally applicable to psychological factors, relative to the local community or the wider society or nation to which an individual, family or group belongs (Gordon and Spicker, 1999:37).

Depth A measure of the average distance of poor individuals or households below the poverty line. The depth of poverty is also known as the poverty gap (DFID 2001:174–186).

Destitution Refers to the total, or virtually complete, absence of resources. Although indicative of *extreme poverty* it is not necessarily equivalent; a person may become destitute immediately through fire or natural disaster, while someone in chronic or extreme poverty may have experienced long-term malnutrition and disadvantage (Gordon and Spicker 1999:38).

Dimensions of poverty The individual and social characteristics of poverty such as lack of access to health and education, powerlessness or lack of dignity. Such aspects of deprivation experienced by the individual or group are not captured by measures of income or expenditure (DFID 2001:174-186).

Disability The outcome of the interaction between a person with an impairment and the environmental and attitudinal barriers that s/he faces (WHO's International Classification of Functioning).

Discrimination Refers to the institutional, environmental and attitudinal factors that work to exclude certain people from activities, organisations and institutions.

Displaced person: (see Internally Displaced People)

Dollar-a-day (\$US1/day) An absolute poverty line introduced by the World Bank in 1990 to estimate global poverty. The dollar amount is revised over time to keep pace with inflation and now stands at \$1.08 in 1996 prices. This is converted into local currencies using purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates (DFID 2001:174–186).

Economic growth An increase in a country's total output. It may be measured by the annual rate of increase in a country's Gross National Product (GNP) or *Gross Domestic Product* (GDP) as adjusted for price changes. The increase in GNP, at constant prices per head of population, indicates changes in the average living standards in that country but says nothing about the distribution of the levels for different social groups around that average (DFID 2001:174–186).

Empowerment The process whereby people gain more power over the factors governing their social and economic progress. This may be achieved through: increasing the incomes and assets of the poor; interventions that aim to enhance confidence and self-respect; by developing collective organisation and decision-making and by reforming political institutions to make them more inclusive. Empowerment is one aim of setting up participatory processes (DFID 2001:174–186).

Equivalence scales A ratio applied to the poverty line to reflect the fact that children cost less than adults do. Two households with the same resources can have very different financial circumstances, depending upon the size and composition of the household (DFID 2001:174–186).

Exclusion The economic, political and cultural processes that lead to the isolation of some groups in society, including ethnic minorities or the long-term unemployed. Different interpretations of this concept range from notions of discrimination to understanding the social consequences of poverty.

Forced labour People illegally recruited by governments, political parties or private individuals, and forced to work – usually under threat of violence or other penalties (Anti-Slavery International).

Food energy method A method for deriving absolute poverty lines. It sets the poverty line by identifying the level of income or expenditure needed to obtain sufficient food to provide enough calories to meet the minimum energy requirement of an individual (DFID 2001:174–186).

Food insecurity A situation that exists when people lack secure access to sufficient

- amounts of safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active, healthy life. It may be caused by the unavailability of food, insufficient purchasing power or the inappropriate distribution or inadequate use of food at the household level. Food insecurity may be chronic, seasonal or transitory (FAO).
- Geographic capital A combination of social, cultural, political, environmental and economic factors that are specific to a geographic area.
- Gini coefficient An aggregate numerical measure of income inequality ranging from 0 (perfect equality) to 1 (perfect inequality) (FAO).
- Global public goods Items that benefit everyone: for example, international research, environmental agreements or measures for conflict management and resolution (DFID 2001:179).
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) The total value of all goods and services produced domestically by a nation during a year. It is similar to Gross National Product (GNP), which is the value of output produced by a country's labour and capital regardless of whether it is in the country or not (DFID 2001:179).
- Headcount index (see Poverty headcount)
- Household life-cycle The sequence of events (birth, death, marriage, moving together or away from other household members) which characterise the formation, growth and disappearance of a household. The household's likelihood of being in poverty is related to its position in the household life cycle (DFID 2001:179).
- Human capital Factors such as knowledge, skills and health, which increase the productivity of the individual (DFID 2001:174-186).
- Human Development Index (HDI) An index introduced by UNDP in 1990, which combines the three measures of life expectancy, educational attainment (itself a composite of literacy and school enrolment) and GDP per head. The index theoretically ranges from 0 for the least developed to 7 for the most (DFID 2001:179).
- Human Poverty Index (HPI) A composite index introduced by UNDP in 1997, which focuses on those who do not achieve minimum standards of health, education and living conditions. This index contrasts with that of the HDI, which measures average achievements (DFID 2001:179).
- Kilocalorie (kcal) A unit of measurement of energy: 1 kcal = 1 000 calories. In the International System of Units (ISU), the universal unit of energy is the joule (J). 1 kcal = 4.184 kilojoules (kJ) (FAO).
- Idiosyncratic shock An unexpected event that affects one household or individual. An example of an idiosyncratic shock would be the death of the breadwinner (DFID 2001:179).
- Impairment: An individual's condition physical, sensory, intellectual or behavioural.
- Incidence The percentage of people living below the poverty line (DFID 2001:179).
- Income deciles and quintiles The population is ranked by income and divided into ten

- groups of equal size. The bottom 10 per cent is the first or bottom decile. If divided into five groups the groups are called quintiles (DFID 2001:180).
- Income (or consumption) poverty Poverty defined with respect to a money-based poverty line for income or expenditure. The distinction is made between this and other concepts that emphasise the many dimensions of poverty (DFID 2001:180).
- Inclusive policies Policies which acknowledge that socially excluded, poor or vulnerable people are not a homogeneous group and have a right to be included in poverty alleviation and development work.
- Income distribution The allocation of national income between persons or households; an indicator of economic and social inequality where some people have more than others. (See gini co-efficient) (Gordon and Spicker 1999:71).
- Income inequality See Income distribution
- Income poverty Income is a key concept in almost all definitions and studies of poverty. Classically, income has been defined as the sum of consumption and change in net worth (wealth) in a period (Gordon and Spicker 1999:77). Internationally, the income poverty line is set at a dollar a day.
- Indicator A numerical measure of quality of life in a country. Indicators are used to illustrate progress of a country in meeting a range of economic, social, and environmental goals. Since indicators represent data that have been collected by a variety of agencies using different collection methods, there may be inconsistencies among them (World Bank).
- Indigence A person who is indigent is in need and lacks the means for subsistence. The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America has referred to an indigence line, which at half the value of the poverty line is supposed to cover only basic nutritional requirements (cited in Gordon and Spicker 1999:81). (See extreme poverty, destitution)
- Infant Mortality Rate Statistical summary rate based on the number of infant deaths occurring during the same period of time, usually a calendar year, usually given in relation to 1 000 live births occurring among the population during the same year (UNECE).
- Internally displaced people IDPs are people who are displaced but remain within the border of their country of origin. Usually applied to people fleeing their homes because of an armed conflict, civil disturbance or natural disaster (CRED).
- Intra-household allocation The way resources are distributed between members of the household on the basis of their age, gender and role of the household member (DFID 2.001:180).
- Longitudinal study A study that observes the same group of individuals, households or villages over time, also known as panel study (DFID 2001:181).
- Low-income country A country having an Gross National Income (GNI) per capita equivalent to \$755 or less in 1999. There are currently about 64 low-income countries where the standard of living is lower,

- there are few goods and services; and many people cannot meet their basic needs (World Bank).
- Low birth weight Newborn infants who weigh less than 2.5 kg at birth (FAO).
- Marginalised people Those who are physically or socially remote (see also exclusion). They are by-passed by most economic, political and social activity and likely to have very precarious livelihoods (DFID 2001:181).
- Market failure A situation in which markets do not function properly. A common cause of market failure is imperfect information. For instance, the difficulty of determining which potential borrowers are creditworthy is given as a reason for badly functioning rural credit markets and a rationale for the high interest rates charged by money lenders (DFID 2001:181).
- Money-metric A reference to poverty from a strictly income perspective (DFID 2001:181).
- Multidimensionality Multi-dimensional approaches capture a fuller range of deprivations that constitute poverty, and may give 'voice' to the poor and include non-monetary dimensions.
- National poverty lines Poverty lines drawn by national governments or national statistical offices to measure poverty. It is not possible to make comparisons between countries using national poverty lines as each is calculated on the basis of criteria specific to that country (DFID 2001:182).
- Oblasts Administrative and territorial divisions in some republics of the former Soviet Union.
- Panel survey Quantitative longitudinal study. (See Longitudinal study).
- Poverty correlates The characteristics that are closely associated with being poor such as living in a rural area or having a large number of children. These can be used to target public expenditure in the absence of detailed information relating to every household (DFID 2001:183).
- Poverty dynamics Changes in individual or household poverty status over time.
- Poverty gap See Poverty depth.
- Poverty headcount Refers to the proportion of individuals, households or families that falls under the poverty line. Divides the number of people identified as poor by the total number of people in the community. The headcount ratio ranges from zero (nobody is poor) to one (everybody is poor) (Gordon and Spicker 1999:73).
- Poverty incidence See Incidence.
- Poverty line Represents the level of income or consumption necessary to meet a set of minimum requirements to feed oneself and one's family adequately and/or to meet other basic requirements such as clothing, housing and healthcare. Those with incomes or expenditure equal to or above the line are not poor. While what the minimum should be has an important subjective element, poverty lines are typically anchored to minimum nutritional requirements plus a modest allowance for non-food needs. (see Chapter One).
- Poverty severity A static concept, capturing the fact that the poor are not equally poor

to the same level. It is the average value of the square of depth of poverty for each individual. Poorest people contribute relatively more to the index. Also called Foster Greer Thorbeke (or P2) (ADB).

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) A national strategy for poverty reduction. All countries that are eligible for World Bank concessional lending or for debt relief under the *Heavily Indebted Poor Countries* (HIPC) Initiative are producing PRSs. The PRS is intended to be the basis for all donor support, including the IMF and World Bank (DFID 2001:184).

Poverty spell The period of time spent in poverty. In longitudinal studies, often the duration of poverty and the causes of the transition out of poverty are analysed (DFID 2001:184).

Poverty trends How aggregate poverty levels change over time Public Goods A good that is provided for users collectively, see *Global Public Good*.

Purchasing Power Parity (PPP): A method of measuring the relative purchasing power of different countries' currencies over the same types of goods and services. Because goods and services may cost more in one country than in another, PPP allows us to make more accurate comparisons of standards of living across countries. PPP estimates use price comparisons of comparable items but since not all items can be matched exactly across countries and time, the estimates are not always 'robust' (World Bank).

Refugees Those who are forced to cross international borders because of conflict or political instability.

Relative poverty Poverty defined in relation to the social norms and standard of living in a particular society. It can therefore include the individual's ability to take part in activities that society values even if they are not necessary for survival. Relative poverty can also refer to the nature of the overall distribution of resources (DFID 2001:184).

Rights-based approach An approach based on understanding of the links between development and civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights (DFID 2001:185).

Risk Understanding of the likelihood of events occurring, for example, on the basis of past

experience. This concept contrasts with that of uncertainty, in which the likelihood is unknown. An individual or household may assess that the likelihood of a bad event, such as drought, occurring is high enough to alter their livelihood strategy (DFID 2001:185).

Scheduled Castes In India, a collection of castes formerly known as 'untouchables' (dalits) that have been 'scheduled' for positive discrimination in education and employment.

Scheduled Tribes In India, identified on the basis of certain criteria including distinctive culture and pre-agricultural modes of production.

Selectivity The allocation of development assistance prioritising those with good anti-poverty policies (DFID 2001:185).

Severe poverty Persons who fall below a lower poverty line. For example, in 1993 the World Bank defined an upper poverty line of US\$ 1 income per day and extreme poverty as persons living on less than US\$ 0.75 income per day (both in 1985 prices). These measures are converted into local currencies using purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates. Other definitions of this concept have identified minimum subsistence requirements, the denial of basic human rights or the experience of exclusion (DFID 2001:174–186).

Sex ratio The relative proportion of males and females in a given population, usually expressed as the number of males per 100 females.

Slavery Traditional or 'chattel' slavery involves the buying and selling of people. They are often abducted from their homes, inherited or given as gifts (Anti-Slavery International).

Social exclusion See exclusion.

Social protection Policies and programmes which aim to prevent and mitigate the shocks that create and maintain chronic poverty, and provide recovery assistance by protecting incomes and building the assets of the poor. Examples include pensions, and food for education programmes.

Spatial poverty trap Geographical areas which remain disadvantaged, and whose people

remain multi-dimensionally deprived and poor over long periods of time

Stunting Low height for age, reflecting a sustained past episode or episodes of undernutrition (FAO).

Targeting The process by which expenditure is directed to specific groups of the population defined as poor or disadvantaged, in order to increase the efficiency of the use of resources (DFID 2001:186).

Trafficking Involves the transport and/or trade of humans, usually women or children, for economic gain using force or deception. (Anti-Slavery International).

Transitional Countries Those countries whose economies used to be centrally planned by the government but are now changing – or 'transitioning' – to base their economies on the market (World Bank).

Transitory poverty Short term poverty. Poverty experienced as the result of a temporary fall in income or expenditure although over a longer period the household resources are on average sufficient to keep the household above the poverty line (DFID 2001:186).

Undernourishment Food intake that is continuously insufficient to meet dietary energy requirements (FAO).

Ultra-poverty This is another term for *extreme poverty*. It is sometimes specifically used to refer to those who spend more than 80 per cent of their income on food but obtain less than 80 per cent of their food energy needs. The low food intake of this particular group will affect their productivity and ability to get out of poverty (DFID 2001:186).

Vulnerability Relates to risk. People are vulnerable to poverty when they are more at risk than others (Gordon and Spicker 1999: 141–2). While *income poverty* may be reduced by borrowing; debt may make the poor more vulnerable (DFID 2001:186).

Wasting Low weight for height, generally the result of weight loss associated with a recent period of starvation or disease (FAO).

Waves the occasions on which a survey is conducted to make up panel data e.g. a three wave panel dataset has conducted comparable surveys at three different times on the same individuals or households.

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Chronic Poverty Research Centre: http://www.chronicpoverty.org;

The Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED):

http://www.cred.be/emdat/intro.htm

FAO:

http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/y1500e/y1500e06.htm#P0 2

UNECE Gender statistics glossary: http://www.unece.org/stats/gender/web/glossary.htm

World Bank:

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Chronic Poverty in India: Overview Study by Aasha Kapur Mehta and Amita Shah.

Violent Conflict, Poverty and Chronic Poverty by Jonathan Goodhand. Livelihoods Research: Some Conceptual and Methodological Issues by Colin Murray.

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Study of the Incidence and Nature of Chronic Poverty and Development Policy in South Africa: An Overview by Michael Aliber.

Chronic Poverty: Meanings and Analytical Frameworks by David Hulme, Karen Moore and Andrew Shepherd.

Chronic Poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia: A select annotated bibliography with special reference to remote rural areas. by Samuel Hickey. CPRC Annotated Bibliographies No 1

All working papers can be downloaded free of charge from www.chronicpoverty.org

The Chronic Poverty Report 2006–07

The Chronic Poverty Research Centre is continuing to develop qualitative and quantitative datasets, research methodologies and theoretical frameworks for the analysis of chronic poverty.

The Chronic Poverty Report 2004–05 looks at current global chronic poverty. The Chronic Poverty Report 2006–07 will look forward to 2015 to examine potential changes in chronic poverty levels under different scenarios around rates of economic growth and changes in levels of inequality; rising incidence and impacts of HIV/AIDS; and changes in conflict and insecurity.

The Chronic Poverty Report 2004–05 will be directly focused on policy and policy-making processes. It will examine possible futures not only in terms of changes in US\$1/day chronic poverty, but by also looking at nutritional-based measures, changes in assets and other multidimensional indicators.

The second Chronic Poverty Report will specifically focus on the policies required to tackle chronic poverty globally. This means addressing the complex social, economic and political processes that enable individuals, households, communities, and key national and international development actors to respond to chronic poverty.

This report will draw concrete conclusions not only on *what* policies are important but also on *how* to promote their implementation. This will involve engaging with issues and institutions from the local to the global level. It will mean examining ways to encourage the political will necessary to drive the implementation of a chronic poverty reduction agenda and to secure the necessary financial resources.

The key policy issues that will be the main focus for The Chronic Poverty Report 2004–05 are:

Prioritising livelihood security:

- Addressing the chronic insecurity that affects chronically poor people, in ways that protects them against vulnerability and promotes their ability to take advantage of opportunities.
- 2. Improving the nutritional levels and key capabilities of chronically poor people, particularly children.
- 3. Providing social protection for the poorest to inhibit the inter-generational transmission of poverty.

Growth, inequality and redistribution:

 Promoting pro-poor growth, enabling the chronically poor to participate more effectively in broad based economic growth that increases demand for their labour, goods and services. 5. Reducing levels of inequality through redistributive policies, including resource allocations for public expenditure which promote services for the poor and progressive social change.

Empowerment:

- 6. Enhancing the rights of the chronically poor.
- 7. Improving the quality of governance, notably the quality of institutions and policy implementation.
- 8. Reducing discrimination and working toward enhanced social integration.
- 9. Addressing the key cultural maintainers of chronic poverty in the household and community.

Obligations to provide resources:

- 10. Monitoring international commitments to increase aid volumes, and implications for recipient sectors and countries.
- 11. Improving financial transfers to chronically poor people, promoting effective management of universal and targeted schemes.

The global challenge:

12. Identifying weaknesses in the international system that inhibit chronic poverty reduction, and generate performance indicators for international institutions.

Regional chronic poverty reports and reviews

Chronic Poverty in India, CPRC-IIPA, New Delhi, 2003 State of the Poorest in Bangladesh 2004/2005 (forthcoming, June 2004)

Uganda Chronic Poverty Report 2004/2005 (forthcoming, June 2004)