

# GLOSSARY

**Base floodplain.** The base floodplain is the 100year floodplain, that is, a floodplain with a 1.0 percent chance of flooding in any given year.

**Critical floodplain.** The critical floodplain means at a maximum, the 500-year floodplain, that is, a floodplain with 0.2 percent chance of flooding in any given year.

**Dam.** A dam (e.g. Shiroro dam) is a barrier no less than six meters high, constructed across a water course or a topographic low area for the purpose of storage, control or diversion of water.

**Entitlement.** Entitlements include the rights, privileges and assets that a household has, and its position in the legal, political and social fabric of society. Sen's (1981) theory on food entitlement states that these endowment are derived from a household' own production, income, gathering of wild foods, community support (claims), assets etc.

**Flash flood.** Flash flood is flood whose peak runoff occurred within 12 hours from the commencement of rainfall.

**Flood duration.** Flood duration is the time of inundation for flood flows, which vary from a few minutes to more than a month.

**Flood magnitude.** Magnitude of a flood is expressed in physical or probabilistic terms. The physical measures are rate of flow measured in m<sup>3</sup>/sec or river stage in metres. The probabilistic measure is a statistical method of ordering various magnitudes of flow and stating the probability that given flow will be exceeded.

**Floodplain.** Floodplain is lowland adjoining inland and coastal waters and relatively flat areas and flood prone areas of offshore islands or river basins. It includes the base floodplain and the critical action floodplain.

**Food insecurity.** Food insecurity exists when people are undernourished as a result of the physical unavailability of food, they lack of social or economic access to adequate food, and/or inadequate food utilization. Food-insecure people are those individuals whose food intake falls below their minimum calorie (energy) requirements, as well as those who exhibit physical symptoms caused by energy and nutrient deficiencies resulting from an inadequate or unbalanced diet or from the body's inability to use food effectively because of infection or disease.

**Food security.** Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life (USAID, 1992). Household food security is the application of this concept at the family level, with individuals within households as the focus of concern.

**Hayden code.** Hayden Code is a classification system for flood due to climate variability developed by Bruce Hayden outlined in Chapter 1 of the book titled "Flood Geomorphology".

**In-bank floods.** In-bank flood, describes the more frequent floods which involves the confinement of flood flows within the riverbank. Such flood is of low magnitude, low peak value and do less damage.

**Livelihood.** A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living (Chambers and Conway, 1992).

**Major Flooding.** Major flooding involves an extensive inundation and property damage. (Usually characterized by the evacuation of people and livestock and the closure of both primary and secondary roads).

**Mean annual flow.** Mean annual flow is the volume (rate) of river flow during a year.

**Minor Flooding.** Minor flooding is a flood that causes minimal or no property damage but possibly some public inconvenience.

**Moderate Flooding.** This is flooding that causes the inundation of secondary roads. Transfer to higher elevation is necessary to save property. Some evacuation, however, may be required.

**Over-bank floods.** Over-bank flood is infrequent floods with high magnitudes, high peaks and may be accompanied by disastrous consequences including overtopping of a dam structures leading dam breach, loss of lives and property and other ecological consequences to the environment.

**Participatory rural appraisal.** Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) is a label given to a growing family of participatory approaches and methods that emphasize local knowledge and enable local people to make their own appraisal, analysis, and plans.

**Probable maximum flood.** Probable maximum flood is the flood that may be expected from the most severe combination of critical metrological and hydrologic conditions that are reasonably possible in a particular drainage area. It is the flood, which is a direct result of the probable maximum precipitation.

**Probable maximum precipitation.** Probable maximum precipitation is the greatest depth (amount) of precipitation, for a given storm duration that is theoretically possible for a particular area and geographic location.

**Runoff.** Runoff is that part of the precipitation, snowmelts, or irrigation water that appears in uncontrolled surface streams, rivers, drains or sewers.

**Wetland.** Wetland is an area that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, including swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.