

List of Acronyms

APC	action plan committee
B&A	behaviour and attitudes
CAP	community action plan
EDI	Economic Development Institute (The World Bank)
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
IPC	interpersonal communication
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
NGO	non-governmental organisation
PLA	participatory learning & action
PM&E	participatory monitoring & evaluation
PPD	participatory programme development (see definition on next page)
PRA	participatory rural appraisal
RDWSSP	[Kenya] Rural Domestic Water Supply and Sanitation Programme
RRA	rapid rural appraisal
SA	sponsoring agency (see definition on next page)
SSI	semi-structured interview
WBS	well-being sorting
VIPP	visualization in participatory programmes

Definitions of Terms

Action plan committee (APC): A group of community members, chosen or elected by the community, that is responsible for writing the community action plan and coordinating its implementation.

Community action plan (CAP): A written document created by the community that outlines the activities the community would like to implement as a result of the participatory learning and action (PLA) workshop.

Community link persons: Two or three community members who are chosen by community leaders to work with the PLA team during the PLA workshop.

Field sub-teams: Sub-groups of the PLA team, consisting of two or three people, who work simultaneously with different community groups. One or two people in the sub-team are facilitators and one person is a note taker.

Participatory learning and action (PLA): A community development approach whereby facilitators work with communities to help them analyse their needs, identify solutions to fill those needs, and develop and implement a plan of action. PLA is based on many different participatory approaches, including participatory rural appraisal (PRA), rapid rural appraisal (RRA), and applied anthropology.

Participatory learning and action team (PLA team): A group of six to eight people who work together to facilitate the PLA process within a community. The team consists of PLA experts, members of the sponsoring agency, members of other local non-governmental organisations or government agencies, and community link persons.

Participatory learning and action workshop (PLA workshop): A series of meetings with the community, usually lasting from three to seven days, during which the PLA team works with the community to analyse its needs, identify solutions to meet those needs, and develop a community action plan. The PLA workshop is not to be confused with the **PLA course**, which is the subject of this training manual.