

## In detail: Key principles for local co-ordination groups

By local co-ordination group, we mean a group of between 4-10 local people selected by the church and the community to work with the external facilitators in co-ordinating the process within their community.

### The role of the local co-ordination group

- To champion the process within the church and the community
- To lead Bible studies
- To facilitate community activities
- To support and liaise with the external facilitators
- To take responsibility for the long-term facilitation of the community on the withdrawal of the external facilitators
- To provide informal advice and support to neighbouring communities who want to replicate the process.

### Composition

The process almost always fails where the local co-ordination group has fewer than three members. Some processes recommend that the best size group is 6-10 members.

The local co-ordination group should be made up entirely of people living within the community. It should contain a mix of genders and ages, and include those from the margins of the community.

There are big benefits of having the local evangelist or pastor trained as a member of the local co-ordination group. They then find it much easier to mobilise the rest of the church.

### Building the capacity of the local co-ordination group

External facilitators should actively involve the local co-ordinating group in the process from the outset, so that their capacity can be developed.

Early in the process, the local co-ordination group should have the opportunity to visit other churches and communities who have already benefited from the process.

Once the church and the community has been mobilised, the local co-ordination group requires on-going training and support.

Local co-ordination groups should be monitored because they play a key role in the process.

In churches with very low capacity, the local co-ordination group may be the sole focus of the process and the facilitator's work.

### Encouraging empowering approaches to community leadership

Church and community mobilisation processes often lead to members of the local co-ordination group becoming significant leaders in their community. Such new leaders need to be open to empowering others. If not, there is a risk that the process may only serve to concentrate power in a few individuals who may find it difficult to change and adapt if the community identifies new or different priorities. This is where the church has a key role to play in teaching and facilitating examples of biblical leadership.

### Remuneration

The time of people in the Local co-ordination group should be recognised and remunerated, but salaries should be avoided. Instead, remuneration could take the form of the provision of small supplies or sufficient travel allowance.

Author: Tulo Raistrick