Strengthening cultural identity

Key objective
To enable group members to value and express their cultural identity through the use of the mother tongue

TOOLS required
Relevant pages in Mobilising the community, Mobilising the church, Building the capacity of local groups, Facilitation Skills Workbook, PILLARS Workbook and training process, local language guides.

Personnel required
Trainer to share skills in facilitation and to give group facilitators confidence and experience in using discussion-based learning materials.

Anticipated outcomes
− Participants involved in translating and using PILLARS Guides demonstrate greater sense of pride in their language and culture.
− Minority cultures valued and empowered through the production of Guides in minority languages.
− The literate environment of a particular culture is strengthened.
− Indigenous knowledge is valued and built on.
− Groups united through use and valuing of language and culture.
− The energy around cultural identity is harnessed for other development activities.

Suggested approaches
− Facilitate a PILLARS process to train local development and community workers to use and produce PILLARS Guides in their local languages.
− Use local language Guides with community groups.

Case studies
− Representatives of indigenous groups in Brazil found the process of translation into indigenous language gave them a voice.
− Work in translating PILLARS guides with the Mabban people from South Sudan in a refugee setting, proved empowering and gave hope for the future to this minority group.
− Other than the Bible and a few other theological materials, there is little printed literature in the Wolaitta language.