Strengthening literacy skills

Key objective
To enable group members to strengthen their reading and writing skills, with a view to accessing and producing information that equips them to participate more actively in the life of their community

TOOLS required
Relevant pages in Mobilising the community, Mobilising the church, Building the capacity of local groups, Facilitation Skills Workbook

Personnel required
Trainer to share skills in facilitation and with experience of adult education and literacy work

Anticipated outcomes
− PILLARS Guides provide useful reading materials for the newly literate or semi-literate, preventing a relapse into illiteracy.
− Use of Guides strengthens group literacy, using simply language and visual format.
− Primary education and basic literacy programmes are improved through the provision of relevant follow-up reading materials, particularly for women and girls, indigenous groups and excluded children.
− Readers are better able to study bibles in their local languages, where these exist - PILLARS Guides are often the only other material available in minority languages.
− Use of PILLARS Guides helps strengthen the literate environment, particularly in minority languages with little printed material.

Suggested approaches
− Literacy trainers can use the PILLARS Guides as reading material to follow on from a basic literacy programme. Key words should be introduced before group discussion, to check the group’s understanding.
− Use guides as a stimulus for writing, adapting activities from the discussion questions which require participants to write lists, identify tasks or produce posters.

Case studies
1. CAR - ACATBA, Chad have trained literacy facilitators and educators in building the capacity of local groups.
2. EKHC plan to use PILLARS as part of a revitalised nation-wide literacy programme as supplementary reading material.