

Developing translation skills

Key objective

To enable group members to gain or improve the skills necessary for translating from an international language into their mother tongue.

TOOLS required

Any guide relevant to the partner's work. Relevant pages from 'Facilitation skills workbook' and 'PILLARS Workbook'. Tearfund's Guidelines for translating and producing PILLARS Guides.

Personnel required

Trainers or consultants with skills in translation able to give workshop participants confidence in translation, reviewing and field testing.

Anticipated outcomes

- Group producing PILLARS Guides in languages relevant to their work
- Partners feeling affirmed in their cultural identity leading to more confidence and empowerment
- Partner staff enabled to translate other material of benefit to their community.

Suggested approaches

- Run a series of 3 workshops as part of the PILLARS process where participants are trained to work in small groups translating PILLARS guides
- Carry out effective field-testing to ensure translated material is beneficial to target readership and accurate
- Involve local/regional leaders with an educational background in the translation process.

Case studies

- Work in translating PILLARS guides with the Mabban people in a refugee setting proved empowering and gave them new hope and vision
- PILLARS process workshops give participants considerable confidence and skills in translation and writing (see numerous reports).