

PILLARS UPDATE

Welcome!...

to our first PILLARS update. We hope that it will give you a flavour of how the PILLARS resources are being used, and will capture some of the highlights and learning from different parts of the world.

The PILLARS resources

PILLARS (Partnership in Local Language Resources) is a new approach to sharing and producing development related information in local languages. It aims to stimulate the production of simple, illustrated literature in the form of PILLARS guides, which can be translated or written in local languages and used by community groups as a basis for discussion. The guides seek to strengthen these groups by increasing their access to information and by encouraging literacy.

Tearfund produces guides in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Organisations can translate these into local languages or facilitate a series of training workshops, during which participants both translate and write new PILLARS guides.

Now available:

*Building The Capacity Of Local Groups
Improving Food Security*

Agro forestry

Credit and Loans for Small Businesses

Preparing For Disasters

Available January 2003: *Mobilising the community*

Available April 2003: *Healthy Eating*

PILLARS Workshops

In Nigeria...

The third in the series of workshops working in the Yoruba language was held near Ibadan in May. The language committee selected are very motivated to use the materials as widely as possible and keen to repeat the process with other language groups in Nigeria.

In Myanmar....

In September 2002, participants representing seven different language groups came together for a third PILLARS workshop, to reflect on their experiences of the PILLARS process to date, to write and edit a new guide on the theme of education and to make decisions about the production of future guides. The workshop equipped participants with new skills that enable them to write about and share their own experiences and knowledge in a simple and powerful way. Although many challenges lie ahead, the potential of the translated and newly written guides to build the capacity of local groups is exciting.– and, it is hoped, will be a valuable tool to the PILLARS participants as they seek to serve their communities.

In Burkina Faso...

In autumn 2002, the second PILLARS workshop was held, with participants translating into the Mooré language.

In Cameroon.....

In November 2002, an introductory workshop to the PILLARS process was held in Yaoundé, Cameroon. A total of twenty-six participants attended from Cameroon, CAR, DRC, Congo Brazzaville, Chad, Rwanda, Canada, the USA and Swiss-Germany, representing the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), the National Association of Cameroonian Language Committees (NACALCO) and Tearfund partners. It was an enjoyable week of rich and informative exchange. Most participants came with experience in literacy work and were keen to learn about this new approach linking literacy and development. Participants were introduced to the origins and objectives of PILLARS, to the content and design of the guides, and to the process of translating and writing new guides within a workshop setting. They visited

local community groups to gain a deeper understanding of the target readers of the guides. They debated the advantages and disadvantages of printing materials in local languages, of producing the guides in a different format and size to reduce the cost and of producing bilingual guides to both extend the readership and allow people to access the information in the language in which they feel most comfortable. Tearfund learnt a huge amount from the experience of its partners, and from SIL and NACALCO, who have extensive experience in the area of literacy, translation and resource production. The week stimulated ideas that will inform future PILLARS work.

Top tip

During the Cameroon workshop, the Bible studies in the 'Building the capacity of local groups' PILLARS guide were used as a basis for morning devotionals. Participants identified this as one of the highlights of the workshop, and a source of inspiration and challenge. The studies encourage all members of the group to share their own understanding of how Scripture helps us respond to the challenges we face in our communities as we seek to live, grow and change together. The questions help us apply God's word to the problems we face and let it challenge and transform our thinking and practice. The studies on leadership and working together are particularly relevant to those hoping to use, translate and write new PILLARS resources, as the idea of participatory group learning and change is at the heart of the PILLARS approach to the sharing of information. Highly recommended for use at any PILLARS workshop!

Translations

Tearfund partners AESD and RDIS have recently translated two of the PILLARS guides into Kinyarwanda, with the third guide underway...

Something to inspire...

"PILLARS leads me into a new way into transformation of the community-looking for animators and informal groups, trying to identify the information flow inside communities. I had never before recognised the importance of that" *a workshop facilitator*

"To have this kind of programme in our country is a huge privilege. We have so many languages in our country so by this programme people can not only maintain and value their culture and literature but also can provide knowledge and useful information about development to the community..." *a workshop facilitator*

Future plans

In Myanmar... PILLARS workshops with participants representing a further six language groups

In Ethiopia... PILLARS workshops with Tearfund partner Wolaitta Kale Heywet Church

In India... workshop on the use of PILLARS guides with Rainbow Christian Academy

Please get in touch...

....with news of your experiences of using and translating the guides, with your comments and suggestions.

You can also find more information about PILLARS on our website, www.tilz.info, and can order PILLARS resources from us at the following address:

**Resources Development- PDT,
Tearfund, 100 Church Road,
Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 8QE,
UK**

Email: pillars@tearfund.org

