

Participatory community development

Key objective

To enable group members to gain confidence in their own knowledge and participate more fully in the life and development of their communities

TOOLS required

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

Personnel required

Trainer to share skills in facilitation and to give group facilitators confidence and experience in using PLA tools in the context of discussions based on PILLARS

Anticipated outcomes

- Collective knowledge which is reflective of the diverse needs and priorities of the group or community is strengthened
- Those who are often marginalized are included
- Problem-posing approach raises questions and encourages members to find their own solutions to problems
- Discussion and reflection are followed with action planning.

Suggested approaches

- Deliver a five day facilitation skills workshop for partner staff or community leaders using the Facilitation Skills Workbook
- Integrate facilitation skills training into ongoing training activities or partner visits, using the Facilitation Skills Workbook
- Facilitators work through Guides with an existing community group that wants to initiate changes in their community.

Case studies

- Women's groups in the Deborah movement in Burkina Faso are using the PILLARS guides to set up income generating activities (eg. selling dried mangoes).
- In Brazil, facilitation skills training in NE has really helped Tearfund partner staff to consider how best to use the guides in their work.