

## **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.