

## **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.