

*Advocacy toolkit case studies*

# **BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OFFICIALS IN A SENSITIVE LOCATION IN AFRICA**

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**THEME:** Governance

**ADVOCACY APPROACH:** Building relationships

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One Tearfund partner, working in a difficult political context, wanted to work with the local church to implement its project. However, it faced the difficulty that, according to government policy, ‘partners’ within this context were normally NGOs and the church was not registered. The partner built relationships with the local government officials, and then used those contacts to ask them to allow an exemption to this policy and for them to work temporarily with the church. This was on the basis that, from this working relationship, a community-based organisation would be set up by both, which could then be registered and could continue the work. The local government was persuaded by this argument and allowed the partner to have an exemption to the policy.