
Advocacy toolkit case studies

WATER AND SANITATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

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| THEME: | Water, sanitation and hygiene |
| ADVOCACY APPROACHES: | Building relationships Government officials: lobbying Working in alliances and coalitions |

DRC's capital city, Kinshasa, has for years suffered from river flooding after heavy rains. This is problematic because rainfall tends to be above average at least eight months a year. With inadequate sewage systems and poor waste disposal units, many of Kinshasa's inhabitants have to endure dire unhealthy conditions every time there is severe flooding.

The problem was taken up by Tearfund partner ECC (Eglise du Christ au Congo – Church of Christ in Congo), which brought together a network of groups and organisations to lobby politicians for action. What they had in common was a passion to tackle the issue of Kinshasa's poor sanitation. Together, they met with the country's environment minister, health minister, energy minister and MPs, to gain their support for a new law to improve sanitation in Kinshasa. They also lobbied the provincial governor and the president of the board of trustees for the national company that provides water.

Over a period of several years, relationships were developed, which ultimately led to a concerted political will to address the unsanitary conditions in the capital. A provincial law was introduced to govern sanitation, waste disposal, storm water drainage and the general cleanliness of Kinshasa, and ECC and the others in the network have since been seeking to ensure it is implemented.