

*Advocacy toolkit case studies*

# WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN ETHIOPIA

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**THEME:** Water, sanitation and hygiene

**ADVOCACY APPROACHES:** Government officials: meeting with  
Working in alliances and coalitions

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One Tearfund partner, the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church Development Programme, which was passionate about water, sanitation and hygiene issues, joined with other like-minded groups and organisations in a multi-stakeholder forum. Together, they committed to hold the government to account for fulfilling its commitment to provide universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene.

Unfortunately, the government's universal access plan was ambitious and unachievable, which made it difficult to monitor progress. Rather than being confrontational about it, the forum acted in a collaborative and low-key way, by meeting with government ministers, and persuading them on an ongoing basis about the importance of the issue. They also urged the government to review the progress of the universal access plan, in order to avoid complications in the way it would be implemented.

As a result, the government asked key members of the forum to help them redraft the plan and to change the practical outworking of it. Consequently, relationships between the forum and the government are good, and there is ongoing dialogue, as well as joint technical review sessions and annual sector reviews about how to improve water, sanitation and hygiene across the country.