

Advocacy toolkit case studies

IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY NEEDS IN KENYA

THEME: Water, sanitation and hygiene

ADVOCACY APPROACHES: Church and community mobilisation
Government officials: lobbying

Tearfund partner Christian Community Services of Mount Kenya East (CCSMKE) trained the churches in a community in the district of Kerugoya to mobilise the community to identify their priority needs. They did this through the process known as Church and Community Mobilisation, by conducting a series of church meetings, Bible studies, facilitated discussions and community meetings, involving children, youth, women, men and leaders.

Initially, the community identified that a lack of single women for their marriageable men was a considerable problem for the community. However, CCSMKE encouraged them to identify what was underlying this problem. It turned out that the women in neighbouring communities were discouraging their daughters from marrying into the community, on the basis of how far they would have to walk each day to collect water.

With the help of CCSMKE, the community lobbied their MP for permission to repair a derelict government water system. When this failed, CCSMKE helped them access funding and permission from the local authority to build their own water system, which they then did.