

Advocacy toolkit case studies

IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY ISSUES IN ZAMBIA

THEME:**Governance****ADVOCACY APPROACHES:****Building relationships
Church and community mobilisation
Educating community members
Government officials: educating
Social contracts and social accountability**

A group of church leaders in Mapalo, Zambia, were passionate about seeing their community transformed. They worked with the community to identify the needs of the area and what contribution the community itself could make to addressing those needs. They did this by bringing together representatives from the children, youth, women's groups, churches, markets, businesses, residents' associations, community leaders and political parties, in community meetings and facilitated discussions. The issues they identified together were paving of roads, establishment of a high school, upgrading of the health clinic to a hospital and pipe work for the water supply.

The church leaders then created a Memorandum of Understanding between the local candidates standing for election as Councillors and MPs and their community, outlining the community needs and calling on the candidates to commit to helping meet the stated needs within three years. Every candidate standing for election ended up signing the Memorandum of Understanding in the run-up to the elections. As a result, the community not only had a united vision of what their needs were, but they also had a powerful lobbying tool, which they used with their newly elected Councillors and MP to hold them to account for fulfilment of their election pledges.