

Advocacy toolkit case studies

PROTECTING CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA

THEME:	Children and education
ADVOCACY APPROACHES:	Building relationships Church and community mobilisation Community mobilisation Working in alliances and coalitions

For many years, Colombia had no national policy for children, even though the government had signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. As part of a network of NGOs, Red Viva (Viva Network), one of Tearfund's partners, built relationships with the government ministries responsible for children and helped them draft a national children's policy that was later adopted as law. They also shared information with the national church about the policy processes, and gathered contributions from the national church to put into the draft policy. After the policy became law, Red Viva and the alliance trained local government officials as they rolled out implementation of the policy into different regions of Colombia. They also mobilised the national church to work with children and to defend children's rights, through a series of training workshops in each region of Colombia.