

## Advocacy case studies

### HOUSING FOR REFUGEES IN HAITI

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<b>COUNTRY:</b>	<b>Haiti</b>
<b>THEMES:</b>	<b>Land and property; migration and refugees; stigma and discrimination</b>
<b>ADVOCACY APPROACHES:</b>	<b>Mobilising people and campaigning; using the media; working in alliances and coalitions</b>

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When a court ruling was passed in the Dominican Republic (DR) retrospectively stripping Dominican citizenship from anyone who did not have at least one parent with Dominican blood, it had devastating consequences for thousands of people. It meant that anyone who had arrived in the country after 1929 was no longer considered to be Dominican, putting many people of Haitian descent at risk.

Just two years later, the effects of the new law started to be felt as the authorities began to deport Haitians who had lost their Dominican citizenship, taking them over the border to Haiti. Families were forced to leave behind their belongings and livelihoods. Many of them had lived their whole lives in the DR, so Haiti did not feel like home. They were made effectively stateless: no longer Dominican and never identified as Haitian. Countless families had no choice but to settle in makeshift refugee camps along the Haitian-Dominican border. Already vulnerable, their problems were exacerbated by severe drought and the resulting food shortages in Haiti.

In response to the crisis, Tearfund partnered with World Concern to address the needs of these refugees. They provided immediate humanitarian relief, supplying food and hygiene kits and other basic necessities. They also offered training on income generation, providing grants to allow families to start their own small businesses.

In addition to meeting the refugees' short-term needs, Tearfund and World Concern wanted to help ensure there was a long-term solution for where the refugees could live. They advocated for their relocation to permanent housing, using the media and the Haitian diaspora all over the world to draw attention to the issue, including making a [video](#) and sharing on social media. They also publicised immigration statistics to raise awareness of the scale of the problem. Their campaigning was successful and led to a partnership with the International Organisation for Migration, which provided a grant to help with the relocation of refugee families to long-term housing. As a result, hundreds of families were provided with somewhere to live.

Tearfund and World Concern are continuing to campaign to raise awareness of the situation for refugees in Haiti.

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