
Advocacy case studies

IMPROVING HEALTH SERVICES IN UGANDA

COUNTRY:	Uganda
THEMES:	Governance; health; land and property; water, sanitation and hygiene
ADVOCACY APPROACHES:	Church and community mobilisation; government officials: meeting with

In northern Uganda lies the small, rural community of Okulonyo, where Tearfund partner Pentecostal Assemblies of God has trained a number of local people in advocacy. In turn, these facilitators have trained their community in how to engage with local government in a constructive way.

As a result of what they had learnt, the community wrote to district officials, outlining local issues that needed addressing. These included access to water, the need for a health centre and the absence of a proper road. This led to a 'community dialogue' meeting where district officials visited the community to discuss their needs. Community representatives followed up this meeting with a visit to the district office to reiterate their concerns.

Over the course of these two meetings, the government agreed to provide the community with medicines, mobile health services and a new water pump, all of which the community subsequently received. Furthermore, the district authority, impressed by their advocacy work, also promised publicly, on a local radio station, to provide a new health centre and a new road to the village.

The community are continuing to work with the government, making their own contribution by filling the potholes in the current track, while they wait for the new road to be built.