

## Advocacy case studies

# Enabling children with disabilities to access education in South Sudan

**Country:**

South Sudan

**Themes:**

Children and education; human rights; stigma and discrimination; health

**Advocacy approaches:**

Demonstrating good practice; educating community members; government officials: meeting with; government officials: lobbying; social accountability; government budget tracking

Despite children with physical disabilities (CWD) in South Sudan having a right to education as enshrined in the UN's Convention on Child Rights, they struggled to access schools. CWD could not use the schools' facilities, such as pit latrines, classrooms without ramps, and poorly lit classrooms for visually impaired students.

Tearfund partner, Sudan Evangelical Mission (SEM), identified this issue in the Western Equatoria state of South Sudan. They showcased best practices by improving a few schools' infrastructures to enable CWD to access their facilities. SEM also combatted the relevant communities' negative views of including CWD in mainstream schools. After holding community meetings to present the schools that had been modified, the communities were much more supportive of this work. SEM then met with key county government officials, such as the county engineer and county education director, to discuss the obstacles CWD faced in accessing education and provided physical examples of what they were lobbying for when they visited the schools SEM had modified.

As a result of the communities' support, raising the community and county government officials' awareness of this issue, and providing best practice examples, the county engineer agreed to start using the specified measurements SEM provided. They built accessible ramps, pit latrines, windows, classrooms and door measurements in any construction within the county, including not only schools but also churches and

health centres. To keep the county government accountable to this, SEM has supported people with disabilities to monitor the county government's efforts to provide CWD access to schools. They also encouraged the county government to mainstream disability services into their work plans in order to provide enough budget for this work for years to come.

---

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom.

☎ +44 (0)20 3906 3906 ✉ [publications@tearfund.org](mailto:publications@tearfund.org) [learn.tearfund.org](http://learn.tearfund.org)

Registered office: Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE, United Kingdom.  
Registered in England: 994339. A company limited by guarantee. Registered Charity No. 265464  
(England & Wales) Registered Charity No. SC037624 (Scotland)

