
Advocacy toolkit case studies

ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN HAITI

THEME:	Children and education
ADVOCACY APPROACHES:	Building relationships Government officials: lobbying Government officials: meeting with Working in alliances and coalitions

Haiti used to be one of many countries where accessibility and affordability were two of the biggest barriers to education. Many poor families did not have schools in their communities and those that did could not afford to send their children there. This caused concern to Tearfund partner Federation of Haitian Protestant Schools (Fédération des Ecoles Protestantes d’Haïti – FEPH). Its vision was for Haitian society to be transformed by every child having a good-quality basic education. So, as part of Haitian Foundation of Private Schools (Fondation Haïtienne de l’Enseignement Privé – FONHEP) and in coalition with others, they decided to advocate for change.

Alongside other civil society representatives, FEPH developed relationships through meetings and conversations with the Haitian Minister for Education and other key government officials, presenting them with the needs of Haiti’s poorest children. Their request was simple – they wanted a national policy that would commit to: reduce the cost of private education for poor families in Haiti; improve the access to, and quality of, primary education across the country; and promote community-based schools.

The result of this sector-wide dialogue was the establishment of a National Organisation for Partnership in Education (Office National du Partenariat en Education – ONAPE) and the development of a national policy providing education for all in Haiti. ONAPE became the official institution managing the Haitian education system and established an operational partnership among all those concerned with improving education in the country. And FEPH, as part of FONHEP, is working to hold the Ministry for Education to account for implementing the national policy of education for all. This will continue until its vision for change is fulfilled, and all Haitian children can access an affordable, quality basic education.