

Advocacy toolkit case studies

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS IN MALAWI

THEME:	Food security
ADVOCACY APPROACHES:	Building relationships Government budget tracking Government officials: lobbying

Over several years, one of Tearfund's partners in Malawi, Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM), established good relationships with the national government, and particularly with ministers in departments responsible for issues that directly impact poor communities.

As a result of its rapport with the government, EAM was invited to join a national consultation process set up by the government to help it set the national budget. EAM was consistently invited to these consultation meetings and invited to speak on behalf of poor communities and to represent their needs, which it was able to do because of its connections to churches across the whole of the country. EAM's role included significant work in bringing together national church leaders to mediate between the government and the opposition, and in ensuring that the voices of poor communities were heard.

As a result of EAM's involvement in the process, the Malawi government strengthened its policies to deal with issues of food security and poverty reduction and, when the national budget was passed, it was drafted in such a way as to support the implementation of programmes that favoured poor people.