

---

*Advocacy toolkit case studies*

# CREATING BARRIER-FREE ACCESS IN MYANMAR

---

<b>THEME:</b>	<b>Disability</b>
<b>ADVOCACY APPROACHES:</b>	<b>Community mobilisation</b> <b>Demonstrating good practice</b> <b>Government officials: meeting with</b>

---

One Tearfund partner in Myanmar has a vision for people living with disability to live and work as others can. For example, they want to see people with a physical disability live in a barrier-free world, with easy access for wheelchairs into buildings and along pathways.

They realised that they needed to think about how they could communicate this vision to other people, including government at different levels, other organisations, business people, media, community leaders, people with disabilities and their carers. So, they decided to create models, such as wheelchair ramps, to demonstrate how a barrier-free world could be created, and then showed them to government officials and other interested groups. For example, they looked at places where people living with disability cannot go, such as hospitals and schools, and then they built ramps or similar access points into those buildings. They also mobilised communities to pave village roads and pathways, previously muddy and prone to flooding, so that people living with disability could use them.

They used these barrier-free examples to show what is meant by ‘barrier-free access’, which inspired the government officials and others to imagine how Myanmar could be improved for people living with disability. As a result, the government agreed to provide more funding to replicate barrier-free models elsewhere, and to put a policy in place to achieve barrier-free access for all people living with disability in Myanmar, which the partner worked with the government to draft.