

*Advocacy toolkit case studies*

## DEVELOPING HIV POLICIES IN NEPAL

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**THEME:** HIV

**ADVOCACY APPROACH:** Government officials: lobbying

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Nepal used to have no comprehensive support policy concerning community home-based care for people living with HIV. Instead, government and NGOs implemented their own systems as they saw need. Tearfund partner United Mission to Nepal (UMN) took the initiative to form a technical working team to draft and approve a suitable policy, together with involvement of officials from the government, NGOs, UN bilateral agencies and groups representing people living with HIV.

UMN had responsibility for editing the draft policy to ensure relevant technical good practice components were included. At the same time, they developed relationships with the government ministries concerned about HIV and began to lobby officials in those ministries. They asked for the policy to be created and explained why it was needed and what benefits it would bring to people living with HIV.

After the new policy was approved by the government, the guidelines in it were then implemented by UMN and other NGOs who, together, ensured there was a comprehensive approach to prevention, care and support for people living with HIV. At the same time, the Nepali government committed to ensure the policy would be reflected in its National Strategic Plan on HIV.