

*Advocacy toolkit case studies*

# VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND LIVELIHOODS IN RWANDA

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**THEMES:**

**HIV  
Livelihoods**

**ADVOCACY APPROACH:**

**Government officials: meeting with**

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African Evangelistic Enterprise (Alliance des Eglises Evangéliques – AEE) is a Tearfund partner that works with orphans whose parents have died of AIDS-related illnesses and with child-headed households in Rwanda. AEE's members run various initiatives, including a sewing workshop and a carpentry shop where children are trained and sell their goods. The Rwandan Revenue Authority ordered that these initiatives pay their taxes (which they could not afford to do) or close down. AEE, as a partner in these initiatives, used its size and contacts to arrange a meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs. At the meeting they explained that those working in the initiatives were either orphans or members of child-headed households and should therefore be exempted from paying taxes, and the ministry agreed.