

*Advocacy toolkit case studies***ACCESSING WATER IN ZIMBABWE**

THEME: Water, sanitation and hygiene

ADVOCACY APPROACHES: Demonstrating good practice
Direct action
Government officials: lobbying
Using the media

In Bulawayo, there was a season when water supplies dried up. The rains failed, the dams that supply the city fell into disrepair and the pipes into people's homes leaked. There were no chemicals to purify the water and no water pumps. The city's inhabitants found themselves without a water supply.

The pastors of Churches in Bulawayo (CIB), a Tearfund partner, decided to take action. They hired trucks, drove across the border and bought some water tanks. Upon their return, they met with local authority officials, community leaders and church leaders to identify the communities most in need of water. Then they located nearby boreholes and placed the tanks where everyone could access them.

At the same time, they lobbied the government ministry responsible for water to do something about the severe water shortages, starting with paying for repairs to the dams, on the basis that everyone in Bulawayo had a legal right to access clean water. Their advocacy efforts were publicised in the newspaper and on radio. Unfortunately, the government officials refused to cooperate. CIB conducted a risk assessment, concluded they should continue to advocate and carried on regardless.