
Advocacy case studies

LOBBYING FOR COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN PERU

COUNTRY:	Peru
THEMES:	Children and education; health; land and property; water, sanitation and hygiene
ADVOCACY APPROACHES:	Church and community mobilisation; government officials: lobbying; social contracts and social accountability

Pastor Andrés Sangay, who leads Luz Resplandeciente Church ('Shining Light' Church), has seen his community transformed, thanks to their advocacy work. But it took them many attempts to see their applications for support from the local council of Cajamarca come to fruition.

Until recently, the hamlet of Aylambo, located to the south of the city of Cajamarca, had no drinking water supply or latrines, and children regularly fell sick with parasites. Furthermore, there was no local school. Tearfund partner Warmis invited church leaders to attend some church and community mobilisation (CCM) workshops, where they were encouraged and envisioned to see that they could take action in their communities. So, Pastor Andrés and his leaders began a journey, seeking to get the Cajamarca Municipal Government to provide funds for two development projects that the community needed the most.

Pastor Andrés explains: 'After prayer and fasting, and without a penny in our pockets but with great faith and hope, we went down to Cajamarca in an attempt to get the authorities to meet our needs. They informed us of the requirements, and there were lots of them, but we managed to fulfil them, and the following week we submitted our application.

'Every week we invested at least two days in going to the Cajamarca council offices to see how our request was progressing. Finally, one day they gave us the news that the outline of the project to provide drinking water and latrines had been approved. When I heard this, I could hardly believe it... It was as if I was walking on air, and I couldn't stop thanking God. This meant that my community was going to have a drinking water service and latrines for all the families. You can't imagine how much this was going to help my village. I wanted to hug the council officer who gave us the news... so I hugged him and I think I even lifted him off his feet! I was so full of joy, witnessing God's work in our lives like this...'

The local government contracted a company to deliver the project to supply drinking water to the community. They also provided sanitation materials for the latrines, and the community contributed by doing the construction work.

Following these successes, the community prepared a proposal outlining three further requests, with Warmis's support. The government agreed to meet these as well, and started work on building a

school, health clinic and roads. This means that within just one year all five requests had been met, at a total cost of 1 million USD.