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## Advocacy case studies

# CONSTRUCTING BETTER ROADS IN INDIA

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<b>COUNTRY:</b>	<b>India</b>
<b>THEMES:</b>	<b>Land and property; water, sanitation and hygiene</b>
<b>ADVOCACY APPROACHES:</b>	<b>Community mobilisation; government officials: lobbying</b>

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In the state of Punjab in northern India live a community of rice-pickers who go out each day to find work labouring in the fields. They live in a remote village which was accessible only by a very muddy track, plagued by mosquitos. Despite the villagers' many attempts, the government were not listening to their requests for a proper road.

But things began to change when Tearfund partner Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (EFICOR) engaged the people there in the community mobilisation process, known locally as *Parivartan*. The community decided to raise money for the road themselves. They collected 7,000 Rupees between them and were given a further 3,000 Rupees by some wealthy benefactors. They then used these funds to hire machines to make a gravel road. EFICOR helped the community to write and submit an application to the government for the rest of the money they needed. The submission was successful and the government granted them 1,800,000 Rupees, so that the tarmac road the community had wanted for so long could finally be constructed.

Furthermore, there were no toilets in the village, so the community wrote to the government to request this basic facility. The government has since sent a team to conduct a survey to assess the situation.

With these successes for the community, the *Parivartan* facilitator was recognised as the best 'social worker' in the area, which covers up to 70 villages.