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## Advocacy case studies

# MONITORING PUBLIC SPENDING IN TANZANIA

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<b>COUNTRY:</b>	<b>Tanzania</b>
<b>THEMES:</b>	<b>Corruption; governance</b>
<b>ADVOCACY APPROACHES:</b>	<b>Government budget tracking</b>

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Tearfund partner the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) has helped to set up Public Expenditure Tracking (PET) teams. Their aim is to hold the government to account on its financial commitments to public spending, and to pursue greater transparency on the use of public funds.

Youth members of one PET team visited the village of Chibelela and performed a drama sketch to the village assembly, to raise awareness of the possibility and benefits of community members having a say in developing and tracking local budgets. The drama created interest and inspired the community to set up their own PET team.

The PET team in Chibelela analysed the district budget and learnt that the local school was expected to receive 14 million Tanzanian Shillings. The team approached the school and asked for information on how the school had spent these funds. Through analysing the report from the school, the team noticed that about 1.47 million Tanzanian Shillings was allocated to 'other use'. The budget tracking team wrote to the school board to ask them what this money was being used for and received various explanations. Eventually, they contacted their ward councillor for help. Unfortunately, he regarded their actions as inciting the community against their leaders, and he dissolved the PET team. However, a new team was established to continue to pursue the issue.

The PET team also decided to follow up on a newly installed water project in Chibelela that was not functioning. They obtained the financial records from those who were commissioned to construct it and found that 2.5 million Tanzanian Shillings had been wasted. They reported the issue to the village officer, and then to the local councillor. Unsatisfied with their responses, the team then wrote to the Anti-Corruption Commission. They discovered the village chairperson and village executive officer were involved in fraud, which led to their subsequent resignations. The budget tracking team obtained the expenditure report to work on recovering the money, and are continuing to follow up the case with the Anti-Corruption Commission as they gather more evidence.