

Advocacy case studies

LOBBYING GOVERNMENT FOR PPE DURING COVID-19 IN MOZAMBIQUE

COUNTRY:	Mozambique
THEMES:	Health; water, sanitation and hygiene; governance
ADVOCACY APPROACHES:	Building relationships; working in alliances and coalitions; church and community mobilisation; government officials: lobbying; government officials: meeting with; direct action; using the media

In Mozambique, Tearfund partners, Christian Network Against HIV/AIDS (RCHS), Youth Skills Development and Occupation Association (ADHOJOMA), Diaconal Evangelical Committee for Social Development (CODESA), Anglican Diocese of Lebombo and Niassa, Ecumenical Committee for Social Development (CEDES), Apostolic Faith Mission Church (AFM) and United Christ Church in Mozambique (ICUM), have built strong relationships with many rural communities throughout the country, other international NGOs and the local and national government. Therefore, when Covid-19 threatened Mozambique, they were able to work in collaboration with various stakeholders to implement a multi-pronged approach to prevent Covid-19 spreading among the most vulnerable.

At the local level, these Tearfund partners have engaged many churches through Church and Community Transformation (CCT); this process then helped mobilise different churches to raise funds to buy PPE for prisoners and schools. These churches have then gone on to raise awareness with local government officials and lobby their local governments to continue providing these lifesaving supplies to some of the community's most vulnerable members, through health centres and community leaders. Additionally, ADHOJOMA trained local youth in producing environmentally friendly soaps, and through this they connected with the local government and encouraged them to train more communities to produce their own soap – and provide a place for them to do this.

The partners in Mozambique decided to engage in advocacy through raising awareness of government officials and communities; regularly having strategic meetings with government officials about health needs in the country; and participating in a global platform that lobbies the government of Mozambique to fund the national health sector. During the pandemic at the national level, the government was pressured into clarifying and enforcing stricter social distancing measures against Covid-19; monitoring the spread of the disease; and funding the provision of PPE to health workers and community testing – after Tearfund and their partners took the initiative to directly provide PPE

to frontline health workers and in community gathering spaces, and disinfectant spray in health clinics.

Tearfund and their partners also worked alongside other INGOs in Mozambique to spread posters about Covid-19 precautionary measures throughout the country in key locations. Furthermore, a Christian Council of Mozambique representative met a journalist and a senior pastor on a popular national television channel to raise awareness throughout the country about Covid-19 precautionary measures, and produced a regular programme on the national radio about these measures. These television and radio interviews have been translated into the national and local languages to reach more than 900,000 families with this valuable information. Finally, Tearfund partners, Anglican Diocese of Lebombo and Christian Council of Mozambique, met with the President and other government ministers to ask them to allow churches to start meeting again, and the government agreed to a gradual reintroduction of church services when the churches put in place all the prevention measures.

By connecting local communities, churches, local government and national government, and working with other INGOs, these partners have witnessed the strength of collaboration in achieving effective and efficient change at all levels to protect the most vulnerable from a serious threat like Covid-19.

Lessons learnt:

- Building bridges among different levels of key stakeholders is essential in advocacy to ensure sustainable change.
- Coordinating programmes and advocacy initiatives with local and national plans and strategies is an effective way of building trust in the community and with government officials.
- Considering all the angles of an issue is good practice in creating an effective advocacy strategy.