

Advocacy toolkit case studies

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN BUDGET-SETTING IN BOLIVIA

THEME:

Governance

ADVOCACY APPROACHES:

Community mobilisation
Government budget tracking
Research and analysis

In Bolivia, one Tearfund partner, SETESUR, works with the Quechua people, some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in the country. SETESUR wanted to empower them and, when they did some research, found out that the national government had devolved powers to municipal authorities through a decentralisation policy. This transferred central funds to all the country's municipal authorities to spend on public services, with each municipal authority setting its own budget for allocating the spending. When SETESUR researched and analysed the decentralisation policy, they discovered that it encouraged communities to participate in the municipal authorities' budget-setting, so they mobilised members of the Quechua communities to get involved. When they did so, they were able to influence the municipal authorities to prioritise budget spending in favour of service provision for communities living in poverty.