

## CCM advocacy case study - Okulonyo

### Summary

*Okulonyo is a small rural community in Northern Uganda. In 2013 Tearfund partner PAG trained facilitators in advocacy, who in turn trained the community in how to constructively engage with local government. As a result of the training, the community wrote to the local District and held a community dialogue with local officials. Following this engagement the District provided Okulonyo with drugs for the village health team, mobile health services and a new water source. Furthermore, the District authority promised a new Health Centre and a new road to Okulonyo.*

Okulonyo is a rural and impoverished community in Northern Uganda. In 2008, Tearfund's partner the Pentecostal Assemblies of God (PAG) started the Church Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP) in Okulonyo. The process inspired and empowered the church to work with the community to mobilise their own resources and address issues in their local area. The results were fantastic with members of the community planting seeds to grow new crops, building a centre for mobile medical teams to visit and new income generating initiatives such as a turkey-rearing project.

But the partner PAG recognised that there was a limit to what the community could do with the resources available to them, and that the local government had the responsibility to provide public services that were due to the community. So in 2013 PAG trained the CCMP facilitators from Okulonyo and nearby communities in advocacy methods – training them in their rights, the responsibilities of local government and ways to engage constructively with local leaders. The Okulonyo CCMP facilitators then trained the community in advocacy, enabling community members to identify 'duty bearers' and who was responsible for different issues.

Following this training the community wrote a letter to the District authority outlining issues they needed addressing in their community (such as access to water, a health centre and a road) and requesting a community dialogue. The District agreed to the dialogue and met with the community, during which they committed to drill a water source and construct a road. Representatives from the community then visited the District office and relayed the communities' concerns again. At this visit the District gave the community representatives drugs for the village health team to distribute as needed in Okulonyo.



*The centre where the village health teams visited*

By the end of the month, Okulonyo had a mobile health clinic visit the community providing much needed health services and vaccinations. Within 3 months the community had a new water pump, providing much need water supply. Furthermore, the District announced on the local radio that it will construct a road and build a new health centre in Okulonyo. Whilst the community wait for the road they are playing their part by filling in the potholes in the current track.



*The truck arriving in Okulonyo to drill the new water source*

*'We believe that we will get a health centre. The District have lived up to their previous commitments so there is no reason to believe they won't do on this occasion....But if we don't get a response from the Government, we will keep demanding it.'*