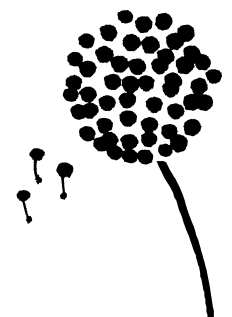


Footsteps

No.45 DECEMBER 2000

ADVOCACY



TEARFUND

Speaking out

FROM THE EDITOR

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.

Proverbs 31:8

An *advocate* is someone who speaks out on behalf of someone else to bring about justice. In Jesus we have the perfect example of an advocate. While we were still God's enemies, he died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven. Now he pleads with God on our behalf, as our advocate in heaven. There are many other examples of advocacy in action in the Bible, including Abraham, Moses and Nehemiah.

Tearfund in Honduras comments, 'We Christians need to be people who cry out for and uphold justice. Our involvement in advocacy reflects both the maturity of our faith and the start of a process where we become responsible for what God has asked of us: to take care of the lives of our brothers and sisters.'

Advocacy means to speak or take action either with, or on behalf of, the poor, to change the situations that cause their poverty and bring about justice. This may involve speaking and working with groups, individuals, companies or governments whose actions or policies affect the poor.

People may be poor for many reasons: unfair trading systems, corruption, unfair land distribution. Much work in development tries to improve the immediate situation of people caught up in unjust or difficult situations, while advocacy work tries to get to the root of these situations. Development and advocacy work thus need to go together and often it may be hard to separate them. Advocacy work aims to challenge the underlying cause of the situation, though it may take a long time before changes are made.

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Being an advocate
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- Bamboo water pipes

In many ways, every issue of *Footsteps* is about advocacy, since our focus is always to inform and encourage people to take action on the issues we cover. However, this issue brings the opportunity to focus on how to be more effective in advocacy work for the poor. As Alexis Pacheco, Regional Advisor for

Isabel Carter



Photo: Richard Hanson, Tearfund

Footsteps

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Footsteps is a quarterly paper, linking health and development workers worldwide. Tearfund, publisher of *Footsteps*, hopes that it will provide the stimulus of new ideas and enthusiasm. It is a way of encouraging Christians of all nations as they work together towards creating wholeness in our communities.

Footsteps is free of charge to individuals working to promote health and development. It is available in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. Donations are welcomed.

Readers are invited to contribute views, articles, letters and photos.

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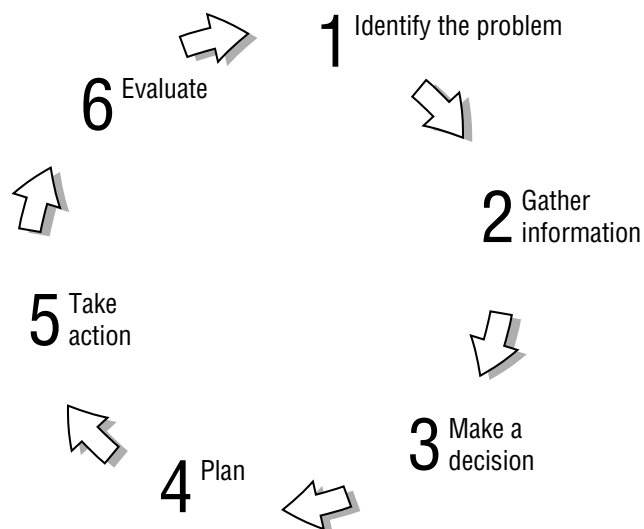
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The advocacy cycle



The basic procedure is the same for all types of advocacy and it can be helpful to picture this as a six-step cycle.

1 Identify the problem

What is the real cause of the situation? Why do you and others want to try to change things? Could the situation be changed through advocacy work?

NGOs, the media? Who might oppose you? Organisations, officials, individuals?

- **risks and advantages** What risks are involved if action is taken or not taken? What advantages might there be in taking action, or in not taking action?

2 Gather information

Find out all the information possible about the situation. This may involve making visits, talking with all sides involved and carrying out research to find details of:

- **the problem** and its implications
- **possible solutions** that could be proposed
- **targets** – these are organisations or people who are responsible for the situation, such as local government or businesses
- **opportunities** for influencing the targets such as public meetings, newsletters, sympathetic individuals or personal contacts
- **supporters and opponents** Who would join you with their support? Churches,

3 Make a decision

After gathering all the information, a decision needs to be made about whether or not to take action. Can you really help to change the situation? Do you really understand all that is involved? Are you clear about who should be targeted to make changes? How can you work together with other supporters and are they interested? Is your information accurate and up to date? Will it stand up to official scrutiny or will people just consider it confused?

You may feel you need more information and research and more help before you can make such a decision.

4 Plan

Once a decision is made, you need to work out a clear plan of action. This should include:

- the main problem
- the objectives of your advocacy work – such as a change in the law or challenging corruption

Find out all the information possible about the situation.



Photo: Mike Webb, Tearfund

Discussion starters

SITUATION ONE Street vendors have been banned from selling their foods by government health officials who are insisting they have a hygiene certificate. The cost of obtaining such a certificate is beyond the reach of all but large food manufacturers. Both vendors and their previous customers are suffering.

SITUATION TWO The local health clinic is about to be closed because there is a lack of government funding. At the same time, a new ward for cancer treatment is to be built in the hospital in the nearby town with government funds. Local people will face a 25km trip to obtain any kind of medical care.

- people who have the power to change the situation – the targets
- the methods and activities that will be appropriate to use for this situation
- how to liaise with other supporting groups
- time schedule
- possible risks
- responsibilities
- measures of success – how will you measure the results?

It may be helpful to draw up a plan of action on a sheet of paper with ruled sections using headings such as these:

Issue	
Objectives	
Target	
Methods and activities	
Supporters and opponents	
Timescale	
Risks	
Responsibilities	
Success indicators	

5 Take action

The kind of action taken will vary greatly, depending on the culture, the social or political situation. There are several kinds of action:

Direct influence (lobbying) on the target

This could include writing letters to officials, meeting with them, providing

information and research findings that may be of interest to the target group, inviting officials to visit and learn more about the situation themselves or attending public meetings already arranged by the target group.

Campaigning Campaigning involves telling others about the situation in a way that encourages them to take action. It could include arranging public meetings, taking part in demonstrations or marches, writing newsletters, providing information sheets or preaching.

Media work Using the media to spread the message can greatly expand the number of people that are aware of the situation, though usually in a less direct way than campaigning. Media work could include writing an article or letter for a newspaper or magazine, talking on the radio, working with journalists to tell them about the situation or producing a press release about some activity or event.

Prayer Prayer should support every kind of action. In some cases, where direct action is too risky, it may be the only way of influencing the situation. Information for prayer can be shared in churches, within organisations for staff meetings, as prayer topics in magazines or within small groups.

6 Evaluate

It is important to set aside time at regular intervals to look back and consider how effective your actions have been. What have been the results, if any? In addition to the main objective, has

anything else changed? Should anything have been done differently?

It may be very helpful to make a list of things that have been successful and the things that have failed. For example:

Our successes

- clear responsibilities
- realistic objectives
- good use of existing networks

Our failures

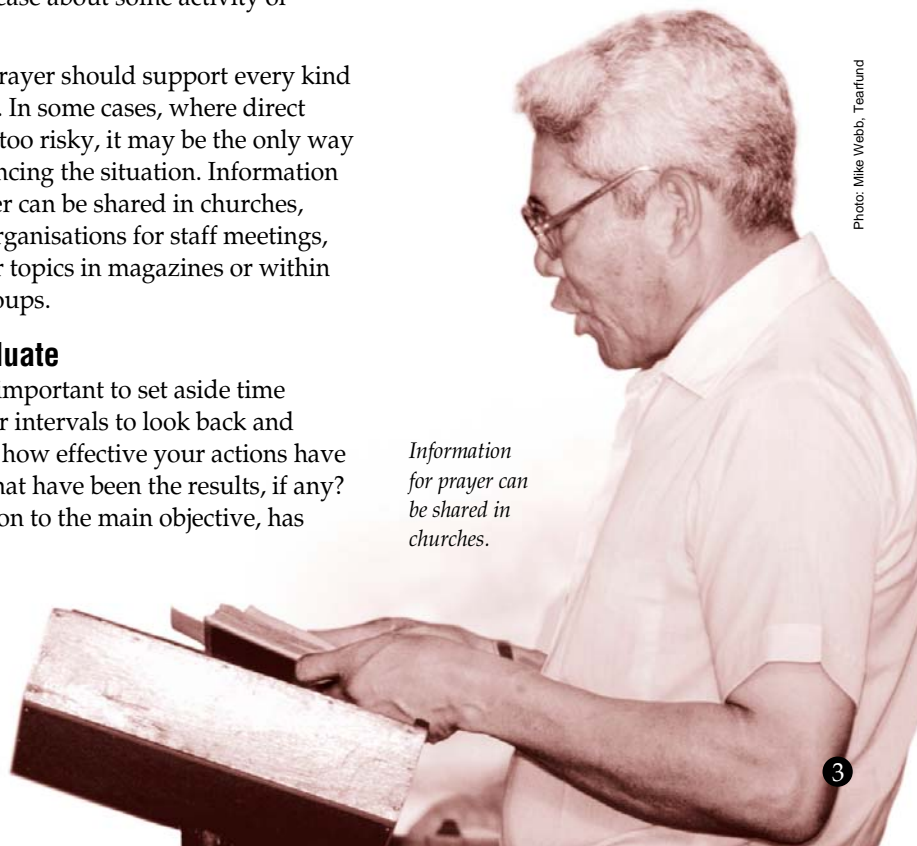
- too few supporters
- unsympathetic media coverage
- not enough information

After evaluating what has happened, what changes could you make? Is further action still needed? It may be helpful to repeat the cycle and work out a new strategy.

Try it out!

Does this all sound too complicated? Would you rather just get going? Try out these six steps with some imaginary situations. In a small group, work through the first five steps. You may like to imagine some possible outcomes and also try out the last step. Alternatively, you may already be involved with a situation that concerns you, and you could work through the six steps for this.

This article was adapted from Tearfund's Advocacy Study Pack written by Andy Atkins and Graham Gordon (see page 14).



Information for prayer can be shared in churches.

Photo: Mike Webb, Tearfund

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

The Patuca Dam

by Osvaldo Munguia and Graham Gordon

MOPAWI is an NGO which began in 1985, based in La Mosquitia region of Honduras, Central America. This is a vast expanse of unspoilt rain forest with many protected areas. MOPAWI works for the sustainable development of the indigenous people in the region.

When MOPAWI started work it discovered that the indigenous people believed that the land they lived on was theirs, when in fact it was classed as national land. This meant that nobody had secure tenure and that anyone could 'peacefully' settle on the land and, after some years, claim it as their own. MOPAWI began to create awareness of the issue of land tenure and helped people to organise themselves at community level to be granted land rights. The indigenous population has now been in negotiations with the government for nearly ten years.

Patuca Dam project

Honduras cannot supply enough electricity to serve the current needs of its population. Since the 1960s, the

government has been collecting data from the Patuca River in La Mosquitia to consider whether it would be a suitable source for hydro-electric power. Since 1994, supplies of electricity have been rationed. Honduras has needed to buy electricity from neighbouring countries. The government has been under pressure from these countries and from its own industry to develop its own secure source of electricity.

In 1996 the government contracted two North American companies to build a dam on the Patuca River, and granted them concessions to sell electricity back to the national power company for the following 40 years. Within days the government had effectively provided natural resource rights to foreign



Working on a felled tree.

Photo: Mike Webb, Tearfund

companies, whereas ten years of 'negotiations' with the indigenous population had still resulted in no rights for their land.

The companies hired an agency from Costa Rica to consider the likely impact of the proposed dam on the environment and the people. This took just six weeks to complete and there were fears that it was rushed through so that the dam could be started as quickly as possible.

MOPAWI's concerns

MOPAWI were concerned that this dam would have devastating consequences on La Mosquitia:

- The dam would prevent the river from flooding. This would stop land being fertilised, thus reducing food production.
- The Patuca River provides the main form of transportation for the region. The dam would lower the water levels and make it more difficult for boats to travel to and from the coast.
- A new road was planned which would open up the area for outside migration, threatening the land rights of the indigenous population, putting pressure on an already fragile ecosystem and increasing logging.
- The electricity was for the main industrial cities and La Mosquitia would be the last place in the country to receive a constant supply.

There was also evidence from a geologist that the high annual rainfall and the fragile ecosystem could lead to heavy soil erosion, resulting in the dam being blocked after only a few years. The result would therefore have been



The Patuca River provides the main form of transportation for the region.

Photo: Mike Webb, Tearfund

environmental destruction but with no ongoing supply of electricity to show for it.

Advocacy action

MOPAWI felt led to take action to raise awareness of the implications of the dam. Their advocacy work led to involvement at many different levels:

Networking with organisations The first step for MOPAWI was to work with other concerned groups to form a coalition which included environmental groups, indigenous people's groups and local government representatives.

Working with the community At the same time, it became involved in many popular awareness-raising activities. These included seminars with people in La Mosquitia, a weekly programme on the national radio with a phone-in discussion, and a press conference with the Honduras media. 'The work we had done ten years earlier to help the people organise themselves over land rights, meant that they quickly organised themselves to stop the dam,' says MOPAWI's Director, Osvaldo Munguia.

Lobbying at government level MOPAWI staff also met with the government and the companies involved to discuss the issues and represent their concerns. This was done in private meetings as well as through holding a public forum in the capital city to which the government, companies, indigenous groups, environmental groups and the media were invited.

Working at international level Early in 1997 MOPAWI contacted partner organisations in the UK, such as Tearfund, and in the USA, such as the Native Lands Group and the International Rivers Network. MOPAWI asked them to put external pressure on the Honduran government and on the companies to halt the plans for the dam.

Objectives of the campaign

The coalition demanded the following action be taken:

- an environmental study of at least 18 months so that the likely effects on the environment and animals could be

understood during all of the different seasons

- serious investigation of all possible alternatives for providing power in Honduras
- granting the Patuca region status as a protected area
- granting communal land rights to the indigenous population.

'One of the strengths of the campaign was that all the groups in the area worked closely together, and we had the



La Mosquitia is a vast expanse of unspoilt rain forest with many protected areas.

opinions of experts as well,' comments Osvaldo. The proposed dam became a subject of national interest. 'The company started taking us seriously when they realised that if we were correct, the dam would be blocked with silt within a few years and they wouldn't recover their investment.' The construction companies, concerned that it may not have been a good investment, were more eager to talk, even though they were still planning to go ahead with the construction.

The coalition did not merely complain about the proposed dam but tried to find alternative solutions. They recognised the need for electricity and showed that a series of smaller dams could be built throughout the country to provide more electricity. They also showed how, by using biomass, solar and wind energy, Honduras could produce enough electricity for the whole population.

Personal danger

The campaign was not without danger for those involved. Date Alcalde, the mayor of Catamas in the Patuca region, was found killed in his office. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the campaign to protect the Patuca National Park and it is

thought his death was connected to this in some way.

In October 1998 Hurricane Mitch tore through Honduras, causing huge destruction to homes and the environment. For more than 150km along the Patuca River, huge areas of the river bank and thousands of trees were completely washed away. There were mountains of trees and extensive silting along the river bed. A subsequent impact study showed that, even if the dam had withstood the force of the hurricane and resulting river flow, it would have received so much silt and debris that it would have been unusable.

The situation now

In March 1999 the companies involved officially withdrew their involvement with the dam project. They said this was due to the level of local opposition. It must also be partly because they realised the project was unworkable. However, the government still has plans to build the dam and is looking for other partners.

Apart from stopping the project at present, the campaign has enabled the people in La Mosquitia to be better organised. It has strengthened the environmental movement in Honduras as a whole and more people are supportive of protecting natural forests.

The future

The coalition is ready to deal with future proposals to build the dam. MOPAWI are still working with the indigenous communities and the government for land rights to be granted to the indigenous communities. When this happens they will be in a much stronger position to prevent unwanted development and to control their own future. 'The indigenous groups in the region didn't really associate with the government before. Now they are talking to them at the highest level.'

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*Graham Gordon is Public Policy Officer for Tearfund, UK.
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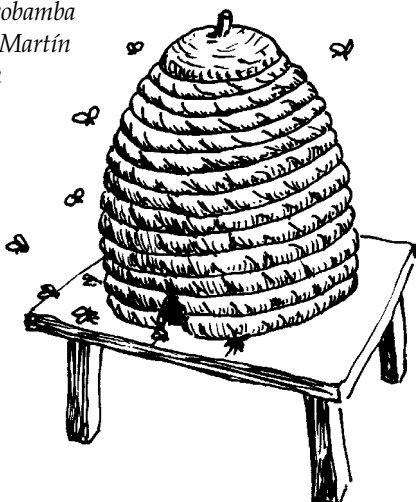
Practical beekeeping

After writing something about bees which was published in *Paso a Paso*, I've received advice and queries from all over the world, which really pleased me.

Bees can be found throughout the world: in old tree trunks, under stones, in holes in rocks, under roofs etc. They are practically crying out to be caught and given somewhere to live. This is the easiest way to get hold of a family of bees (with queen, workers and drones). What is more, any friend who is a carpenter will be only too happy to make you a box to bring your bees up in. Later on you can improve it as your swarms grow, and you can become a beekeeper with the standard kind of hive.

Bees cost little to keep and just use the resources that nature provides. And honey is a food that everyone enjoys. Beehives can be grouped together, up to 50 hives every 2–3km, in a tree-covered area. Experienced beekeepers can tell you what kind of equipment you need for handling bees.

Silas Santiago L
Apartado 38
Moyobamba
San Martín
Peru



Chlorinated water

Our local running water is not safe to drink without treatment. However, it is now super-chlorinated, making it almost undrinkable as it tastes so disgusting. Can any readers give advice about how to remove the taste?

Nigel Potter
San José, Marcala, La Paz, CP 15201
Honduras

PAUL DEAN, EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

Super-chlorination is used to sterilise water containing large quantities of organic pollutants. The high levels are only necessary for a short time, usually 30 minutes, then de-chlorinating agents such as sulphur dioxide, sodium thiosulphate or potassium permanganate are added to remove the excess chlorine.

Chlorine is highly volatile. Try letting the water stand for up to a day, occasionally stirring it, in a covered container, before it is drunk or used for cooking. This should help reduce the amount of chlorine to acceptable levels. If available, passing the water through charcoal filters should also help.

Debt repayments

I became a Christian at the age of 12 through the work of the missionary, JI Kaardal. I had no shortage of punishments and minor persecution to make me abandon the Christian faith. But in vain – God has preserved me right to this day and now three of us in the family are pastors: my younger brother and my eldest son. We are indeed blessed by God.

In my village, the people owed a debt of over five million Chadian Francs to the Chad Cotton Company. How could a small village with few people like ours have such a debt? What could be done? Each time farmers brought their cotton to market, the Cotton Company kept back all the farmers' earnings to pay this debt. This was repeated for years. The people were discouraged and no longer wanted to keep growing cotton. The village chief tried to negotiate with the Company without success and the village people then believed he was agreeing with the Cotton Company. There were many arguments and much unhappiness and theft within the village. What should be done?

As the pastor, I had the idea of creating another Village Association by the name of *Baivalle*, which means *no debt*. I chose the best planters for this new group. Then I put the two groups into

competition. They were both encouraged, especially the *Baivalle* group. Soon afterwards the village was able to pay off their debt. The people are pleased. We thank God for his blessing.

Pastor DP Pakain
Touare, BP 22, Pala
Chad

Support for Christian communities

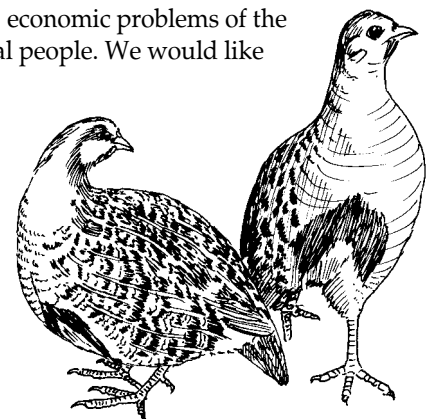
A French speaking organisation in Togo – Assistance aux Initiatives des Communautés Chrétiennes d'Afrique (Assistance to the Initiatives of the Christian Communities of Africa) is involved in assisting small projects of all kinds run by Christian communities in Africa, Madagascar and the Mauritius Islands. It can help provide finance, equipment and technical support necessary for carrying out these projects. Its coordinator comments, 'We are looking for partners throughout the world who can help us in carrying out this task. We call on French speaking Christian communities of two to twelve members, to contact us and benefit from our services.'

Guemadji-Gbedemah Tété Enyon
s/c BP 60036, Lomé
Togo

E-mails: assica@iquebec.com
assica@yahoo.fr

Breeding partridges

We want to try to tame partridges which are at present wild. Their meat is highly appreciated and they are heavy enough to justify our attempts. As well as spreading knowledge about breeding hens, ducks, guinea fowl and pigeons in the rural areas, we hope to add partridges. This is part of our search for ways and means to resolve the nutritional and economic problems of the rural people. We would like





Thanks to community savings groups, children in Aklampa, Benin are no longer sent home because of unpaid fees.

Photo: Geoff Crawford, Tearfund

to make contact with those who can give us information about this.

*Mabete Miankenda
FOBEVI (Fondation Mon Beau Village)
BP 8436, Kinshasa 1
Dem Rep of Congo*

Listening to children

My name is Balla Owona Jules and I am 12 years old. My father works in a diocesan development organisation in the town of Mbalmayo, Cameroon. He receives *Pas à Pas* and gave me *No 38* which interests children.

I started the English Club in our school. I am also one of six representatives of this region in the children's parliament in Cameroon. This was organised by UNICEF and was held in the National Assembly Palace in Yaoundé with 180 children as members of parliament and 20 deputies. We debated the twelve articles and during the final debate the Prime Minister of Cameroon and all his Ministers were present to listen.

*Jules R Balla Owona
s/c Mvogo Balla Edouard
Codasc, BP 320, Mbalmayo
Cameroon*

Solidarity groups for education

Promoting children's schooling is a key concern of our government. However, in the rural areas, parents often struggle with school fees because of their low income. We would like to share the experience of parents from Aklampa, Glazoué in the Republic of Benin.

In Aklampa, we encouraged parents to work together to achieve what they could not manage alone. They formed community savings groups known as *tontines*. These were led by one person responsible for collecting the money. They made arrangements with the school authorities to pay school fees regularly for the members' children. Thanks to this system, these children are no longer sent home because their fees have not been paid. The parents feel obliged to pay as part of their *tontine*. However, they find it easier because small payments are made regularly instead of large amounts several times a year. These arrangements have led to an improvement in the children's results and increased the numbers attending school.

*Hyacinthe Gbégnon
Development Worker
04 BP 1229, Cadjehoun, Cotonou
Benin*

AIDS survey

We carried out a survey in Bunia, Democratic Republic of Congo to analyse certain factors concerning AIDS among young people. Our findings included the following information:

- Poverty and a lack of work encourage adolescents to become sex workers in order to make enough money to eat.
- Migrations of people, especially from Uganda and Sudan, have increased HIV infection.
- The goldrush and the resulting bars and hotels built around the gold quarries encourage HIV infection.

- The rate of HIV infection among young people aged between 17 and 20 years is a horrifying 60%. Only 3% of adolescents use condoms.
- Many men prefer to go out with young girls thinking they are more likely to be HIV-free.
- Taboos about sex mean that our societies refuse to talk about it, either within families or in groups or meetings.
- Many people still wrongly believe that AIDS is a result of demon possession.

From the survey we realise that, though many people know how AIDS is transmitted, they are sceptical about their own risk of infection – which prevents them changing their behaviour. How can we help change this?

*Kabangu-wa-Katanga Gilbert
Bunia (RDC), PO Box 160, Nebbi
Uganda*

EDITOR:

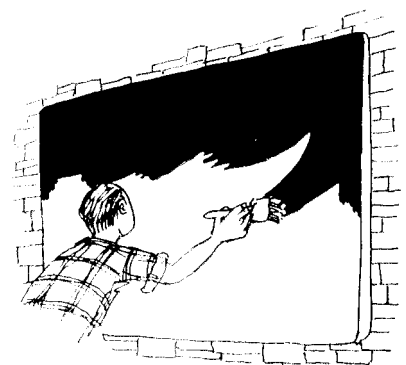
*TALC stock a number of excellent resources in communicating the facts about HIV/AIDS, including the Strategies for Hope series and Stepping Stones. Their address is: PO Box 49, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5TX, UK.
E-mail: talcuk@btinternet.com*

News chalkboards

Your excellent piece on chalkboards on brick walls (*Issue 43*) reminded me that in China and some Asian countries these were created on prominent walls facing a street. Local and national news was written up. In this way literacy could be maintained and encouraged. There were often fantastic decorations around the edge in coloured chalk.

*David Morley
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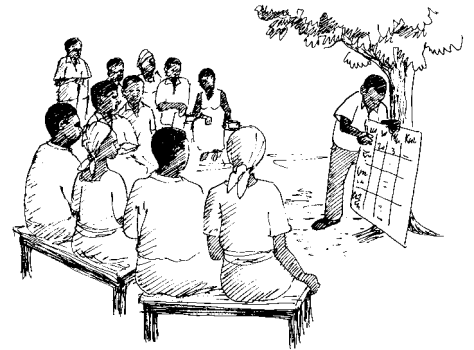
I will speak out... for those who have no voices

Preparation time is over. You have worked through the advocacy cycle, made decisions, shared ideas and plans with others involved. Now it is time to speak out. How can you present a good case? How can you make sure your letters or articles are read? How can you make sure people will respond to radio items or talks? On these pages you will find some practical tips.

We will take as our example here the Tobacco Free Initiative developed by WHO – but the points raised will be similar for any advocacy concern. The tobacco industry is actively targeting Third World countries as a new and rapidly growing market. By 2030 it is predicted that there will be a horrifying seven million deaths per year from smoking in the poorer countries of the world.

Include everybody

Don't assume only educated people can take action. Enable everyone to participate. Use simple language or familiar proverbs or examples to make the message clear enough for everyone to respond with action. Letters or action by children, or the victims of disasters can have a great impact.



Keep writing

Letters and petitions are very powerful. Keep letters short and to the point. Be passionate – but remain polite. Ask for a reply. Try to write one letter a week. Encourage people to set aside time during or after a regular group or church meeting and write together (have enough paper, pens, stamps and envelopes ready).



Catch people's attention

Use a striking photograph or shocking fact to immediately make people pay attention. Back this up with some clear facts and finish with a definite request that you want readers to carry out. However, be careful to present people with dignity – and not as victims.

Reduce your arguments to a few simple points

If you can turn some of them into easy to remember slogans, this will really help people to remember the points. Never think that your particular campaign is too complicated for people to understand. Edit and re-edit your points until you can get over your message in a sentence with a few bullet points.

For example:

- One in every two long-term smokers will die early because of smoking.
- Four million people die each year as a result of smoking.
- Smoking damages the heart and lungs and can result in cancer.
- Smoking damages the health of non-smokers exposed to cigarette smoke.
- Nicotine is an addictive drug just like heroin or cocaine.

Bring people together

There is great power in a group of people working together to achieve the same purpose, whether the group is small or large. Encourage people with success stories.

Peter wanted to tell others at his school about the dangers of smoking. On his own he was afraid to speak up. Then he became friendly with Mwangi and Moses. Together they formed an anti-smoking club and arranged activities.

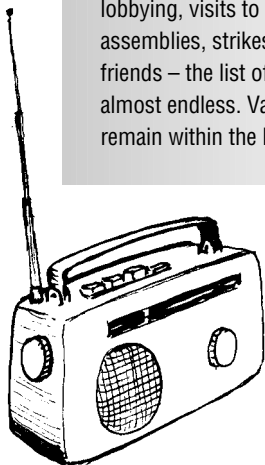
Will anyone suffer?

Make sure you are aware of people who may suffer from your actions – such as small-scale tobacco farmers. Could the impact on them be reduced?



Use all kinds of methods

Role play, songs, children's stories, radio interviews, newspaper articles, letters, poems, posters, petitions, drama, demonstrations, public meetings, prayer chains, vigils, lobbying, visits to officials, school assemblies, strikes, discussions with friends – the list of possible action is almost endless. Vary your approach but remain within the laws of your country.



Fit the message to the situation

Select just one or two appropriate points for each contact. Don't try to get over every point at every opportunity. For example:

- If you plan to target people visiting a clinic with a poster, talk or teaching session – highlight the dangers of passive smoking for babies and young children.
- If you plan to target young people – highlight the danger of the image that 'smoking is cool and makes you more attractive'.
- If you plan to target business people – highlight their legal responsibilities to care for their workers.

However, do keep to the main messages you have chosen.

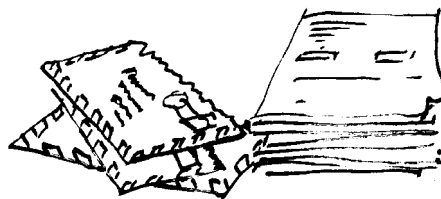
Use individual stories

People struggle to take in a lot of facts. It is much easier to respond to what has happened to one person.

At the age of 45 Alexis was very sick with lung cancer. He was told that he only had a few months to live. When he learned that smoking was the likely cause of his illness he wanted to prevent others from suffering. He offered his help to a small NGO in Managua working to educate people about the risks. Though he was not a good speaker and was often very unwell, his testimony and courage persuaded many to give up smoking.

Prepare good information material

Make sure you have further information available to back up your argument for anyone who wants to know more. But don't waste scarce resources distributing them to people who won't read them.



Request clear, practical responses

Make it easy for people to respond immediately. If addresses will be needed, then provide them; if posters or leaflets are required, make sure you have them available; if signatures for a petition are needed, provide enough copies and make sure each page states what people are signing – don't use blank pages.



Keep your focus

If your campaign begins to have some results, other people will often ask for related issues to be added. However, stay focused. Don't widen your campaign to include other issues until you have achieved the original aims.

Choose appropriate target groups

For example, the tobacco industry is keen to attract young smokers. Many young people begin smoking between 12 and 14. Target schools, youth groups and sports teams with the message. Challenge the use of smoking advertisements for sporting events, films or TV.

The Tobacco Free Initiative

The Tobacco Free Initiative is a World Health Organisation project created to focus international attention and resources on the burden of disease caused by tobacco. Its key messages are that:

- tobacco kills users
- tobacco kills and harms non-users including unborn children and partners
- promoting the use of tobacco makes poor economics (given the resulting burden of health care)
- information is already available to reverse the increase in smoking uptake
- global strategies will support national action.

For more information contact: TFI, WHO, Avenue Appia 20, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.
Fax + 41 22 791 48 32 E-mail: tfi@who.int



Case studies from around the world

When we Christians get involved directly in advocacy, whether our concern is to support the life of one individual or a whole community, our participation reflects the maturity and conscience of our shared faith. Individual salvation ceases to be our main aim. Advocacy is the start of a process where we become responsible for what God has asked of us from the beginning: to take care of the lives of our brothers and sisters.

We Christians can't allow it to be 'just other people' who cry out for and uphold justice. Demanding justice shouldn't make us feel guilty – it's not doing it that should make us feel guilty for not doing as Jesus has commanded us.

Alexis Pacheco, Tearfund Regional Advisor, Honduras

Challenging the system

In Cambodia the organisation CORD (Christian Outreach Relief and Development) co-operates with village level authorities. They have identified the need for communities and local authorities to target corruption. In one area, the community dug a canal as part of a Food for Work programme linked to the World Food Programme. When the sacks of rice they had been promised in exchange for this work arrived, they were underweight. In the past the same community had accepted 3kg per person when they had been promised 10kg per person.

Following meetings concerning the need to deal with corruption, this time the community refused to accept the rice until they were given the correct amount. The supervisor of the World Food Programme threatened to take the rice away until they signed the falsified receipt. The community continued to stand firm and the rice was sent away. Two weeks later the rice returned – this time with the correct amount – and throughout the country many local organisations reported that they were also now receiving correct amounts of rice. The community had challenged the system and, as a result, many others were benefiting.

Simon Batchelor



Alongside the Batwa

The Batwa people in Burundi are the third largest ethnic group. Traditionally they have had few opportunities to receive education or healthcare and have no access to land for farming. They are pygmies and well known for their skills in pottery, but are usually regarded as a servant class. African Revival Ministries (ARM) have recently appointed a law student as an advocacy specialist. They are hoping to work with the Batwa people to help improve their situation in a number of ways, such as housing, schooling, healthcare, literacy training, further development of their pottery skills and church planting. Through the support and love shown between the ARM workers and the Batwa they hope to improve their self-confidence and ability to participate in wider society, without losing their own traditions and culture. Initially, adult literacy and health education have begun and ARM are now lobbying the government to encourage them to provide education for all Batwa children.



Photo: Richard Hanson, Tearfund

Crocodile teeth

There is the tale of a crocodile who bullied all the other animals, snapping and biting them to make sure he always got his own way. The other animals, even the larger ones, all lived in fear of the crocodile who had such a bad temper and such sharp teeth. Finally the day came when the animals realised that they all shared the same fear and that by working together they could do something. They decided that the next time the crocodile snapped at any one they would all shout at the crocodile together. The crocodile was so frightened by the noise and by being surrounded by all the angry animals that he slipped into the water and has stayed there ever since...

The taste of death

Tearfund partner Navajeevana are a special group of people who seek to live together in Christian communities, supporting each other as they seek freedom from drug addiction, or other life dominating issues. Raja, the leader of Navajeevana became a Christian in prison and since then has sought to follow Jesus in a very practical way. They are based in Galle, a coastal town in Sri Lanka.



Navajeevana wanted to respond to a major cigarette advertising campaign that was targeting the ports of Galle and Colombo in Sri Lanka. The international tobacco company was using a very high-tech sophisticated yacht as their main promotional strategy, coupled with the wide distribution of branded promotional materials. Schools were invited to take their children on board this yacht. It was felt that this was a case of clear exploitation that promoted a glamorous image of smoking.

Drug and alcohol prevention is well established in Sri Lanka, with various groups seeking to educate the population about the harmful effects of all forms of drugs. Navajeevana were very angry to hear of what was planned by this tobacco company. Raja, with the support of other members, mobilised the community to take action. For the benefit and protection of the children, they visited or spoke to schools and others to encourage them to cancel any proposed visits to the yacht. They decorated a bus to make it look like a yacht and drove around the area, performing street drama and mocking the cigarette company's advertising slogans. Their proactive prevention campaign meant that when the yacht eventually arrived there was little interest in the expensive advertising campaign. Local people also became more aware of the real risks and costs associated with smoking. It is possible for a few motivated people to take on large international companies in their communities and have a significant impact for good.

Contributed by Paul Thaxter



Jubilee 2000 in jail

Seventy members of the Debt Relief Network in Nairobi, Kenya spent 24 hours in custody at Nairobi Central Jail in April after they were accused of holding an illegal procession. The members included two priests, eight Catholic sisters and four foreigners. The Debt Relief Network wants to bring Kenya into the global discussion of the debt burden on poor countries, and to seek the total cancellation of the debt that has become so oppressive for the poor.

Brother André commented that 'a night in jail with that many friends becomes more like a party. In addition to us, there were about 60 street children in the jail. (For them this seems to be a regular occurrence, 365 days a year.) But this time they had fun in jail. Until they were separated from us, we sang and danced, we prayed and reflected, and told stories. The street children were then locked up elsewhere. Maybe our joyful spirit was considered contagious. We were 70 people squeezed into a room no larger than four metres by eight metres. Two windows provided ventilation. We were body to body all night! I will never forget it!

At one point the Officer in charge talked with the priests and sisters in the group, claimed he understood our purpose, had no problem with us and that we were free to go. However, when we asked what would happen to the others arrested with us, he said they would not be released. We then told him that neither would we go.

We were brought to court, charged, and released on a bond of Ks3,000 per person (about \$50) and had to appear in court a few weeks later. A huge number of e-mails, faxes and letters poured into Kenya in protest. At the hearing, the Attorney General directed that the case be discontinued.

This is the day of freedom that the Lord has made for us – let us be glad and rejoice in it.'

*Brother André Hotchkiss, SVD, JPIC
Coordinator, Kenya*



Historic peacemaking moves

by Andrew Wheeler

The Dinka and Nuer people of Southern Sudan had been in conflict with each other for many years. Cattle raiding, armed fights, abducting women and children and fighting over fishing and grazing rights had resulted in a band of 'no-man's land' 50–100 miles wide between them. This strip of land contained much of the best dry season grazing and fishing.

The conflict was causing poverty, despair and also damaging the traditional way of life as power and decision-making were increasingly in the hands of the armed and violent fighting men, often linked to the rival armies of the SPLA and SSIM.

Taking responsibility

After a year of careful planning, about 35 people – including Nuer and Dinka elders, chiefs, religious and church leaders – were brought together in Lokichoggio, Northern Kenya. For the first time, these leaders were able to share stories of the suffering experienced because of the fighting between their peoples. Rather than blame the rival

armies, the leaders were willing to take responsibility for the war and for making peace on their own shoulders. They committed themselves to work together for a peace accord and began planning a conference to bring a lasting reconciliation to their people.

The conference was held in the tiny village of Wunlit – in the no-man's land between the Dinka and Nuer. More than 2,000 people attended, including chiefs, elders, women's leaders, religious leaders and representatives of the military. Traditional storytelling was the main theme of the conference. By encouraging people to tell their stories, people found release from the pain they had suffered.



Photo: Richard Hanson, Tearfund

Power and decision-making was increasingly in the hands of the armed and violent fighting men.

It also highlighted various issues that had to be worked out and solved. A covenant was witnessed by 318 Dinka and Nuer community leaders. It was sealed with the sacrifice of a white bull – binding everyone to observe the covenant agreement, with Christian prayer and with a feast for everyone with meat from the covenant bull.

Signs of trust

Following the conference, there were many examples of how people showed their trust in the covenant. Thousands of Dinka and Nuer herdsman moved into the no-man's land and together visited the traditional sacred places, sacrificing another bull to re-enact the sealing of the Wunlit covenant. Trade was re-established.

The church had had a vital role in establishing the peace process and in hosting the first conference. The support and prayer of churches throughout the area was very important. The traditional element was more prominent in the second, larger Wunlit conference.

The Wunlit covenant was an achievement of the entire community. This was a



Photo: Mike Hollow, Tearfund

Traditional sacrifice bound participants to the agreement.

great strength and ensured lasting confidence. It also became the centre of a widening peace process. Since then, trade routes have re-opened, marriages have been finalised with abducted women, thousands of Nuer who were displaced by the fighting have returned peacefully and the grazing lands and fishing sites have been shared peacefully.

Discussions between the Dinka and Nuer were made easier since both groups

shared a common culture and pastoral economy. The people-led peace process has brought great encouragement in the chaos of modern Sudan. It shows that despite what seemed an endless cycle of conflict and revenge, traditional resources, together with the support of the Christian faith, can bring healing and new life.

Andrew Wheeler was a mission partner with CMS in Sudan.



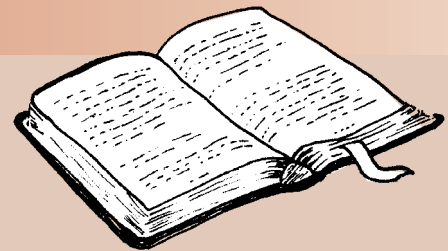
Photo: Richard Hanson, Tearfund

The support and prayer of churches throughout the area was very important.

BIBLE STUDY

Being an advocate

by Rose Robinson



Read Nehemiah 1-2 and Exodus 2-5

These stories about Nehemiah and Moses show that there are various stages and approaches to learn from, when acting as an advocate.

Awareness

Firstly, to be an advocate we need to be aware of the situations of others and to feel compassion for them (Nehemiah 1:1-4 and Exodus 2:11).

- *How can we make time to be good listeners and observers?*
- *Who might God be prompting you to help?*

The right preparation

Once aware of the needs, it may be tempting to rush straight in and try to help people (Exodus 2:11-15). But it is not until years later that Moses is called by God to go to Pharaoh and bring God's people, the Israelites, out of Egypt (Exodus 3:7-14). Moses has many questions, but in the end he returns to Egypt.

Nehemiah's approach is first to seek the counsel of God with many days of prayer and fasting (Nehemiah 1:4-6). On arrival at Jerusalem (Nehemiah 2:11-16), Nehemiah takes stock of the situation before the work begins.

- *Do you decide your actions through prayer or do you simply do what you think is best?*
- *Are you prepared to wait for God's timing?*
- *Do you believe that if God has called you, he will equip you despite your inadequacies?*
- *Do you take the time to be sure you know the real situation on the ground?*

Counting the cost

Both Moses and Nehemiah could have remained in their comfortable positions, isolated from the difficulties of the people – Moses as Pharaoh's daughter's son (Exodus 2:10) and Nehemiah as cupbearer to the King in the citadel of Susa (Nehemiah 1:1,11). Both gave up their own security and privileged positions to defend and help those whose needs were brought to their notice.

- *Have you counted the cost of coming to the aid of others?*
- *Are you willing to make any sacrifices involved?*

Working with others

God also prepares others to be part of the process. Nehemiah is looked on with favour by the King in his mission and provided with the assistance he requests (Nehemiah 2:1-9). Once the building of the walls begins (Nehemiah 3), each group is responsible for building or repairing one section.

Moses is given the help of Aaron and the support of the Israelite leaders (Exodus 4:27-31).

- *Have you identified others to work alongside?*
- *Are you using all the available resources?*
- *Have you divided the tasks clearly so that each person can play their part?*

Dealing with resistance

Nehemiah and Moses face considerable resistance as they try to change the situation of the people (Nehemiah 2:10, 19-20; Exodus 5 onwards). They handle those who have doubts or needs with sensitivity. They react to hard-heartedness and disdain with firmness. Everything is constantly referred back to God in prayer.

- *How are you handling any opposition you face?*
- *How do you deal with the doubts and concerns of those you are trying to help?*

Expectations and faith

If what we are doing is God's plan, it will succeed, however daunting the task seems and despite our own weaknesses – in fact God seems to prefer working in impossible situations so that the glory goes to him! (Exodus 12:50-51, 14:29-31 and Nehemiah 6:15-16). The Lord will fulfil his purposes. Do you believe this?

All glory to his name!

Rose Robinson is a former Tearfund International Personnel Worker with MOPAWI in Honduras.

Books Newsletters Training materials

Advocacy Study Pack

by Andy Atkins
and Graham Gordon



AND OF COURSE THAT INCLUDES
600,000 TRAVEL PASSES AND
DUTY FREE SOUVENIRS... ..



*Moses and Pharaoh – one of the illustrations
from Tearfund's Advocacy Study Pack.*

This is a comprehensive and practical introduction to advocacy work with plenty of ideas, examples and case studies from Tearfund partners around the world. It is available free of charge for those wishing to increase their involvement in advocacy from the address below.

Tearfund also have a number of briefing papers and guidelines available on

subjects such as trade, the environment, water, corruption, debt and arms.

*Public Policy Administrator
Tearfund, 100 Church Road
Teddington, TW11 8QE
UK*

This publication from Healthlink Worldwide focuses on improving children's health in emergency situations. It provides practical information about:

- priority actions in emergency situations
- prevention and management of common illnesses
- identifying and treating malnourished children
- working with children suffering psychological, social and emotional problems
- working with communities and other organisations to improve the environment.

The booklet is available in English and Portuguese. Single copies are free to small organisations in developing countries. For others the cost is £2.50 (US \$5), including postage. For further information contact:

*Coral Jepson
Healthlink Worldwide
Cityside, 40 Adler Street, London, 1E 1EE
UK*

*Fax: +44 20 7539 1580
E-mail: info@healthlink.org.uk
Website: www.healthlink.org.uk*

South American Congress of Health Professionals

A conference looking at the subject of 'The Family: challenges faced in the Third Millennium' is to be held in Zona Balnearia del Este, Uruguay on 12–14 October 2001. The conference is being organised by ACUPS (Uruguayan Christian Association of Health Professionals).

Subjects to be covered include:

- The changing family
- Biblical viewpoint on family issues
- Dealing with drug addiction within the family
- Ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia and *in vitro* fertilisation
- Family life and depression
- Sexual abuse
- Presence of disability in the family
- The place of the elderly in the family
- Sexual issues in family life
- Homosexuality.

As well as the main speakers, there will be discussion groups and workshops. Any Christian professional organisation can apply to speak or do a presentation. For full details and cost please contact:

*Jorge Patpatian, ACUPS, CP 11900,
Montevideo, Uruguay
Fax: +598 2312 0621
E-mail: acups@chasque.apc.org*

Getting people thinking: ideas from Christian Outreach in their ABCD programme, Cambodia



This is the latest pamphlet in the Tearfund Case Study series. It looks at ways of stimulating clear and confident thinking and provides insights into the keys to a programme's success.

Available from the TRT Administrator at Tearfund (address above).

Children's Health in Emergencies: Practical guidelines for health workers

Today, health workers anywhere could face a major emergency at some time during their career. They need to be able to respond promptly and appropriately to an emergency situation. Meeting the basic needs of large numbers of displaced people with food, water and shelter is usually the main priority, but information is important too. Health workers need to know what they can do in the early stages of an emergency, how management and prevention of childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea and malaria differ in emergency situations and how they can work with communities and other organisations.

From the Roots Up

by Peter Gubbels and Catheryn Koss

This is a practical new field guide from World Neighbours, designed to help grassroots NGOs and community groups to recognise their own potential, identify key issues and decide for themselves what actions to take. It has 184 pages with useful information and exercises on self-assessment for NGOs and community groups involved in planning workshops, fieldwork, working with facilitators and writing reports. The guide includes 49 participatory exercises



to use with local NGO and community group members.

The cost is US \$28, including postage (\$25 within US). Larger orders will have large discounts. For more information or to order, contact:

World Neighbours
4127 NW 122nd Street
Oklahoma City
OK 73120-8869
USA

Fax: +405 752 9393
E-mail: order@wn.org

Tecnologia e Treinamento Agropecuario

This bimonthly magazine is produced by the Centro de Produções Técnicas in Brazil and distributed free of charge. It contains articles on a range of issues including organic farming, micro-enterprise, health, the environment, solar energy and beekeeping. It features a wide range of videos and books in Portuguese on all kinds of subjects. It is available only in Portuguese. Contact:

CPT – Centro de Produções Técnicas
Rua José de Almeida Ramos, 37
Bairro Ramos, CP 01
CEP 36570-000
Viçosa, MG
Brazil

Fax: +31 891 8080
E-mail: adm@cpt.com.br
Website: www.cpt.com.br

Water for the World

The entire USAID library of 160 technical documents called *Water for the World* is now available on the website of Lifewater International. This provides an extensive set of instructions on water resource management and would prove very helpful to water engineers.

Website: www.lifewater.org

Correction

In *Footsteps 44* we published information about a medical waste incinerator designed by The Innovative Technology Centre at De Montfort University in the UK.

The e-mail address should have been: djp@picken98.freemove.co.uk

Useful newsletters

Spore

Spore is a bi-monthly newsletter providing information about agricultural development which always includes many useful resources and contacts. It is available free of charge in English, French and Portuguese for organisations and individuals involved in agricultural development.

Write to: *Spore – CTA, Postbus 380, 6700 AJ Wageningen, The Netherlands*
Fax +31 317 460067 E-mail cta@cta.nl



INTRAC

The organisation INTRAC (The International NGO Training and Research Centre) produce a newsletter for development workers and NGOs which looks at practical topics related to NGO trends and management and includes the regular feature Capacity Building News. It is available in English and Portuguese.

Write to: *Julie Gale, INTRAC, PO Box 563, Oxford, OX2 6RZ, UK* E-mail: j.gale@intrac.org



Comics with an Attitude:



A guide to the use of comics in development information

by *Leif Packalén and Frank Odoi*

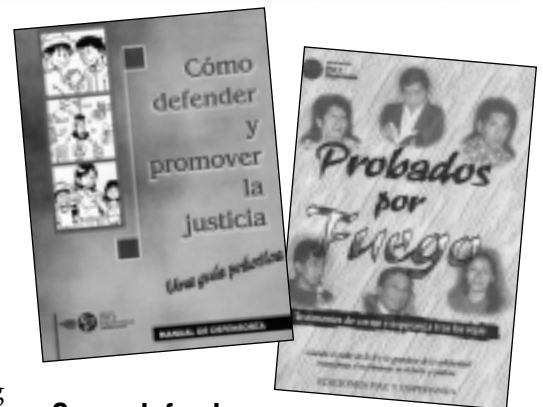
Almost any new issue or idea can be turned into a story – which again can be made into a comic. Comics are cheap to produce and most people enjoy reading them. Development organisations with ‘something to say’ should consider using comics. Comics are often seen as ‘something for children’, but adults also enjoy reading them – especially if humour is mixed in with fact. They can be a useful way of tackling sensitive issues such as HIV/AIDS. Drawing skills are needed but they are not the most important consideration. First there needs to be a good story line and the drawing skills just need to be adequate to get the message over.

This book contains practical information about how to target and produce comics and is full of examples of development comics from around the world. It is available free of charge for readers in Third World countries from:

The Information Unit
DIDC
PO Box 127
00160 Helsinki
Finland

Fax: +358 9 1341 6375
E-mail: kyoinfo@formin.fi

It is also available on-line at:
<http://global.finland.fi/comics>



Como defender y promover la justicia

This practical guide is a lively adaptation of Tearfund’s *Advocacy Study Pack* in Spanish. It contains a number of cartoons and practical examples to encourage and advise individuals and organisations seeking to become involved in advocacy. The guide costs US \$6, including postage, and is available in Spanish from:

Asociacion Paz y Esperanza
Proyecto Advocacy
Apartado Postal 181257
Miraflores, Lima 18
Peru
Fax: +511 4615289
E-mail: paz.defensa@computextos.net

Probados por Fuego

This challenging book is a collection of testimonies from prisoners unjustly imprisoned in Peru and of all they learned about their Christian faith. Like the guide above, this is only available in Spanish at a cost of US \$8 from the address above.

Bamboo water pipes

Bamboo has many uses in our homes, such as for poles, gutters, furniture and mats. Yet not many farmers cultivate it and usually it just grows wild. Bamboo can also be used to make excellent low-cost water pipes.

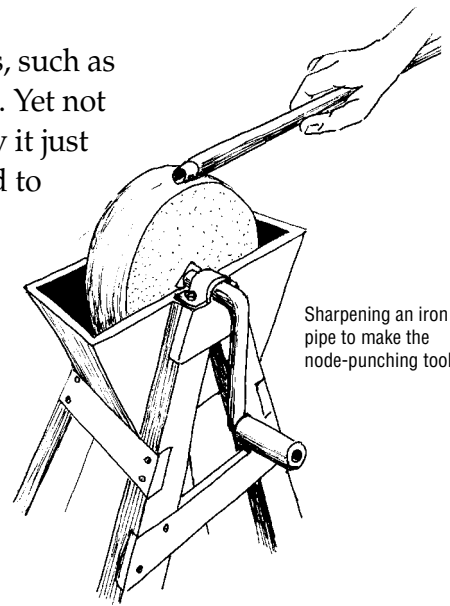
Use straight, freshly cut bamboo poles for pipes as they are less likely to split and the nodes are easier to remove. They should be at least 7cm across at the small end.

Removing the nodes

You will need to make a special tool to remove the little walls at every node inside the bamboo. Use several straight iron pipes, at least 3m long, of different diameters (thicknesses). The thinnest should be about 1.5cm diameter. Sharpen the end of each iron pipe with a hacksaw or grinding wheel. Using the thinnest pipe, push it through each node in the bamboo – you may need to use a hammer. Then use the next size of pipe and continue until all the nodes have been removed.

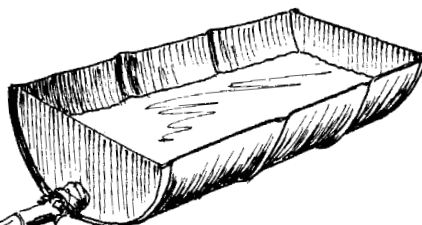
With a 3m iron pipe you will be able to make bamboo pipes that are 6m long by pushing the pipe in from both ends.

Once the nodes are removed and before using the bamboo as pipes, it is



Sharpening an iron pipe to make the node-punching tool

important to remove the sap and starch. This is done by soaking the pipes in flowing water for four weeks. Tie the poles in bundles and weight them down with rocks.



Half a large metal drum can be used as a funnel to pour water into bamboo piping. You may need a short length of metal or plastic piping to connect this.

Preserving bamboo

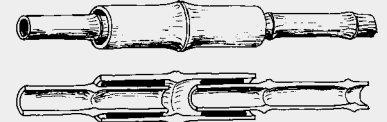
Bamboo pipes can last up to five years as long as they do not come into contact with termites or fungi. You can preserve them for longer by first soaking the poles in a solution of one part boric acid, one part borax and 40 parts water for one hour. Occasionally flushing the pipes with water containing small levels of chlorine can also help to preserve their useful life.

Always avoid direct contact with the soil by using supports. Paint the supports with old engine oil or tar to preserve them effectively. If the pipes are not carrying drinking water, paint them as well.

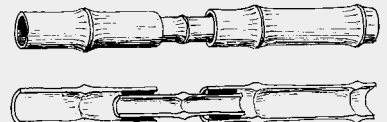
Joining pipes

There are a number of ways to join bamboo pipes together:

- Simply push one pole into the end of a slightly thicker pole.
- Scrape away and trim one end very carefully until it will fit into another pole.
- Use a short length of thicker bamboo as a socket and push both pipes into this.



- Use a narrow piece of bamboo and push both pipes over this. (This method restricts the water flow, however.)



- Wind a piece of tyre inner tube tightly over the joint and tie into place with rope or wire.

- Make a bandage from strips of old sacking and use pitch or tar to make this waterproof.



These ideas would allow water from a well, pump or water source to travel a considerable distance to the home or garden.

Adapted from Packages 22 and 43 of Developing Countries Farm Radio Network, 40 Dundas Street West, Box 12, Toronto, M5G 2C2, Canada.

Published by: Tearfund, 100 Church Rd, Teddington, TW11 8QE, UK

Editor: Dr Isabel Carter, PO Box 200, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV16 4WQ, UK

TEARFUND



Supporting pipes

