

Concern Universal has been helping Colombians fight for their right to clean, free water.



The Vencedoras Group

Ghan

Historically, finding sufficient water for its people has been the least of the country's problems. At one time, Colombia was considered the fourth richest country in the world in terms of water resources. But in recent years, standards have dropped dramatically and now nearly a quarter of the country's population do not have access to clean water.

More than 1,200 civil society organisations in Colombia, including Concern Universal, have been working for three years on the Referendum for Water, so that this can be considered a fundamental right. The referendum is a grass roots initiative to lobby the Government to ensure that clean water is provided irrespective of race, religion and income, and free of the usual high monthly charges.

In order for the Government to take notice, a petition with more than a million signatures was needed. But such is the strength of feeling over the issue that twice this number have been submitted, amounting to over 5% of the total population.

Concern Universal has played its part by collecting signatures for the petition and continuing to work with community groups to fight for their rights to clean water on a local basis too.