

## Advocacy case studies

# CHILDREN'S IDENTITY RIGHTS IN CENTRAL ASIA

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<b>COUNTRY:</b>	Central Asia
<b>THEME:</b>	Children and education; human rights
<b>ADVOCACY APPROACHES:</b>	<b>Government officials: educating; government officials: lobbying; legal mechanisms; mobilising people and campaigning; using human rights; using the media; working in alliances and coalitions</b>

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Over several years, one of Tearfund's Central Asian partners has been speaking out on children's issues to the government ministries responsible for children, justice and social affairs. Specifically, they have been asking for reform on social protection, so that all children are able to obtain identity documents, even if they do not have a birth certificate, passport or medical records. This is vital because without valid identity documents it is impossible to access key government services, such as health care and education.

Together with other NGOs, the partner has been running a campaign to give these issues a greater profile, using methods such as billboard advertising, awareness raising with the general public, and media coverage on television and radio. At the same time, they have been bringing the government's attention to the scale of the issue, asking them to protect children's identity rights in law and to provide budget to pay for identity documents. Negotiations are ongoing, but the government has expressed interest in reform on these issues.