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Advocacy case studies

# INTRODUCING FOSTERING IN CENTRAL ASIA

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<b>COUNTRY:</b>	<b>Central Asia</b>
<b>THEME:</b>	<b>Children and education; livelihoods; migration and refugees</b>
<b>ADVOCACY APPROACHES:</b>	<b>Educating community members; government officials: educating; government officials: meeting with; legal mechanisms; working in alliances and coalitions</b>

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One of Tearfund's partners in Central Asia is part of a committee that regularly reports to the Ministry for Social Affairs about children's and women's issues. This ensures the government is able to make informed decisions and take steps to protect children and women.

Too often, orphans and other vulnerable children have been left to live on the streets, particularly when their parents have emigrated to nearby Russia in search of work. Often they have been left in the care of relatives or neighbours, who have then been unable to cope with an additional mouth to feed. Sometimes they have ended up living in institutional care, but the persistence of Tearfund's partner has enabled increasing numbers of these children to be housed with new foster families.

In recent years, the government has created a new law about fostering, making provision for children to live in a family environment when they can no longer stay with their own families. Tearfund's partner actively worked with the government across the country to train and prepare people for foster care, so that the law could be successfully implemented. This mobilised many new 'fostering educators', who were able to work closely with vulnerable families to ensure that they were able to access the new fostering services.