

Advocacy toolkit case studies

RESISTING CORRUPTION IN CENTRAL ASIA

THEMES:

Corruption
Land and property

ADVOCACY APPROACHES:

Government officials: meeting with
Research and analysis

Advocacy is risky in Central Asia, and potential repercussions include harassment, intimidation, violence, death threats, imprisonment and operational restrictions. When a provincial authority laid claim to a children's play centre, owned by one of Tearfund's partners, the partner found that important land registration paperwork had gone missing. It was suggested that, if they paid bribes, the documents would be returned. The partner refused to pay bribes. Fortunately they had kept official copies. They also knew that the law was on their side. So they gathered sufficient, accurate and reliable evidence in support of their case, and then convened a series of meetings with the provincial governor and other officials in order to enforce their right to retain ownership of the centre and to uphold the law. They were collaborative and respectful and they stood their ground. As a result, the unjust claim for ownership of the centre was dropped.