



**International Conference:
Evidence in Global Disability and Health**

Applicant Details	
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Preferred presentation format:	<input type="checkbox"/> Oral <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Poster <input type="checkbox"/> Oral or poster

Would you like to be added to the ICED Mailing List Yes

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ABSTRACT

Title: Alternatives to institutional care of young children in Tajikistan: a pilot foster care programme

Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):

Background:

HealthProm is a small international NGO that works to ensure that vulnerable children have the best start in life. This poster will outline HealthProm's innovative work in Tajikistan, one of the poorest countries in Central Asia, to begin to shift away from institutional care of young children to community-based alternatives. Specifically, it will describe a **pilot foster care programme** being implemented in collaboration with UNICEF and local partners. Part of a larger EC funded project (2013-16), this pilot aims to establish the first non-kin alternative to institutional care of its kind in Tajikistan. Expected outcome: foster placements for 10 children who are either in institutional care or at risk of being placed in care in Dushanbe & Kujand, Tajikistan.

Methods:

- *Developing links with key stakeholders and partners:* Government and City Health Department (CHD) officials, UNICEF Tajikistan, local partners.
- *Formally seeking collaboration/approval through consultation with key stakeholders:* discussions with members of the CHD, Child Rights Units (CRUs) and Ministries of Health & Social Protection about development of child protection legislation.
- *Training and capacity development:* training of CRUs in care planning and child protection. Organisation of international study visits for local professionals to observe models of foster care.
- *Creation of a foster care toolkit*
- *Selection and training of potential foster parents*
- *Matching and placement of children with foster families*
- *Monitoring of placements*
- *Final independent evaluation*

Results:

Still in progress, a total of 6 foster care placements have been made as of November 2015. The foster care toolkit has been developed and is being used by local partners. Work continues with CRUs and local authorities to develop and strengthen child protection policies now that children are being cared for in the community.

Conclusions:

Preliminary findings point to a successful pilot model of foster care placement and inter-agency collaboration to develop the systems and policies required for this alternative care pathway to be safe and effective. Consultation with key stakeholders has proved key to engendering ownership and commitment.

Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015

Please submit your abstract to: disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk

Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.

If you have any questions, please write to:

disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk