



Christian Children's Fund - Belarus

“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS” QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT

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Component II “HIV/AIDS NGO Capacity Building in Belarus”

Author's Name: Irina Mironova
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Organizational Contact Information:

CCF Belarus Irina Mironova Country Representative Christian Children's Fund, Belarus 39 Pushkin ave., office 16 Minsk 220092 Belarus Phone: 375-172-57-77-08 (09) E-mail: ccf@telecom.by	USA Headquarters: Craig Stein Director, Grants Development and Management Christian Children's Fund 2821 Emerywood Parkway PO Box 26484 Richmond, Virginia 23261-6484, USA Phone: (804) 756-2700 Fax: (804) 756-2718 E-mail: CDStein@ccfusa.org
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Name of USAID office:

USAID/Ukraine Regional Contracting office
USAID Regional Mission representative office in Belarus

Development objective:

Democracy, human rights and development

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

“HIV/AIDS NGO Capacity Building in Belarus” is aimed at reducing the transmission of HIV within Belarus by strengthening the capacity of local NGOs and community groups to deliver effective HIV/AIDS program services that target high-risk populations, as well as educate the general public.

The project has three main objectives:

- To strengthen the organizational and managerial capacity of Belarusian NGOs/CSOs working in HIV/AIDS sector to deliver effective and sustainable community managed HIV/AIDS services.
- To improve the technical capacity of Belarusian NGOs/CSOs to deliver HIV prevention and care interventions effectively.
- To enhance the networking capacity of Belarusian NGOs and CSOs, working on HIV/AIDS, inter-and-cross sector relationships and cooperation.

B. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

In the reported period CCF-Belarus has consistently increased the number and variety of their project interventions. A group of national trainers created in the previous quarter started its step-down training in new geographic regions / districts; the first small grants were awarded and distributed in *tranches*. NGO networking and joint initiatives (revealed by their active participation in the BAN Steering committee and full membership meetings), and well organized and thought-out experience exchange visits, became the project highlights in the report period. Representatives of some state services such as the AIDS Prevention Center from Minsk and Mogilev, the STI Clinic from Minsk, and health care providers from Bobruisk continued their participation in project activities.

In summary, thus far:

- Approximately 60 NGOs from all over Belarus (Minsk, Mogilev, Grodno, Gomel, Vitebsk, Brest regions) were involved in the different project activities
- 314 participants representing 41 NGOs took part in 13 workshops
- The national trainers team started step-down training on HIV/AIDS in 4 regions
- Approximately \$60,000 in small grants (*i.e.* 10 grants total) has been awarded
- 14 new NGO-NGO and NGO-GO joint activities were conducted including experience exchange visits, a national NGO campaign dedicated to International Candlelight Memorial Day, BAN working meetings, and preparation of 10 partner projects
- Representatives of 6 NGOs who participated in an experience exchange visit, reported approximately 3 successful follow-up activities

II. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1

To strengthen the organizational and managerial capacity of Belarusian NGOs/CSOs working in HIV/AIDS sector to deliver effective and sustainable community managed HIV/AIDS services.

Activity: Training “Strategic Planning to support effectiveness and sustainability of NGOs’ work in HIV/AIDS” (April 1-2, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
About 20 NGO managers and key staff will be trained on Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Twenty (20) NGO managers received</i> knowledge and skills in defining NGO mission statements; identification of key priorities to support implementation of the mission; SWOT analysis; developing appropriate strategies for programs and management and setting measurable and realistic targets under each strategy.▪ During the training the participants produced a template of the

	Strategic Planning Document and created action plans for the Strategic Planning process in their organizations.
<i>Critical notes:</i> 90% of training participants reported about their intention to initiate/conduct strategic planning exercises in their NGOs. To date 6 out of 11 NGO participants started the process of strategic planning.	

[✦ Success Stories of the training participants:](#)

As the result of the training Olga Sviderskaya (NGO “Belarus Young Men Christian Association”) shared training materials with her NGOs management. She initiated the creation of a Strategic Planning Task Group as a subdivision of the NGO’s governing body. Facilitating the process of NGO strategic planning Olga contributed knowledge and varying methodology learned at the training and helped her colleagues and counterparts to analyze the organization’s services, identify key program priorities for 2006-2007, and develop an NGO Strategic Plan for 2006-2009.

Activity: Follow up technical assistance: Strategic Planning Workshop. (NGO “Vstrecha”. June 2, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
The project targeted NGOs will be provided with additional technical assistance to support the process of strategic planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thirty NGO members were involved in the participatory Strategic Planning process. ▪ At the workshop the NGO mission was revised and agreed upon by all participants; the participants developed the future vision of NGO “Vstrecha” and its field offices in Vitebsk, Gomel, Mogilev, Brest and Grodno; the Strategic Planning Working Group was created to ensure further steps toward strategic plan development.
<i>Improvements/ plans for the next quarter:</i> The project team will continue follow-up with focused technical assistance through workshops, seminars, working meetings, and presentations to individual NGOs upon their request	

Activity: Training “NGO Basics for junior staff and volunteers of HIV/AIDS NGOs” (May 13-14, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Junior staff and volunteers will increase their knowledge about NGOs roles, structure, and function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff members and volunteers of seven NGOs were trained. ▪ Participants were trained in “soft-skills” (e.g. effective conflict resolution and communication methods); they analyzed different types of NGOs and learned about organizational lifecycles and human resources in NGOs.
<i>Critical notes:</i> The session focused on an NGOs’ role in society came to open and active discussion regarding NGOs’ participation in the decision making process. Finally, they concluded that according to its mission, an NGO is not only a provider of social services, but also a force to advocate for the best interests of its clients	

[✦ Success Stories of the training participants:](#)

“This basic-level training energized me to become an agent of positive change in my NGO” – Anastasia Sheluto (NGO “Belarusian Children’s Hospice”) said soon after the training. She was empowered to make some important developments in the NGO. In particular, Anastasia analyzed the NGO’s human resources and related policies, and conducted an in-house seminar on conflict resolution for her colleagues. Thanks to her efforts, one conflict situation, which had disturbed her NGO, was successfully resolved.

Activity: Training “Monitoring and Evaluation of projects and programs in HIV/AIDS” (May 27-28, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Partner NGOs will be provided with	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nineteen NGO members were trained on M&E basics; and learned

knowledge and methodologies to develop M&E systems	<p>about data collection methods, indicators and evaluation tools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the training, participants developed sets of measurement indicators for HIV/AIDS projects/programs; created M&E tools for their projects (<i>i.e.</i> focus group scenario, questionnaires evaluating effectiveness of self-help groups, and seminars); and drafted M&E plans.
<p><u>Improvements/ plans for the next quarter:</u> Next quarter, CCF-Belarus will provide a series of follow-up interventions for partner NGOs in order to support the development of their M&E systems in compliance with project PMEP.</p>	

OBJECTIVE 2

To improve the technical capacity of Belarusian NGOs/CSOs to deliver HIV prevention and care interventions effectively.

Activity: Training “Sexually Transmitted Infections as a co-risk factor for HIV/AIDS” (April 15, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
HIV/AIDS trainers’ team will be trained to multiply acquired knowledge and skills for regional NGOs, vulnerable groups and local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants improved theoretical knowledge re: STI in the HIV/AIDS context and upgraded their trainer’s and facilitator’s skills. A working group of 5 trainers has been formed to continue development of the coordinated training module “<i>Sexually Transmitted Infections as a co-risk factor for HIV/AIDS</i>”.
<p><u>Improvements/ plans for the next quarter:</u> Under the supervision of CCF-Belarus’ HIV/AIDS specialist, the working group of trainers will elaborate a standardized training module and guidelines to be used by the whole team in step-down training activities. Test training will be conducted to assess HIV/AIDS trainers’ expertise in the topic and to examine their skills to do multiplication activities.</p>	

Activity: Testing training session for HIV/AIDS trainers team on “General Education on HIV/AIDS” (May 6, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Trainers’ expertise in the topic and their readiness to do step-down training activities will be assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each trainer demonstrated his/her knowledge and capacity by doing practical exercises and sessions from “General Education on HIV/AIDS” training module. The whole group participated in the analysis and evaluation of the performance of each trainer. A time schedule for step-down workshops in May-June 2006 was elaborated.

Activity: Multiplication workshops on “General Education on HIV/AIDS” by the trainers’ team (May-June, 2006, Mogilev, Orsha, Baran, Vitebsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least 4 multiplication activities (2 per month) will be conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Five workshops on HIV/AIDS were conducted in Mogilev, Vitebsk, Baran, Pinsk.</i> <i>Approximately 90 people representing regional NGOs, state-sponsored services, and vulnerable groups were involved in education on HIV/AIDS.</i>
<p><u>Critical notes:</u> According to pre-post tests the participants’ knowledge and awareness re: the HIV/AIDS problem has been increased by approximately 27%.</p> <p><u>Improvements/ plans for the next quarter:</u> Under the supervision of CCF-Belarus’ HIV/AIDS specialist, the HIV/AIDS trainers’ team will continue</p>	

conducting step-down training activities (e.g. workshops, seminars on HIV/AIDS) and introduce new topics and aspects of HIV/AIDS to the target audience in local communities.

☞ For more information, please see *Annex 'A'*

Activity: Training “Substance Abuse as a co-risk factor for HIV/AIDS” (May 20-21, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
HIV/AIDS trainers’ team will increase their knowledge about substance abuse issues; Training module on the topic for its further multiplication developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants improved their knowledge about Substance Abuse in relation to the HIV/AIDS problem and upgraded their trainer and facilitator skills. ▪ A working group of 4 trainers was formed to continue development of the training module for “<i>Substance Abuse as a co-risk factor for HIV/AIDS</i>” training.
<p><u><i>Critical notes:</i></u> The <i>presentations</i> made by specialists directly working on the rehabilitation of drug users and substance abuse prevention improved the effect of the training. <i>Case studies</i> presented by <i>Bobruisk Narcological clinic</i> and the <i>NGO “Mothers against drugs”</i> significantly contributed to the expertise of our trainers.</p> <p><u><i>Improvements/ plans for the next quarter:</i></u> Under the supervision of CCF-Belarus’ HIV/AIDS specialist, the working group of trainers will elaborate a standardized training module and guidelines for the trainer’s team’s step-down training activities. A test training session will be conducted to assess HIV/AIDS trainers’ expertise on the topic and and their readiness to do multiplication activities.</p>	

OBJECTIVE 3

To enhance the networking capacity of Belarusian NGOs and CSOs, working on HIV/AIDS, inter-and-cross sector relationships and cooperation.

Activity: BAN General Meeting (April 22, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Agreed action plan for transformation BAN into formal national association produced and BAN’s joint activities for May-June 2006 planned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The BAN 2002-2005 progress report was presented, Ban’s main achievements, failures and lessons learned were discussed and analyzed. ▪ The issue of BAN’s registration was discussed, the decision to register BAN as a legally recognized Association of Non-Commercial Organizations was made. Key aspects and procedures of BAN formalization was discussed and agreed upon (i.e. founding organizations, organizational structure, membership policy, governing body). ▪ The concept of a BAN joint event for May 21 Campaign (Candlelight Memorial) was discussed and agreed upon.
<p><u><i>Critical notes:</i></u> Despite expected serious financial and organizational burdens entailed by the complicated and costly registration process, all participants demonstrated a high level of responsibility and commitment for further strengthening and developing BAN.</p> <p><u><i>Improvements/ plans for the next quarter:</i></u> Decisions and plans made during the meeting created a strong potential for the development of BAN into an officially registered association, which effectively represents, advocates, and promotes the interests of Belarusian HIV/AIDS service NGOs and their clients, at the national and international level.</p>	

Activity: In-country Experience Exchange visit for Belarusian AIDS service NGOs (May 11, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Belarusian NGOs involved in AIDS work will learn in-country best practices developed by peer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minsk-based NGO <i>Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs (BelAU)</i> hosted leaders and volunteers from <i>six</i> NGOs and volunteer groups. “<i>Zemlyachestvo</i>” and “<i>Alternative</i>” from Svetlogorsk,

organizations. They will also mutually benefit from the exchange of experiences;	<p>“Blue Shores” from Mogilev, “Rasanka” from Orsha and “Amrita” and “Mothers Against Drugs” from Minsk participated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BELAU shared its methodology of HIV/AIDS primary prevention for high school students; education/information activities delivered within the Global Fund project; video and publications produced for information campaigns; outreach programs for commercial sex workers with visitors.
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↪ For more information, please see Annex ‘B’

Activity: First National Campaign of Belarusian AIDS Network (May 21, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
BAN facilitate joint NGO activities within International Candlelight Memorial Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The National campaign to honor the memory of those lost to AIDS and show support for those living with HIV and AIDS was jointly organized and implemented by 11 BAN NGOs. ▪ The campaign covered 4 communities (<i>Minsk, Vitebsk, Svetlogorsk and Orsha</i>) and more than 100 people were reached!
<i>Critical notes:</i> The first campaign of BAN provided each of the 11 participating NGOs with unique experience of planning, coordinating and conducting a joint program, thus laying foundations for future united national-level efforts of Belarusian AIDS service NGOs in responding to HIV/AIDS epidemic.	

↪ For more information, please see Annex C

Activity: Training “Public Relations for HIV/AIDS NGOs” (June 10-11, 2006, Minsk)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Participants will learn how to build positive public image of HIV/AIDS NGOs and promote services for vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 14 NGO managers and PR staff upgraded their knowledge and obtained skills in planning, implementation and evaluation of PR and Public Awareness (PA) campaigns; in using PR/PA tools (news releases, leaflets, presentations, newsletters, and posters). ▪ During the training the participants produced draft versions of their leaflets, posters and newsletters. They also elaborated draft PR plans or PA campaign for their NGOs.

III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

CCF-Belarus has held regular project review meetings in Minsk. These meetings strengthened project management, performance and integration leading to enhanced cooperation and communication between project staff. CCF-Belarus and CCF HQ coordinated their efforts in engaging international experts for an advanced-level HIV/AIDS training program in Belarus.

April 8-12, 2006 William Fleming, HIV/AIDS specialist from CCF HQ visited Minsk and held a series of meetings with CCF-Belarus project staff in order to discuss progress achieved and further project development.

Coordination/ cooperation with USAID.

Chief of Party Irina Mironova and Project Manager Alexei Golontsov met with USAID CTO Marina Abrosimova and Jahor Novikau on May 22, 2006. Project progress, challenges, and highlights were discussed.

In-country coordination. Building strategic partnerships with stakeholders.

Regular meetings with Dr. Lilia Meleshko, Head of National AIDS Prevention Center (NAPC) and Dr. Baranova were held during this reporting period:

April, 11:

Chief of Party, Irina Mironova; Project Manager, Alexei Golontsov; and HIV/AIDS Program Specialist, William Fleming (CCF, HQ) participated in the meeting. We presented an overview of CCF’s global strategy for HIV/AIDS and its programs in Belarus and around the world.

April, 24:

During the meeting CCF-Belarus presented micro-grant projects submitted to CCF-Belarus. AIDS Center experts discussed its compliance with the National HIV/AIDS/STI Strategy. We used the meeting results to improve the proposals according to the recommendations of the AIDS Center specialists. At the same time this meeting helped to promote NGO work and made it more visible for the state authorities. NAPC Center expressed its support to further development of NGO AIDS network in Belarus and increasing number of NGOs involved in AIDS work.

June, 14:

The meeting focused on the issue of more active involvement of AIDS Center specialists in CCF-Belarus trainings on HIV/AIDS. It was agreed that CCF-Belarus will invite AIDS Center professionals to the advanced level trainings. Along with professional expertise it will help to enhance network relations among the specialists from different sectors.

Through these meetings and joint activities the project staff promotes a bilateral dialog with state authorities and transfers participatory and collaborative practices to them.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In June 6-11 in Moscow (Russia) Svetlana Zinkevich, Organizational Capacity Building specialist and Vladimir Korzh, M&E specialist participated in the workshop and conference "Appreciative Inquire". The workshop and conference were devoted to the approach in Organizational Change and Development, which is based on building the organization's future using its strengths and best qualities. The next quarter we will incorporate some elements of the workshop in our training curriculum to enhance our organizational development efforts by using new methodologies and approaches.

V. CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED

Registration of micro-grants in Presidential Administration

In the reported period CCF-Belarus awarded 10 micro-project subgrants, submitted by Belarusian NGOs (See Annex D). In accordance with Belarusian law, they should be registered in the Department of Humanitarian Aid of the Presidential Administration. To date five micro-grants have been registered and exempted from taxation. Two projects are still in the process of registration and three projects were not registered.

As CCF-Belarus wants all the projects to be registered and implemented, we will improve our approach related to micro-grants in the next quarter. Thus, a series of two-day trainings and consultations with NGOs will be conducted to help them in designing projects and meeting national priorities in HIV/AIDS. The project management will organize a special meeting with the Department of Humanitarian Aid to increase awareness regarding the value of NGOs work in HIV/AIDS and compliance of such work with national and international strategies.

VI. BUDGET

SF-272 (this report is will be submitted under separate cover by CCF's Headquarters).



CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, Inc.
Representative Office in Belarus

List of sub-awards within the framework of "HIV/AIDS NGO Capacity Building in Belarus" project

NGO Name	Project name	Project description	Amount (\$)	Status	Duration
<p style="text-align: center;">"Social Projects"</p> <p>Contact info: 9 Knizhnaya str., Gomel, Belarus; phone: +375 232 57 12 48, e-mail: comdevpro@server.by Irina Kekuh – manager</p>	<p>"Gomel-Info-AIDS"</p>	<p>The project will provide young people of Gomel region with better access to information on community-based HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support services. This will be done through creation and function of complex information and referral system. As project results, information web-site "GomelInfoAIDS" and telephone information and referral service will be created and function.</p>	5,975.00	<p>Registered in Department of Humanitarian Aid on 30.06.2006</p>	From June'2006 to December'2006
<p style="text-align: center;">"Pinsk branch of Republican NGO "Mothers against drugs"</p> <p>Contact info: 3-70 Tsentralnaya str., 225710 Pinsk, Brest region, Belarus phone: +375 165 33 64 77, Irina Klimashenok – manager</p>	<p>"Anonymous helpline "With open heart"</p>	<p>The project will improve HIV/AIDS prevention and care and support services for drug users (IDU) and people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in Pinsk (Brest region).</p>	6,000.00	<p>Registered in Department of Humanitarian Aid on 25.07.2006</p>	From July'2006 to January'2006
<p style="text-align: center;">"Belarusian Children's Hospice"</p> <p>Contact info: 100A Berezovaya roscha str., 223053 Borovliany, Minsk reion, Belarus phone: +375 17 5052746; e-mail: hospicepall@mail.belpak.by Anastasia Sheluto - manager</p>	<p>"Establishment of self-help group of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)"</p>	<p>The project will increase social integration and activism of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) by creation of self-help group. Not less than 20 people will be integrated within the self-help group in Minsk City Infection Clinic.</p>	6,000.00	<p>Registered in Department of Humanitarian Aid on 23.05.2006</p>	From May'2006 to November '2006
<p style="text-align: center;">"Mogilev women center of support and self-education"</p> <p>Contact info: 32-25 Ostrovskogo str., 212029 Mogilev, Belarus; phone: +375 222 27 26 08; e-mail: gvozdevav@tut.by Valantina Gvozdeva – manager</p>	<p>"Creation of self-help groups of women and girls at risk"</p>	<p>The project activities will involve women/girls at risk behavior in the process of joint discussion and finding solution of the problems, related with HIV/AIDS and health issues. This will be achieved through creation of self-help groups and activities for social integration and adaptation of women and girls enrolled into the project.</p>	5,820.00	<p>Registration is not allowed; Organization will review and re-submit project proposal in September</p>	

<p>“Smorgon social agency” Contact info: 31-42 Yubileynaya str., Smorgon, Belarus Tel/fax: +375 1592 53 733, e-mail: csv78omak@rambler.ru Sergei Chekun – manager</p>	<p>“Youth center of HIV/AIDS prevention”</p>	<p>The project will involve school students in HIV/AIDS prevention among young people through creation of school-based Peer Education Center.</p>	<p>5,685.00</p>	<p>Registration is not allowed; Organization will review and re-submit project proposal in September</p>	
<p>“Republican NGO “Mothers against drugs” Contact info: p/b 214, 200005 Minsk, Belarus; phone: +375 17 293 07 59, e-mail: mothersaginstdrugs@tut.by Elena Pisarenko – manager</p>	<p>“Tough love”</p>	<p>The project will improve psychological and emotional state of family members of people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and drug users (DU) by means integrating self-help groups and providing with consultations of psychological and social service professionals.</p>	<p>5,988.00</p>	<p>Registered in Department of Humanitarian Aid on 28.06.2006</p>	<p>From June’2006 to December’2006</p>
<p>“Republican Youth NGO “Vstrecha” Contact info: p/b 139, 200050 Minsk, Belarus; phone/fax: +375 17 288 36 08 e-mail: info@vstrecha.by Oleg Eremin – manager</p>	<p>“Information handbook”</p>	<p>The project will improve the access to information about HIV/AIDS, sexual-transmitted diseases, safe sexual behavior, and HIV/AIDS-related services available for vulnerable groups for men having sex with men (MSM) through publishing of topical handbook.</p>	<p>5,500.00</p>	<p>In the process of registration</p>	<p>Six months after the date of registration</p>
<p>“Youth NGO “New Faces” Contact info: 17G-600 Masherov ave., 220029 Minsk, Belarus; phone: +375 17 284 73 65 e-mail: newfaces@newfaces-belarus.org Elena Yourkovska – manager</p>	<p>“If you know, then do it”</p>	<p>The project will improve HIV/AIDS-related knowledge among school students in Minsk, Krichev and Gantsevichi by means of creation and showing the series of topical performances of interactive forum-theatre.</p>	<p>5,820.00</p>	<p>Registration is not allowed; Organization will review and re-submit project proposal in September</p>	
<p>“Local Charitable Foundation “Zemliachestvo” Contacts info: 2-35 Druzhba str., 247434 Svetlogorsk, Gomel region, Belarus phone: +375 296 56 73 99; e-mail: zemlyachestvo@mail.ru Vladimir Reva - manager</p>	<p>“First step”</p>	<p>The project will help to involve more people living with HIV/AIDS, including women in care and support programs and self-help groups’ activities through creation of topical information bulletin which will provide organizations with overview of best experience and practices in self-help group creation and management and promote this service among vulnerable groups. Besides, a social advertisement documentary about people living with HIV/AIDS will be filmed and broadcasted on a local TV.</p>	<p>5,992.00</p>	<p>Registered in Department of Humanitarian Aid on 20.06.2006</p>	<p>From June’2006 to September’2006</p>
<p>“Youth educational center “Crossroads” Contact info: p/b 79, 210015 Vitebsk, Belarus; phone/fax: +375 297 12 40 07 e-mail: rostan@tut.by Tatiana Plisynova - manager</p>	<p>“Youth movement against AIDS”</p>	<p>The project will improve HIV/AIDS-related knowledge of school students through prevention activities, public information campaigns and creative actions. Wide-area HIV/AIDS prevention campaign, which includes information and creative actions will be organized in the schools.</p>	<p>5,850.00</p>	<p>In the process of registration</p>	<p>Six months after the date of registration</p>



CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, Inc. Representative Office in Belarus

CCF-Belarus creates national team of HIV/AIDS trainers to improve sustainability and quality of prevention services delivered to vulnerable groups.

Creating a national team of HIV/AIDS trainers is one of the key elements of the **HIV/AIDS NGOs Capacity Building Component of the Community Services to Vulnerable Groups Project**. CCF-Belarus initiates and supports creation of a national team of professionals able to conduct on a regular basis high-quality training programs on various aspects of HIV/AIDS for Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs, state services, and specific vulnerable groups.



Training "Life with HIV. Care and Support for People Living with HIV", June 30 - July 3, 2006

16 specialists from NGOs and state medical services representing all regions of Belarus were selected to take part in this program. The training of the team included a Training of Trainers and a series of special programs such as "Drug Use as a Factor of HIV/AIDS Risk", "Basics of HIV/AIDS", "Sexually Transmitted Infections as a Factor of HIV/AIDS Risk", and "Life with HIV. Care and Support for People Living with HIV". In early June the team members began the work and to date have conducted six trainings on basics of HIV/AIDS for NGOs and public health specialists in Mogilev, Orsha, Baran, Vitebsk, and Pinsk.

Larisa Kryukova, dermatologist in Mogilev STI Clinic, member of NGO *Mogilev Women's Center for Support and Self-Education*. Her first independent training she conducted for a group of patients of the STI clinic, many of whom are deprived of legal parents' rights.

The group was of various ages and not an easy one to work with. As a trainer, Larisa had to deal with high level of distrust and suspicious attitude of the audience who had never before taken part in similar training programs. Gradually, Larisa managed to create a comfortable working atmosphere which helped the participants to openly discuss their problems, improve their general knowledge about HIV/AIDS and learn specific prevention methods. Feedback received from the participants after the training revealed significant positive changes in their knowledge and attitude.

Larisa Kryukova, Mogilev: "Such interactive trainings help patients to analyze and discuss their problems, modify their behavior patterns. In our medical institutions such programs are normally not provided. This is why creating a team of trainers serves to expand spectrum of HIV/AIDS prevention services."

The clinic administration not only fully supported Larisa's initiative, but also suggested that other clinic specialists should be trained to offer on a regular basis HIV/AIDS trainings for the patients.

Another member of the trainers team, **Ludmila Dobovik**, pediatrician and valeologist from Orsha, leader of the local NGO *Belye Rosy*, conducted her first training for public family support commission specialists and volunteers of several NGOs in Orsha:

«Most of the audience were women, focused on their family problems. But during the training all personal issues were put aside. The women became very enthusiastic as they realized how important this knowledge is for themselves, their families, their loved ones. Such trainings are so much needed, especially in provincial towns where the level of knowledge is very poor. The training program offered for the trainers team by CCF-Belarus is an excellent opportunity to receive new information, to exchange ideas and experience with colleagues from different regions».

The results of the first trainings show that the created team of trainers is becoming an important intellectual and methodological resource for improving sustainability and social role HIV/AIDS educational programs conducted by Belarusian AIDS-service NGO, as well as for increasing quality of the services to vulnerable groups.



Ludmila Dobovik,
leader of the NGO *Belye Rosy* (Orsha)



CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, Inc. Representative Office in Belarus

CCF-Belarus facilitates first national campaign of Belarusian AIDS Network

Since 2001, **Belarusian AIDS Network (BAN)** serves to consolidate and strengthen the efforts of Belarusian AIDS service NGOs for increasing the effectiveness of their programs and activities through facilitating cooperation, information exchange, coordination of efforts, lobbying and advocacy. Currently BAN consists of 12 member-NGOs operating in all regions of Belarus. Recognizing the unique consolidating role of BAN, CCF-Belarus, within the *HIV/AIDS NGOs' Capacity Building Component of the Community Services to Vulnerable Groups Project*, continues to support and facilitate its development **to improve the networking capacity and inter-and-cross sector cooperation of Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs.**



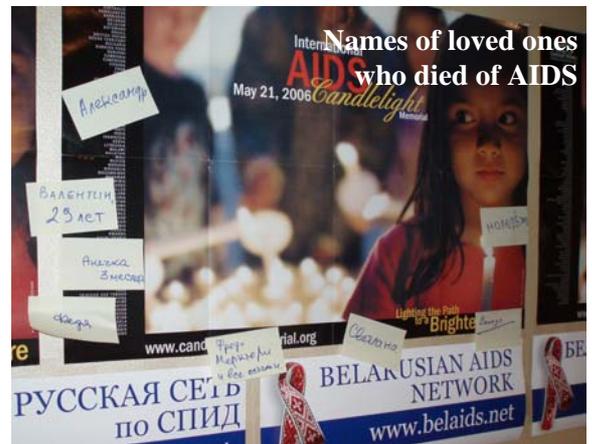
Lightning of candles
in the office of CCF-Belarus

On May 21, **International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Day**, BAN as official campaign coordinator in Belarus, facilitated by CCF-Belarus, organized its first national campaign to honor the memory of those lost to AIDS and to show support for those living with HIV and AIDS. On this day, 11 BAN member-NGOs conducted a series of events in Minsk, Vitebsk, Orsha and Svetlogorsk, thus joining the world-wide memorial campaign taking place in 107 countries.

In **Minsk**, the NGOs *Amrita, Mothers Against Drugs, Social Aid, Alternative, Positive Movement, Miloserdie*, and *Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs* attended a special memorial service in a Russian Orthodox church, took part in a round table discussion on the issue of stigma against PLWH, and organized a candlelight memorial ceremony in the office of CCF-Belarus.

In **Svetlogorsk**, the local NGO *Alternative* conducted a community action to plant an alley of birch trees in commemoration of people of Svetlogorsk lost to AIDS, and organized a candlelight memorial ceremony together with members of PLWH self-help group, their relatives, and other community members. After the ceremony, the participants received information materials about HIV/AIDS and existing community-based services for PLWH. *Alternative* used this occasion to encourage the community members to decrease stigma-based attitude to people affected by HIV/AIDS.

In **Vitebsk**, the NGO *Uliana* together with the local branch of *Mothers Against Drugs* organized a round table discussion on the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS programs in Vitebsk attended by local education and public health authorities, and managers of state-sponsored services. After a brief presentation about the history and meaning of the International Candlelight Memorial followed by the ceremony of lightning candles, the participants discussed practical steps for improving cross-sector coordination in combating the HIV epidemic and provision of services to the vulnerable groups.



And in **Orsha**, *Belye Rosy* conducted two workshops for public school counselors and health care professionals to raise awareness about the meaning of International Candlelight Memorial, the HIV/AIDS situation in the city, and to promote the importance of non-stigmatized approach in provision of services for PLWH and IDUs.

This first campaign of BAN provided each of the 11 participating NGOs with unique experience of planning, coordinating and conducting a joint program, thus laying foundation for future united national-level efforts of Belarusian AIDS service NGOs in responding to HIV/AIDS epidemic.



CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, Inc. Representative Office in Belarus

CCF-Belarus facilitates experience exchange among Belarusian AIDS service NGOs to ensure better services for vulnerable groups.

The level of cooperation and networking of Belarusian NGOs working in the HIV/AIDS sector is still rather low. This significantly hampers their access to the existing locally developed and adapted effective practices and methodology, thus limiting their capacity to effectively deliver services to the vulnerable groups. Creating opportunities for NGOs for mutual experience exchange is one of the key objectives of CCF-Belarus within the HIV/AIDS NGOs Capacity Building Component of the *Community Services to Vulnerable Groups* Project.



Participants of the experience exchange visit in the office of BelAU

May 11, 2006, second in-country experience exchange visit for six AIDS service NGOs was organized. Leaders of *Zemlyachestvo* and *Alternative* from Svetlogorsk, *Blue Shores* from Mogilev, *Rasanka* from Orsha, and *Amrita* and *Mothers Against Drugs* from Minsk visited Minsk-based NGO *Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs* (BelAU).

Established in 1989 and member of International Federation of UNESCO Associations since 1991, BelAU is one of the largest youth organizations in Belarus. It has over 70 member clubs in all regions of Belarus, and about 30 partner organizations in Belarus, Russia, Latvia, Germany, Romania, France, and USA. Main areas of work include youth volunteer movement, youth leadership training, HIV/AIDS prevention, education in

reproductive health, and children's rights. Since 2004, BelAU implements several components within the UNDP project "HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment in the Republic of Belarus" funded by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund Project).

The exchange visit program included a multimedia presentation of the history and current programs and projects of BelAU, meetings with the executive director and several project managers, a visit to the HIV/AIDS information center administered by BelAU and several partner organizations within the Global Fund project, and a meeting with an outreach worker from a partner NGO.

During the visit the participants learned about successes and failures of several HIV/AIDS projects BelAU is currently implementing. In particular, the following aspects of this work were presented and discussed in detail:

- methodology of HIV/AIDS primary prevention programs for high school students;
- methodology and effectiveness of the education/information component activities within the Global Fund project;
- effective videos and publications in HIV/AIDS prevention information campaigns;
- challenges and lessons learned in implementing outreach programs focused on commercial sex workers.



During the meeting with Ludmila Bliznyuk, Executive Director of BelAU



At the HIV/AIDS information center

The feedback received from the participants revealed that the new information, practices and methodology shared by their colleagues from BelAU and other participants are very useful and will be incorporated into their current and future work. Also, the participants indicated that such experience exchange activities are extremely needed and instrumental for increasing the quality of the services delivered to the vulnerable groups.

Andrey Golosov, *Alternative* (Svetlogorsk):

The presentation of the current programs of BelAU was very useful. Also it was great that we had a chance to visit the HIV/AIDS information center. This experience exchange visit inspired me to try to launch several new projects in our organization. Also, I learned so much about the work of my

colleagues from other NGOs. With the leader of Mothers Against Drugs we discussed ideas for a starting a joint project.

Andrey Dubovik, Rasanka (Orsha):

First time I took part in such experience exchange visit. It was so useful to learn about the work BelAU are doing. They have tremendous experience. The level of professionalism of most NGOs in small towns like ours is much lower. Such visits are so important and useful for us! For me the most useful part was to learn about the Global Fund project activities implemented by BelAU and the resources available at the information center.

Elena Pisarenko, Mothers Against Drugs (Minsk):

The information about the history and programs of BelAU was very helpful. I've known the leader of BelAU for many years, but it was first time I had a really close and deep conversation with her, many things became clear. Meeting the colleagues from other cities was so useful. Was greatly impressed by the work done by Blue Shores in Mogilev. I am going to visit this NGO in the near future to learn more about their programs.

Vladimir Reva, Zemlyachestvo (Svetlogorsk):

For me, as a leader of a young NGO working in the HIV/AIDS sector, this visit, my first experience of the kind, was very useful. Such programs are absolutely necessary. We had a chance to learn from those who have a great deal of experience in this work. Also it was great to learn that so many high quality resources are available for NGOs like ours at the information center which we visited.