



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: irina@ccf-belarus.org	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

Development objective:

USAID Regional Mission representative office in Belarus
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

This quarter CCF-Belarus and its partner NGOs and trainer’s team conducted series of bright events that became an evidence of their increased managerial , technical and networking capacity.

The First National Forum of Trainers working on HIV/AIDS in Belarus provided networking and experience exchange opportunity for more than 50 trainers representing 30 HIV/AIDS organizations from all over Belarus. CCF trainer’s team created within the project played the leading role in Forum’s planning and implementation. Besides mastering their trainer’s skills the participants elaborated the Code of Ethical and Professional Standards for HIV/AIDS education that will become a common platform for further improvement of quality of HIV/AIDS education and service delivery.

The process of formalization of Belorussian AIDS Network (BAN) was continued at its Full Membership meeting, the first one after BAN official registration. The full membership Meeting resulted in rotation of BAN leadership, and drafting new strategic plan. Six (6) NGOs officially joined BAN at the Meeting.

CCF efforts in strengthening this national coalition of AIDS-service NGOs were reinforced by UNAIDS through cost-sharing. UNAIDS awarded 10,000 USD grant to support BAN strategic planning process.

BAN actively participated in elaboration of new project directions for country coordinated proposal (CCP) to the 8th Global Fund round. As the result BAN project proposal for NGO capacity building and development of mechanism of social order in Belarus for the amount of 2 mln USD was included in CCP.

CCF-Belarus training conducted this quarter addressed organizational and programmatic needs of AIDS-service NGOs through advanced training methodology and tools. The training topics covered “Strategic Planning, “HIV/AIDS prevention events for youth” and “Evaluation of HIV/AIDS projects outcomes”.

On-going education of community-based organizations, local leaders and volunteers by HIV/AIDS trainers team was focused on “HIV/AIDS Counseling” , “General education on HIV/AIDS”, “Drug abuse as co-risk factor of HIV/AIDS”, “Sexually transmitted infections as co-risk factor of HIV/AIDS”.

The figures below illustrate the main accomplishments of this quarter:

- **Five** sub-grant projects were completed this quarter. CCF-Belarus sub-grantees delivered 12 community-based HIV/AIDS services for vulnerable groups and reached **3, 345 beneficiaries**.
- The First National Forum of HIV/AIDS Trainers was conducted, where more than 50 trainers from 30 various HIV/AIDS institutions from 13 cities shared their experience and participated in skills development classes and workshops.
- **Fifty (50)** participants representing Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs took part in **three** advanced-level events on organizational development .

- **Eighty one** (81) specialists and volunteers of AIDS-service organizations participated in **6** HIV/AIDS trainings (basic and advanced levels). The total number of participants trained by HIV/AIDS trainer’s team reached more than **1 500 people**.
- Belarusian AIDS Network drafted its new strategy for 2008-2011, increased number of member organizations and elected new leadership.

▪ **C. CHALLENGES/ CONSTRAINS**

In the reported period the environment for civil society in Belarus continued to become worse.

- the revision of Presidential Decree # 495, issued on 30.09.2002 came into force on April 24, 2008 that resulted in 10 times increase of the office rent for non-profits. Many NGOs/CSOs have lost their offices and domiciles that put them at risk of closing down (according to Belarusian law it is illegal for NGO/CSO to operate without domicile and office).
- Parliamentary elections scheduled to October, 2008 resulted in artificial obstacles to NGOs’ meetings or seminars purposefully created by the governmental authorities to prevent any risk of public debates and ‘political discussions’.
- Series of unexpected audits of NGOs/CSOs by tax authorities and KGB were conducted. Lots of NGOs/CSOs including CCF-Belarus grantees passed through it.

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.

In the reported period 50 NGO representatives participated in **3** organizational capacity building events organized for Belarusian AIDS-service NGOs. The following topics were covered: “*Design and implementation of youth events for HIV/AIDS prevention*”, “*Outcomes of CCF-funded projects*”, “*Strategic Planning of Belarusian Community of PLWHA*”.

ACTIVITY: ADVANCED TRAINING “How to design and implement HIV/AIDS prevention activity for youth “ (APRIL 12-13, 2008, MINSK)	
EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
Nineteen NGO representatives improved their knowledge and skills in design and implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention events for/by youth .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nineteen specialists of AIDS-service NGOs participated in the training. Implementation of HIV/AIDS prevention events for/by young people was presented in a holistic way (idea-project design – planning-implementation- evaluation of outcomes). ▪ Participants improved their knowledge on a) setting goals and expected results of HIV/AIDS prevention event; b) legal aspects and co-ordination of city/town event with local authorities; c) risk analysis; d) information/media support. ▪ During the practical exercises and master-classes the group of trainees i) generated and discussed creative ideas for HIV/AIDS prevention events; ii) mapped available resources and plans to attract volunteer support; iii) elaborated draft scenarios of the events to be conducted as training follow-up.

CRITICAL NOTES:

Many training participants discovered that youth participation in design, planning and implementation of HIV prevention is crucial for its success. They came to conclusion that youth events should be conducted not only for but also by youth.

TRAINING FOLLOW-UP AND IMPACT:

Soon after the training NGO “Youth Educational Center “FIALTA” successfully conducted series of HIV/AIDS prevention events for young people, students of technical high schools in Minsk. In particular, **Theme Photo Expedition** and **Healthy Life style Party** were conducted by volunteers within CCF-funded project “Fashion on Health”.

Alexander Mazurkin, NGO “Fialta”, volunteer manager

“Enormous success of our events among young people based on the following: i) each event was designed and implemented by young people themselves, those who were trained within CCF-funded project; ii) “Fialta” provided volunteers with training and correct information on HIV/AIDS, but did not limit creativity of young people in choosing the most appropriate or interesting form of the event; iii) in addition to HIV/AIDS specifics the content of each event covered general issues of public health as well.

ACTIVITY: WORKSHOP “Outcomes of CCF-funded projects”

(APRIL 19-20, 2008, MINSK)

EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
Twelve NGO managers the outcomes of their HIV/AIDS projects.	Twelve NGO managers presented outcomes of their projects and discussed: a) innovative services established for vulnerable groups; b) its impact on local communities; c) partnerships established with key stakeholders; d) lessons learned and challenges of project sustainability and replication of the best practices.

CRITICAL NOTES:

To address sustainability and resource mobilization concerns CCF-Belarus will conduct a training session on “Local fundraising and resource mobilization” next quarter.

ACTIVITY: WORKSHOP “Strategic Planning” of Belarusian Community of PLWH

(JUNE 8-11, 2008, MINSK)

EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
AIDS-service NGO “Belarusian Community of PLWH” assisted in the development of its organizational strategic plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nineteen (19) people living with HIV from all regions of Belarus participated in strategic planning session. ▪ The participants did SWOT analysis, designed their vision, elaborated strategies and defined organizational and programmatic priorities for 2008-2011 and drafted the Ethic Code.

CRITICAL NOTES:

Belarusian Community of PLWH is a new NGO that unites about 100 PLWH and has 10 branches all over Belarus .

FEEDBACK OF TRAINING PARTICIPANTS:

Elena Grigorieva, Chairperson of NGO “Belarusian Community of PLWH”.

“At CCF-Belarus workshop we discovered that Strategic Plan is a challenging issue for us as it sets ambitious goals, requires resources and responsibility. The highly professional technical assistance of CCF-Belarus ensured elaboration of our first Strategic Plan, which is an important input to sustainability of the Community.” –

“...At the early stage of its development the Community faces the different challenges. To successfully overcome these difficulties we need to have adherence to the common mission, broad scale of programs and flexible management. It would be impossible for us to foster mission, good management and programs without ongoing capacity building we get from CCF-Belarus.” –

OBJECTIVE 2

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

- First in Belarus Forum of HIV/AIDS trainers was conducted to provide capacity building, experience exchange, networking among HIV/AIDS trainers as well as promote quality and ethical standards in HIV/AIDS education. According to outcome evaluation the participants have put into practice new knowledge and skills received at the Forum. To the date they conducted **19** follow-up training events on HIV/AIDS for their target groups.
- More than **130** participants (care givers, volunteers and specialists of community-based organizations) took part in National Forum and **6** trainings of CCF-Belarus HIV/AIDS trainer’s team in four communities including Minsk, Grodno, Vitebsk, Volkovysk. The training covered “*Counseling on HIV/AIDS*”, “*General education on HIV/AIDS*”, “*Drug abuse as co-risk factor of HIV/AIDS*”, “*Sexually transmitted infections as co-risk factor of HIV/AIDS*”
- Five last sub-grants projects were completed this quarter. CCF-Belarus sub-grantees were delivering 12 community-based HIV/AIDS services for vulnerable population and reached 3 345 beneficiaries.

ACTIVITY: TRAINING OF TRAINERS “HIV/AIDS trainers toolkit: master-classes technique” (APRIL 5-6, 2008, MINSK)	
EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
The members of HIV/AIDS trainers team learnt master-classes technique for sharing professional experience at National Forum of HIV/AIDS trainers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eleven trainers of CCF-Belarus team learnt how to conduct ‘master-class’ - the technique that will be used at the First National Trainer’s Forum. As a result of they increased the portfolio of trainer’s methods and prepared their own master-classes for the coming National Forum of HIV/AIDS trainers.

ACTIVITY: NATIONAL FORUM of HIV/AIDS trainers in Belarus (MAY 8-11, 2008, MINSK)	
EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
The First in Belarus Forum of HIV/AIDS trainers organized to promote high professional standards in HIV/AIDS education and services for vulnerable groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than 50 trainers from 30 NGOs, state AIDS prevention Centers, Sexually Transmitted Illness (STI) hospitals and prisons from 13 cities shared their experience and participated in skills development classes and workshops. A round table on the theme of <i>Child/Adult partnership on HIV/AIDS Education</i> was conducted within the Forum.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The participants developed Code of Ethical and Professional Standards for trainers working in HIV/AIDS.
CRITICAL NOTES: ① This brightest event of the year in public sector of Belarus is described in more detail in annex 'B'.	

ACTIVITY: WORKING MEETING of the Task group on Ethical and Professional standards for HIV/AIDS education (JUNE 9, 2008, MINSK)	
EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
Blueprint of Code of Ethical and Professional Standards of HIV/AIDS trainer prepared for publishing and country wide distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The draft of Ethical and professional standards elaborated at the Forum were edited by the Task group of CCF-Belarus trainers and widely distributed in Belarus among HIV/AIDS professionals from GO/NGO. It is expected that this will promote quality standards and non-discriminatory approach in HIV/AIDS education. ▪ The standards cover the main aspects of HIV/AIDS trainer's activity i.e . Interaction with the group of participants and peer trainer; obligation to provide correct information from reliable sources; evaluation of training results, etc.
CRITICAL NOTES: This activity was a follow-up of the First National Forum of HIV/AIDS trainers in Belarus.	

ACTIVITY: TRAINING OF TRAINERS “Mastering HIV/AIDS trainers skills” (JUNE 21-22, 2008, MINSK)	
EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
CCF-Belarus team of HIV/AIDS trainers will increase its professionalism of using innovations in HIV/AIDS education and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ten CCF-Belarus trainers participated in advanced ToT. ▪ The participants learned new methods of work like Socratic dialog and special role games that help to model safer behaviors
CRITICAL NOTES: This training of trainers was a replication of the training in Moscow (April 18-20) where two CCF-Belarus trainers were sent to increase their professional level.	

ACTIVITY: ADVANCED TRAINING “Counseling on HIV/AIDS” (JUNE 28-29, 2008, MINSK)	
EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED

<p>Fourteen HIV/AIDS specialists of AIDS-service NGOs upgraded their knowledge and skills in counseling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fourteen NGO specialists took part in the training. Participants improved theoretical knowledge about counseling as a prevention method; different types of counseling and its application; developed their counseling skills. ▪ Through practical exercises and discussions participants learned how to integrate behavioral change messages into counseling process. ▪ Ongoing professional experience exchange at the training helped specialists to define professional recommendations related to competences, skills and ethical values of HIV/AIDS consultant.
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<p>ACTIVITY: MULTIPLICATION WORKHOPS ON HIV/AIDS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Five multiplication workshops on HIV/AIDS were conducted by the national HIV/AIDS trainer team in four communities including Minsk, Grodno, Vitebsk and Volkovysk. The workshops covered the following topics: <i>“General education on HIV/AIDS”, “Drug abuse as co-risk factor of HIV/AIDS”, “Sexually transmitted infections as co-risk factor of HIV/AIDS”</i>. ▪ Sixty seven people representing regional NGOs, state-sponsored services, and vulnerable groups were involved in HIV/AIDS education this quarter. The total number of participants trained at multiplication workshops reached 1, 509 people . ▪ Training participants reported improved knowledge of general HIV/AIDS issues, increased tolerance towards PLWHA, and enhanced capacity in public awareness activities.

<p>ACTIVITY: HIV/AIDS MICRO-GRANTS</p>
<p>Sub-grant projects were implemented during the quarter are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NGO “Focus Group” 2. Lida NGO “Young Men Christian Association” 3. Republican Youth NGO “Vstrecha” 4. NGO “Dyhovnost” 5. Youth NGO “Youth educational center “Fialta”

[RESULTS OF SUB-GRANTS IMPLEMENTATION:](#)

The figures below provide a statistics of the results achieved by them.

Twelve HIV/AIDS services were delivered by sub-grantee NGOs in Belarus.

The number of direct beneficiaries reached through HIV/AIDS services provided by NGOs was **3 ,345**. Among them:

Young people – 1 086,

PLWHA – 21,

Women – 128,

General public – 2000,

Care givers – 110.

OBJECTIVE 3

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

Belarusian AIDS Network (BAN) continued its process of formalization and independency. The Network grown in number and quality - 6 more organizations joined it, new leadership was elected at the BAN full membership meeting. BAN also elaborated its sustainability plan and drafted its strategic plan for 2008-2011.

There were series of working meetings with key stakeholders done by the Network. In particular, the role and concerns of CSOs/NGOs participation in the GF activity were discussed with Gennady Raschupkin, the leader of Civil Society Action Team (CSAT).

BAN leaders had a meeting with with the new Deputy Minister of Health, who performs a role of Country Coordinator for the GF project.

Two (2) BAN representatives and community of PLWH were supported through the project to participate in Second Eastern European Conference on HIV/AIDS in Moscow (Russia) in May 3-5, where they made presentation about BAN and its role in mobilization of NGO resources in Belarus, learnt current best practices existing in the region. New contact with NGOs from the region were established.

ACTIVITY: BAN Steering Committee Meeting (APRIL 25, 2008, MINSK)	
EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
All preparations to BAN Full membership Meeting and Strategic Planning session made by BAN Steering Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agenda of the BAN Full membership Meeting including SP sessions was elaborated.

ACTIVITY: BAN Full Membership MEETING and STRATEGIC PLANNING of Belarusian AIDS Network (MAY 22-25, 2008, MINSK)	
EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
<p>Belarusian AIDS Network held its Full Membership Meeting to elect new governance , and affiliate new members.</p> <p>BAN conducted its strategic planning session to identify its organizational and programmatic priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fifteen HIV/AIDS organizations took part in BAN Full membership Meeting and strategic planning session. It was the first Full membership Meeting after BAN official registration. In addition to 4 founders, 6 more organizations joined the network. Currently, the number of officially registered BAN members is 10 organizations, other groups that actively involved in BAN activities are considered as the partner organizations. ▪ During the strategic planning session BAN members identified Network's strategies for 2008-2011. CCF-Belarus staff , UNAIDS, the Global Fund project and Civil Society Action Team (CSAT, Vilnaus, Lithuania) provided the valuable input to the process of BAN strategic planning
<p>CRITICAL NOTES: This activity was co-sponsored by UNAIDS and considered as cost-share to CCF-Belarus project. ① For more details, please see Annex C.</p>	

III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

CCF-Belarus has held weekly project review meetings in Minsk. These meetings strengthened project management, performance, and integration leading to enhanced cooperation and communication between project staff.

Staff development

Svetlana Zinkevich, CCF-Belarus Organizational Capacity Building Specialist and Ekaterina Kostuchenko, HIV/AIDS Technical Capacity Building Specialist participated in trainers' mastership school in Moscow on April 18-20. The training organized by the Russian professional network of trainers and consultants "Inter-training" was about new innovations and techniques in education and training provision. The cost of training was covered CCF-Belarus administrative budget.

As the follow-up of this activity CCF specialists replicated this training for HIV/AIDS trainer's team in Minsk.

Staff Changes

Anna Arhangelskaya, small grant manager left CCF. Inna Chirko was promoted to the position of small grant manager.

V. BUDGET

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



“HIV/AIDS NGO Capacity Building in Belarus”

Overview of CCF sub-grants

The summary list of sub-grants active in the reported period:

1. NGO “Focus Group”
2. Lida NGO “Young Men Christian Association”
3. Republican Youth NGO “Vstrecha”
4. NGO “Dyhovnost”
5. Youth NGO “Youth educational center “Fialta”

<i>Grantee Name:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
NGO “Focus Group”	Fashion for Health- brief description? # of beneficiaries, services??	February, 2007 – (February) April, 2008 – Technical Prolongation??? – who approved?

<i>Grantee Name:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
Lida NGO “Young Men Christian Association”	“Mobile informational service on HIV/AIDS”	March, 2007 – June, 2008
<i>Brief description:</i>	<p>The goal of the project is to raise awareness regarding HIV/AIDS, risks of using drugs, and healthy life style among hard-to-reach youth in rural districts of Lida region. Project’s HIV/AIDS prevention activities focused rural population and involve more than 1000 children and young people. The project used multiple approaches to bring about behavior change in youth. Thus, combination of information, educational and interactive learning activities will provide stronger impact on target groups and create sustainable effect. – mobile bus?</p>	
<i>Number of beneficiaries:</i>	Young people (rural area inhabitants)	500
	Young people (peer educators)	17
	General public	2000
<i>Services in operation:</i>		

	1. Public awareness actions on HIV prevention.
	2. Peer education workshops for young people on HIV/AIDS prevention.
	3. Theme healthy life style promotion campaign.
	4. Information materials for young people (including booklets and calendars).

<i>Grantee Name:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
Republican Youth NGO “Vstrecha”	Informational-educational magazine	May, 2008 – September, 2008
<i>Brief description:</i>	The goal of the project is to 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 information magazine. This issue will be distributed among MSM in throughout Belarus as a response to urgent demand articulated by this target group during the needs assessment. At the present the project team is gathering information for the publication.	

<i>Grantee Name:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
NGO “Dyhovnost	A well-educated mother will have a happy child	April, 2007 – May, 2008
<i>Brief description:</i>	The goal of the project is to form healthy behavior skills among 200 pregnant women, including those with HIV. Educational and skills-building activities particularly focused at forming of mother’s behavior and skills to ensure better child care and avoid risk of HIV vertical transmission . Target group of the project is: 200 pregnant women, including those with HIV from Gomel and Gomel region. The NGO reached them thanks to close collaboration with Maternity ward of Gomel regional hospital, where key project’s activities will take place.	
<i>Number of beneficiaries:</i>	PLWHA (women, expectant mothers)	21
	Women	128
	Specialists of Maternity ward of Gomel regional hospital	110
<i>Services in operation:</i>	5. Training course on HIV/AIDS prevention, safe behavior and child care for expectant mothers, including PLWHA.	
	6. Hot-line counseling on HIV/AIDS and child care for expectant mothers, including PLWHA.	
	7. Individual consultations on HIV/AIDS and child care for expectant mothers including PLWHA.	
	8. Information materials for expectant mothers and specialist on the topic (library, video lessons).	

	9. Club of Young Families
	10. Methodological manual “Life with HIV”

<i>Grantee Name:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
Youth NGO “Youth educational center “Fialta”	“Fashion for Health”	March, 2007 – August, 2008
<i>Brief description:</i>	<p>The goal of the project is decrease of risk of HIV/AIDS for young people (students) through promotion of safer and responsible behavior patterns. The core idea of the project is to train groups of peer-educators in 8 technical colleges and further conduct cascade of multiplication peer-to-peer workshops on HIV/AIDS, safer behavior and healthy life style. At the final stage project experience and methodology will be described as a model in a manual. The manual will be presented and distributed among specialists on youth issues in state entities and among NGOs to encourage them using some HIV/AIDS prevention techniques dealing with young people. The project stimulated development of HIV/AIDS programs for students in Minsk The total number of beneficiaries reached through project activities estimated as 2000 people.</p>	
	Young people (working youth and students technical colleges)	537
	Young people (peer educators)	32
<i>Services in operation:</i>	<p>11. Training course on life skills and substance abuse prevention for peer educators.</p> <p>12. Peer education workshops for young people.</p>	

Total number of services by current CCF-Belarus grantees in the reported quarter: **12**

Total number of beneficiaries reached by current CCF-Belarus grantees in the reported quarter: **3 345**

Among them:

Young people – 1 086,

PLWHA – 21,

Women – 128,

General public – 2000,

Care givers – 110.

Promoting high professional standards and quality assistance to vulnerable groups at the First National Forum of HIV/AIDS trainers in Belarus



At the Forum's opening ceremony



Using 'Open Space' technique to discuss effectiveness of HIV/AIDS trainings



Theatrical performance is one of the innovations to use in HIV/AIDS education



...the Forum brought insights

The HIV/AIDS trainers Forum became the brightest event of the year in public sector of Belarus and the strongest intervention of CCF-Belarus aimed at professional development of a community of HIV/AIDS trainers.

In May 2008 more than 50 professionals from all over the country participated in the first in Belarus National Forum of HIV/AIDS trainers. The Forum was organized to promote high professional standards and quality assistance to vulnerable groups. In particular the Forum created an open arena where specialists were 3-days exchanging ideas on how to facilitate changes in knowledge and behavior of trainings' participants in the most effective way.

At the Forum CCF staff created the atmosphere comfortable for evaluation of trainers' past experience and creation of innovations applicable to HIV/AIDS education of hard to reach vulnerable groups.

The leading role at the Forum was played by the **Team of HIV/AIDS trainers** created by CCF-Belarus. Those 12 people with different backgrounds and experience were trained to perform the role of methodological resource on HIV/AIDS for staff and volunteers of community-based organizations.

During the master-classes the trainers' team shared with counterparts different teaching techniques and models:

- ⚡ addressing sensitive gender issues at HIV/AIDS workshops;
- ⚡ information & communication technologies in HIV/AIDS education;
- ⚡ theatrical performance to evoke behavior changes;
- ⚡ debates/talk shows in articulating and discussing the most problematic aspects of HIV/AIDS, etc.

At the Forum's round tables the trainers discussed the most acute issues of their development as a professional community. Elaboration of the **Code of Ethical and Professional Standards** was initiated as a result of discussions.

The Code drafted at the Forum proven the trainers' readiness to follow the common standards and increase effectiveness of HIV/AIDS education. This result also created preconditions for future follow-up events that will foster networking and mutually beneficial professional exchange between different HIV/AIDS professionals in Belarus.

CCF and UNAIDS joined resources to support Belarusian AIDS Network sustainability



UNAIDS Country representative, Eleonora Gvozdeva made input into strategies elaboration process



Creating SWOT analysis floor-chart



Visualizing the Network's brightest future in 2011



Mr. Roschupkin emphasized an increased demand for CSOs' active role in decision making

More than 20 Belarusian HIV/AIDS CSOs were brought together by the Belarusian AIDS Network to elaborate joint strategies in HIV/AIDS.

CCF helped creation of the Belarusian AIDS Network - national association of AIDS-service organizations. Within the framework of USAID funded project "HIV/AIDS NGO Capacity Building in Belarus" the Network was strengthened to enable it to effectively represent, advocate for, and promote the opinions and interests of Belarusian HIV/AIDS service NGOs. Leading Belarusian AIDS-service organizations joined the Network to build a representative and influential force for advocacy and consolidated response to epidemic of HIV. CCF supported Network's advocacy and public awareness events that were focused on promoting changes in country's HIV/AIDS policies and building more favorable environment for public organizations in Belarus.

This year CCF efforts in strengthening the national association of HIV/AIDS organizations were reinforced by UNAIDS that awarded association a grant to support strategic planning and experience exchange activities. This grant allocated more than \$ 10 000 match funds to CCF/USAID project.

Participatory Strategic Planning exercise was organized by the Belarusian AIDS Network to meet its member-organizations demand in clear and agreed strategy of sustainable development of their association.

BAN made its Strategic Planning open for key stakeholders and encouraged their input. While, CCF experts facilitated the process UNAIDS and the Global Fund project staff contributed valuable data and ideas to elaboration of civil society's long-term strategies in HIV/AIDS. Moreover, when drafted Strategic Plan document will be discussed with Ministry of Health and AIDS Prevention Center to ensure its compliance with national priorities in HIV/AIDS.

The main Network's priority strategies for 2008-2011 period were defined as the following:

- ✍ promotion an increased CSOs' role in national programs on HIV/AIDS;
- ✍ advocacy for improved environment for CSOs in Belarus;
- ✍ building partnerships with key stakeholders at national and international levels;
- ✍ effective fundraising and ongoing capacity building of BAN member-organizations.

The final session was devoted to experience exchange and finding better solutions to the common problems in providing HIV/AIDS services. One of the brightest presentations was made by Gennady Roschupkin, **Civil Society Action Team (CSAT)**. The findings of his research and lessons learned on CSOs' participation in Eastern and Central Europe equipped BAN with better knowledge to address the same issues in Belarus.