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International

“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS”
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QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT
Reporting period: 1 April – 30 June 2010
Date of report: July 30, 2010

Component III “Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities”

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Development objective:

Democracy, human rights and development

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities Project Component is aimed to increase integration of people with disabilities (PWD) through development of innovative PWD services and strengthening capacity of PWD grassroots organizations.

The project has three main objectives:

1. support initiatives of people with disabilities and extend range of services provided by local organizations to PWD in urban and rural areas through small grants;
2. support advocacy efforts by PWD grassroots organizations to promote rights of people with disabilities and increase public awareness on people with disabilities;
3. improve capacity of grassroots organizations that support PWD and their families.

B. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

This quarter the project was implemented according to its work plan and covered a wide spectrum of activities characterized by training, advocacy, and service delivery.

The six small grants for the total amount of \$38,717 that were awarded last quarter have been registered by the Department of Humanitarian Aid. Despite the relatively short period of time for project implementation (around 1 month) ChildFund's grantees managed to start 9 services for people with disabilities and their families.

Ten (10) Belarusian DPOs from small towns were strengthened by 12 leaders who completed the series of training within the Leadership without Limitations Training Course. The alumni of the Course demonstrated great personal growth, acquired unique competencies and skills and have already started to apply them in their respective organizations.

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Belarus highly appreciated ChildFund-Belarus' efforts to move forward development of inclusive education in Belarus. This was evidenced by the Ministry's request to share materials developed by ChildFund's Task Group on Inclusive Education as well as the Ministry's suggestion to share ChildFund's vision, ideas, and suggestions to be included in the state program on Development of Special Education.

Two capacity building events on advocacy helped to improve relevant skills and competencies of people with disabilities. Ten advocacy efforts were undertaken by local DPOs, participants of these training events. These efforts varied from providing access to different services to people with disabilities to strengthening the role of people with disabilities in decision-making processes through membership in local councils for disability issues.

The figures below illustrate the main accomplishments of ChildFund-Belarus between April 1 and June 30, 2010:

- Six small grants for a total amount of \$38,717 that were awarded last quarter were registered by the Department of Humanitarian Aid.
- 9 PWD related services were established in the frame of small projects.
- Two (2) workshops on monitoring, evaluation, reporting, PR and Mass Media collaboration were carried out for 18 representatives of 6 grantees of ChildFund-Belarus
- Two (2) sessions of the Leadership without Limitations Course were conducted. 12 people with disabilities from 10 PWD-service organizations graduated from the Course.

- Two (2) training sessions of advocacy were conducted. 20 people with disabilities from 17 PWD-service organizations drafted either a strategy on capacity building in the field of advocacy or a plan of action to set up a local committee on disability.
- One (1) meeting of Task Group on Inclusive Education was conducted.

• **C. CHALLENGES/ CONSTRAINTS**

- DPOs lack contacts and information about the work and objectives of organizations involved in disability issues. It damages their ability to form productive working relationships with other organizations doing similar or related work, including governmental agencies, regulating authorities and other NGOs. ChildFund included a special training session on partnership in its training programs
- Competitive attitudes and lack of cooperation in this sector are seen as a factor impeding effective participation of PWD in decision making process locally
- This quarter the IT service provider of ChildFund-Belarus broke his contract without giving notice well in advance. It put ChildFund Belarus’ office at risk of losing its local IT network since the computer server was the property of the IT provider and had to be returned to them. Thus it required additional expenses to purchase a new server. All expenses regarding re-installation of the computer network were covered by the IT firm. This quarter ChildFund-Belarus selected a new IT provider on a competitive basis.

II. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1: Support initiatives of people with disabilities and extend range of services provided by local organizations to PWD in urban and rural areas through small grants

The six small grants for a total amount of \$38,717 that were awarded last quarter have been registered by the Department of Humanitarian Aid. It allowed partner NGOs to start implementation of the awarded projects. Despite the relatively short period of time for project implementation (around 1 month) they managed to start 9 services for people with disabilities and their families. Two organizations (Kobrin branch of NGO “Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities” and Brest Youth NGO of People with Disabilities “Invalid I Sreda”) asked to postpone the start up date of their projects due to their close connection to the educational system where summer is a vacation period. It was agreed to postpone their start up dates to August 1.

1	NGO NAME: Kobrin branch of NGO “Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities” PROJECT NAME: Alternative Communication School	Amount: \$4,797	Status: registered August 1, 2010 – May 5, 2011
2	NGO NAME: Zhitkovichy branch of NGO “Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities” PROJECT NAME: Different, Equal and Active	Amount: \$7,000	Status: started May 25, 2010 – February 25, 2011
3	NGO NAME: Gomel Non-Governmental Organization of People with Supporting Motor System Disabilities "Invalidy-Spinalniki" PROJECT NAME: Life without Barriers	Amount: \$6,691	Status: started May 17, 2010 – January 1, 2011

4	NGO NAME: Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs PROJECT NAME: Healing of Magic	Amount: \$7,000	Status: started May 28, 2010 – May 27, 2011
5	NGO NAME: Belarusian Children Hospice PROJECT NAME: Development of Sustainable Respite Care for Children with Disabilities and their Families	Amount: \$6,550	Status: started May 7, 2010 – May 6, 2011
6	NGO NAME: Brest Youth NGO of People with Disabilities “Invalid I Sreda” PROJECT NAME: The Art of Being Yourself	Amount: \$6,679	Status: registered August 1, 2010 – March 31, 2011

Technical assistance to small grant implementation

ChildFund Belarus’ staff undertook seven (7) monitoring visits to six (6) DPOs – ChildFund Belarus grantees-2009\2010 to collect baseline data for objective 1 and to assess feasibility and monitor project implementation. Baseline data will be reported next quarter within the PMEP report. Two workshops on M&E and PR activities within small grant implementation were conducted for small grant recipients.

Activity/Expected results	Targets achieved
Workshop 1: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (May 11-12, Minsk) ChildFund-Belarus’ grantees will improve their M&E knowledge and skills	Representatives of all six (6) grantees improved their M&E knowledge and skills and designed M&E plans with respect to ChildFund performance and measurement targets and improved capacity in grants administration. 100% of participants applied acquired knowledge and skills in practice by providing timely and comprehensive reports on small projects
Workshop 2: PR and Mass Media Collaboration (May 26, Minsk) All ChildFund-Belarus’ grantees will be presented with ChildFund International Branding Policy and improve their PR skills	Representatives of all six (6) grantees improved skills in success story and press release writing, and in branding of PR materials and publications produced within the course of small grant implementation.

OBJECTIVE 2: Improve advocacy efforts by PWD grassroots organizations to promote rights of people with disabilities and increase public awareness on people with disabilities.

This quarter a special emphasis was given to improve the advocacy capacity of Belarussian DPOs. Two workshops on advocacy were conducted for local DPOs. As a result of this capacity building, partner DPOs planned and undertook advocacy efforts to improve the lives of people with disabilities, their families and DPOs’ environment. ChildFund Belarus continued supporting the work of the Expert Group on Inclusive Education. Advocacy activity also became an integral part of small grant projects supported by ChildFund. Despite the relatively short period of time the small grants have been involved in implementation (about 1 month) one small grant recipient Belarussian Children’s Hospice undertook advocacy efforts to promote countrywide dissemination of respite care for children with disabilities and their families.

ACTIVITY: Training “Advocacy Campaigning” (April 10-11, Minsk)	
Expected results	Actual targets achieved
DPOs’ leaders, activists and stakeholders will be provided with methodological support to their own	13 leaders of 12 DPOs were provided with methodological support to their own advocacy initiatives and acquired a better understanding of advocacy tools and techniques to implement well-designed local-level advocacy

advocacy initiatives	campaigns.
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ACTIVITY: Workshop for councils on disability issues “Participatory practices in council’s activities and decision making” (June 28-30, Minsk)	
Expected results	Actual targets achieved
Members of community councils in ChildFund International targeted communities will increase the effectiveness of the council’s activity and enhance PWD participation in it.	20 DPO leaders improved their capacity in running council meetings, and engaging PWD in council activities.

Grassroots level DPOs invoked its efforts to promote rights and interests of PWD

Ten (10) advocacy efforts by partner DPOs were inspired by ChildFund project activity and capacity building events on advocacy. These initiatives covered a wide spectrum of PWDs’ needs and applied either to local or national state bodies with an appeal to:

- adopt a new policy on providing driving training to people with motor skills disorders (Special World NGO, Minsk);
- ensure vocational training for people with disability (Prometey NGO, Polotsk);
- reduce rental payments for local NGOs (Child’s Diabetes NGO, Mozyr);
- become a member of a local council on disability issues (Child’s Diabetes NGO, Mozyr).

The implementing DPOs used a variety of tactics and methods for advocacy that they mastered at ChildFund capacity building events including letter writing, sensitization workshops/ round tables, and meetings.

Implementation of 6 other initiatives developed by partner DPOs this quarter will require some financial and technical support from ChildFund and will be implemented next quarter. These new initiatives will be focused on

- improving job placement of people with disabilities (by Red Cross branch in Bobruisk town);
- better integration of children and youth in wheelchairs (Special World NGO, Minsk);
- challenging stereotypes about children with diabetes (Child’s Diabetes NGO, Mozyr);
- building a relationship of mutual help and understanding between communities with and without disability (Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Youth with Disabilities, Smolivichi);
- building public awareness on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Revival Spring NGO, Kobrin);
- practicing consultation-based advocacy through participatory needs assessment of people with musculoskeletal disorders (Prometey NGO, Polotsk).

Promotion of people with disabilities’ participation in decision-making process

ChildFund Belarus continued supporting more active involvement of people with disabilities in decision making through local councils on disability issues, As of June 30, 2010 there were 10 local councils on disability issues in Belarus (for more information, please see project map in Annex 1). Twelve (12) partner DPOs of ChildFund-Belarus were full members of these councils. Nine (9) DPOs –members of the councils got ChildFund’s technical support and developed a strategy to increase their influence on decision making processes. Six (6) DPOs that were not included in local councils were supported in elaboration of their action plans of getting full membership in the councils. Five (5) DPOs from localities with no local councils on disability issues developed their working plans to set up a local committee on disability issues in their respective communities.

Promotion of Inclusive Education in Belarus The work of the Expert Group on Inclusive Education was highly appreciated by parents and the professional community as evidenced by the joining of three more parents as well as

three new practitioners from the regions to the Expert Group. In June, the renewed Expert Group on Inclusive Education discussed existing resources and barriers to implement the Master Plan that was developed in March. Motivated staff, active and conscious parents, existing infrastructure, and child-friendly practices are identified as main assets to introduce the new system of education while lack of cross-sectoral approaches, centralized financing, lack of expertise and information, stereotypes, and no supporting staff were estimated as negative factors. The Group identified three major areas that need primary intervention for successful inclusion of children – (1) creation of barrier free environments, (2) training of education providers and supporting staff, and (3) raising public awareness on disability issues. Recommendations to overcome existing gaps in these areas will be worked out by the end of August 2010. The Ministry of Education expressed its interest in the results of the Expert Group and asked the group to share its developments with the Department of Special Education. The Ministry of Education also suggested ChildFund submit its proposals on inclusive education to the National Program on Development of Special Education in Belarus for 2011-2015.

Promotion of Sustainable Supporting Services for Children with Disabilities and their Families

ChildFund Belarus’ small grantee NGO “Belarusian Children’s Hospice” in the frame of small project “Development of sustainable supporting services for children with disabilities and their families” conducted a series of round table discussions with representatives of the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Welfare and non-governmental organizations on the prospects of development of respite care service in Belarus. As a result, an action plan to advocate for incorporation of respite service into state and NGO practices was developed. The plan is to be implemented by the end of the small project in May 2011.

OBJECTIVE 3: Improve capacity of grassroots organizations supporting PWD and their families

One of the major achievements this quarter was completion of a four-session Leadership without Limitations Training Course (LLTC). In June, 12 people with disabilities graduated from a four-session Leadership without Limitations Training Course (LLTC). This course is unique and is currently the only channel in Belarus to provide PWD with the knowledge and skills to become an NGO leader. Many changes in alumni-2010’s organizations are already attributed to their participation in LLTC -2010: alumni provided evidence of participatory approaches, introduction, improved fundraising, development of advocacy strategies, enhanced PR, network development and improved dialogue with local stakeholders.

ACTIVITY: Leadership without Limitations Training Course: Session 3: Partnerships with Local Communities (April 22-24, Minsk) Session 4 : Training of Trainers (June 11-13, Minsk)	
Expected results	Actual targets achieved
Session 3: Building Partnerships within Communities 15 PWD-related specialists will be presented with the role of a leader in initiating and leading changes on a community level.	11 participants on Sessions 1 and 2 improved leadership competencies and skills related to community development such as community assessment, building alliances, and public relations.
Session 4: Training of Trainers Participants of the LLTC will be presented with concepts necessary to design and conduct training for people with disabilities and PWD-related specialists	12 participants demonstrated commitment to apply new knowledge and skills and acquired competencies to conduct a local training for members of their communities and organizations. They drafted modules of training sessions and practiced running through them.

Training outcome:

Nine newly-qualified trainers (83% of ToT session participants) submitted proposals to ChildFund Belarus for supporting five (5) local training events on PWD-related issues:

- Personal Priorities and Organizational Success –Positive Movement NGO, Vitebsk
- Challenging Stereotypes against Children and Adults with Disabilities –Stroumok NGO and Prometey NGO, Polotsk
- Building Partnerships among Local DPOs in order to Improve Advocacy Efforts –Association of People in Wheelchairs, Pinsk
- Safe Assistance to People in Wheelchairs –Association of People in Wheelchairs, Minsk
- Improving Presentation Skills of Members of the Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Youth with Disabilities - BelAACYD, Zhitkovichi (Gomel region).

Results of local training implementation will be reported in October 2010.

For more information, please see Annex 3: Success Story.

Training Activities of ChildFund-Belarus' partner DPOs conducted in the frame of small project implementation:

- A. Belarusian Children's Hospice as part of the Project "Development of Sustainable Respite Care for Children with Disabilities and their Families" provided training for 10 volunteers. 100% of the participants already started delivering services to clients of Hospice Respite Care.
- B. Zhitkovichy branch of Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities as part of Different, Equal and Active Project provided training on improving rights enforcement skills for 13 youth with disabilities and mothers of children with disabilities. Most active participants are to become members of a Task Force to assess local needs for inclusion of children with disabilities into community.

III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

Coordination with USAID

Irina Mironova, ChildFund's COP and Jahor Novikau, USAID AOTR communicated regularly through meetings, e-mails and phone calls.

This year USAID's office in Belarus included Inclusive Education for Children with Disability Component into Community Connections Program. 80% of the Expert Group on Inclusive Education was inspired by ChildFund Belarus to apply for participation in this program.

Cooperation with ChildFund International Headquarters

ChildFund Belarus was in regular communication with ChildFund International's Headquarters in Richmond via e-mail and conference calls.

This quarter ChildFund Belarus was visited by Anne Lynam Goddard, President and CEO of ChildFund International. Ms. Goddard visited some community sites and learned about the achievements and current activities of ChildFund Belarus under the USAID funded project.

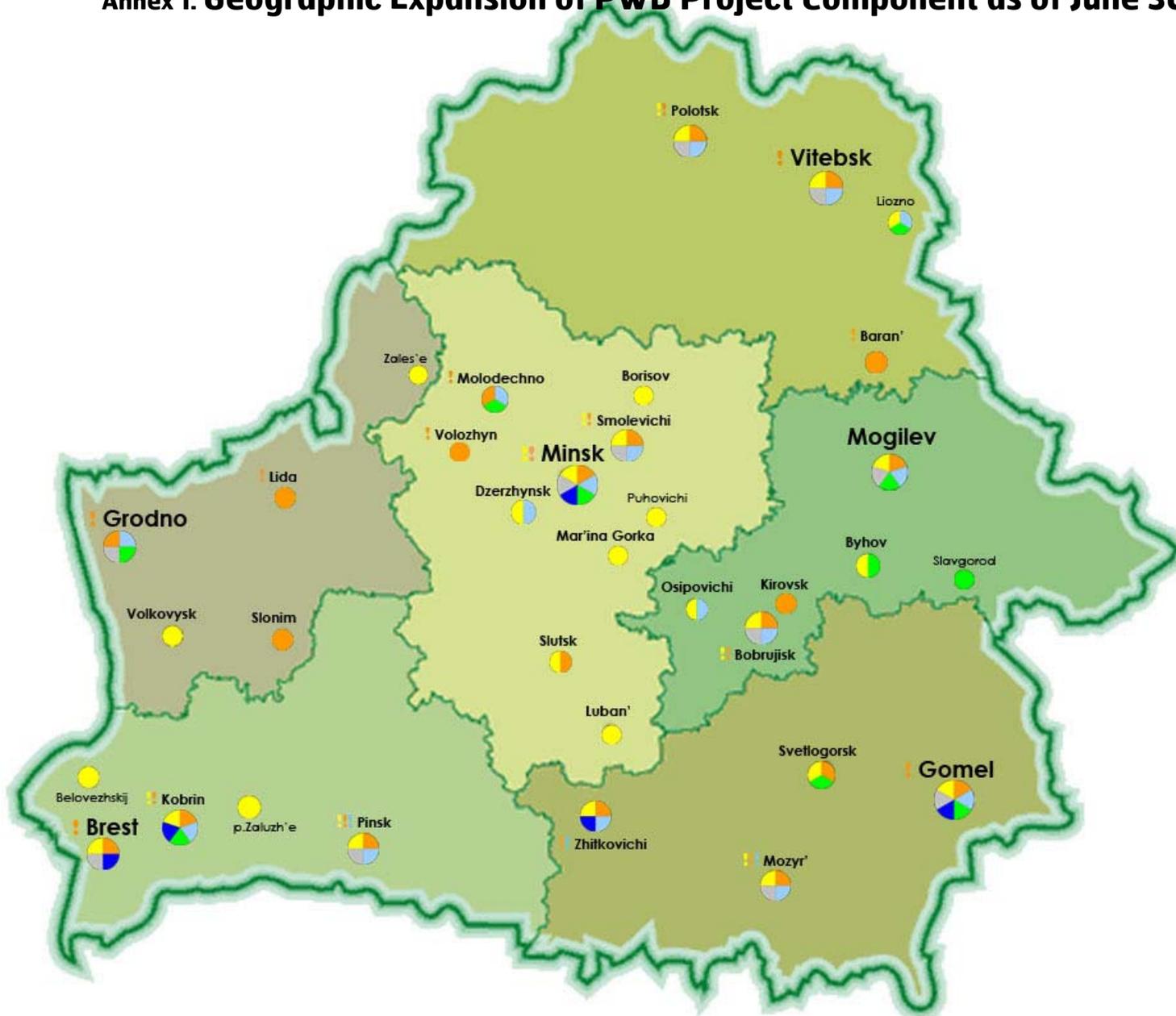
IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

ChildFund Belarus holds regular project review meetings. These meetings strengthened project management, performance, and integration leading to enhanced cooperation and communication between project staff.

A series of M&E coaching sessions for existing project staff were held in order to introduce the basics of the M&E process.



Annex 1: Geographic Expansion of PWD Project Component as of June 30, 2010



- I. ● Localities covered by advocacy training
● Localities covered by advocacy follow up activities
- II. ● Localities covered by training on inclusive education
- III. ● Localities covered by training on capacity building
● Localities that applied for small grants in frame of calls for proposals
- IV. ● Localities covered by Leadership without Limitations Training Course
● Localities covered by follow up training sessions by LLTC alumni
- V. ● ChildFund-Belarus' grantees- 2009\2010
- VI. ● Localities having councils for disability issues

Annex 2: Overview of small grants supported by ChildFund Belarus under PWD Project Component 2009-2010

List of small projects awarded financing

#	NGO NAME	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT	STATUS
1	Kobrin branch of NGO "Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities"	Alternative communication school	\$ 4,797.00	REGISTERED ¹
2	Zhitkovichy branch of NGO "Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities"	Different, equal and active	\$ 7,000.00	STARTED
3	Gomel Non-Governmental Organization of People with Supporting Motor System Disabilities "Invalidy-Spinalniki"	Life without barriers	\$ 6,691.00	STARTED
4	NGO "Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs"	Healing of Magic	\$ 7,000.00	STARTED
5	NGO "Belarusian Children's Hospice"	Development of sustainable supporting services for children with disabilities and their families	\$ 6,550.00	STARTED
6.	Brest Youth NGO of People with Disabilities "Invalid I Sreda"	The art of being yourself	\$ 6,679.00	REGISTERED ²

¹ The start of the project is postponed due to the following reasons: a) the project target groups such as parents and their children with disabilities who spend their summer vacations out of Kobrin, b) specialists of educative institutions, who are to participate in the project activities, have vacations in summer. The project is to start on the 1st of August, 2010.

² The start of the project is postponed because such target groups as volunteers and leaders of theater groups are unavailable for the project activities throughout the summer season: young volunteers, who study at the local universities, have their vacations in summer; leaders of PWDs theater groups also are on vacations throughout the summer. The project is to start on the 1st of August, 2010.

Description of small projects:

1. NGO name: Kobrin branch of NGO "Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities" Project duration: 10 months		Grant amount: \$ 4,797	Project dates: 01.08.2010 31.05.2011
NGO contact information: 153 Dzerzhinskogo str., Kobrin, Brest Region, Tel: 375 1942 2-86-86, Elena-Xeylo@yandex.ru			
Project name: Alternative communication school - The project is due to start on the 1 st of August, 2010			
Brief description:		<p>Within this project, an innovative supporting method of alternative communication will be introduced to parent and siblings of non-verbal children as well as to young community volunteers. The project will contribute to the development and better integration of children with complex disabilities.</p> <p>Within the project, family members of children with speech disorders, PWD-related specialists and young volunteers will be trained to use alternative methods of communication with non-verbal children. These innovations will be analyzed and systematized in a guide that will be distributed among regional branches of Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities and Habilitation Centers for children with disabilities.</p>	
Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of individual communication book for children with disabilities 20 children with disabilities • Trainings on an alternative nonverbal communication method for parents of children with disabilities and PWD-related specialists 17 parents and specialists • Trainings on an alternative nonverbal communication method for siblings of children with disabilities and volunteers from local schools 11 siblings and volunteers • Guide on the alternative nonverbal communication 80 copies • Video on the alternative nonverbal communication method, that will be shown on local TV channel 	

NGO name: Zhitkovichy branch of NGO "Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities"		Grant amount:	Project dates:
Project duration: 9 months		\$ 6,550	25.05.2010 25.02.2011
NGO contact information:	apt. 1 Katsubinskogo Str, 7, Zhitkovichi, Gomel Region, Tel: 375 2353 21417, 375 29 9107966, strah@mail.gomel.by		
Project name:	Different, equal and active		
Brief description:	<p>The project is aimed to increase the level of inclusion of children and adults with disabilities into community life in Zhitkovichy. Within the project, an integrated playground for children with and without disabilities will be built on the grounds of Zhitkovichy Habilitation Center for Children with Disabilities.</p> <p>As a barrier-free environment is considered a pre-condition for full inclusion of people with disabilities, a series of trainings on barrier free environments, advocacy for PWD rights and community needs assessment will be conducted for parents of children with disabilities, young PWD, NGOs and state body representatives. The most active trainees will be engaged in a Task Group that will assess community needs and monitor implementation of State Program on Creation of Barrier-Free Environments in Zhitkovichy region. The Task Group will prepare a report on implementation of barrier free environment and suggestions for further development for local authorities.</p>		
Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries	• Training on advocacy of PWD's rights PWD-related specialists, representatives of NGOs, local authorities, people with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities	15 participants	
	• Training on barrier-free environment for PWD-related specialists, representatives of NGOs, local authorities, people with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities	15 participants	
	• Training on community needs assessment for PWD-related specialists, representatives of NGOs, local authorities, people with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities	15 participants	
	• Training on partnership for PWD-related specialists, representatives of NGOs, local authorities, people with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities	15 participants	
	• Task Group on community needs assessment	6 members	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final round table discussion on results of community needs assessment and monitoring and perspectives of implementation of State Program on Creation of Barrier-Free Environment in Zhitkovichy region 	25 participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up of an accessible playground for children with and without disabilities 	40 children (including children with disabilities)
Established services and number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on advocacy of PWD's rights for specialists, people with disabilities and parents 	13 participants (13 female)

NGO name: Gomel Non-Governmental Organization of People with Supporting-Motor System Disabilities "Invalidy-Spinalniki"	Grant amount: \$ 6,691	Project dates: 17.05.2010 16.01.2011
Project duration: 8 months		

NGO contact information: 6-1 Mezhdugorodnaya str., 246012 Gomel; Tel: 375 232 46-08-94, 375 232 45-88-48, 375 29 667-66-01

Project name: Life without barriers

Brief description: The project is aimed to help people with disabilities in Gomel to enforce their labor rights as it is an integral component of life without barriers for people with disabilities. In the frame of the project a group of 60 PWD aged 18-45 will have an opportunity to learn a new profession or find a job. The project partner-organization – a local labor and social welfare committee – will deliver legal assistance to them. Every PWD will have access to an individual rehabilitation program and career building counseling. 10 PWD will be provided with 6-months of vocational training on PC operation, another 10 PWD will be trained as sales managers. In order to assist trained PWD in job placement an advocacy campaign about PWD right and interests will be conducted among leadership of 50 local businesses and organizations. The project results will be summarized at a final round table. Representatives of local authorities, businesses and NGOs will participate in the discussion. The resolution of the round table will be disseminated among stakeholders.

Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:	• Consultations (by telephone and in person) for PWDs on employment issues	240 consultations for 60 PWDs
	• 6-month vocational training on PC operation	10 people with disabilities
	• 4 trainings on different aspects of employment of people with disabilities	60 people with disabilities
	• Training on sales management and marketing	10 people with disabilities
	• Legal guide with instructions and advice on employment issues for people with disabilities	300 copies
	• Brochure on tax remissions regarding employment of people with disabilities for executives of local businesses	150 copies
	• Final round table discussion on project results	30 participants

Established services and number of beneficiaries:

- **46** (12 female/34 male) people with disabilities received primary consultations (by telephone or in person) on labor rehabilitations and were offered participation in planned project activities.
- **5** (3 male/2 female) people with disabilities received individual rehabilitation programs and were registered as unemployed at local employment center. They are ready to start IT vocational training on PC operation.

NGO name: NGO "Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs"		Grant amount: \$ 7,000	Project dates: 28.05.2010 27.05.2011
Project duration: 12 months			
NGO contact information:	25 Masherov ave, office 231, Minsk, Tel: 375 17 237 48 57, Magic-by@tut.by		
Project name:	Healing of Magic		
Brief description:	<p>This project will introduce an innovation in the field of rehabilitation - a method called Healing of Magic.</p> <p>Healing of Magic method is absolutely new for Belarus. Designed by American illusionists Kevin and Cindy Spencer this method makes use of simple magic tricks based on providing a lot of fun and reaching therapeutic results.</p> <p>Within the project, a group of volunteers will be trained on Healing of Magic method. As a follow up, trained volunteers will weekly visit young in-patients with disabilities staying in two (2) rehabilitation centers and one (1) hospital of Minsk. During visitation, volunteers will be showing magic tricks to children and training children to do these tricks.</p> <p>Thus, a volunteer and a child with disabilities work together in order to help a low-functioning child to advance their fine motor skills, attention and perception development, interpersonal and cognitive abilities, emotional wellbeing.</p> <p>Project experience and know-how method will be described in a brochure. Best practices will be shared with main stakeholders in the field of child rehabilitation in Belarus during a final round table and at a National workshop. The project materials and the presentation will be found on the web-site.</p>		
Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on Healing of Magic methodology for volunteers 	10 volunteers	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healing of Magic program activities for children with disabilities 	720 children with disabilities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brochure on project results 	50 copies	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and functioning of the project web-site 	1100 visitors	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final round table on analyzing project results and discussing the perspectives of dissemination of Healing of Magic methodology in rehabilitation institutions for children with disabilities 	30 PWD-related specialists and representatives of NGOs	
Established services and number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and functioning of the project web-site: Magic-help.org 		

NGO name: NGO "Belarusian Children's Hospice"		Grant amount: \$ 7,000	Project dates: 07.05.2010 06.05.2011
Project duration: 12 months			
NGO contact information:	100-A Berezovaya roscha str., Borovliany, Minsk district; Tel: 375 17 505-27-45, 5052746; hospice-minsk@tut.by		
Project name:	Development of sustainable supporting services for children with disabilities and their families		
Brief description:	The project is the second step of establishment of a 24/7 Respite Care Service for Children with Disabilities Project, which won financing in 2009. Within the current stage of the project further development of respite service will be promoted. The project will mobilize community resources and create favorable conditions for replication of a respite care model in Belarus, advocating for incorporation of respite care service into state and NGO practices.		
Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/7 respite care service (children with disabilities are provided with medical care, free food, medical equipment and materials, assistance of baby sitters (volunteers), art therapy, music therapy) • Psychological consultations for parents of children with disabilities • 2 trainings for community volunteers, who will provide assistance at the respite care center • 3 seminars on respite care service and project best practices for specialists working with children with disabilities and their families • 5 meetings of the Expert Group representing key Ministries and other stakeholders. The Expert Group will work to advocate for incorporation of respite care service into state and NGO practices and to develop quality standards for a twenty-four-hour respite care service. • Manual about innovative respite care in Belarus • Setting up and maintenance of the telephone contribution line service to raise funds for respite care service in Hospice • 2 round table discussions on promotion of further development of respite service in Belarus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 children with disabilities 25 parents 25 parents 25 volunteers 40 participants 6 members 300 copies 2000 phone calls 30 participants 	

Established services and number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/7 Respite care service (children with disabilities are provided with medical care, free food, medical equipment and material, assistance of baby sitters (volunteers), art therapy, music therapy) 	<p>6 (2 boys/4 girls) children with disabilities</p> <p>10 (5 male/5 female) parents</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological consultations for parents of children with disabilities 	<p>10 (5 male/ 5 female) parents</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for community volunteers, who will provide assistance at the respite care centre 	<p>10 (3 male/7 female)volunteers</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round table discussion on prospects of development of respite care services in Belarus 	<p>15 (15 female) participants</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the Expert Group representing key Ministries and other stakeholders. The Expert group has worked out an action plan on advocating for incorporation of respite service into state and NGO practices 	<p>5 (5 female) participants</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and updating the project web-page to advocate for incorporation of respite service into state and NGO practices www.hospice.by/proekt-mezhdunarodnogo-detskogo-fonda/index.php 	<p>2426 visitors</p>

NGO name: Brest Youth NGO of People with Disabilities "Invalid I Sreda" – **The project is due to start on the 1st of August, 2010**
Project duration: 8 months

Grant amount:
\$ 6,679

Project dates:
01.08.2010
31.03.2011

NGO contact information: 10 Naganova Str, office 10, Brest, Tel: 375 29 527 96 92, belshlyah@gmail.com

Project name: The art of being yourself - **The project is due to start on the 1st of August, 2010**

Brief description:

The project is aimed to integrate youth with disabilities aged 18-31 into cultural and social life through theater.

Within the project, youth with disabilities from Brest region will be trained on various aspects of stage activity. A group of community volunteers without disabilities will provide support within the project. Trained young people with disabilities will stage theater performances for general public.

At the end of the project, printed methodological materials on setting up theater groups of people with disabilities will be developed and disseminated among PWD-related specialists. Information about the project activities will be highlighted on the webpage developed within the project as well as in regional and national mass media.

Brest State Pedagogic University, Brest Region Library, Territorial Center of Social Welfare and Professional Psychological Center Insight are chosen as partner organizations to implement this project.

Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:

• 3 Master-classes on various aspects of theater activities	45 members of PWDs theater groups
• 3 trainings for volunteers on specifics of assistance and communication with people with disabilities	20 volunteers
• 3 theater performances staged for general public	150 spectators
• Photo exhibition on theater activity of people with disabilities for the general public	100 visitors
• Methodological materials on setting up theater groups of people with disabilities	100 copies

Annex 3: Discarding Stereotypes to Start a New Life

Natalia was a happily married 23-year-old woman when she got pregnant. She was overwhelmed with happiness and was gladly waiting for the birth of the baby. Her happiness was darkened by the doctor's verdict. Just 5 minutes after she gave birth to her baby daughter the doctor came to her with a scary look on his face to tell her that her daughter was born with Down's Syndrome. Natalia had never heard of this condition and the next 3 days was bombarded with doctors' stories that such children do not walk, do not talk, can never have a family and are condemned to "being vegetables.". For three days the doctors were persistently trying to talk Natalia into leaving her baby daughter at the maternity hospital. With the support of her husband and her parents she decided to keep the baby.

Although the decision to keep baby daughter, Vera, was firm, it still was very difficult. A few months after the birth of the baby, Natalia's husband was diagnosed with schizophrenia and was no longer capable of taking care of them. From that time Natalia's parents became her only support. Neither Natalia nor her parents knew any people with disabilities; they didn't know how to treat them. For them it seemed like there was no future for such children and for their little Vera. Natalia's mom tried to be strong, but for her it was a terrible psychological trauma, she blamed herself and no one could make her change her mind. Natalia's father silently suffered, hiding his feelings and emotions. They both loved their granddaughter and at the same time couldn't accept her as she was.



Vera, Natalia's daughter

Acceptance came with participation in the course "Leadership without Limitations" conducted by ChildFund Belarus' specialists as part of the USAID-funded project "Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities". Natalia, as a representative of the local Polotsk NGO for people with disabilities called "Strumok", was offered participation in the course aimed at unveiling leadership potential of PWDs. At the time of the course Vera was an infant and was still breast feeding, so Natalia had to take her daughter with her to the trainings. To help Natalia with the baby, her mom and dad in turn attended the course with her. They met people with disabilities of different ages, saw how they can realize their potential and what opportunities they have in personal and professional spheres.



Natalia and little Vera

Natalia: "Thanks to the course I obtained knowledge, skills and hope to make this world better for people with disabilities. I and my parents, who also participated in the course, were brought up on stereotypes about PWDs. Luckily, we were able to discard them and modify our perception of people with disabilities. The changes that happened due to this course were multiplied by 4, as four of us changed drastically: me, my mom and dad and little Vera. There is no more crying and pitying ourselves in our home, we direct all of our energy on Vera's development. We have grown emotionally and spiritually."

Through the course Natalia met representatives of other NGOs working on disability issues and made useful contacts. In the near future Natalia and a representative of another Polotsk NGO for adults with disabilities are planning to conduct a training on stereotypes about PWDs, a topic that is considered significant by both children and adults living with disabilities. What is more, Natalia is interested in photography and is planning to make a series of photos of all children with Down's Syndrome that live in her hometown Polotsk. The idea of this photo session is to discard stereotypes that exist around such children and to show ordinary people that these children are beautiful and have all the rights to be treated with love and respect.