

Christian Children's Fund



“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS” QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT

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Component III “Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities”

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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

“Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities” is aimed at increasing inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWD) through development of innovative services and strengthening the capacity of organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs).

The project has three main objectives:

- To support initiatives of people with disabilities and to extend current services provided by local organizations to PWD in both urban and rural areas through small-grants to Belarusian DPOs.
- To encourage advocacy efforts by Belarusian DPOs to promote rights of people with disabilities.
- To improve capacity of Belarusian DPOs supporting people with disabilities and their families.

B. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

This quarter CCF-Belarus produced tangible results and evoked vivid progress in integration of children with developmental disabilities into community life, their habilitation and equal access to services. An increased number of families were reached with effective support services. Local community resources were mobilized. There was increased networking of organizations of persons with disabilities and improved access to information for persons with disabilities and their family members about their rights, existing services, opportunities and resources. Capacity of Belarusian organizations of persons with disabilities in implementation of advocacy efforts to promote full inclusion was enhanced.

The figures below illustrate a summary of main accomplishments this quarter:

- Nine (**9**) *small-grants* for a total amount of \$88,946.63 were active in this quarter providing support services to children and people with disabilities.
- Twenty six (**26**) **new support services** for people with disabilities were established by CCF-grantee DPOs in local communities where this group of citizens is under-served and under-appreciated. Rehabilitation, education and vocational services reached the most vulnerable groups of people with disabilities such as: children with motor and cognitive disabilities, wheelchair users, terminally ill children and family members. Respite care, vocational training, computer literacy, integrated theatrical groups, creativity development, and information on human rights and advocacy for PWDs are the crucial developments accomplished.
- Six hundred seventy-one (**671**) target group representatives benefited from new support services, including children/youth with disabilities (**97**), adults with disabilities (**156**), parents of children with disabilities (**154**), typically developed children-volunteers (**226**), and medical workers (**38**).
- One hundred eighty five thousands (**185,000**) representatives of general public were the audience of DPOs’ public awareness initiatives targeting issues of stigma and discrimination
- A training course for people with disabilities “*Leadership without limitations*” was completed and a group of **12** PWDs was created to replicate the course for peers from local communities.
- Eighty (**80**) representatives of Belarusian DPOs and state-sponsored agencies attended CCF-Belarus’ educational events and increased their capacity in advocacy, inclusive education and leadership of people with disabilities.

II. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1

To support initiatives of people with disabilities and extension of current services provided by local organizations to PWD in both urban and rural areas through small-grants to Belarusian DPOs.

In January 2009, CCF awarded nine (9) small grants for the total amount of \$ 88,946.63 to DPOs in Belarus. Small grants were aimed at supporting community-based services, increasing access to education, vocational training and employment opportunities and social support for children, women, and men with disabilities. All nine small grants were registered by the Department of Humanitarian Aid this quarter. Twenty six (26) new support services were established within the small grants this quarter. Respite care, vocational training, computer literacy, integrated theatrical groups, creativity development, and information on human rights and advocacy for PWDs were crucial developments. CCF-Belarus provided its technical support to the organizations of people with disabilities that implemented CCF small grants. Along with ongoing consultations CCF staff conducted M&E and site visits to sub-grantee NGOs. About sixty (60) individual and online consultations were provided to their project managers, specialists and accountants. Consultation provided by CCF covered such aspects as: i) grants administration, ii) reporting and iii) project management. As a result each small grant recipient was provided with feedback and recommendations for further improvements.

ACTIVITY: SMALL GRANTS

1	NGO NAME: Youth NGO “The ABC of entrepreneurship” PROJECT NAME: “Make a choice for your future”	AMOUNT: \$ 9,996.00	REGISTERED
2	NGO NAME: Bobruisk NGO “Association of people on wheelchairs” PROJECT NAME: “Right to work”	AMOUNT: \$ 9,618.00	REGISTERED
3	NGO NAME: “Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities” (Baran branch) PROJECT NAME: “Workshop for social and labor rehabilitation of children/young people with disabilities”	AMOUNT: \$ 9,990.00	REGISTERED
4	NGO NAME: NGO “Belarusian Children’s Hospice” PROJECT NAME: “Creation of twenty-four-hour respite care service for hopelessly ill children with disabilities”	AMOUNT: \$ 10,000.00	REGISTERED
5	NGO NAME: Gomel NGO “Association of People with Mobility Disability” PROJECT NAME: “Empowerment for equal opportunities and equal rights”	AMOUNT: \$ 9,810.00	REGISTERED
6	NGO NAME: Mozyr NGO “Association of people on wheelchairs” PROJECT NAME: “New horizons”	AMOUNT: \$ 9,997.00	REGISTERED
7	NGO NAME: Pinsk NGO “Association of people on wheelchairs” PROJECT NAME: “Computer literacy education course - new opportunity for employment of young people with disabilities”	AMOUNT: \$ 9,611.01	REGISTERED
8	NGO NAME: NGO “Rehabilitation and sport club of people with disabilities” PROJECT NAME: “Equal rights for people with disability in employment and sport activity”	AMOUNT: \$ 9,995.00	REGISTERED
9	NGO NAME: Young Men Christian Association PROJECT NAME: “Social Integration of children with mental and physical disabilities”	AMOUNT: \$ 9,929.62	REGISTERED

For more information, please, see Annexes A, B, and C.

OBJECTIVE 2

To encourage advocacy efforts by Belarusian DPOs to promote rights of people with disabilities.

This quarter partner DPOs that were supported through the project boosted their advocacy activity. Despite a very short period of time some advocacy efforts brought positive changes in the lives of children and people with disabilities. CCF's Task Force that consisted of people with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities completed its work on the **Manual on Multidisciplinary Community-based Committees on Disability Issues**. The Manual is to be printed by PWDs at the PWD workshops and spread among 65 regional structures of NGOs "BelAPDI", Association of PWDs in Wheel-Chairs to start creating Multidisciplinary Community-based Committees on Disability Issues.

People with disabilities and their family members fight for better access to rehabilitation services and education:

Gomel NGO "Association of People with Mobility Disability" within their project *"Empowerment for equal opportunities and equal rights"* conducted a round table on the issues of PWDs' rehabilitation opportunities. Participants – representatives of local DPOs and state structures including the Vice-Chairman of the Gomel Executive Committee, representatives of regional administrations and deputies, representatives of social services and medical institutions – worked out a series of issues for decision. As a result, the Executive committee is about to issue a regulation strongly recommending regional state administrations together with NGOs build plans for rehabilitation of PWDs. The Department of Healthcare is about to open 3 beds for PWD rehabilitation at Zhlobin hospital and at Mozyr hospital. The round table helped one of the participants who uses a wheelchair for mobility who had been previously refused a special wheel-chair to be invited to Medical Commission to reconsider the previous decision and provide a necessary wheel-chair for him.

Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities" (Baran branch) within its project *"Workshop for social and labor rehabilitation of children/young people with disabilities"* sent a letter to the vice-chairman of the Executive Committee about the establishment of a day care center for children with disabilities in Baran town. In the absence of a day care center in Baran mothers must take their children with disabilities by public transport to the neighboring town of Orsha where such a center exists.

Belarusian Children's Hospice took good care of a 16-year-old boy suffering from traumatic brain injury and managed to bring him back home. They also organized an advocacy campaign targeting the Ministry of Health, to protect PWDs' rights for health care and education. After having learned that neither local health care services nor schools help in further rehabilitation and education of the boy, Hospice was regularly approaching the polyclinics and the school and encouraged the mother of the boy to call to the hot line of the Ministry of Healthcare. After this call the polyclinics began to serve the boy and started sending necessary medics to him. Currently, the talks with the school administration where the boy studied before the trauma are underway.

People with disabilities advocate for equal employment opportunity:

NGO "ABC of Entrepreneurship" within the project *"Make a choice for your future"* conducted a round table on the issues of broadening opportunities of entrepreneurship for PWDs. Participants – representatives of DPOs, Ministry of Economics, Parliamentary Commission on Youth Policies, and business incubators – raised issues of removing barriers for PWDs in starting or joining business activities, credits, benefits for rent, Internet access, and application of innovative methods and technologies in educating PWDs with visual impairments on how to do business. Issues raised are written in an official paper which was sent to the Commission of Youth Policies at the Minsk Council of Deputies, Commission on Labor and Employment and Department of Entrepreneurship at the Minsk Executive Committee.

Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities put forward recommendations on PWDs employment regulations at the National Multidisciplinary Committee on PWD issues. As a result the leader of this NGO Elena Titova was invited to participate in the multidisciplinary working group on rehabilitation workshops for PWDs. Elena, being a member of the CCF Task Group, discussed the most challenging issues of rehabilitation workshops with the Task Group experts. Inspired by their support she is lobbying against the government’s decision to bring rehabilitation workshops from supervision of Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Social Protection because this decision will hamper rehabilitation work for PWDs.

Bobruisk NGO “Association of people on wheelchairs,” within its project “*Right to work,*” influenced the Medical Commission on PWD Issues to provide necessary papers and individual rehabilitation programs for 10 PWDs thus giving them the right to work and be employed.

People with disabilities insist on implementation of non-barrier environment:

Bobruisk NGO “Association of people on wheelchairs” checked the Bobruisk roads most frequently used by PWDs and wrote a letter to the department of architecture of the town executive committee to make the road borders at the crossings lower, so that wheel-chairs can ride easily. The road borders at the crossings were changed for lower ones.

Evgeny Shevko, leader of Mozyr **NGO “Association of people on wheelchairs”**, a member of the CCF Task **Group**, regularly stays in the hotel “Belarus” when in Minsk. The ramp to get to the hotel is built behind the hotel and is not well seen. After he had written a recommendation to the administration of the hotel, they drew arrows indicating the way to the ramp, as well as made a low road border at the main entrance to the hotel, thus adapting it to the needs of PWDs.

Baran branch of the **NGO “Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities”** (project “Workshop for social and labor rehabilitation of children/young people with disabilities”) wrote a letter to a regional executive committee in Orsha (regional center, 15 km from Baran) asking to put on the agenda the following issues identified by Baran community:

- Establish in Baran town a day care center for children with disabilities.
- Renew the functioning of home-based workshops, where PWD get occupation and work experience.
- Build a ramp at the local Palace of Culture.
- Increase the number of recreation facilities sponsored by the local administration for accepting groups of children with disabilities and parents during the summer period.
- Include part of the NGOs’ expenses (NGO communal services, transportation of children and young PWDs, festivity events for PWDs) into the town budget.

ACTIVITY: **TASK FORCE** on advocacy and policy change
“The model of multidisciplinary community-based committees on disability issues”

(APRIL 9, MAY 4, JUNE 23, 2009, MINSK)

EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
Manual for creation of Multidisciplinary Community-based Committees on Disability Issues developed.	The Manual for the creation of Multidisciplinary Community-based Committees on Disability Issues elaborated by PWDs facilitated by CCF. Committees are considered as a new advocacy tool for expanding PWD’s participation in policy formulation and evaluation processes

CRITICAL NOTE:

Implementation of the community-based Communities will support PWDs’ leadership in solving social, economic and health issues of human disability and engage PWDs in policy elaboration process.

OBJECTIVE 3

To improve capacity of Belarusian DPOs supporting people with disabilities and their families.

This quarter eighty (**80**) representatives of **36 organizations** (Belarusian DPOs and state-sponsored social services) **from 20 communities** attended CCF-Belarus' workshops led by US experts and the training course "Leadership without limitations" by local experts. Participation in these capacity building events helped PWDs develop and strengthen their advocacy skills as well as learn a new concept of inclusive education.

The participants of the training course "Leadership without limitations" that started in the past quarter completed a series of three trainings targeting three levels of leadership development: starting from assertive behavior, slightly moving to leadership skills needed for successful functioning within their organizations and mastering additional skills for development of necessary relationships with external agencies and communities. The training course curriculum was developed by /with experts from local NGOs, 40% of them were people with disabilities. One of the positive outcomes of this training course was the creation of a highly motivated group of PWDs who want to disseminate acquired knowledge and skills among their peers.

ACTIVITY: TRAINING "Self-advocacy of people with disability: building partnership with community"

(APRIL 16-18, 2009, MINSK)

EXPECTED RESULTS

Belarusian DPOs/PWDs improved their knowledge and skills in self-advocacy and assertive communication

ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED

- Susan Fox (Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire), an international expert, provided a 3-day training for **14** participants. Participants included mothers of children with disabilities, adults with disabilities, and directors of community agencies that serve people with disabilities.
- The training covered 4 topic areas: **(1)** values and beliefs about persons with disabilities and people first language, **(2)** advocacy and self-advocacy, **(3)** planning for change, and **(4)** assertive communication skills.
- Most participants left with specific plans for change within their communities. Action plans included:
 - Advocating for a ramp at a local health clinic;
 - Developing an outreach campaign to educate families about available services and supports;
 - Advocating for the development of independent living centers.

CRITICAL NOTE:

Participants were enthused and engaged. They seemed to particularly enjoy working in small groups where they were developing their plans for changes. Comments from the participants indicated that they would use the received information and assertive skills in their daily lives and in their work.

ACTIVITY: TRAINING "Best practices in inclusive education"

(MAY 28-30, 2009, MINSK)

EXPECTED RESULTS

Belarusian scientists, educators and practitioners introduced in a concept of inclusive education

ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED

- International expert, Frank Sgambati (Institute on Disability, University of New Hampshire) provided a 3-day training for **24** participants. Participants represented the Ministry of Education, National Institute of Education, Pedagogical University, Habilitation Centers for children with disabilities and integrated schools.
- Belarusian scientists and practitioners learned about **i)** concept and values of inclusive education, the difference between integration and inclusion **ii)** the importance of friendship between children with disabilities and typically developing classmates; **iii)** discussed support, strategies and

potential barriers regarding the development of relationships; **iv**) overviewed examples of inclusive practices in the classroom; **v**) tested basis techniques to promote using People First language dealing with people/children with disability.

- During a practical exercise Belarusian specialists drafted their action plans for applying Inclusive Education in their organizations/communities. There were :
 - Regular schools teachers training using “Including Samuel” educational film;
 - Introduction of strength-based and holistic approach in assessing child’s level of development
 - Training for administrators on how to support their staff;
 - Development of information brochure for parents of children with disability on services.

ACTIVITY: TRAINING “Leadership and Advocacy for Program and Policy Development”

(JUNE 25-27, 2009, MINSK)

EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
<p>The participants up-graded their knowledge about the key concepts of effective advocacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evelyn Cherrow (Global Partners United, Washington D.C.), an international expert, provided a 3-day training for 18 participants. Participants included mothers of children with disabilities, adults with disabilities, managers of organizations of people with disabilities and directors of community agencies that serve people with disabilities. ▪ The participants learned key concepts and pre-conditions of effective advocacy: i) PWD leadership: challenges and opportunities; ii) negotiation strategies; iii) advocacy strategies; iv) networks and coalitions to influence people and communities; v) best practices of campaigns of social change.

ACTIVITY: TRAINING COURSE “Leadership without limitations” (3-day session “Partnership with local community”)

(JUNE 25-27, 2009, MINSK)

EXPECTED RESULTS	ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED
<p>The group of PWD-leaders trained to act as leaders and advocates for positive changes on the community level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seventeen (17) participants from 12 DPOs took part in the third session of the course for PWD-leaders “Leadership without Limitations”. They represented 10 various communities of Belarus such as: <i>Baran, Grodno, Kobrin, Mogilev, Molodechno, Mozyr, Osipovich, Pinsk, Smolevichi and Zhitkovichi</i>. ▪ At the session participants were trained on advanced-level topics related to i) mapping community problems and resources, ii) integrating disability issues in community agendas, iii) mobilizing community resources and volunteers; iv) building public and community members’ awareness on PWDs rights. ▪ PWD-leaders conducted a roleplay “Round Table” where they played roles of different stakeholders, such as: director of business company, journalist, coordinator of donor agency. PWD-leaders had the opportunity to practice acquired negotiation skills. Those who performed roles of journalists, businessman, and donors shared their ideas and thoughts about PWD leadership, and public activism, opportunities of their full inclusion in the society. It helped the participants to understand better the nature and specifics of building partnership with different community groups.

CRITICAL NOTE:

It is expected that further development of the Leadership Course for PWDs will be continued and expanded through **replication activities** of the TOT group formed during the course of project implementation.

III. PROJECT MANAGEMENT, 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.

M&E Unit of CCF-Belarus conducted regular site visits, consultations for CCF partner organizations and sub-grantees.

CCF's Headquarters (CCF-HQ) provided overall oversight, and technical support to the project. CCF-Belarus Minsk and CCF-HQ maintained regular communication via e-mail and teleconferences.

Regular communications with Jahor Novikau, USAID CTO and Larisa Komarova were maintained through e-mail, telephone, and working meetings.

On May 14 Irina Mironova, CCF-Belarus' Country Director took part in USAID strategic planning meeting for Belarus that was held in Kiev at the USAID-Ukraine Mission. She had an opportunity to share ideas about country needs and advocate for continuation of OVC and PWD programs in Belarus. Among the participants were Janina Jaruzelski, Mission Director, USAID -Minsk office headed by its Director Chuck Howell, representatives of USAID from Washington, and representatives of other INGOs implementing USAID funded projects in Belarus.

On May 27 Irina Mironova and Alexei Golontsov, CCF-Belarus' Project Manager, met with Antonina Zmushko, Chief of Department of Special Education from the Ministry of Education.

On May 28 Irina Mironova met with Marina Bylino, Chief methodologist on special education of Ministry of Education and staff of the National Institute of Education involved in special education. They discussed needs and possible participation in project capacity building events.

IV. BUDGET

The SF-272 report will be submitted under separate cover by CCF's Headquarters.

Summary list of the project's small grants

#	DPO NAME	PROJECT NAME	GRANT AMOUNT	STATUS
1	Youth NGO “The ABC of entrepreneurship”	“Make a choice for your future”	\$ 9,996.00	ACTIVE
2	Bobruisk NGO “Association of people on wheelchairs”	“Right to work”	\$ 9,618.00	ACTIVE
3	NGO “Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities” (Baran branch)	“Workshop for social and labor rehabilitation of children/young people with disabilities”	\$ 9,990.00	ACTIVE
4	NGO “Belarusian Children Hospice”	“Creation of twenty-four-hour respite care service for hopelessly ill children with disabilities”	\$ 10,000.00	ACTIVE
5	Gomel NGO “Association of People with mobility disability”	“Empowerment for equal opportunities and equal rights”	\$ 9,810.00	ACTIVE
6	Mozyr NGO “Association of people on wheelchairs”	“New horizons”	\$ 9,997.00	ACTIVE
7	Pinsk NGO “Association of people on wheelchairs”	“Computer literacy education course - new opportunity for employment of young people with disabilities”	\$ 9,611.01	ACTIVE
8	NGO “Rehabilitation and sport club of people with disabilities”	“Equal rights for people with disability in employment and sport activity”	\$ 9,995.00	ACTIVE
9	NGO “Young Men Christian Association”	“Social Integration of children with mental and physical disabilities”	\$ 9,929.62	ACTIVE

Detailed description of the project's small grants

Youth NGO "The ABC of entrepreneurship"	"Make a choice for your future"	02.04.2009. – 01.09.2009. (5 months)
NGO contact details:	5 Pobediteley ave., Minsk; phone: 8(029)668-69-56; abcentre@mail.ru	
Brief description of the project:	The project is aimed at increasing participation of young PWD in economy and business. The group of 10 young PWD will pass through the training course on entrepreneurship. The course will cover such aspects as generation of business idea, business management and business planning. Special emphasis will be put on legal regulations and rules related to establishment of a new business and operation of private enterprise. Trainees will be provided with professional assistance in design of their own business plans. Business plans elaborated by project participants will be submitted to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, which has finances to invest such initiatives. To ensure wider coverage informational/educational resources used in the project will be placed on the web-site of Ministry of Economy and business-support portal "BelBiz". The project will be done in alliance with Committee on Economy of Minsk municipality. The Committee will provide professional expertise and assistance to PWDs in preparing applications for getting funds for their business plans.	
Services established by present time:	Training course on entrepreneurship	
Number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people with disabilities, unemployed – 10 beneficiaries. • General public (readers of the newspaper "Arguments & Facts" and visitors of the web-portal NGO.by) - 164 660 	
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Bobruisk NGO "Association of people on wheelchairs"	"Right to work"	02.04.2009. – 01.09.2009. (5 months)
NGO contact details:	14 Parkovy side str., Bobruisk; phone: 8(0225)48-22-73, 8(029)103-27-33; velomoto@mail.ru	
Brief description of the project:	The project is aimed at promoting human rights of PWD in social and economic spheres. The project will empower PWDs self-advocacy efforts dealing with state social protection and employment institutions. The NGO will employ people with disabilities who will manage the project themselves and run major project activities for their peers. About 80 PWDs will be reached by legal counseling and advocacy training. As a result of training and consultation each participant will acquire clear guidelines on how to deal with highly bureaucratic system of social protection of people with disabilities. PWDs enrolled in the project will be capable to realize their rights in getting necessary services, social assistance, insurance and employment, which is usually a problem due to their helplessness in front of state bureaucracy. To facilitate practical application of obtained knowledge and skills and to ensure follow-up self-advocacy actions by PWDs they will be provided with supervising support of their more experienced peers. Project results will be published as a guide, with instructions and advice for people with disabilities to support their self-advocacy. The guide will be distributed in Bobruisk among 2000 people with disabilities.	

Services established by present time:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual counseling on labor and employment – 40 beneficiaries; • Training course for PWDs on labor and employment rights – 61 beneficiaries.
Number of beneficiaries:	79 PWDs age of 18 – 45
NGO “Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities” (Baran branch)	
	“Workshop for social and labor rehabilitation of young people with disabilities”
	06.03.2009. – 01.09.2009. (6 months)
NGO contact details:	9-1 Orshanskaya str., Baran; phone: 8(0216) 25-20-40; faina@vitebsk.by
Brief description of the project:	<p>The project will open new services for labor and social rehabilitation of young people with disability. Four small groups of 4-5 young people in each will be involved in workshops activity on a) sewing, b) design & publishing, c) photography. In addition to workshop activity young people will be trained to foster their creativity, labor skills and basic communication skills. Young people will have exercises to practice skills of moving outside their usual neighborhood, using city infrastructure. Communication campaign focused on local community and key stakeholders will be held to improve integration of young people with disabilities in cultural and social life of the community through theatrical performance, trade exhibition of workshop’s handicrafts, monthly information bulletin, and different publications purposefully made by “design and publishing” and “photography” groups. Several purposeful efforts are planned to advocate creation of respite care and workshops for young people with disabilities in Orsha region, where Baran is situated.</p> <p>The project is aimed not only at improving living conditions of young people with disabilities, but will also increase civic activism and legal culture of their families through the series of trainings on advocacy, social and labor rights.</p>
Services established by present time:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewing workshop for young people with disabilities; • Publishing workshop for young people with disabilities; • Photography workshop for young people with disabilities; • Integrated groups on social inclusion of young people with disability with typical peers; • Information campaign in local mass media; • Trainings for parents of young people with disabilities on their rights.
Number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people with disability (age 18-31) – 18 • Parents – 40 • Typically developing children and young people (community volunteers) – 200 • General public (info campaign audience) – 2000

NGO “Belarusian Children Hospice”	“Creation of twenty-four-hour respite care service for hopelessly ill children with disabilities”	16.02.2009. – 16.08.2009. (6 months)
NGO contact details:	100-A Berezovaya roscha str., Borovliany, Minsk rayon; phone: 8(017)505-27-45, hospicepall@mail.belpak.by	
Brief description of the project:	<p>The project targets hopelessly ill children with disabilities and members of their families. To improve living conditions of children and their parents the project will create a new service – twenty-four-hour respite care for up to 25 children, where they will get necessary care and support. This service will assist families of children with disabilities to overcome their isolation and use some released time for their social activities and better integration into community life. Social adaptation of the parents will be improved through psychological counseling, legal advice and peer-to-peer group interaction.</p> <p>The project will mobilize parents’ resources to change them from beneficiaries to active supporters of themselves and their peers. Thus, the group of parents will be trained as nurses to provide services at the twenty-four-hour respite care.</p> <p>In addition to the amount requested from CCF the NGO will fundraise about \$ 11,000 as a cost share contribution to the project.</p>	
Services established by present time:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-hour care center for children with severe disabilities; • Social vocation for parents of children with severe disabilities; • Nursing service for children with severe disabilities; • Training for parents on care of children with severe disability. 	
Number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with severe disability – 23 • Parents - 26 	

Gomel NGO “Association of People with mobility disability”	“Empowerment for equal opportunities and equal rights”	19.02.2009. – 19.08.2009. (6 months)
NGO contact details:	6-1 Mezhdugorodnaya str., Gomel; phone: 8(0232)46-08-94, 8(0232)45-88-48, 8(029)667-66-01; prometey-invo@tut.by	
Brief description of the project:	<p>The project allows to put into practice the system of habilitation with complex social, medical and psychological assistance for people with disabilities. This will be done in close partnership with Gomel Regional Hospital for People with Disabilities.</p> <p>The project will improve living conditions of people with disabilities, but will also target their family members and medical workers. Different services will be offered to at least 175 persons including educational events on legal issues, self-assistance, health, hygiene and nutrition, etc. The aim of this assistance is to help people that became disabled to effectively cope with their new reality and challenging environment.</p> <p>Seventeen (17) instructors on late rehabilitation will be selected out of Regional Hospital personnel and trained in late rehabilitation. Further work of the instructors will be supervised by the NGO which will provide them with a resource book and consultations.</p>	

Services established by present time:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training course on late rehabilitation of PWD for medical workers; • Training course on late rehabilitation for PWD-wheelchair users and their families; • Information resources – Library; • Consultation – telephone hot line; • Information campaign (information boards, video reel, social advertisement in public transport).
Number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PWD-wheelchair users - 35 • Family members – 52 • Medical workers – 38

Mozyr NGO “Association of people on wheelchairs”	“New horizons”	20.02.2009. – 20.08.2009. (6 months)
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NGO contact details:	13-5 Druzhby ave., Mozyr; phone: 8(02351)5-09-60, 8(02351)3-79-02 (fax), 8(029)737-55-77; shevko@list.ru
Brief description of the project:	The project is aimed at improving access for young people with physical disabilities to education services and creating additional opportunities for their employment. Three (3) centers providing computer literacy training will be opened in different parts of the town of Mozyr. This makes services more available for people with movement disorders. The project will also target young people with serious physical disabilities who can not move outside their homes without external assistance. The total number of young PWDs reached by the project activities will be about 30 persons. After successful completion of the course all the trainees will get official certificates necessary for further employment. It is expected that no less than 70% of them will get employment. The NGO creates an alliance with community-based organizations that provide assistance to PWD (Mozyr Center of Rehabilitation of Children with Disabilities, Mozyr daycare center for young PWD). New educational facilities will be established on NGO premises (center “Sphere”) and premises of partner organizations. The NGO will employ people with disabilities who will manage the project themselves. Three persons with disabilities will pass through advanced training course to serve as trainers for their peers. Territorial Center of Social Protection will provide in-kind contribution in form of equipment and volunteers (about \$ 700).
Services established by present time:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training of teachers (People with disabilities) on teaching techniques; • Computer, ICT training for PWD (in the classroom); • Computer training for PWD (home-based).
Number of beneficiaries:	PWD, wheelchair users - 26

Pinsk NGO “Association of people on wheelchairs”	“Computer literacy education course - new opportunity for employment of young people with disabilities”	19.02.2009. – 19.08.2009. (6 months)
NGO contact details:	4-2 Albrehtovskaya str., Pinsk; phone: 8(0165)35-43-56, 8(029)948-68-35; helnik@bk.ru	
Brief description of the project:	<p>The project will create educational center and improve access to this service for young people with disabilities from Pinsk and Pinsk district, Stolin district and Ivatsevichi district. This service will be established on NGO premises and employ people with disabilities who will manage the project themselves. The first group of 10 young PWD will pass through educational course and get new profession as PC operator. After completion of education the group will get certificates valid for Pinsk employment center, which acts in the project as partner organization.</p> <p>To ensure successful implementation of the project the NGO creates an alliance with government sector (local employment center of Ministry of Labor and Social Protection) and private sector (business company “Professional”). This allows the NGO to obtain authorities’ recognition and to facilitate further employment of unemployed people with disabilities. At the start of this new initiative local business will provide contribution in form of training program, methodological materials and training process supervision. The results of the project as well as opportunities it creates for PWD will be shared in local community through a mass media information campaign.</p>	
Services established by present time:	Computer, ICT training for PWD (in the classroom).	
Number of beneficiaries:	PWD, wheelchair users - 10	

NGO “Rehabilitation and sport club of people with disabilities”	“Equal rights for people with disability in employment and sport activity”	11.03.2009. – 01.09.2009. (5.5 months)
NGO contact details:	5-41 Orlovskaya str., Minsk; phone: 8(017)288-87-43, 8(029)764-95-38; vad@open.by	
Brief description of the project:	<p>The project is aimed at increasing PWD’s participation in economy and sport activity. The social enterprise will be established to produce special wheelchairs for sport activity. Social entrepreneurship will bring the following benefits for DPO and PWD including a) professional education and employment of 6 people with disabilities; b) installation of producing technology; c) running income generation activity and support of NGO non-profit programs. Additional alternative for people with disabilities to get special wheelchairs will be created by the project, which means that new type of social/support equipment for PWD will appear at the market. The NGO involves state-sponsored institutions and government services in the project. Thus, professional education and employment of PWD will be organized together with Ministry of Labor and Social Protection using its financial contribution (about \$ 3000). The NGO considers further replication and sustainability of the project as a priority issue. Several actions (web-site creation, publications and working meetings with authorities) will be conducted to share information and advocate for additional support.</p>	

Services established by present time:

- Assistance in medical and employment examination of PWD – 6 beneficiaries;
- Establishment of social enterprise of people with disabilities (started).

Number of beneficiaries:

Wheelchair users - 6

NGO “Young Men Christian Association”

“Social Integration of children with mental and physical disabilities”

20.03.2009. – 31.08.2009.
(5 months)

NGO contact details:

4-26 Sumitskogo str., Molodechno; phone: 8(29)636-29-70; 8(29)879-27-67; shiman70@gmail.com

Brief description of the project:

The project is aimed at increasing the integration of children with disability in cultural and social life of the society. Two integrated groups of children with disabilities and typically developing children will be formed in both targeted communities (Molodechno and Vitebsk). Within the framework of the project integrated theatrical teams will be trained to conduct theatrical-music performance in Molodechno and Vitebsk. Children will be encouraged to create scenarios and produce décor by themselves. This approach will strengthen interaction and integration of enrolled children as well as foster their talents. At least 300 students of 6 educational institutions in Molodechno and Vitebsk will be reached by anti-stigma and anti-discrimination messages emphasized in performances of integrated theatrical groups. The project will create diversified opportunities for involvement of children with disabilities. Thus, 50 children will be involved as active participants in at least 12 cultural and leisure activities organized on community level. Information component is included in the project to improve public awareness regarding children with disabilities, their rights and their real abilities. At this rate children with disabilities will be helped to publish 3 issues of *information bulletin* “The world seen with my own eyes” and theme calendar.

Services established by present time:

Theatrical performances of the integrated group of children with disability and typically developed children (social inclusion).

Number of beneficiaries:

- Children with disabilities – 46
- Parents – 36
- Community volunteers - 26
- General public (information campaign audience) – 19,000

Respite care prevents institutionalization



Timofey is 5 years old. He screams a lot. No, he's not spoiled or misbehaving. He's in pain- in constant, unceasing pain. He has neurological disorders. Mommy and Daddy love Timofey. But they are so tired and exhausted. They haven't seen their relatives for ages; they don't visit family occasions; they can't think of the last time they went out to see friends together. Nobody comes to visit them, as Timofey's scream is unbearable. They are young and they don't want to be left aside forever. Their family is falling apart. Timofey's parents are considering placing Timofey in an institution for children with disabilities.

At the very time when the family was on the verge of disaster, Tim's parents were called by the specialists of "Belarusian Children's Hospice". They offered the family to use their respite care – a new service established due to the financial support of CCF. Parents were reluctant to use this innovation but finally agreed to try it. Tim spent a few days at respite care, where he received needed care and support. With proper medical assistance he almost stopped screaming, anesthetics eased the pain. His parents got an opportunity for relief and now they've cast aside the idea to place him in an institution.

Natasha, Timofey's mother: *"This project gave me strong psychological support; now I know we are not alone with our problems. It means the world to me. I'm also grateful for the support we were given; it was indispensable for our family. Moreover, I've managed to do things I've been postponing for the last 5 years. My husband and I visited relatives we haven't seen for a long time. I passed my driving exam and got my license. I went to the hairdresser's. It may not sound impressive or significant for most people. But for us, parents who have severely ill children, even such everyday actions as taking a bath or reading a book are becoming unattainable dreams."*

Respite care is an essential service for many families raising children with disabilities. Respite care refers to child care provided by someone other than the parent allowing the family a period of relief from stress associated with the care of the child. The respite period may be a few hours or several days in length. Extended respite care allows family members to take vacations, to give parents time for themselves or to enable parents to give special attention to their other children. Respite care helps to avert crisis by intermittently relieving tension, reducing stress and allowing families to rebuild their strengths and coping abilities.

Respite care in Belarus is still rare. CCF's project "Expanding participation of people with disabilities" financed by USAID helped "Belarusian Children's Hospice" pioneer this service in Minsk. The center provides extended respite care (3-5 days) for children with severe disabilities, where they are rendered necessary care and support. Parents, in turn, are able to use some released time for their social activities and better integration into community life. Respite care is one of the effective community-based services preventing institutionalization of children with disabilities.

Integration of people with disabilities through work skills

It's difficult to find your place in this world if the world prefers to disassemble your existence. If you don't fit, if you are different from others, society thinks it's easier not to notice you than to adjust to your differences. People with disabilities often become outsiders.

Alesia is 22. She lives with her mother and brother in a small Belarusian town called Baran. Her life is much smaller than the town itself: it's limited to her house. She's epileptic. Seizures can happen any time and her mom is afraid to let the girl go outside.

Alesia doesn't work, although she really wants to. She wants to learn to do things, meet new people, see the world outside her house and lead a full life within society. But what job can she possibly get if she doesn't know how to do simple things? She was excited to know that such possibilities exist and she can do something interesting and useful. She was invited to join a workshop on sewing.



Alesia: *Every time we have classes I look forward to it. I'm very glad that I've found new friends, I'm happy that I go out, that I'm learning to work and do something useful. I already can iron fabric and I can sew with a needle and thread. After work we have tea with cakes and just chat with other girls. Now I have a new interesting life. I know I'm becoming a different person.*

Alesia participated in a workshop for people with disabilities organized by the Baran branch of **Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities** within the project "Workshop for social and labor rehabilitation of children/young people with disabilities". The aim of the project was to help people with disabilities integrate into the community. One of the ways to achieve this is to provide them with work skills and a job to make them feel wanted and useful. Within this project children and young people with disabilities were offered the opportunity to attend workshops, where in small groups of 4-5 people they would acquire practical skills in sewing or design and publishing. In addition to workshop activities children were trained to foster their creativity, labor skills and basic communication skills.

This project influenced not only the lives of people with disabilities, but it helped the NGO to raise the profile of non-governmental organizations within the community. The NGO's capacity was improved through the series of trainings on advocacy, social and labor rights for its members provided by CCF specialists.

Ludmila Frantova, project manager: *One of the biggest outcomes of this project was partnership with state institutions, executive power institutions, other NGOs dealing with disability issues. Cooperation of this kind guarantees success. What is more, we believed in ourselves, confirmed our importance to society in dealing with social problems. Now we see in what direction we are to move in the future, how our organization can develop to meet the requirements of time.*