



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ChildFund
International

**“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS”
USAID Cooperative Agreement Number: 121-A-00-05-00703-00**

**ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
Reporting period: 1 October 2010 - 31 September 2010**

Component III “Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities”

Author’s Name: Irina Mironova, Chief of Party

Name of USAID office: USAID/Ukraine Regional Contracting office;
USAID Regional Mission representative office in Belarus

Publication or issuance date of report: January 27, 2011

Organizational Contact Information:

ChildFund International-Belarus	USA Headquarters:
Irina Mironova Chief of Party ChildFund International, Belarus 39 Pushkin Ave., office 16 Minsk 220092 Belarus Phone: 375-172-57-77-08 (09) E-mail: imironova@belarus.childfund.org	Rachel Maris-Wolf Grants Compliance Coordinator ChildFund International USA 2821 Emerywood Parkway Richmond, Virginia 23294, USA Phone: (804) 545-3619 Fax: (804) 756-2774 E-mail: rmaris-wolf@childfund.org

Development objective:

Democracy, human rights and development

I. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The number of persons with disabilities in Belarus exceeds 500,000. There are 119,000 children with special needs, including about 30,000 children with disabilities among them. Discrimination and marginalization of adults and young people with disabilities is a typical social phenomenon for Belarus - while adults are often excluded from social and economic life, and decision-making practices, children with disabilities suffer from insufficient access to education and appropriate quality of services as well as exclusion from public life.

The Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities Project Component aims to increase integration of people with disabilities (PWD) through development of innovative services for PWD 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.

II. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

This quarter the project was implemented according to its work plan and budget. The results in all areas of project implementation exceeded the planned targets. Significant progress has been achieved by participating DPOs and people with disabilities, particularly with regard to advocacy and service delivery.

This quarter, sixteen (16) advocacy efforts were inspired by ChildFund project activity under this USAID award. This number is equal to that undertaken during the entire previous project year. Most partner DPOs propelled to the next level of advocacy moving from single and sometimes sporadic advocacy efforts to planned and coordinated advocacy campaigns to ensure implementation of PWD's right to work, participate in decision-making, promote a barrier-free environment, and improve access to innovative community-based services. One of the project highlights is institutionalization of respite care in Belarus due to coordinated and systemic advocacy efforts supported by the project (for more information, please, see Annex 3 Success Story).

Establishment of local councils on disability issues as a sustainable mechanism to ensure PWD participation in decision making was promoted by partner DPOs. As a result, this quarter two new local Councils were created in *Smolevichi* and Gomel. By December 2010, 13 of 21 (62%) localities covered by project activities, had Local Councils on Disability Issues.

A new training course on Advocacy was started this quarter. The content of the course addresses gaps and weaknesses in PWDs' advocacy. The main idea of the course is to shift the existing needs-based approach that put PWDs in a deliberately weak position to a rights-based approach. This will promote linkages between disability, human rights, and effective advocacy. This new approach is extremely important in light of imminent ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the Republic of Belarus.

Implementation of 6 projects awarded in Year 2 was continued according to their time schedules. Among new/improved types of services established through small grants were: 24/7 respite care, psychological support for parents of children with disabilities, education and counseling on job placement for PWDs, vocational training, development of an integrated playground for children, services on alternative communication with non-verbal children, volunteer assistance and intermediary services for accessibility and

access to information, information and communication through web-sites, and development, communication, play and leisure for children with disabilities.

In total thus far:

- Six (6) small grant projects for the total amount of \$38,717 USD by local DPOs awarded in Year 2 continued implementation.
- **25** new/ improved services for PWDs and their family members have been provided within small grants;
- **409** (210 boys and 199 girls) children with disabilities (against **45** planned as an annual target) and **89** (52 men and 37 women) adults with disabilities (against **105** planned as an annual target) obtained access to improved/created services;
- One call for proposal was issued and 16 proposals were received from DPOs
- The first session of the new Advocacy course was successfully conducted
- **135** (19 men and 116 women) PWD –related specialists were trained against the annual target of 50

III. CHALLENGES/ CONSTRAINTS

- Elena Zalutskaya, PWD Project Manager was on maternity leave since the beginning in November 2010. This required re-distribution of tasks/ responsibilities among the project staff for the period of Elena’s maternity leave. Elena is planning to return to the office in February 2011.

IV. 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

In order to support initiatives of people with disabilities and extend the range of services available for them:

- Implementation of 6 projects for a total amount of \$38,717 USD by local DPOs awarded in Year 2 continued
- One call for proposal was issued and 16 proposals were received from DPOs;

List of active small grant projects

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

This quarter all the projects were implemented according to their time schedules. ChildFund provided its technical assistance, monitored and assessed performance of each grantee through regular site visits and conducted interviews with project staff and beneficiaries. Grantees submitted narrative and financial reports and received ChildFund Belarus' feedback on improving their grant administration process. The final results of project implementation will be assessed in May 2011, as the duration of the small grants is 8-12 months.

Within the small grant activities this quarter:

- **25** services for PWDs and their family members were provided;
- **409 (210 boys and 199 girls)** children with disabilities (against **45** planned annually) obtained access to created services;
- **89 (52 men and 37 women)** adults with disabilities (against **105** planned annually) obtained access to created services;

Among new/improved types of services were: 24/7 respite care, psychological support for parents of children with disabilities, education and counseling on job placement for PWDs, vocational training, integrated playground for children, services on alternative communication with non-verbal children, volunteer assistance and intermediary services for accessibility and access to information, information and communication through web-sites, and development, communication, play and leisure for children with disabilities.

For more information, please, see Annex 2 Small Grant Report

ACTIVITY: Call for Proposals (December 1-30, 2010)	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Targets achieved</i>
<p>Partner DPOs and other Belarusian DPOs country-wide will be informed about the announced call for proposals.</p> <p>They will be encouraged to submit project proposals to ChildFund Belarus. Among the priorities are inclusive education for children and youth, services for parents with disability, and different types of inclusive activities for people with disabilities and their family members.</p>	<p>The potential applicants received information and clear guidelines on the grant competition.</p> <p>Information about the call for proposals was disseminated through ChildFund Belarus' e-mail list, electronic information bulletin of Belarusian Association of Social Workers, and the "News of Belarusian NGOs portal ngo.by" e-mail list. It was also published on ChildFund Belarus' web-site www.cfi-belarus.org and Belarusian NGOs portal www.ngo.by</p>
<p>Outputs/outcomes:</p> <p>16 proposals aimed at development of new services for children and people with disabilities and their families, were submitted to ChildFund Belarus' office.</p> <p>Next quarter the received proposals will undergo a three-phase selection process: pre-screening, interim evaluation, and external evaluation. In February 2011, ChildFund Belarus plans to sign 3-4 partnership agreements with the organizations which won the grant competition for a total amount of 18,000 USD.</p>	

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE ADVOCACY EFFORTS BY PWD GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS TO PROMOTE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

During this quarter:

- sixteen (16) advocacy efforts (against 6 planned a san annual target) were undertaken

- ten (10) PWD-related official decisions (against 2 planned as an annual target) were made
- the first session of the Advocacy training course was conducted for 15 PWDs and their family members

Significant progress was achieved by participating DPOs and people with disabilities in **advocacy aimed to** ensure implementation of PWDs' right to work, promote a barrier-free environment, and improve access to innovative community-based services both at the community and national levels. In total sixteen (16) advocacy efforts were inspired by ChildFund project activity under this USAID award. Most partner DPOs moved from single and sometimes sporadic advocacy efforts to planned and coordinated advocacy campaigns. Their campaigns included a variety of advocacy tactics and methods including letter writing, analyses of local legislation, sensitization workshops/round tables, public presentations through mass media (TV, newspaper articles) and meetings with authorities. ChildFund provided its technical assistance through training, on-the-job consultations, and small grants.

Institutionalization of respite care in the Republic of Belarus

Within its small grant project "Development of Sustainable Supporting Services for Children with Disabilities and Their Families" ChildFund's partner DPO, Belorussian Children's Hospice pioneered 24/7 respite care for families with children with severe disabilities in Minsk. Respite care helps to avert crisis by relieving tension, reducing stress, and allowing families to rebuild their strengths. But neither NGOs nor state social services had provided respite care for families with children with disabilities before. The pilot project proved its effectiveness. In order to institutionalize respite care and expand it countrywide, Hospice developed an advocacy campaign that included working meetings with authorities and specialists, presentations in mass media, and Expert Group activity. Within the Expert Group representatives of Parents' Associations, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Social Protection developed Regulations of Respite Care Service (the quality standard for this new type of services) and successfully advocated for incorporation of respite care in existing state or private social services. ChildFund's specialists provided technical assistance to the Expert Group activity. In December 2010 respite care was included in the National Action Plan on Improving the System of Assistance to Children with Disabilities and Their Families. It is expected that in January 2011 this Action Plan will be approved by the Council of Ministries of the Republic of Belarus. Coupled with Regulations of Respite Care Service this Action Plan will serve as a solid legal and financial platform for countrywide dissemination of respite care in Belarus.

For more information, please, see Annex 3 Success Story

Promoting PWDs' right to Work

Within its small grant project Life without Barriers partner DPO Invalidy-Spinalniki from Gomel assessed current problems and gaps in job placement for PWDs and developed an advocacy campaign aimed to protect PWDs' right to work in Gomel oblast. Within this campaign PWDs undertook a survey of the national legislation regarding job placement of people with disabilities and published its analytical report and recommendations for prospective employers and PWDs. In addition, PWDs conducted a series of working meetings with local authorities, including the Gomel Oblast Committee on Labor and Social Protection, Expert Medical and Rehabilitation Committee, Gomel City Executive Committee, and initiated TV spots on PWDs' right to work.

As a result of DPO advocacy efforts Gomel Oblast's Executive Committee accepted DPOs' recommendations regarding job placement of PWD and issued a special order to all involved organizations to implement it. It was the first time in its history that local government paid attention to and discussed opportunities for PWD job placement.

Due to the advocacy efforts of DPO Invalydy-Spinalniki the first group of PWDs (11 people) were employed.

The DPO Invalydy-Spinalniki created an alliance of local DPOs to monitor further implementation of PWDs' right to work in Gomel Oblast.

Promoting PWDs' right to participation in decision making through Local Committees on Disability Issues

Establishment of local **councils on disability issues** - as a sustainable mechanism to ensure PWD participation in decision making - was promoted by ChildFund Belarus through training and follow-up assistance.

This quarter two new local councils were created.

- On 26 November 2010 Smolevichi Executive Committee issued its official decision # 3578 about creation of the local multidisciplinary Council on Disability issues. This decision was influenced by Smolevichi branch of the National Parents' Association whose leader was a participant of ChildFund's Advocacy training
- On 30 December 2010 Gomel City Executive Committee issued its official decision # 1678 about the creation of the Gomel City Multidisciplinary Council on Disability issues. This decision was influenced by the Gomel branch of Belorussian Society of Invalids (whose leader participated in ChildFund's Advocacy training) and DPO Invalydy-Spinalniki

Partner DPOs "Spring of Life" (Kobrin town) and "Svetlyachok" (Dzerzhinsk town) advocated for the creation of the local councils on disability issues in their respective communities. The first meetings with local authorities were conducted. ChildFund will trace and support these DPOs' efforts.

By December 2010 13 of 21 (62%) localities covered by the project activities had Local Councils on Disability Issues. Partner DPOs play an active role in these Councils.

Equal Accessibility

Within its small grant project "Different, Equal and Active" Zhitkovichy branch of NGO "Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities" implemented an advocacy campaign to ensure access on an equal basis with others to buildings, medical facilities, and other indoor facilities in their community to persons with disabilities. Within their advocacy campaign members of this organization formed an Assessment Team that identified obstacles and barriers to accessibility. The result of these activities was four letters regarding the creation of barrier-free environments in schools, shops, state institutions, and dwelling houses submitted to local authorities.

Ensuring Access for Persons with Disabilities to Health Services

The Member of the Minsk branch of Belarusian Association of People in Wheelchairs, an alumnus of ChildFund's USAID-funded Leadership Course successfully advocated for elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility to health care and health services for persons using wheel-chairs. They had several meetings with the Ministry of Social Protection and authorities from the Minsk Executive Committee and submitted their suggestions to the different state programs.

As a result, the Minsk Executive Committee included suggestions to make appropriate modifications and adjustments in hospitals # 4, #11, and # 5 in its Complex Program for Social Development in 2011-2015 DPO's to ensure persons using wheel-chairs equal access to health care and health services.

Other successful advocacy efforts:

- Partner DPO “Special World” ensured access to children using wheel-chairs to social taxi service. Originally this service was available only for adults with disabilities
- Gomel basketball team of PWDs received 8 new basketball wheel-chairs from the local administration due to the advocacy efforts of DPO “Invalidy-Spinalniki” that make possible for them to participate in sport competitions
- Advocacy efforts by Partner DPO Child’s Diabetes from Mozyr resulted in the decision of the Council of Ministers to decrease rent payment for this organization to one tenth the former cost.

ACTIVITY: <i>Advocacy Course; Session 1 (19-21 November, 2010)</i>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
2 day session to introduce general advocacy concept, debate technology and evidence-based advocacy conducted 15 participants with disabilities improved basic advocacy competences and acquired self-advocacy and debating skills	15 participants with disabilities representing 13 organizations working with PWDs were introduced to general advocacy concepts, acquired understanding of the difference between a needs-based and rights-based approach to advocacy, improved their self-advocacy and debating skills, and learned the basics of evidence-based advocacy.
<u>Notes/Outcomes:</u> Each participant received individual home work aimed to practice knowledge and skills on self-advocacy acquired during the first session. The results will be assessed at the next session in February 2011.	

OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVE CAPACITY OF GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING PWD AND THEIR FAMILIES

In addition to the Advocacy training session reported under Objective 2 this quarter within the project:

- Six (6) capacity building events were conducted
- 135 (19 men and 116 women) against 50 PWD-related specialists planned annually were trained

ACTIVITY: <i>Workshop and individual consultations on project design/ proposal writing (December 14, 2010)</i>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
Information on priorities and selection criteria on grant competition as well as project design and proposal writing will be provided to the participants of the workshop	16 participants representing 14 DPOs received appropriate consultations and increased knowledge and skills in proposal writing according to ChildFund Belarus’ requirements 33 individual consultations were conducted
<u>Outcomes:</u> 9 participants of 16 (56%) submitted 8 project proposals	

Partner DPOs with small grant projects conducted 6 capacity building events for 119 specialists and volunteers (14 men and 105 women) working with PWDs. The capacity building events included workshops, training, and master classes. The topics covered respite care development, alternative communication with non-verbal children, effective communication, rehabilitation, and socialization through theater.

VI. 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.

Between November 19-21 Jahor Novikau and Marina Orlovskaya (USAID-Minsk office) together with Irina Mironova and Katya Kozlova (ChildFund Belarus) visited two project sites in Zhitkovichi and Brest where they met with the partner DPOs Brest Youth NGO of People with Disabilities "Invalid I Sreda" and Zhitkovichy branch of NGO "Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities" (implementers of the current small grants), volunteers, parents, and children.

Irina Mironova, ChildFund's COP submitted ChildFund's suggestions for the topics for USAID's exchange program "Community Connections" in the year 2011 to the USAID-Minsk office.

Cooperation with ChildFund International Headquarters –

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

Mary Moran, ChildFund International's Senior Specialist on Child Development visited Belarus in October 2010. She had a series of working meetings with ChildFund Belarus' specialists and visited Belorussian Children's Hospice where she met with children and staff. Within her visit Mary conducted a consultation on respite care development for the Expert Group members of Belorussian Children's Hospice.

VII. 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.

Natalia Ryabova, new Training Coordinator, joined the ChildFund Belarus team in October 2010 and replaced Svetlana Zinkevich who voluntarily resigned her position and joined a UNDP project.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

ChildFund Belarus staff gained access to the e-learning program Harvard ManageMentor. This program is a new capacity building opportunity provided through ChildFund International. Among the courses selected by ChildFund Belarus staff and management are courses on Project Management, Financial Management, Effective Decision Making, Writing Skills, and Time Management—all which will have a positive impact on the quality of project implementation.

VIII. BUDGET

The SF-425 report will be submitted under separate cover by ChildFund's Headquarters.

Annex 1: Geographic Coverage by PWD Project Component (October 2010–December 2010)



- I.  Localities covered by advocacy training
-  Localities covered by advocacy follow up activities
- II.  Localities covered by training on capacity building
-  Localities that applied for small grants in calls for proposals
- III.  Localities covered by Leadership without Limitations Training Course
-  Localities covered by follow up training sessions by LLTC alumni
- IV.  ChildFund Belarus' grantees-2010\2011
- V.  Localities having councils for disability issues

Annex 2: Overview of small grants supported by ChildFund Belarus under Project Component “Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities” October–December, 2010

List of active small grant projects

#	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	IN OPERATION
2	Zhitkovichy branch of NGO “Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities”	Different, equal and active	\$ 7,000.00	IN OPERATION
3	Gomel Non-Governmental Organization of People with Supporting Motor System Disabilities "Invalidy-Spinalniki"	Life without barriers	\$ 6,691.00	IN OPERATION
4	NGO “Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs”	Healing of Magic	\$ 7,000.00	IN OPERATION
5	NGO “Belarusian Children’s Hospice”	Development of sustainable supporting services for children with disabilities and their families	\$ 6,550.00	IN OPERATION
6.	Brest Youth NGO of People with Disabilities “Invalid I Sreda”	The art of being yourself	\$ 6,679.00	IN OPERATION

Description of small projects:

NGO name: Kobrin branch of NGO "Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children and Young People with Disabilities"	Grant amount:	Project dates:
Project duration: 10 months	\$ 4,797	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

Brief description: 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.

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.

Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:	• Creation and regular updating 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 • Video/film on the alternative nonverbal communication method, that will be shown on local TV channel	80 copies

Established services and number of beneficiaries:	Number of participants:	Total	In the reported period
		• 20 individual communication books have been created and regularly updated by parents and siblings	20 children with disabilities (8 girls/12 boys)
• Trainings on an alternative nonverbal communication method for parents of children with disabilities and PWD-related specialists (7 trainings in total, 4 in the reported period)	21 parents and specialists (21 female)	21 parents and specialists (21 female)	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working meeting of parents' club to share experience of using individual communication books 	16 (female) parents	16 (female) parents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainings on an alternative nonverbal communication method for siblings of children with disabilities and volunteers from local schools (8 trainings in total, 5 trainings in the reported period) 	11 siblings and volunteers (8 girls/3 boys)	11 siblings and volunteers (8 girls/3 boys)
Project outcomes during the reporting period:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 (3 male/4 female) children with disabilities permanently use communication books in their communication with their parents, siblings, teachers and volunteers 1 girl (4 y.o) has started to communicate with words due to a new communication method, though there was little hope that she would ever speak in the future 		

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 a 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 a 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 offer suggestions for further development for local authorities.</p>		

Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries	• Training on advocacy of PWDs' rights for 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	
	• Assessment Group on Accessibility	6 members	
	• 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	
	• Setting up of an accessible playground for children with and without disabilities	40 children (including 20 children with disabilities)	
Established services and number of beneficiaries:	Number of participants:	Total	In the reported period
• Training on advocacy of PWD's rights for specialists, people with disabilities and parents		13 participants (13 female)	-
• Training on community needs assessment for PWD-related specialists, people with disabilities, parents of children with disabilities		14 participants (13 female and 1 male)	-
• Training on partnership for PWD-related specialists, people with disabilities "Group, team, organization"		17 (16 female/1 male)	-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for PWD-related specialists, representatives of local authorities, people with disabilities "Barrier-free environment" 	15 (12 female/3 male)	-
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •An accessible playground created and opening ceremony of the playground for children with disabilities and their peers from local schools conducted. The playground was built on the grounds of Zhitkovichy Habilitation Center for Children with Disabilities. 	13 (5 girls/8 boys) children with disabilities, 27 children (15 girls/12 boys) without disabilities	13 (5 girls/8 boys) children with disabilities, 27 children (15 girls/12 boys) without disabilities
Project outcomes and advocacy efforts during the reporting period:	<p>The Assessment Group on Accessibility including 6 (all female) community members, has been formed. In the reported period the participants of the Assessment Group questioned PWDs and parents of children with disabilities about problems related to barrier-free environments in the local community. Then members of the Group monitored the buildings most visited by PWDs. As a result of these activities, 4 letters regarding creation of barrier-free environment in schools, shops, state institutions, and dwelling houses were submitted to local authorities.</p>		

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

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:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">Number of participants:</th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">Total</th> <th style="width: 5%;"></th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">In the reported period</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>• Consultations (by telephone or in person) on labor rehabilitation, employment issues and on planned project activities (264 consultations in total, 49 consultations in the reported period)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">145</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(58 female/87 male) people with disabilities</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">49 (23 female/26 male) people with disabilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Legal guide with instructions and advice on employment issues for people with disabilities was published</td> <td style="text-align: center;">300 copies</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Completed, September 2010</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Trainings on different aspects of employment of people with disabilities (4 trainings total, 2 trainings in the reported period)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">69</td> <td style="text-align: center;">(38 female/31 male) PWDs</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">39 (24 female/15 male) PWDs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Training on sales management and marketing</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">10 people with disabilities (6 male/4 female)</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">10 people with disabilities (6 male/4 female)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Vocational training on PC operation</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Number of participants:	Total		In the reported period	• Consultations (by telephone or in person) on labor rehabilitation, employment issues and on planned project activities (264 consultations in total, 49 consultations in the reported period)	145	(58 female/87 male) people with disabilities		49 (23 female/26 male) people with disabilities	• Legal guide with instructions and advice on employment issues for people with disabilities was published	300 copies		Completed, September 2010	-	• Trainings on different aspects of employment of people with disabilities (4 trainings total, 2 trainings in the reported period)	69	(38 female/31 male) PWDs		39 (24 female/15 male) PWDs	• Training on sales management and marketing		10 people with disabilities (6 male/4 female)		10 people with disabilities (6 male/4 female)	• Vocational training on PC operation				
	Number of participants:	Total		In the reported period																											
• Consultations (by telephone or in person) on labor rehabilitation, employment issues and on planned project activities (264 consultations in total, 49 consultations in the reported period)	145	(58 female/87 male) people with disabilities		49 (23 female/26 male) people with disabilities																											
• Legal guide with instructions and advice on employment issues for people with disabilities was published	300 copies		Completed, September 2010	-																											
• Trainings on different aspects of employment of people with disabilities (4 trainings total, 2 trainings in the reported period)	69	(38 female/31 male) PWDs		39 (24 female/15 male) PWDs																											
• Training on sales management and marketing		10 people with disabilities (6 male/4 female)		10 people with disabilities (6 male/4 female)																											
• Vocational training on PC operation																															
Project outcomes and advocacy efforts during the reporting period:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of 22 (16 male/ 6 female) PWDs, who had participated in individual rehabilitation programs and were registered as unemployed, 11 (10 male/1 female) of them have been participating in IT vocational training on PC operation at the local Employment Center, 10 of them were employed, and one PWD was in the process of organizing his own small business. 																														

- **In total 12** (5 female/7 male) people with disabilities covered by the project services were employed, including **2** PWDs (both female) in the reported period.
- Gomel City Council on Disability issues created by the initiative of the NGO "Invalidy Spinalniki".
- The DPO initiated the discussion on employment opportunities for PWDs at the meeting of Gomel Regional Council on PWD issues.
- 2 minute news spot about the project was demonstrated on local TV-channel that covers a population of **200,000** people in Gomel Region.

NGO name: NGO "Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs"		Grant amount:	Project dates:
Project duration: 12 months		\$ 7,000	28.05.2010 27.05.2011
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>The Healing of Magic method is 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 the 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 perceptual development, interpersonal and cognitive abilities, and 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 	1,100 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 :		Number of participants:	Total
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and functioning of the project web-site: Magic-help.org 		In the reported period
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 trainings on Healing of Magic methodology for volunteers 		993 visitors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 trained volunteers held Healing of Magic program activities in 2 rehabilitation centers and 1 children's hospital 		578 visitors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 trained volunteers held Healing Magic program activities in rehabilitation center in for adults with disabilities 		34 (27 female/7 male) participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 working meetings of volunteers to discuss the implementation of Healing Magic program (6 meetings in the reported period) 		519 (255 girls/264 boys) children with disabilities
			364 (181 girls /183 boys) children with disabilities
			40 (16 female/24 male) people with disabilities
			11 PWDs (2 female/9 male)
			14 (2 male/10 female) volunteers
Project Outcomes:	Outcomes will be evaluated by the end of the project in June 2011 and will be reported at that time.		

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 caregivers (volunteers), art therapy, music therapy) 	25 children with disabilities of at least 25 parents are planned	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological consultations for parents of children with disabilities 	25 parents	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 trainings for community volunteers, who will provide assistance at the respite care center 	25 volunteers	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 seminars on respite care service and project best practices for specialists working with children with disabilities and their families 	40 participants	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	6 members	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual about innovative respite care in Belarus 	300 copies	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up and maintenance of the telephone hotline service to raise funds for respite care service in Hospice 	2,000 phone calls	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 round table discussions on promotion of further development of respite care service in Belarus 	30 participants	
Established services and number of beneficiaries:		Number of Participants:	Total In the reported period

<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 caregivers (volunteers), art therapy, music therapy) 	23 (14 boys/ 9 girls) children with disabilities	11 (5 girls/6 boys) children with disabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychological consultations for parents of children with disabilities who used 24/7 Respite care service 	43 (18 male/ 25 female) parents	15 (6 male/9 female)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainings for community volunteers, who will provide assistance at the respite care centre (2 trainings in total, 1 training in the reported period) 	25 (6 male/19 female)volunteers	15 (3 male/12 female) volunteers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up and functioning of the telephone hotline service to raise funds for respite care service in Hospice. 	6124 phone calls	4697 phone calls
<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 	4 356 visitors	1 159 visitors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 seminars on respite care service and project best practices for specialists working with children with disabilities and their families 	38 (36 female/2 male) participants	38 (36 female/2 male) participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings of the Expert Group that includes 6 (6 female) representatives of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and parents' association. The Expert Group worked out an action plan on advocating for incorporation of respite service into state and NGO practices. The participants of the Expert Group have elaborated and approved a draft of Regulations of Respite Care Service. 	4 meetings	2 meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round table discussion on prospects of development of respite care services in Belarus 	15 (15 female) participants	-
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 presentations on respite care service and project activities for representatives of NGOs and governmental institutions working with children with disabilities and their families 	22 (22 female) participants	22 (22 female) participants

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information about the telephone hotline service was disseminated throughout local and national newspapers "Vechechniy Minsk", "Komsomolskaya Pravda", "Va-bank", "Vecherniy Mogilyov", "Minsk na Ladonyakh" 	220 000	220 000
Project outcomes be the end of reporting period:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December 2010 due to the advocacy efforts of the Expert Group members respite care was included in the National Action Plan on improving the system of assistance to children with disabilities and their families. It is expected that in January 2011 this Action Plan will be approved by the Councils of Ministries of Republic of Belarus. Coupled with Regulations of Respite Care Service this Action Plan will serve as a solid legal and financial platform for countrywide dissemination of respite care in Belarus. As a result of the telephone hotline service, Hospice raised about \$ 19,347 to sustain respite care that is 276 % of the small project amount granted by ChildFund Belarus. 		

NGO name: Brest Youth NGO of People with Disabilities "Invalid I Sreda"		Grant amount:	Project dates:
Project duration: 8 months		\$ 6,679	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		
Brief description:	<p>The project is aimed to integrate youth with disabilities aged 18-31 into cultural and social life through theater.</p> <p>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</p>		

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 PWD 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

Established services and number of beneficiaries:

	Number of participants:	Total	In the reported period
• Training for volunteers on communication and conflict resolutions with people with disabilities "I am a Volunteer"		18 participants (14 female /4 male)	-
• Master-class on methods of organization of theater activities for 3 theater groups of people with disabilities from Brest, Stolin and Baranovichy		14 participants (7 female / 7 male), including 10 PWDs, 5 of them are children with disabilities	-
• Training for volunteers on communication methods and specifics of communication with people with disabilities "Rules of Communication"		19 (16 female/3 male) participants	19 (16 female/3 male) participants

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for volunteers on specifics of assistance to people with disabilities "What? Where? When?" 	9 (8 female /1 male) participants	9 (8 female /1 male) participants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master-class "Active nature of theater art. Practical usage of theater technologies" for 3 theater groups of people with disabilities from Brest, Stolin and Baranovichy 	16 participants (7 male/9 female), including 10 (5 male/5 female) PWDs and 1 child with disability (1 boy)	16 participants (7 male/9 female), including 10 (5 male/5 female) PWDs and 1 child with disability (1 boy)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance to PWDs of 3 theater groups at master-classes 	13 volunteers (12 female/1 male)	7 volunteers (7 female)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NGO web-site: www.daebrest.org was updated and re-designed in the reported period to disseminate the information about the project activities 		
News spot about the project activities on local TV-channel "Bug-TV"	30,000 (population of Brest and Brest region)	-
Article about project activities in local newspaper "Zarya"	46990 (population of Brest and Brest region)	46990 (population of Brest and Brest region)

Project Outcomes:

Outcomes will be evaluated by the end of the project in April 2011

Annex 3. ChildFund Promotes Respite Care in Belarus

7-year old Denis has multiple congenital disabilities including cerebral palsy. His family tried to provide adequate care and support to Denis although it was not easy. The situation worsened when Denis' mother died of cancer 3 years ago. All the weight of Denis' care and that of his 13 year old sister as well as household duties lay on his 68-year-old grandmother while Denis' father had to work overtime struggling to make a living. Continuous stress, hopelessness, and no perspective to find a way out caused growing conflicts and led to deterioration of the family environment.

In situations like this, temporary placement of a child in a child-care facility (respite care) helps to avert crisis by relieving tension, reducing stress, and allowing families to rebuild their strength. Neither NGOs nor state social services in Belarus provided respite care for families raising children with disabilities before this project.

In 2009 Belorussian Children's Hospice pioneered 24/7 respite care for families with children with severe disabilities. Implementation of this innovative service for Belarus became possible due to financial support and technical assistance from ChildFund's USAID-funded project *Community Services to Vulnerable Groups*; Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities component.

Along with 23 other families, Denis' family benefitted from respite care provided through the project.

"...We would never think of putting Denis out to somebody's care. But as we trusted the expertise of the Hospice we finally decided to try. Respite care helped us to change the emotional environment in the family and forget about our stress. We painted the floor in Denis's room and grandmother took some medical treatment..." wrote Denis father in Hospice's Guest Book.



Denis and careaiver in respite care facility

But the number of needy families is much greater. According to official statistics the number of children with special needs in Belarus exceeds 119, 000 including about 30, 000 children with disabilities. While the network of state services provides habilitation and medical care for children with disabilities, the unique stressors and needs experienced by families parenting children with disabilities are still poorly met and understood. They experience isolation, stigma and stress that increase the risk of child abuse and neglect. Like Denis' family, other families could greatly benefit from respite care.

In order to institutionalize respite care and make it accessible countrywide, Hospice developed an advocacy campaign that included working meetings with authorities and specialists, presentations in mass media, and Expert Group activity. Within the Expert Group representatives of parents' associations, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Social Protection developed quality standards for respite care and advocated for the incorporation of respite care in existing state or private social services. As a result, in December 2010 respite care was included in the National Action Plan on Improving the System of Assistance to Children with Disabilities. It is expected that in January 2011 this Action Plan will be approved by the Councils of Ministries of the Republic of Belarus. Coupled with quality standards this Action Plan will serve as a solid legal and financial platform for countrywide dissemination of respite care in Belarus.