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International

**“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS”  
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**QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT  
Reporting period: 1 October 2009 - 31 December 2009**

**Component III “Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities”**

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## I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### A. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

“Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities (PWD)” is aimed at increasing the degree of integration of PWD through the development of innovative PWD services and strengthening the capacity of PWD grassroots organizations.

The project has three main objectives:

1. supporting initiatives of people with disabilities and extending current services provided by local organizations to PWD in urban and rural areas through small grants;
2. supporting advocacy efforts by PWD grassroots organizations to promote the rights of people with disabilities and increase the public awareness of their issues;
3. improving the capacity of grassroots organizations supporting PWD and their families.

### B. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

ChildFund-Belarus continued implementation of the component Expanding Participation of People with Disabilities of the USAID funded project Community Services to Vulnerable Groups.

This quarter was focused on analyzing the results achieved within the first year of project implementation, and planning its further development.

The final report and PMEP for the previous year of project implementation were submitted to ChildFund's AOTR at USAID. Together with DCOF/USAID the project team conducted a series of evaluation and needs assessment visits to the targeted communities. The DCOF experts appreciated the project achievements. The formal DCOF report containing the results of the evaluation and needs assessment is still in process.

This quarter ChildFund developed and submitted the project's Annual Implementation Plan, and Performance Measurement Plan for 2010-2012 to USAID.

Among the priorities of this quarter was small-grants activity. ChildFund considers small-grants as one of the most important activities. These small grants support developing PWD self-generated initiatives and Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) in running community-based services. To ensure a continued level of success such as that achieved last year through the small grant program, and taking into account lessons learned, project staff refined the eligibility criteria and the agreement form for small grant recipients. A new RFA was developed, and a call for proposals was announced among Belarusian DPOs.

A series of needs assessment discussions with leading Belorussian DPOs were conducted in order to identify their priorities in advocacy for this project year and the level and forms of technical assistance provided through the project.

### C. CHALLENGES/ CONSTRAINTS

- Positive trends in the relationships between Belarus and the EU led to new projects in the country. This opened new and attractive job opportunities for the project's experienced staff. This quarter the PWD Project Manager and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist left their positions and joined a new UNDP project financed by the E.U. – The vacancies were immediately widely announced. Applications for this position were collected and short-listed candidates were interviewed. ChildFund expects to fill these positions next quarter. ChildFund consulted with it's AOTR in regard to the recruitment of the PWD Project Manager since that position is identified as key personnel according to the terms of the Cooperative Agreement.

## II. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**OBJECTIVE 1: *Support initiatives of people with disabilities and extending current services provided by local organizations to PWD in urban and rural areas through small***

The major activity under this objective this quarter was a small grants competition initiated through a Call for Proposals (CFP) announced by ChildFund Belarus to solicit proposals from Belarusian organizations of persons with disabilities.

In September-October 2009 ChildFund-Belarus in cooperation with Mogilev re-training institute held a TOT on Parenting skills enhancement programs for a group of specialists from Habilitation Centers for Children with Disabilities. This quarter the trainees started parenting training groups and integrated children's groups in Vitebsk, Slavgorod (Gomel region), Mogilev, and Minsk.

- 5 Parenting groups (57 parents) and 5 integrated children's groups (35 children, 11 of them with disabilities) from 4 cities (Vitebsk, Slavgorod, Mogilev, and Minsk) were in the process of implementation this quarter.

Expenses for these group activities were shared by the SDC funded project "Improvement of Social Competence, Living Conditions and Psychosocial Environment of Families with Disabled Children."

<b>ACTIVITY: CALL FOR PROPOSALS</b> (DECEMBER 2009, MINSK)	
<b>EXPECTED RESULTS</b>	<b>ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED</b>
ChildFund Belarus will solicit proposals to support the establishment of community-based services for children, youth, and adults with disabilities; running community-based advocacy through local Committees on Disability Issues; public awareness campaigns against stigma and discrimination of PWD on different levels.	A call for proposals was widely disseminated through ChildFund-Belarus' website, the information web-portal for non-governmental organizations NGO.BY, and other relevant resources. Approximately several hundred NGOs and leaders were informed of the funding opportunity.
<b>CRITICAL NOTE:</b> This year the financial resources allocated for small grants are limited to USD \$42,283. It is expected that the average budget of each small grant will not exceed USD \$7,000.	

<b>Activity: Training of Trainers (ToT) on Parenting Enhancement Programs</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>ACTUAL TARGETS ACHIEVED</b>
At least 15 community specialists from local communities and representatives of the Retraining institutions will be trained as a Parenting Training Course providers  80% of TOT participants will report improvements of specific knowledge and skills, necessary for running of Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in their community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Nineteen</i> community specialists from 7 regional and local Habilitation Centers for children with disabilities and representatives of oblast Retraining Institutions from Minsk, Vitebsk, Mogilev, and Grodno participated in a series of <i>ToTs on Parenting</i>. (September, 30 – October, 2; October, 28-30, 2009)</li> <li>▪ <i>95% of the participants</i> reported improvements in specific knowledge and skills such as understanding the process of group work, adult learning techniques, interactive methods of teaching, working with different types of participants, and implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation system</li> <li>▪ All the participants successfully passed the post-training test, practiced the knowledge they obtained, and reported their desire to start a Parenting course in their schools.</li> </ul>
<u>Critical notes:</u> *The cost of the activity was shared by the SDC funded project entitled "Improvement of Social Competence, Living Conditions and Psychosocial Environment of Families with Disabled Children.	

<b>Activity: Parenting Skills Enhancement Program</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Actual targets achieved</b>
Fifty (50) parents will take part in a	▪ Five groups of parents ( <i>57 people</i> ) have been engaged in a

<p>Parenting Skills Enhancement Program.</p> <p>Participation will improve parents' competence and develop parenting skills.</p> <p>Five integrated playgroups (30 children) will be organized for non-disabled children and children with disabilities</p>	<p>Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Vitebsk, Slavgorod, Mogilev, and Minsk this quarter. 34% of the participants are raising children with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The results will be available next quarter after completion of the program.</li> <li>▪ 35 typically-developing children and children with disabilities (11) were involved in integrated playgroups with creative development activities while their parents participated in the Parenting classes.</li> </ul>
<p><u>Critical notes:</u>          *The cost of the activity was shared by the SDC funded project entitled "Improvement of Social Competence, Living Conditions and Psychosocial Environment of Families with Disabled Children"</p>	

**OBJECTIVE 2: *Improve advocacy efforts by PWD grassroots organizations to promote the rights of people with disabilities and increase the public awareness of their issues;***

This quarter ChildFund-Belarus focused its efforts on analysis of DPOs' needs, plans and available resources regarding advocacy for PWDs' interests.

Key Belarusian DPOs including the Association of Wheelchair Users, Association of People with Disabilities, Belarusian Association of Assistance to Children with Disabilities, and Youth NGO "Different-Equal" participated in the needs assessment meetings that created a platform for elaboration of a joint strategic plan on advocacy for the next 3 years. The participants of the needs assessment were umbrella organizations that represent the interests of approximately 8,000 people with disabilities and around 187 local organizations from all over Belarus. DPOs' representatives highly appreciated the methodological recommendations on creation of local multidisciplinary councils developed in the last project year by the Task Group and asked that Task Group activities on advocacy be continued. Among the priorities for this year they suggested development of a new methodological document that would contain the main steps to successful advocacy and dialogue with governmental agencies and authorities, examples and analyses of best DPO advocacy practices from Belarus, templates of the different letters, requests, appeals, and relevant legal documents in this sphere.

DPO representatives also specified that in 2010 the Government of Belarus will prepare a number of State programs for 2011-2015 focusing on PWD needs. These programs will cover the different aspects of life of children and people with disabilities, promote their further integration into society, and move forward ratification of the UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities in Belarus. Thus current circumstances have aligned the interests of the central Belarusian government with the interests of DPOs and both USAID and ChildFund in the disability arena.

This is a good time to intervene and advocate. Partner DPOs suggested using the resource of the Task Group on Advocacy as the national platform for coordination and consolidation of initiatives and suggestions of people with disabilities to the state programs. Along with consolidating these needs and suggestions it is supposed that the Task Group on Advocacy will become a voice of DPOs providing regular communication with mass media. Partnering with mass media will help to attract public attention to the unsolved problems of people with disabilities and will ensure an additional driving force behind its advocacy efforts.

The project staff will provide its technical assistance and work on building capacity of the Task Group to ensure successful implementation of their plans.

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

At the start up stage of the project ChildFund-Belarus was focused on analysis of the outcomes of the training course on Leadership, clarification of partner-DPO needs in trainings and technical assistance, and strategic planning for the next three years. Special attention was paid to encourage active involvement of DPO leaders in planning ChildFund Belarus' interventions for the whole project period.

DPOs continued follow up activities after graduating from the training course on Leadership and carried out 7 trainings in Zhitkovichy, Smolevichy, Mogilev, and Mozyr for parents of children with disabilities, staff of the Habilitation Centers, and PWD. Local administrative and financial resources were allocated to support these events.

*Participants say:*

*Shevko Eugeny, Association of Wheelchair Users:*

*"The Leadership course has opened new perspectives for the organization and for myself. Our organization managed to win a project from the USA Embassy<sup>1</sup> and registered it in the Department of Humanitarian Aid. My own significant achievement is that since December 2009 I became the first wheelchair student at Eastern-European school of political studies."*

*Tishko Liudmila, BelAPDIIMI, Smolevichy*

*"After completion of the Leadership training course I applied developed skills into practice. I initiated community action for children with disabilities and their parents. The money for its implementation was collected from the local community. The Leadership course helped me to develop skills in partnership building with local administration for advocacy of PWD's interests. As a result the event was attended by the Head of the local Executive Committee and other important stakeholders. It was the first time in the history of our organization when we managed to attract their attention to DPO's activity."*

### III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

#### COORDINATION WITH USAID

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, 2009 ChildFund Belarus' Management team (Chief of the Party, PWD and OVC project managers) had a meeting with Daniel Rosenblum, Coordinator for U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia of U.S. Department of States (Washington DC), Michael Scanlan, USA Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of the United States of America in Belarus, Janina Jaruzelski, Mission Director of USAID Regional Mission for Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova, Larissa Komarova, USAID/Belarus Program Development Specialist, and Jahor Novikau, USAID/Belarus' Project Management Specialist and ChildFund's AOTR for this project, to discuss the project highlights, challenges/constraints, and future plans.

In November, Irina Mironova, ChildFund's Chief of Party, Alexei Golontsov, PWD Project Manager, and Marina Ananenko, OVC Project Manager had a meeting with John Riordan, the new USAID Country Representative and Jahor Novikau, USAID/Belarus Project Management Specialist. ChildFund Belarus presented achievements within the OVC and PWD components of the Community Services to Vulnerable Groups project.

On 18-24<sup>th</sup> of October 2009, Catherine Savino, USAID Contractor, and Sue Eitel, USAID Contractor and Rehabilitation Advisor, visited to conduct a USAID/DCOF needs assessment of the target audiences of the project.

- *Cooperation with ChildFund International Headquarters*

ChildFund Belarus was in regular communication with ChildFund International's Headquarters in Richmond via e-mail and conference calls. Mary Moran, Senior Specialist in Early Childhood Development from ChildFund International visited Belarus in October 2009 and participated in the DCOF/USAID evaluation and needs assessment visit.

#### COST- SHARE AND LEVERAGING

The SDC funded project sponsored a ToT on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and implementation of the Parenting course in Vitebsk, Slavgorod, Mogilev, and Minsk local communities. The total cost shared with the SDC funded project for this quarter was \$6,430.99.

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<sup>1</sup> The organization's participation in this project empowered them by gaining experience with ChildFund's small grants as well as developing skills within the leadership course and ultimately led to them seeking and winning funding from the US Embassy in Belarus.

#### IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

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

Both Alexei Golontsov, PWD Project Manager and Vladimir Korzh, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist left ChildFund this quarter for other opportunities. Also the contract for Office manager, Olga Ziuzkevich, was not renewed.

Through an open recruitment process ChildFund Belarus received:

- 11 applications for the vacant position of PWD Project Manager
- 41 applications for the vacant position of Office Manager
- 11 applications for the vacant position of M&E Specialist

ChildFund Belarus conducted a series of interviews with short-listed candidates for these positions and identified some of them to fill in open vacancies. These people will be recruited next quarter, in January 2010. Some selected candidates for the position of PWD Project Manager will be interviewed by ChildFund International's Headquarters and the best candidate will be nominated for USAID's approval. A contract with the proposed candidate would only be signed upon receiving approval from the project's AOTR, Mr. Jahor Novikau.

#### V. BUDGET

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