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

**QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT
Reporting period: 1 January - 31 March 2010**

Component I “Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus”

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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

The purpose of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children component is to reduce the number of children in Belarus being institutionalized in state-administered orphanages and boarding schools. In pursuit of this goal, the project will aim to foster a cultural environment conducive to family-based care, and move children from institutions into less restrictive environments when prior circumstances necessitate removal from their family home. The project targets 'social orphans,' i.e., children whose parents are living, but are unable to provide proper care, or children of parents who have been denied parental rights. The project's activities focus on working with families and social service professionals to maintain and reintegrate children within their original family units.

The project has three main objectives:

- improving access to and furthering development of an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families as well as institutionalized and at-risk children;
- improving the quality of training and education available to social service providers and building awareness of community members surrounding the development of favorable family environments for children;
- promoting de-institutionalization of children through the technical assistance to the national child welfare agencies in strengthening the national regulatory and methodological base; disseminating key findings of the project throughout Belarus to build a foundation for replication and sustainability.

B. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

This quarter the project was focused on geographic expansion of the project model countrywide. To secure sustainability of the interventions and maximize impact ChildFund-Belarus established a strategic partnership with the oblast Re-training Institutions in Mogilev, Vitebsk, and Grodno as well as with the Academy of Post-Diploma Education. Partnership Agreements elaborated last quarter were signed to disseminate methodology on PRIDE, family-centered approach to child protection services, and Parenting Skills Enhancement Programs at the oblast level. Negotiations with the Minsk oblast re-training institute were started and it is expected that a Partnership Agreement will be signed next quarter. Partnership with the network of re-training institutes helped to reach specialists from 36 new geographic locations representing 72 new organizations from all over Belarus. The number of trained specialists has already exceeded the annual target in the PMEPP. Approximately 74% of trained specialists reported practical use of newly obtained knowledge and skills.

Nine (9) new communities with trained personnel demonstrated high motivation in integration of new methodologies into the local child protection system and cost-shared implementation of PRIDE and Parenting Enhancement Programs. In total *662 people* (including parents, orphans, prospective and active foster/adoptive parents) benefited from these new services. To guarantee the quality of service provision ChildFund-Belarus staff provided regular monitoring and evaluation.

A group of experts comprised of scientists and practitioners having expertise in PRIDE was formed to develop a manual on family-type care development in Belarus based on 14 steps of PRIDE model and the requirements of the National Institute of Education.

The previously assisted communities of Orsha, Kobrin, Chausy, and Zhodino demonstrated sustainability of project interventions. The semi-annual PMEPP shows that Chausy and Zhodino communities succeeded in maintaining a 0% rate of child placement into institutions while Orsha community significantly decreased institutionalization to 6.3% (against the 15% planned for this year).

In summary, thus far:

- Four Partnership Agreements were signed with oblast re-training institutions in Vitebsk, Mogilev and Grodno, as well as with the Academy of Post-Diploma Education for sustainable dissemination of ChildFund Belarus' programs at the oblast and national levels;
- *662 people* (including parents, orphans, prospective and active foster/adoptive parents) benefited from the services;
- *89 child protection specialists* from 36 new geographic locations representing 72 organizations improved their expertise in service provision to vulnerable children and families.
- 74% of trained specialists reported putting the obtained knowledge and skills into practice.
- ChildFund Belarus' Task Group has started development of the Standards of Social Rehabilitation.
- Three small grants for Parenting Skills Programs for a total sum of \$5,400 were supported;

C. CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS

- A High level of staff turnover at the Orsha Social-pedagogic center caused some threat for sustainable implementation of PRIDE program in the future. In agreement with the local Department of Education new specialists from Orsha's Social-pedagogic center will join the next training group on PRIDE by ChildFund Belarus.
- The understaffing of Kobrin's socio-pedagogical center lead to a situation when the center's specialist had to stop provision of Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in order to continue PRIDE implementation.
- The Functioning of a multidisciplinary computer database in Orsha is still delayed due to low motivation of the newly appointed Head of the Department of Education, as well as high staff turnover. The situation is complicated by the inability to connect the local Department of Internal Affairs to the Internet which is required to get access to the database. – ChildFund Belarus conducted meetings with all involved stakeholders and they developed an action plan to resolve the problem next quarter.
- Practical implementation of the PRIDE model at the national level was threatened by the emerging of an officially approved training program by the National Adoption Center supported by UNICEF funding. Unfortunately this program is pretty far from international best practices and can lead to serious deterioration of foster care quality. To avoid this situation ChildFund put reasonable efforts to get official approval of PRIDE as another national model for training foster/adoptive parents. Strategic meetings with representatives of the Ministry of Education, and the National Institute of Education resulted in the creation of ChildFund Belarus' Expert Group comprised of scientists and practitioners having expertise in PRIDE. This group will prepare a manual on family-type care development in Belarus based on 14 steps of the PRIDE model and the requirements of the National Institute of Education. This approach will help to obtain official approval for the PRIDE model and its use countrywide.
- Despite all of ChildFund's efforts, a poor job market in Belarus did not enable us to identify an M&E specialist with proper qualifications. In order to fill the gap and ensure the quality of M&E, a series of coaching sessions on M&E issues were conducted for existing ChildFund-Belarus staff. ChildFund hopes to identify an individual to lead M&E efforts in the next quarter.

D. LESSONS LEARNED

Child protection specialists from Kobrin community maintained a 0% institutionalization rate between October- February 2010 and provided family-type care for each child. Nevertheless in March this community exceeded its targeted institutionalization rate (5%) and experienced a 22% institutionalization rate. This situation was caused by the institutionalization of 4 adolescent brothers in March 2010. This situation highlights a serious problem in family-type care provision for siblings coming from the families with many children (3 or more). National legislation recommends avoiding separation of siblings after removal from their biological family. However the vast majority of foster families in Belarus including those in Kobrin cannot afford accommodation of more than one or two children simultaneously due to the limited size of their apartments. - ChildFund Belarus will bring this concern to the attention of Belarus' Ministry of Education and will advocate for using family group home facilities to prevent institutionalization of this category of children, meet existing legal requirements, and at the same time provide siblings with family-type placement. In order to prevent this situation in other communities, ChildFund Belarus' Child Protection Specialists will visit partner communities to assess community resources for family-type placement for siblings from families with many children.

- Partnership with the network of re-training institutes helped us to exceed annual targets for the number of trained specialists. ChildFund-Belarus' priority for the next quarter is to keep momentum and ensure full-value use of these resources in new communities. In order to achieve this objective ChildFund specialists will assist new communities in the elaboration of community strategic plans on de-institutionalization.
- Economic crisis and shrinking community financial resources did not allow for full support and implementation of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program. ChildFund allocated a very small amount of financial resources through the small grant scheme in order to supplement community efforts in carrying out this vital program.

II. ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1: *Improve access to and furthering development of an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families as well as institutionalized and at-risk children.*

- *662 people* (including parents, orphans, prospective and active foster/adoptive parents) benefited from the community-based services.
- PRIDE, Life Skills and Parenting Skills Enhancement Programs were successfully implemented within local community resources in 12 geographic locations Dokshitsy, Liosno, and Senno regions, Kobrin, Chausy, Vitebsk, Polotsk, Novopolotsk, Orsha, Lida, Ivanovo and Luninets (Brest oblast).

- 211 orphans and at-risk children mastered life skills in social apartments.
- A Call for proposals was announced to disseminate the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program at the community level. *Three small grants* for the total sum of \$5,400 were supported.

Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

The Parenting Skills Enhancement Program is being implemented in 13 geographic locations, i.e. Orsha, Chausy, Brest, Slavgorod, Mogilev, Minsk, Gomel, Vitebsk, and 5 communities in Vitebsk oblast, i.e. Dokshitsy, Liosno, and Senno regions, Polotsk, and Novopolotsk. *65% of all groups* were carried out using administrative support and allocated local resources. ChildFund Belarus' Specialist on Parenting monitored the quality of the program implementation.

As a result:

- 235 people attended the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in schools and kindergartens. 60% of all parent groups were completed by the end of the quarter.
- Approximately 34% of parents attending the course were from an at-risk group or raising children with disabilities.
- 77 % of parents reported that they better understand the reasons of children's misbehavior and cope with it without violence; 73% of trained parents assessed themselves as "responsible parents"; 81% of parents reported maintaining optimal emotional contacts with their children; 58% of parents reported using methods of stress management and self-regulation;

One parent said:

Elena A., Slavgorod, (Mogilev oblast):

"The program provides excellent practical methods to improve communication within the family. It helps to maintain relations between parents and children at early childhood and prevent years in endless conflicts. I learned to reflect a child's feelings, showing interest and understanding, I became more patient in conflict and try to use new solutions. As a result we started spending more time together, and laugh more even without reasons just because we are happy together."

Playgroups for children

Play groups were organized for 52 children in Vitebsk, Minsk, Mogilev, Gomel, and Slavgorod while their parents were at parenting classes. 40% of all children were from a risk group or have a disability. Unique developmental programs were prepared by community trainers to develop children's capacity.

Call for proposals for Parenting Skills Enhancement Program dissemination.

A Call for Proposals was issued this quarter to disseminate Parenting Skills Enhancement Program at the community level. Selection of the service providers was accompanied by a Workshop on Proposal Writing for potential applicants (2nd of February, 2010). As a result by the end of this quarter four applications were submitted to ChildFund-Belarus' office for funding. Three of the received project proposals for approximately USD 5, 400 were selected to develop Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Smorgon, Chausy, and Kirovsk. Contracts with grantees were signed this quarter and money was transferred to the bank accounts of two grantees. A final money transfer will happen at the beginning of the next quarter.

Life Skills Program

Activity: Life Skills Program for institutionalized children	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least one group of orphaned, sheltered and at-risk children (12 children) took part in the Life Skills Program.</p> <p>65% of enrolled orphaned children reporting improvements of specific knowledge and skills related to trainings topic.</p> <p>Approximately 200 institutionalized children will continue practicing life skills in social apartments, sewing and carpentry workshops in Orsha, Zhodino, Chausy, Volozhin, and Kobrin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Thirteen orphans who graduated from</i> Divin Children's House (Kobrin region) continued the Life Skills Program started last quarter. Local community resources were allocated for implementation of the program. ▪ 62% of the teens mastered communication skills, learned about defining and achieving goals, developed skills on finding a job. ▪ <i>Two hundred eleven (211) institutionalized children continued</i> mastering life skills through developmental classes in Zhodino, Orsha, Chausy, Volozhin and Kobrin using equipment purchased for these purposes. They continued mastering sewing and carpentry skills, repaired old clothes, created new ones, and practiced cooking. These classes were started last quarter.

Family type care development

This quarter 28 prospective foster/adoptive parents completed PRIDE pre-service training program in Zhodino, Kobrin, Chausy, and Lida. 32% of parents trained since October 2009, provide family type care including foster care, and adoption for 28 children.

PRIDE in-service program was carried out in Kobrin, Chausy, Ivanovo and Luninets (Brest oblast), to provide ongoing professional development and support for *100 foster/adoptive parents* in meeting challenges in day-to-day activity related to bringing up foster/adoptive children.

Minsk Retraining Institute continued a series of workshops for *8 foster parents* from Minsk (26th of February, 2010) based on the PRIDE in-service curriculum. The participants learned about the importance and special aspects of attachment formation among teens who experience loss and psychological trauma.

Facility based database

Projects focused on development of the facility-based computer database have been continued. Zhodino and Chausy communities have successfully started practicing coordination of the child protection activity using the developed software. Along with Zhodino, the Chausy Local Executive Committee has already passed the Procedure of Database network operation defining roles and tasks of each service involved in social investigation and rehabilitation.

Orsha community remained behind schedule due to low motivation of the local authorities and newly appointed Head of the Orsha Department of Education as well as problems with connection of the local Department of Internal Affairs to the Internet.

For more information, please, see Annex 1 to the report.

OBJECTIVE 2: Improve the quality of training and education available to social service providers and raise awareness of community members surrounding the development of favorable family environments for children.

This quarter ChildFund Belarus signed Partnership Agreements with three oblast Retraining Institutions in Mogilev, Vitebsk, and Grodno, as well as with the Academy of Post-Diploma Education to promote sustainability in dissemination of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, PRIDE, and a program on a family-centered approach to child protection services countrywide. Local retraining institutions cost-shared travel expenses including transportation, accommodation and food for participants, as well as rent of the space in which training sessions were conducted.

- *89 local child protection* specialists from 36 new geographic locations were trained this quarter
- *72 organizations* were assisted to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families.
- *74%* of trained specialists reported practical use of obtained knowledge and skills in services for family and children.

TOT on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

<i>Activity: Training of Trainers (ToT) on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program* (28-30th of January, 11-13th of February, 2010)</i>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 15 community specialists from Vitebsk oblast will be trained as Parenting Skills Enhancement Program providers.</p> <p>At least three representatives from social work faculty in Vitebsk University will be trained as Master trainers to replicate the program in the future, to provide sustainability and consistency in preparation of trainer's in Vitebsk region.</p> <p>90% of participants will report improvements of specific knowledge and skills, to run Parenting Skills Enhancement Program.</p> <p>50% will start implementation of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program by the end of this quarter.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Sixteen specialists</i> from eight Vitebsk oblast geographic location representing kindergartens, schools, Social-pedagogic Centers, and Vitebsk State University completed two ToT sessions on Parenting Enhancement Program. They were provided with knowledge and skills such as understanding the process of group work, adult learning techniques, interactive methods of teaching, implementation of an M&E system. <p>To guarantee sustainability of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program implementation on oblast level three teachers from Vitebsk State University were trained as Master trainers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 93% of participants passed their post- TOT test and demonstrated improvement of training knowledge and skills for parenting programs ▪ By the end of this quarter (about a month after training completion) 56% of the trained specialists have already started implementation of Parenting Skills Enhancement Program.

Critical note:

*This training was carried out in partnership with Vitebsk State University that cost-shared the expenses.

TOT on Family-centered Approach to Child Protection Services

This quarter the training program on family-centered approach to child protection services was successfully piloted in Mogilev and Grodno oblast retraining institutions. The program was carried out by a national trainers' team on child protection that was promoted as a unique resource at the oblast level.

In the Mogilev oblast Retraining Institute child protection specialists have already completed the course (18-23rd of January, 22-27th of February, 2010), while in Grodno the first two sessions (02-04th, 23-25th of March, 2010) are complete to date. By the end of this quarter 52 *child protection specialists* representing 38 institutions from 17 geographic locations were in training. 93,5% of them improved knowledge and skills related to investigative processes, the effects of abuse and neglect on child development, engaging families, assessment and case planning, separation, placement and reunification. To facilitate further development of this program at the oblast levels 7 lecturers from retraining institutions were trained. An action plan for dissemination of this program in Mogilev oblast has been developed by Mogilev re-training Institute.

One Specialist said:

Olga V., Mogilev oblast:

"The training program exceeded my expectations. It was perfect combination of theory, case studies, and mastering practical skills. The program opens the possibility for specialists to work creatively and individually with each family. It was most important to know about risk assessment and family assessment, supplemented by practicing filling in standard forms. I understood that the goal of the child protection activity is to provide child's safety within a biological family. Incorporation of the program on family-centered approach to child protection services will be a step forward in national child protection system development."

TOT on PRIDE model

On 25th- 29th of January, 2010 ChildFund Belarus' trainer's team in partnership with Academy of Post-Diploma Education conducted PRIDE training sessions for 12 *child protection specialists* from 11 regions (Minsk, Ivie (Grodno oblast), Kopil, Soligorsk, Molodechno, Smolevichy, Myadel, Uzda (Minsk oblast), Ivanovo, Pinsk, and Luninets (Brest oblast). The participants learned about recognizing sexual abuse, supporting relations between foster/adoptive children and their biological families, working as a professional team member, specifics of infant development. By the end of this quarter, app. 57% of the PRIDE training participants reported practical use of obtained knowledge and skill to develop family-type care in local communities. The course was cost-shared with Academy of Post-Diploma Education

OBJECTIVE 3: Promoting de-institutionalization of children through technical assistance to the national child welfare agencies in strengthening the national regulatory and methodological base and disseminating key findings of the project throughout Belarus to build a foundation for replication and sustainability.

- Series of Task Group meetings resulted in elaboration of the concept and structure of new Standards on Social Rehabilitation
- Adjusted version of previously developed Standards on Social Investigation sent to Belarus Ministry of Education.

Advocacy for development of national legislation in child protection

This quarter ChildFund-Belarus continued its activity on nation-wide expansion of developed methodological and regulatory documents. A series of Task Group meetings (28-29th of January; 08th of February, 2010) were carried out in partnership with Belarus' Ministry of Education. The participants discussed with Galina Rudenkova, Chief of Child Protection Department of the Ministry of Education how to adjust Standards on Social Investigation for further incorporation into national child protection practice. Final amendments to the Standards were made and the document was submitted to the Ministry of Education.

By the request of Belarus' Ministry of Education ChildFund Belarus' Task Group started working on *Methodical Recommendations on Social Rehabilitation*. The first working meeting on the topic was held on 18-19, March 2010. During the meeting child protection specialists shared the most effective methods which were successfully applied for social rehabilitation of disadvantaged families and children at risk. As a result the concept and structure of documents were agreed upon, an action plan for its further development was designed, and roles /responsibilities were defined among the Task Group members.

Advocacy for family type care development

ChildFund Belarus advocated for PRIDE countrywide expansion as a national program for training foster/adoptive parents. To clear up the procedure of approval for training programs developed abroad, a series of meetings with the Ministry of Education and the National Institute of Education were carried out. According to these specialists there are no formal procedures and precedents for the approval of international training programs in Belarus. It was advised that ChildFund form an Expert Group comprised of scientists and

practitioners having expertise in PRIDE. It is expected that the Group will develop a manual on the specifics of PRIDE implementation in Belarus. This approach will help to obtain official approval for the PRIDE model and its use countrywide.

Following these recommendations a Terms of Reference to develop a manual on implementation of the PRIDE model in Belarus was elaborated and disseminated among the interested stakeholders. A group of national scientists and practitioners having expertise in PRIDE implementation was formed. A concept of the manual will be presented by the group of experts to ChildFund Belarus next quarter. It is expected that this manual will be submitted for approval as a national program for training foster/adoptive parents.

Dissemination of informational resources

Resource materials such as a brochure on “Safe Parenting”, a Report on National Adoption Development, and a “Field Guide to Child Welfare” (Volume 3, Volume 4) donated by Institute for Human Services (Ohio, USA) were distributed among 160 institutions to develop capacity of local child protection specialists.

III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

• *Coordination with USAID*

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

The revision of the Marking & Branding Plan was revised in cooperation with Jahor Novikau, USAID AOTR for this project and the final version was submitted by ChildFund Headquarters to USAID.

On March 18, Irina Mironova, ChildFund’s COP met with Jahor Novikau USAID – Belarus AOTR and USAID Regional Specialist and provided input into a USAID needs assessment on maternal and child health

• *Cooperation with ChildFund International Headquarters*

ChildFund- Belarus kept regular communication via e-mail and conference calls with its Headquarters in Richmond. Mary Moran, ChildFund International’s Sr. Specialist in Early Childhood Development assisted in preparing a technical proposal to DCOF/World Learning and to World Childhood Foundation (Sweden) to seek additional funding.

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 enhanced cooperation and communication between project staff.

Maria Babarikina joined ChildFund-Belarus as an Office Manager.

A series of coaching sessions on M&E were organized for the project staff.

V. BUDGET

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



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**SMALL GRANTS implemented between
January-March 2010**

I. Creation of network database on child protection:

- Educational Department of Chausy executive committee:
 1. "Cross-sector cooperation on child and family protection through creation of unified informational record system".
- Educational department of Orsha executive committee:
 2. "Creation of network database on child protection in Orsha";

<i>Grantee Name/address:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
<i>Educational department of Chausy executive committee</i>	<i>Cross-sector cooperation on child and family protection through creation of unified informational and referral system</i>	26.03.2008 Prolonged till 01.06.2010
<i>Address: Leninskaya Str., 17, Chausy, Mogilyov Region</i>		
<i>Amount: \$24,851</i>		
<i>Brief description:</i>	The goal of the project is to strengthen cross-sector cooperation of community child protection organizations in Chausy through creation of a computer network with access to electronic data-base on disadvantaged families and children at risk	
<p>OUTPUTS: By March 2010 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipment purchased and installed, • computer network created , • database software installed , • training of the child protection specialists to use the database conducted. • Chausy Executive Committee has already passed the Procedure of Database network operation defining security protocol, roles and tasks of each service involved in social investigation and rehabilitation. • The database is being filled in by local child protection specialists and they started using it. <p>Nevertheless two community-based organizations (Chausy Center for Social Support of Population and Chausy Central Hospital) were not integrated in IT network due to technical difficulties in connecting modems to the Internet. ChildFund's IT consultant advised the local IT specialist on how to resolve this problem. It is expected that these problems will be successfully resolved next quarter and the Information and Referral system in Chausy will fully integrate all key players of child protection arena.</p>		

<i>Grantee Name:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
Educational department of Orsha executive committee	Creation of network database on child protection in Orsha	26.10.2007 Prolonged till 01.06.2010
Address: Zamkovaya Str., 11, Orsha, Vitebsk Region		
Amount: \$19,862		
<i>Brief description:</i>	The goal of the project is to strengthen cross-sector cooperation of community child protection organizations in Orsha through creation of a computer network with access to electronic data-base on disadvantaged families and children at risk.	
<p>OUTPUTS: Implementation of project activities was delayed. The following project activities have been completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the network equipment purchased and installed, • agreements with partner organizations and state Internet provider Beltelecom to obtain Internet access were signed. <p>ChildFund Belarus' M&E visit showed that the functioning of a multidisciplinary computer database in Orsha was delayed due to low motivation of local authorities, particularly the newly appointed Head of the Department of Education, as well as high staff turn over in child protection services. The situation is complicated by an inability to connect the local Department of Internal Affairs to the Internet which is required to get access to the database. ChildFund Belarus has organized meetings with all involved stakeholders to develop an action plan to resolve the problems as soon as possible. According to the agreed action plan all the project activities will have been completed by the 1st of June, 2010.</p> <p>By June 1 it is planned to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • connect 4 partner organizations to Internet, • create computer network • train child protection specialists to use the database • start filling in the database • develop and approve locally the Procedure of Database network operation 		

**LIST OF SMALL GRANTS IN THE PROCESS OF REGISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION),
awarded in March 2010**

<i>Grantee Name:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
Education Department of Chausy Executive Committee	Learning to be a parent	Duration: 4 months Partnership Agreement signed 19.03.2010 Status: in the process of registration
Address: Leninskaya Str., 17, Chausy, Mogilyov Region		
Amount: \$1 800		
<i>Brief description:</i>	The goal of the project is to decrease family stress and strengthen family functioning through expansion of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program introduced by ChildFund Belarus to Chausy educational institutions.	

<i>Planned target:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50 parents will participate in Parenting Skills Enhancement Program - 20 children will be involved in playgroup activity - 10 specialists of educational institutions will be trained as trainers to expand the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program at the community level
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<i>Grantee Name:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
Education Department of Kirovsk Executive Committee	Parenting academy	Duration: 5 months
Address: Kirov, Gagarin Str, 23, Mogilyov Region		Partnership Agreement signed: 19.03.2010 Status: in the process of registration
Amount: \$1 800		
<i>Brief description:</i>	The goal of the project is to decrease family stress and strengthen family functioning through expansion of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program introduced by ChildFund Belarus to Kirovsk region educational institutions	
<i>Planned target:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 48 parents will participate in the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program - 20 children will be involved in playgroup activity - 12 specialists of educational institutions will be trained as trainers to expand the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Kirovsk and Kirovsk region. 	

Financial resources were also allocated for Smorgon Social Pedagogic Center to replicate the Parenting Enhancement Program. It will be transferred in April 2010.

Annex 2: ChildFund-Belarus “Community Services to Vulnerable Groups”: Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION COMPONENT BASELINE AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Overall project impact and measures

Decreased percentage of children placed in institutions

Indicator	Definition & Unit of measure	Target communities	Baseline	Performance targets Oct 09- March 2010	
			2009	Planned target	Achieved target
OVC I. Percent of institutionalized children	Definition: Percentage of institutionalized children after being sheltered Unit: Percent	Zhodino	0%	0%	0% (0 out of 20)
		Orsha	16%	15%	6% (2 out of 32)
		Kobrin	14%	5%	22% (4 out of 18)
		Chausy	0%	0%	0% (0 out of 6)
Contextual information demonstrated the nationwide trends:					
Percent of institutionalized children in Belarus					24%
Number of institutionalized children in Belarus					26,048

Objective 1. Improve access to and furthering development of an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families as well as institutionalized and at-risk children.

Indicator	Definition & Unit of measure	Baseline	Performance targets Oct 09- March 2010	
		2009	Planned target	Achieved target
OVC 1.1. Number of children (sex-disaggregated) that have been meaningfully served	Definition: Number of vulnerable children: - using alternative care - returned to biological family - trained in social apartments - using toy library Unit: Number	930	300	710 (421m/289f)
OVC 1.2. Number of parents (sex-disaggregated) that have been meaningfully served	Definition: Number of vulnerable children’s parents who: - attended Parenting Course within the Project Component - attended PRIDE Course within the Project Component - attended other childcare-related educational events Unit: Number	970	140	554 (104m/450f)

Objective 2. Improve the quality of training and education available to social service providers and raise awareness of community members surrounding the development of favorable family environments for children.

Annex 2: ChildFund-Belarus “Community Services to Vulnerable Groups”: Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Indicator	Definition & Unit of measure	Baseline	Performance targets Oct 09- March 2010	
		2009	Planned target	Achieved target
OVC 2.1. Number of individuals (sex-disaggregated) trained to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families	Definition: Number of individuals trained within OVC component to increase their technical capacity/ability to advocate for/provide services to vulnerable children and families Unit: Number	400	60	107 (4m/103f)
OVC 2.2. Percent of participants reporting practical use of obtained knowledge and skills in services for family and children.	Definition: Percentage of specialists – training participants reporting practical use of obtained knowledge and skills in services for family and children. Unit: Percentage	72%	75%	74%
OVC 2.3. Number of organizations assisted to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families	Definition: Number of organizations assisted within OVC component to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families Unit: Number	191	30	89

Annex 2: ChildFund-Belarus “Community Services to Vulnerable Groups”: Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Objective 3. Promoting de-institutionalization of children through the technical assistance to the national child welfare agencies in strengthening the national regulatory and methodological base and disseminating key findings of the project throughout Belarus to build a foundation for replication and sustainability

Indicator	Definition & Unit of measure	Baseline	Performance targets Oct 09- March 2010	
		2009	Planned target	Achieved target
OVC 3.1. Number of the regulatory and methodological documents/standards/criteria developed.	Definition: Number of the regulatory and methodological documents/standards developed by the Technical Assistance Task Group. Unit: Number	1	1	n/a*
OVC 3.2. Number of organizations assisted as a result of Task Group activities	Definition: Number of organizations using regulatory and methodological documents/standards developed by the Technical Assistance Task Group. Unit: Number	191	200	17*

*Please see Annex 3 for analysis of these results.



Annex 3: Comments to Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP) of OVC Project (October 2000-March 2010)

Project Overall Impact

Indicator 1. Percent of institutionalized children

The indicator shows the percentage of children who were sent to boarding schools after being sheltered.

Annual target: Zhodino-0%, Orsha- 15%, Kobrin- 5%; Chausy- 0%

Current value of indicator: Zhodino-0%, Orsha-5%, Kobrin-22%, Chausy-0%

In the period between October 2009-February 2010 Kobrin kept the institutionalization rate at 0% and provided family type care for every child who was removed from their biological family and could not be returned. Nevertheless this community exceeded its planned target and experienced a 22% institutionalization rate based on the semi-annual PMEP. This is a result of the institutionalization of 4 adolescent brothers that took place in March 2010. This situation discovered a serious problem in family-type care provision for siblings coming from the families with many children (3 or more). National legislation recommends protecting family integrity and avoiding separation of siblings after removal from their biological family. However the vast majority of foster families including foster families in Kobrin cannot afford accommodation of more than one or two children simultaneously due to the limited size of their apartments. ChildFund Belarus will attract the attention of Belarus' Ministry of Education to this serious gap and advocate for development of family group homes facilities to prevent institutionalization of this category of children and to provide them with family-type placement. ChildFund Belarus' Child protection specialists will visit Orsha and Kobrin communities next quarter to assess community resources for family-type placement for siblings from families with many children.

Objective 1

Indicator 1.1. Number of children (sex-disaggregated) that have been meaningfully served.

Planned annual target: 300 children

Achieved (by March 2010): 710 children

Activity	Total Individuals	Male	Female
Children using alternative care	284*	157	127
Orsha	92	40	52
Chausy	9	7	2
Kobrin	109	74	35
Zhodino	46	22	24
Other	28	14	14
Children returned to biological family	45	26	19
Orsha	13	9	4
Chausy	0	0	0
Kobrin	12	6	6
Zhodino	20	11	9
Other	0	0	0
Children trained in social apartments	221	142	79
Orsha	86	61	25
Chausy	15	13	2

Kobrin	52	26	26
Zhodino	40	25	15
Volozhin	28	17	11
Children trained on Life skills program:	13	8	5
Divin Children's house (Kobrin region)	13	8	5
children's play groups within parenting course:	55	24	31
Orsha	0	0	0
Chausy	0	0	0
Kobrin	0	0	0
Zhodino	0	0	0
Other (Vitebsk, Slavgorod, Minsk, Mogilev, Gomel):	55	24	31
children with disabilities using toy library and day care services*	92**	64	28
Orsha	12	9	3
Chausy	34	21	13
Kobrin	25	17	8
Zhodino	8	7	1
Volozhin	13	10	3
TOTAL	710	421	289

Current value of the indicator is 710 children (421 boys and 289 girls) which is more than twice as much as the annual target of 300 children. This has become possible due to the high motivation of local specialists trained by ChildFund Belarus who started to put their new skills into practice right after the training allocating local community resources. The second reason is sustainability of the previously established services such as training in social apartment for orphans, day care, toy library, and ergo therapeutic facilities for children with disabilities.

* About 60% of children (171 persons - 99 boys/72 girls) out of 284 using alternative care enjoyed a new type of service - guest families. This type of child placement has been successfully piloted in Kobrin community (Divin children's house) and further expanded to other project sites. The guest family service provides placement of orphaned children on weekends, holidays, and vacations in permanent guest families. It is a resource for foster care development on the local level as a result of community mobilization.

**Children with disabilities from Zhodino, Orsha, Kobrin, Chausy, and Volozhin Habilitation centers keep using day care and toy library facilities and special ergo therapeutic equipment that was purchased within the previous phase of OVC project implementation. This period 193 children with disabilities accessed these services (92 of them are new beneficiaries).

Indicator 1.2. Number of parents (sex-disaggregated) that have been meaningfully served.

Planned annual target: 140 parents

Achieved (by March 2010): 554 parents

Activity	Total Individuals	Male	Female
Parents attended Parenting Course	235	16	219
Orsha	33	6	27
Chausy	20	0	20
Kobrin	0	0	0

Zhodino	0	0	0
Other communities (Vitebsk, Brest, Slavgorod, Mogilev, Minsk, Gomel)	182	10	172
Parents attended PRIDE Course	319	88	231
Orsha	0	0	0
Chausy	80	6	74
Kobrin	122	18	104
Zhodino	22	2	20
Other communities (Baranovichy, Ivanovo, Lida, Luninets, Molodechno)	80	62	18
Minsk re-training Institute	15	0	15
TOTAL	554	104	450

Current value of the indicator is 554 parents (60 men and 494 women) against 140 planned annual target. Exceeding our target of served parents by 414 parents was possible due to high motivation of local specialists to put their new skills into practice right after the training provided by ChildFund Belarus and support from the communities.

A high level of staff turnover in Orsha community resulted in suspending the PRIDE program's implementation. New specialists from Orsha Social-Pedagogic Center will join the new group that will be trained on PRIDE by ChildFund Belarus. Kobrin community has successful experience in carrying out the PRIDE program, but the Kobrin Social-Pedagogic Center stopped provision of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program due to being understaffed.

Objective 2

Indicator 2.1. Number of individuals (sex-disaggregated) trained to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families

Planned annual target: 60 people

Achieved (by March 2010): 107 people

Note: List of trained individuals is available upon request at ChildFund-Belarus office.

The current value of the indicator is 107 individuals, which exceeded the annual target of 60 people. It was achieved through partnership with the network of re-training institutes that provided administrative support (formation of the training groups and invitation of the participants) and shared the costs of training activities (free of charge training facilities, accommodation, travel and per diem for the participants). This approach helped to keep time, effort and financial resources of the project that resulted in the increase of number of trainings organized by ChildFund Belarus for child protection specialists from different geographic locations. Besides, through partnership with the network of re-training institutes it became possible to reach specialists from 36 new geographic locations. They were Minsk, Minsk oblast (Kopil, Soligorsk, Molodechno, Smolevichy, Myadel, Uzda); Mogilev oblast (Mogilev, Mstislavl, Dribin, Khotimsk, Belynychy, Krichevsk, Krugliansky region, Osipovichy, Kostukovichy); Vitebsk oblast (Vitebsk, Vitebsk region, Dokshitsy region, Liosno region, Senno region, Polotsk, Novopolotsk); Grodno oblast (Grodno, Grodno region, Ivye, Korelichy region, Ostrovets region, Mosty region, Grodno region, Schuchin region, Volkovysk, Lida region); Brest oblast (Ivanovo, Pinsk, and Luninets).

Trainings	Total Individuals	Male	Female
PRIDE TOT (in partnership with Academy of Post-Diploma Education, Minsk)	14	0	14
Workshop on Proposal Writing	4	0	4
TOT on Parenting	37	1	36
ToT on Parenting cost-shared by SDC funded project	18	1	17
TOT in partnership with Vitebsk University	19	0	19

Training program on family-centered approach to child protection:	52	3	49
Training In partnership with Grodno retraining institute (still in the process)	30	2	28
Training in partnership with Mogilev Re-training Institute	22	1	21
TOTAL	107	4	103

Indicator 2.2. Percent of participants reporting practical use of obtained knowledge and skills in services for family and children.

The final average percent of trained individuals who reported practical use of obtained knowledge and skills in services for family and children is 74% against 75% of planned annual target .

Trainings	% of participants reporting practical use of obtained knowledge and skills
PRIDE TOT (in partnership with Academy of Post-Diploma Education, Minsk) - (completed in January 2010)	57%
Training on Proposal Writing	100%
TOT on Parenting (cost-shared with SDC funded project) -completed in October 2009	83%
TOT on Parenting in Vitebsk University (completed in February 2010)	56%
Training program on family-centered approach to child protection in Grodno retraining institute (still in the process)*	n/a
Training program on family-centered approach to child protection in Mogilev retraining institute completed in February 2010*	n/a
Total average	74%

* Training program on family-centered approach to child protection in Mogilev Re-training Institute was completed only in February 2010 while in Grodno Retraining Institute the group will continue the training the next quarter. Thus it is too early to measure their practical use of received knowledge and skills. This information will be collected in the coming quarters and reported through the PMEP annual report.

Participants of PRIDE ToT conducted in partnership with the Academy of Post-Diploma Education demonstrated a relatively low outcome (57%) that was below the planned target of 75%. The reason is wrong recruiting strategy to form training groups that has been used by Academy. Unlike other re-training institutions the Academy of Post-Diploma Education decided to have paid groups. It was expected that expenses for the participants would be covered by Local Departments of Education. But local Departments of Education can cover expenses for staff retraining only once a year while PRIDE is a long term course consisting of several sessions within a year. That's why this strategy resulted in a high level of participant turnover due to the inability to pay for attending the course. ChildFund Belarus will discuss with the Academy of Post Diploma Education the successful strategy that was elaborated by Mogilev, Grodno re-training institutions.

Despite the fact that series of ToTs on Parenting at Vitebsk University were completed only in February 2010, 56% of trainees have already started parenting groups due to the high motivation of the trainees and available local administrative support. It is expected that the other participants will start practicing received knowledge next quarter.

Indicator 2.3 Number of organizations assisted to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families

Planned annual target: 30
 Achieved (by March 2010): 89

Current value of the indicator is 89 organizations. Assisting an additional +59 organizations was possible due to partnership with re-training institutions.

	Names of Organizations	Community	Type of OVC assistance	
			Training	Place of training

1	Social-pedagogic center	Soligorsk	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
2	Social-pedagogic center	Kopyl	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
3	Social-pedagogic center	Ivanovo	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
4	Social-pedagogic center	Pinsk	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
5	Social-pedagogic center	Slonim	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
6	Social-pedagogic center	Myadel	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
7	Social-pedagogic center	Minsk	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
8	Minsk Re-training Institute	Minsk	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
9	Social-pedagogic center	Molodechno	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
10	Social-pedagogic center	Lida	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
11	Kindergarten	Ivye district	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
12	Social-pedagogic center	Smolevichi	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
13	Social-pedagogic center	Luninets	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
14	Department of Education	Uzda	PRIDE TOT	Academy of Post-Diploma Education
15	Department of Education (Zavodskoy district)	Minsk	PRIDE TOT (in service)	Minsk Re-training Institute
16	Department of Education (Partizansky district)	Minsk	PRIDE TOT (in service)	Minsk Re-training Institute
17	Department of Education (Frunzensky district)	Minsk	PRIDE TOT (in service)	Minsk Re-training Institute
18	Department of Education (Pervomaysky district)	Minsk	PRIDE TOT (in service)	Minsk Re-training Institute
19	Department of Education (Moskovsky district)	Minsk	PRIDE TOT (in service)	Minsk Re-training Institute
20	Department of Education (Octiabrsky district)	Minsk	PRIDE TOT (in service)	Minsk Re-training Institute
21	Creativity Centre	Kirovsk	Training on Proposal Writing	ChildFund-Belarus
22	Social-pedagogic center	Smorgon	Training on Proposal Writing	ChildFund-Belarus
23	Habilitation Centre for children with disabilities	Byhov	Training on Proposal Writing	ChildFund-Belarus

24	Habilitation Centre for children with disabilities	Gomel	TOT Parenting	ChildFund-Belarus (Cost sharing with SDC)
25	Secondary school № 1	Slavgorod	TOT Parenting	ChildFund-Belarus (Cost sharing with SDC)
26	Habilitation Centre for children with disabilities	Mogilev	TOT Parenting	ChildFund-Belarus (Cost sharing with SDC)
27	Habilitation Centre for children with disabilities	Krasnopolie	TOT Parenting	ChildFund-Belarus (Cost sharing with SDC)
28	Habilitation Centre for children with disabilities	Novogrudok	TOT Parenting	ChildFund-Belarus (Cost sharing with SDC)
29	Habilitation Centre for children with disabilities	Minsk	TOT Parenting	ChildFund-Belarus (Cost sharing with SDC)
30	Vitebsk Re-training Institute	Vitebsk	TOT Parenting	ChildFund-Belarus (Cost sharing with SDC)
31	Academy of Post-Diploma Education	Minsk	TOT Parenting	ChildFund-Belarus (Cost sharing with SDC)
32	Kindergarten № 60	Brest	TOT Parenting	ChildFund-Belarus (Cost sharing with SDC)
33	Social-pedagogic center	Gantsevichi	TOT Parenting	ChildFund-Belarus (Cost sharing with SDC)
34	Habilitation Centre for children with disabilities	Brest	TOT Parenting	ChildFund-Belarus (Cost sharing with SDC)
35	Children's Pre-School Center	Vitebsk	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
36	Secondary school	Dokshitsy district	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
37	Kindergarten № 70	Vitebsk	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
38	Kindergarten № 73	Vitebsk	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
39	Secondary school № 25	Vitebsk	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
40	Vitebsk University	Vitebsk	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
41	Kindergarten	Mazolovo village (Vitebsk region)	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
42	Secondary school	Liozno district	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
43	Kindergarten № 41	Vitebsk	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
44	Kindergarten	Luzhesno village (Vitebsk region)	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
45	Secondary school № 2	Senno district	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
46	Kindergarten	Olgovo village (Vitebsk region)	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
47	Secondary school № 2	Polotsk	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
48	Secondary school № 8	Novopolotsk	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
49	Social-pedagogic center	Orsha	TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
50	Habilitation Centre for for children with disabilities	Vitebsk	TOT Parenting, TOT Parenting	Vitebsk University
51	Department of Education	Korelichy district	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
52	Social-pedagogic center	Korelichy district	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
53	Department of Education	Ostrovets district	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute

54	Secondary school	Ostrovets district	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
55	Social-pedagogic center	Mosty district	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
56	Department of Education	Mosty district	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
57	Secondary school	Grodno district	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
58	Social-pedagogic center	Grodno district	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
59	Secondary school № 14	Grodno	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
60	Secondary school №19	Grodno	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
61	Secondary school №37	Grodno	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
62	Social-pedagogic center	Schuchin district	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
63	Secondary school № 3	Schuchin district	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
64	Secondary school № 13	Grodno	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
65	Secondary school	Lida district	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
66	Social-pedagogic center	Volkovysk	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
67	Grodno Re-training Institute	Grodno	Child Protection training, ToT Parenting	Grodno Re-training Institute
68	Social-pedagogic center	Grodno	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
69	Secondary school № 27	Grodno	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
70	Secondary school № 2	Grodno	Child Protection training	Grodno Re-training Institute
71	Social-pedagogic center	Mogilev	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
72	Social-pedagogic center	Mstislavl	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
73	Department of Education	Mstislavl	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
74	Social-pedagogic center	Mogilev district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
75	Department of Education	Mogilev district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
76	Department of Education	Dribin district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
77	Social-pedagogic center	Dribin district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
78	Department of Education	Belynichy district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
79	Social-pedagogic center	Belynichy district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
80	Department of Education	Khotimsk district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
81	Social-pedagogic center	Khotimsk district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
82	Department of Education	Krichevsk district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
83	Social-pedagogic center	Krichevsk district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
84	Department of Education	Krugloe district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
85	Social-pedagogic center	Krugloe district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
86	Mogilev Re-training Institute	Mogilev	Child Protection training, ToT on Parenting	Mogilev Re-training Institute

87	Department of Education	Osipovichy district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
88	Social-pedagogic center	Osipovichy district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute
89	Social-pedagogic center	Kostukovichy district	Child Protection training	Mogilev Re-training Institute

Objective 3

Indicator 3.1 Number of the regulatory and methodological documents/standards/criteria developed.

This indicator is not applicable so far. ChildFund Belarus' Task Group has already started elaboration of the Recommendations on Social Rehabilitation. It is expected to finish this document by the end of this year.

Indicator 3.2 Number of organizations assisted as a result of Task Group activities

Methodological recommendations on Social investigation developed by Task Group last Year were distributed among 17 organizations.

No	Name of the organization	Location	Type of assistance
1	Social-pedagogic center Zavodskoy district	Minsk	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
2	Social-pedagogic center Partizansky district	Minsk	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
3	Social-pedagogic center Centralny district	Minsk	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
4	Social-pedagogic center Moskovsky district	Minsk	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
5	Social-pedagogic center Leninsky district	Minsk	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
6	Social-pedagogic center Frunzensky district	Minsk	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
7	Social-pedagogic center Oktyabrsky district	Minsk	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
8	Social-pedagogic center Sovetsky district	Minsk	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
9	Minsk Re-training Institute	Minsk	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
10	Social-pedagogic center	Soligorsk	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
11	Social-pedagogic center	Brest	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
12	Social-pedagogic center	Mstislavl	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
13	Social-pedagogic center	Belynichi	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
14	Mogilev Re-training Institute	Mogilev	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
15	Social-pedagogic center	Krichev	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
16	Social-pedagogic center	Krugloe	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»
17	Social-pedagogic center	Osipovichy	Publication «Methodological recommendations on social investigation»

Deinstitutionalization: From Guests to Family

Pavel was born into a disadvantaged family in a small Belarusian village. His parents had severe drinking problems and the little boy was often neglected. When Pavel was only 5 years old, his mom left the family and never returned. The boy was removed from his father, placed in a children's house, and soon transferred to the boarding school in Divin village.

At the very time when Pavel arrived in Divin, the boarding school started a new project focusing on Development of Guest Families for Institutionalized Orphans supported by ChildFund International through a small grants scheme under the USAID funded *Community Services to Vulnerable Groups* project's multifaceted component "Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children."

Citizens of Divin village were offered the opportunity to become guest families and invite children from the boarding school to their homes on weekends and holidays. This made it possible for orphans to see what living in a family was like, build relationships with the world outside the boarding school, and get necessary life skills from being in a family. More importantly, ordinary citizens, who first displayed distrust toward these kids, understood that their preconceptions about children from boarding schools being hooligans were false. Guest families saw them as ordinary children who needed care and warmth. The wall of estrangement was taken down and more and more families enrolled in the project.



Pavel and his foster mom preparing dinner

Now 100% of children from Divin Boarding school enjoy stays with guest families on weekends and holidays. Pavel also experienced what it was like to have a guest family.

The main goal of the project was to provide family life to institutionalized children. Some of guest families were provided with necessary training, became certified, and transformed into foster families and guardians. That's how Pavel's story turned out. For 3 years he had a guest family, with whom he spent all weekends and holidays. They grew so close that his guest parents decided to become his foster parents. Now he is 11 years old and, thanks to the project, he has finally found a loving family.

Pavel is one of 53 children placed in family-type care since the project started in 2006. Since the start of the project the number of children in the boarding school has decreased by 40 percent.



Pavel's story is special in one more way- his foster parents used to work at the boarding school. Deinstitutionalization does not enjoy the warm support of boarding school staff throughout Belarus. As the number of children at a boarding school decreases, employees get laid off. Preoccupied with their financial security, boarding school employees sometimes impede the process of adoption in any way they can so children stay at the boarding school and they keep their jobs. This is a big issue especially in small towns where a boarding school may be one of the few places to work. The Project made Divin's workers see that deinstitutionalization gives the staff of boarding

schools new opportunities to be foster parents and help children in a new way. 25 percent of all staff at Divin boarding school have become guest families, and 10 percent have become foster parents. Belarus' Ministry of Education is considering making a pilot project out of Divin's experience of transforming boarding schools to family-type care.