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**“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS”
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QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT
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Component I “Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus”

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Development objective:

Democracy, human rights and development

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Orphans and Vulnerable Children component of the *Community Services to Vulnerable Groups* project 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 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 implemented according to its work plan and budget and was characterized by preparations to and implementation of the award ceiling increase received in September 2011. Activities included selection, recruitment and orientation of additional program and technical staff, development of the Annual Implementation Plan and revision of the existing Performance Measurement Plan, and confirmation of international training providers to carry out new programmatic elements. In parallel ChildFund Belarus continued its efforts promoting sustainability of previously introduced programmatic elements including reformation of the child protection system, development of family type placement for orphaned children, and improvement of parenting skills and competencies to prevent child abuse and neglect.

All these activities have created a solid platform for effective implementation, management, and coordination of intensive programmatic activities including trainings and integrated prevention and rehabilitation services.

One of the main project highlights was a National Conference on Quality Standards in Child Protection that was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, the Academy of Post-Diploma Education and the INGO "Hope and Homes for Children". Among 150 participants there were representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection, the Heads/ Deputy Heads of Educational Departments from each oblast, child protection authorities, and practitioners from all over the country as well as scientists and faculties from higher educational institutions. OVC partners from the targeted communities presented the positive impact of quality standards pioneered by their respective communities during the course of project implementation, and innovative programs and services that helped to implement the new quality standards. Within a series of master classes OVC Task Group members presented two standards developed by the Task Group members as well as a database developed to support multidisciplinary cooperation in the targeted communities. One of the main outcomes of the Conference was that Action Plans were developed and presented by each oblast which aimed to incorporate the new Quality Standards into the practice of their child protection systems.

This quarter ChildFund undertook its efforts to mobilize the NGO community for more active participation in the de-institutionalization process and child protection. Eighteen (18) participants representing 16 NGOs from all over Belarus participated in training on Child Abuse and Neglect where they learned about the risk factors and the multi-faceted consequences of child abuse and neglect and its impact on different social and health problems such as HIV/AIDS/STIs, substance abuse, reproductive health, all types of violence, juvenile delinquencies, social orphanhood and

institutionalization. The participants identified the NGO role in child abuse and neglect prevention and came up with their ideas for innovative projects. About 50% of them submitted their proposals to the small grant competitions announced this quarter.

This quarter ChildFund pioneered an adoption training course with U.S. experts. It was the first ever in Belarus training on adoption that introduced local specialists to the best international practices and modern approaches to adoption development. The participants highly appreciated the knowledge and skills obtained at the first two training sessions.

Geographic expansion and implementation of three selected project components was based on extensive training for service providers and small grants. Like in the previous year, training was conducted in partnership with the network of 6 re-training institutes. By the end of this quarter four (4) of them (67%) (Grodno, Brest, Mogilev and Minsk oblast re-training institutes) absorbed all three main components and had trained faculties to implement the innovative training programs independently.

ChildFund Belarus continued its partnership with the network of Committees on Juvenile Delinquency. Upon the request of the Minsk City Committee on Juvenile Delinquency ChildFund Belarus conducted a 3-day workshop on the Family-centered Approach to Child Protection for the heads of 7 district committees on Juvenile Delinquency and police departments of Minsk.

At the request of the Ministry of Education, ChildFund Belarus submitted *33 proposals* to be included in the National Action Plan to Improve Children's Lives and Protect Children's Rights for 2012-2015. These proposals aimed to improve the functioning of the child protection system (early detection, introduction of quality standards into national legislation, improvement of re-training for child protection specialists and inclusive education).

Two Calls for proposals were announced to support the development of multidisciplinary cooperation in child protection services, a life skills training program for children and teenagers (Aflatoun¹), family type care (PRIDE model), dissemination and sustainability of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in local communities, inclusion of children with disabilities and their families, and services for children with disabilities. As a result of the first Call for Proposals, *18 small projects (out of 68 proposals received)* for a total amount of **\$140,517.79** were selected for funding and the money will be transferred next quarter.

In summary, thus far:

- **5 projects** on child protection reforms for a total amount of \$12,920 USD awarded in Year 6 were in operation this quarter. These small grant projects aimed to reform the local child protection systems and to strengthen the multidisciplinary cooperation of child protection agencies.
- **1,048 parents** and **124 children** have been meaningfully served.
- **240 child protection specialists and 39 representatives of NGOs** improved their expertise in service provision to vulnerable children and families at trainings provided by ChildFund trainers.
- **465 child protection specialists** from local communities were trained on a Family-Centered Approach by TOT alumni.

C. CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS

- The training program on Home visitation planned for December 16-20 was postponed due to force majeure (injury received by trainer on the eve of her travel to Belarus). The training was re-scheduled for February 2012.

¹ Aflatoun is a Program of Social and Financial Education for Children and Youth. Aflatoun helps children and teenagers to learn how to: - appreciate and respect their own uniqueness and special characteristics as well as the uniqueness and special characteristics of others; - appreciate and defend their rights and those of others, while fulfilling their responsibilities as good citizens; - know and value the appropriate use of natural material and financial resources and prioritize their use in a responsible manner; - value the importance of planning and budgeting resources; - set goals, plan and coordinate resources, and implement plans accordingly; - design and manage social and financial enterprises that contribute to self-improvement, the school and community.

- The quality of the proposals submitted by NGOs as well as by state sponsored social organizations was very poor. Only 1 of 68 projects submitted within the first Call for Proposals did not require any additional work. ChildFund Belarus project staff had to provide additional support and unplanned individual and group consultations to the prospective partners in order to achieve acceptable quality of the documents.
- An economic crisis broke out in Belarus in March 2011 and continues today. Belarus National Bank devalued the Belarusian ruble against the dollar by 189% during 2011. This led to rapid price growth for foodstuffs, gas, and oil. The crisis affected the most vulnerable groups of the population, who are ChildFund Belarus' target groups. Shrinking community resources can jeopardize the sustainability of the project's interventions.
- High level of staff turnover in child protection services became a barrier for sustainability of project interventions. It led to a decreasing number of communities with trained specialists (from 119 in the previous year to 117 by the end of this quarter) ChildFund Belarus will make a plan of action to sustain the project interventions in local communities through partnership with Re-training Institutes.
- Limited human resources of oblast re-training institutes (2-3 people) put at risk further implementation of training programs introduced by the project. In order to minimize this risk ChildFund promoted the idea of inviting external specialists (ChildFund trainers) to do training programs for re-training institutes. Re-training institute must cover all trainer's expenses (fee, travel, accommodation). This model has already been successfully piloted in Mogilev oblast re-training institute and will be shared with the other institutes.
- Specialists from Brest Re-training institute provided training on a Family-centered Approach for a group of trainees—mostly who were teachers from rural and remote areas and who were not involved in the child protection system. In other words, the composition of the training group was not ideal. Although the trainees use their knowledge and skills in their everyday work with children, they are not well positioned or authorized to train specialists from child protection system organizations. This situation was discussed with the administration of the institute and a contingency plan was developed. The plan includes improvement of communication and reaching mutual agreement between ChildFund and the Re-training institutes regarding the list and categories of the participants of the next training groups in advance of the trainings.

D. LESSONS LEARNED

- The first two Calls for proposals showed that many organizations (both NGOs and state- sponsored social services) had some promising ideas but needed more time and support to transform them into project proposals. New TOT alumni could also submit their projects inspired by training but many of them completed their training when the Call for proposals was closed. It was decided that ChildFund Belarus would announce an on-going Call for proposals on child abuse and neglect prevention without a fixed deadline. The proposals will be evaluated on an on-going basis as soon as they are received. It is expected that this scheme will work until the end of March 2012.
- Close communication with the oblast level authorities at the National Conference on Quality Standards in Child Protection showed that the oblast level statics and indicators of de-institutionalization directly correlate with the level of awareness and motivation for change among oblast level authorities, especially Heads of Committees on Juvenile Delinquency, and Child Protection Departments. Further replication and sustainability of introduced innovations depend very much on the personal attitudes and capacity of this group of stakeholders. ChildFund will target oblast level authorities from the most problematic areas (first, Vitebsk and Minsk oblasts) with advocacy interventions and technical assistance. This quarter a work plan was coordinated with Minsk oblast; Vitebsk oblast will be discussed next quarter.

II. ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1: *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.*

This quarter three types of services continued their replication including reformation of the child protection system, development of family type placement for orphaned children (PRIDE model), and improvement of parenting skills and competencies to prevent child abuse and neglect (Parenting Skills Enhancement Program). Most of the services this quarter were implemented through allocated community resources. Five small grants that were awarded last year continued this quarter to support child protection reforms. To broaden the palette of effective protection and rehabilitation services for children and parents this quarter ChildFund Belarus issued two Calls for Proposals.

In total this quarter:

- **Five (5)** small grant projects for a total sum of \$12,920 awarded last year were in operation to implement child protection reforms.
- **124** children and **1,048** parents were meaningfully served by new/improved community based services; **100%** of these services were covered through allocated community resources.
- 68 new proposals were received within the first Call for Proposals announced in October 2011.
- **18 small grant projects** (out of 68 proposals received) for a total sum of \$ 140,517.79 were selected for funding through the first Call for Proposals.
- **29** proposals (8 of them were from NGOs) were received within the second Call for Proposals announced in November 2011.

<i>Activity: Calls for Proposals- 1st Call- In October 2011, 2nd Call- In November 2011)</i>	
Annual target	Actual targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) Calls* for Proposals issued. They will be focused on multidisciplinary cooperation in child protection services, home visitation, life skills training program for children and teenagers (Aflatoun), inclusion of children with disabilities and their families, services for children with disabilities, family type care development (PRIDE program), information campaigns and adoption, dissemination and sustainability of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) Calls for Proposals were issued. They were focused on multidisciplinary cooperation in child protection services, life skills training program for children and teenagers (Aflatoun), inclusion of children with disabilities and their families, services for children with disabilities, family type care development (PRIDE program), and dissemination and sustainability of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in local communities. • 68 proposals were received within the first Call (23 of them were from NGOs), 18 projects were selected for further financing; 3 of them were submitted by NGOs**. • 29 proposals (8 of them were from NGOs) were submitted to the second Call***
<p>Notes: *According to the Annual Implementation Plan the third Call for proposals aimed at information campaigns and adoption will be announced next quarter **18 small grants selected from the first Call for a total amount of \$140,517.79 will be awarded in the next quarter ***Selection process for the second Call for proposals will be completed next quarter</p>	

Workshops on Proposal Writing

Two Calls for proposal announced this quarter were supported by two workshops on Proposal Writing

<i>Activity: Two workshops on Proposal Writing (17th of October, 2011 and 29th of November, 2011)</i>	
Annual targets	Actual targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three (3) workshops and individual consultations on project design/proposal writing * • At least 30 interested organizations receive appropriate consultation and increase their knowledge and skills in writing a proposal in accordance with ChildFund Belarus' standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two workshops and individual consultations on proposal writing/project design were organized. • 71 representatives from 63 interested organizations (34 child protection agencies and 29 NGOs) received appropriate consultation and increase their knowledge and skills in writing a proposal in accordance with ChildFund Belarus' standards and requirements.

Notes:

* According to the Annual Implementation Plan the third workshop on proposal writing will be conducted next quarter to support the third Call for Proposals.

Outcome:

48 project proposals (76% of trained organizations) for both calls were submitted by the participants of two workshops.

Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

Within the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program the participants were offered training sessions about emotional, physical, psychological and sexual violence and its effects on the development of children and adolescents; the reasons for a child's misbehavior and methods of non-violent disciplining of children, stress management, and self-regulation. The participants were encouraged to foster assertive parenting styles that respect the rights of children and parents.

This quarter, the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program was implemented in **55** locations in **Mogilev, Minsk, Vitebsk, Grodno** oblasts (*for more details, please see Annex 1 Project Map*). The Program was successfully implemented by the alumni of Parenting TOTs organized by ChildFund in previous project years.

In total:

- **701 people (58 groups)** attended the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in schools and kindergartens in 55 geographic locations; **47% of parents (332 people)** attending the course were those under supervision of child protection services or those parenting children with disabilities;
- **31** of 58 groups were completed by the end of this quarter while **27** training groups will continue next quarter.
- **100% of all** Parenting Skills Enhancement Program groups were trained using allocated local resources.

Outcomes of Parenting Skills Enhancement Program:

The program helps to prevent child abuse and neglect by addressing the risk factors of child maltreatment such as parental knowledge and expectations about child development, parental attitudes and skills regarding discipline, and using non-violent methods of interaction between parent and child. Outcomes are illustrated by the following indicators:

- 82% of parents reported they demonstrate an assertive parenting style;
- 73% of parents reported that they know the reasons for child's misbehavior;
- 81% of parents know and practice non-violent methods of discipline;
- 81% reported they know about the stages of a child's development;
- 78% reported understanding a child's feelings and emotions and practice proper reaction.

Life Skills for Institutionalized Children

One hundred and five (105) institutionalized children continued mastering life skills through life skills education classes in Zhodino, Orsha, Chausy, Volozhin, Divin and Kobrin using equipment purchased for these purposes. They also continued mastering sewing and carpentry skills, repaired old clothes, created new ones, and practiced cooking.

Family type care development

ChildFund used the PRIDE model for the development and support of family type community care and resource families (adoptive and foster parents). The PRIDE program helps foster and adoptive parents to develop five essential competencies including: protecting and nurturing children; meeting children's developmental needs and addressing developmental delays; supporting relationships between children and their biological families; connecting children to safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime, and working as a member of a professional team.

In the reported period the PRIDE program has been continued in **23** geographic locations (in comparison with 27 locations that were covered by the service within Year 6) in **Brest oblast** (Brest, Ivanovo, Kobrin, Baranovichy, Luninets, Kobrin, Drogichin, Stolin), **Grodno oblast** (Lida, Zelva, Volkovysk, Dyatlovo, Mosty, Oshmyany, Novogrudok), **Mogilev oblast** (Chausy), Minsk and **Minsk oblast** (Molodechno, Cherven', Luban, Logoisk, Slutsk), and Svetlogorsk. This quarter PRIDE training program was implemented using local community resources.

In total:

- **71 prospective** foster/adoptive parents participated in the PRIDE pre-service training program in Brest oblast (Brest, Baranovichy, Ivanovo, Luninets, Kobrin), Grodno oblast (Smorgon, Lida, Volkovysk), Molodechno, and Minsk.

- **Family type care** has been provided for **19 children** by the foster/adoptive parents trained this quarter, including **8 (42%)** children who have been adopted and **11 children (57%)** who have been placed into foster families.
- **276 foster/adoptive parents** from Brest oblast (Brest, Ivanovo, Drogichin, Stolin), Minsk region, Grodno oblast (Lida, Oshmyany, Zelva, Dyatlovo, Novogrudok, Mosty), Minsk oblast (Cherven', Logoisk, Luban', Slutsk), Svetlogorsk, Chausy and Minsk mastered their parenting skills through the PRIDE in-service program.

Please, find more information in Annex 3 Success Story

Reforming the Child Protection System

One of pre-conditions for successful child protection reforms is dissemination of new knowledge among the specialists of child protection agencies. This quarter the replication of the program on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection was implemented by TOT alumni in **Mogilev oblast** (Mogilev, Chausy, Kirovsk), **Grodno oblast** (Grodno, Grodno region, Ostrovets, Beresovitsa, Voronova and Zelva), **Brest oblast** (Brest region, Zhabinka, Gantsevichy, Pruzhany, Pinsk, Baranovichy, Kobrin) and **Vitebsk oblast** (Polotsk, Glubokoe, Novopolotsk). As a follow-up of the TOT:

- **465** community child protection specialists from local schools, shelters, and kindergartens were trained. Expenses were covered by local communities.

Community child protection specialists obtained knowledge about the early detection of abused and neglected children, effects of child abuse and neglect on a child's development, investigation, family assessment and case planning; the emotional impact of a child's removal on family members, attachment, separation and placement; and engaging families in the initial stages of family-centered child protective services.

Small grants for Child Protection Systems Reform

In order to support child protection reform 5 small projects for a total sum of \$12,920 continued implementation in Mogilev and Grodno oblasts. The Alumni of TOT courses of a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection Services from Grodno and Mogilev cities as well as from Kirovsk and Ostrovets towns were the driving force of the projects. Trainings on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection for multidisciplinary teams were the first steps to strengthening multidisciplinary cooperation and reforming the child protection system in Mogilev and Grodno oblasts' local communities.

Further steps towards reformation of the child protection system were focused on supporting community Expert Groups that developed the Procedure for Investigation and Rehabilitation of at Risk Families that regulated multidisciplinary cooperation of the different local organizations (health, education, police). The document was officially approved by local authorities in Mogilev. In Ostrovets town the Procedure will be discussed among project partners at a round table and will be approved by local authorities in the next quarter.

For more information, please see Annex 2 Small Grant report

OBJECTIVE 2: 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.

This quarter ChildFund pioneered an adoption training course with US experts. It was the first training program ever in Belarus on adoption that introduced local specialists to the best international practices and modern approaches to adoption development.

The goal of improving the quality of training and education available for social service providers was also achieved through partnership with the network of re-training institutes. These institutes shared the cost for expenses and provided their logistical and administrative support to ChildFund's training activity. Participation of the staff of the re-training institutes in ChildFund capacity building events created a platform for incorporation of new training programs in their regular curriculum and further sustainability in dissemination of new knowledge and best practices to Belarus' regions. The project partner institutes increased their absorption capacity this quarter.

- **Grodno oblast Re-Training Institute:** In addition to a Family-centered Approach program, Grodno oblast Re-training institute incorporated the Parenting Skills Enhancement program into their regular curriculum for 2012.
- **Brest oblast Re-Training Institute:** This quarter Brest started the In-Service PRIDE training Program for the group of trainees who previously completed Pre-service PRIDE.
- **Vitebsk oblast Re-Training Institute** enriched its cadre with a trainer on a Family-Centered Approach. As a result, they incorporated this Program into their regular curriculum for 2012.
- **Minsk oblast Re-Training Institute:** in partnership with ChildFund started a Family-Centered Approach training course for community specialists from Minsk oblast.
- **Minsk City Re-Training Institute:** in partnership with ChildFund started a Family-Centered Approach training course for the specialists from Minsk city child protection system organizations.
- **Mogilev oblast Re-Training Institute:** in addition to the course on a Family-centered Approach in Child Protection incorporated the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program into their regular curriculum for 2012; two trained faculties will deliver this TOT.

By the end of the quarter:

- **206 local child protection specialists and 18 NGOs' representatives** were trained
- **171 organizations**, including **16 NGOs** were assisted to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families (on PRIDE, Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and Family-centered Approach to Child Protection Services, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Project Design, and Adoption training program).

International Training Program on Adoption

To promote national adoption as the first-priority form of family type care for orphans ChildFund Belarus in partnership with the Institute for Human Services (Ohio, USA) developed a training course on adoption which consisted of three 3-day workshops. This quarter the first two of three workshops were successfully conducted and they strengthened the capacity of local child protection specialists.

Activity: Training Program on Adoption (31st of October – 2nd of November; December 5th-7th, 2011)	
Annual targets*	Actual targets achieved
<p><i>Adoption training program, 3 workshops* 3 days each.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 25 child protection specialists of local communities will be trained • 80% of specialists report improvements of specific knowledge and skills related to the training topics; • 75% improve the system of training for prospective adoptive families in their communities.** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 child protection specialists of local communities and leading child protection organizations took part in two workshops on Adoption. Among them were faculties of partner re-training institutes, a team of the specialists from the National Adoption Center and its branches from 6 oblasts, leading child protection practitioners, and lecturers from universities. • 100 % of trainees reported improvement of knowledge and skills on innovative methods of recruiting adoptive families, family and child assessment, and matching, placement and post-adoption services.
<p>Notes:</p> <p>* According to the Annual Implementation Plan the third workshop will be held in January 2012.</p> <p>** too early to assess, will be evaluated upon completion of all three workshops next quarter</p>	

Trainings of Trainers (TOTs) on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

Activity: TOTs on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program at Minsk Children's Creativity Center (November 30th – December 2nd, December 12th -14th).	
Annual targets	Actual targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two groups *(24 specialists) will be trained on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in partnership with Vitebsk Oblast Re-training Institute and Minsk Children's Creativity Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 group of thirteen (13) specialists from 6 educational institutions from Minsk was trained on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in partnership with Minsk Children's Creativity Center (November 30th – December 2th, December 12th -14th).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 specialists will be trained on the topic; • 80% of the participants report improvements of specific knowledge and skills related to good parenting, strong attachment between parent and children at the age 0-3; positive non-physical disciplinary techniques will be encouraged as prevention of institutionalization. • 75% of the participants implement this program on the local level.** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 trainees obtained knowledge and skills, related to good parenting, strong attachment between parent and children at the age 0-3; positive non-physical disciplinary techniques, the process of group work, adult learning techniques, interactive methods of teaching, and implementation of an M&E system. • 100% of the participants reported improvement of specific knowledge and skills on the training topics.
<p>Notes: *According to annual Implementation Plan TOT with Vitebsk Re-training Institute will be conducted next quarter. ** The trained specialists will start their training groups on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in 2012.</p>	

Training on a Family-centered Approach in Child Protection Services

This quarter the training program on Family-centered Approach to Child Protection Services was continued in partnership with Vitebsk and Brest oblast Re-training Institutes. ChildFund Belarus launched the Family-centered Approach training program in two institutes- Minsk City Re-training Institute and Minsk oblast Re-training Institute.

<p>Activity: Training courses on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection at Minsk oblast Re-training Institute (28th – 30th of October, 2011; 9th-11th of November 2011; 30th of November–2nd of December 2011; 21st-23rd of December, 2011) and at Minsk City Re-training Institute (5th – 7th of December 2011).</p>	
<p>Annual targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 2 groups of 30 community child protection specialists and educators from 2 Re-training Institutes will be trained on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection. * • 80% of the trainees improve knowledge and skills on child abuse and neglect identification, case-planning, family engagement, family assessment and social investigation; • 75% of trainees start new initiatives in reforming local child protection system**. 	<p>Actual targets achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 groups of 50 community child protection specialists and educators of 36 organizations from 9 geographic locations have been trained in partnership with Minsk City Re-training Institute (25 participants including 2 faculties) and Minsk oblast Re-training Institute (25 participants including 1 faculty) this quarter. • 100% of them reported improvements in knowledge and skills related to investigative processes, the effects of abuse and neglect on child development, engaging families, family assessment and case planning, placement and reunification of families. • 96% (48 of 50 people) reported using the obtained knowledge and skills in their work in the child protection system.
<p>Notes: * This activity was planned for quarter 3. ChildFund and partner Re-training Institutes from Minsk oblast and Minsk city asked to start this training program in quarter 1 so that the participants would implement their initiatives in reforming the local child protection system within the project period. ** too early to assess, will be evaluated upon completion of all three workshops next quarter upon completion of the training course</p>	

<p>Activity: TOTs for the specialists trained on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection in Brest (19th -21st of October 2011) and Vitebsk (5th -7th of October 2011) oblast Re-training Institutes</p>	
<p>Annual targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three groups* of at least 45 specialists from Brest, Minsk and Vitebsk oblasts will be trained as the trainers for replication of the program on the local level. • 80% of the trainees learn about methods of organizing trainings for adults, types and particulars of active methods of learning, 	<p>Actual targets achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) groups of 27 specialists from local communities of Brest (13 participants) and Vitebsk oblasts (14 participants) who completed a TOT on a Family-centered Approach in Year 6 were trained as trainers this quarter. • 98% of the trainees learned about methods of organizing trainings for adults, types and particulars of active methods of learning, interactive teaching, working with difficult trainees.

<p>interactive teaching, working with difficult trainees;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% of trainers will replicate the program on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection on the community level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63% of TOT alumni (17 of 27 trainers) trained this quarter started their step-down trainings for child protection specialists in their local communities.
<p>Notes:</p> <p>* Next quarter two more TOT groups will be trained in Minsk oblast and Minsk City Re-training Institutes</p> <p><i>Two faculties</i> from Vitebsk Oblast Re-training Institute and one faculty from Brest Re-training Institute participated in TOT and gained knowledge and skill necessary to replicate the program in the Institute. Vitebsk incorporated the training program on a Family-centered Approach into their regular curriculum for 2012.</p>	

PRIDE model

This quarter the PRIDE training program was successfully continued in 5 Re-training Institutes. Brest oblast and Minsk City Re-training Institutes initiated the next stage of the PRIDE training program on supporting parents who raise foster/adopted children (In-service PRIDE). ChildFund Belarus has launched the PRIDE Pre-service training program in Mogilev oblast Re-training Institute.

<i>Activity: TOTs on family type care development for orphans (PRIDE methodology)</i>	
Annual targets	Actual targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training course on PRIDE pre-service (3 three-day sessions) and in-service (4 three-day sessions) will be conducted in partnership with 5 Re-training Institutes for 75 specialists involved in family-type care development. 80% of specialists will report improvements of specific knowledge and skills related to the training topics; 75% participants will improve the system of training for prospective foster/adoptive families as well as foster and adoptive families in their communities. 	<p>Training course on PRIDE pre-service (3 three-day sessions) and in-service (4 three-day sessions) was conducted in partnership with 5 Re-training Institutes for 81 specialists involved in family-type care development. They were:</p> <p>Grodno Oblast Re-training Institute: 15 child protection specialists from 13 organizations from Grodno oblast continued the In-service PRIDE Training Program (19th-21st of December 2011).</p> <p>Minsk City Re-training Institute: 25 child protection specialists from Minsk and Minsk region started the In-Service PRIDE Program (24th-28th of October, 2011).</p> <p>Minsk oblast Re-training Institute: 9 child protection specialists of 9 child protection organizations from regions of Minsk oblast continued the In-Service PRIDE training program (24th-26th of November, 2011).</p> <p>Brest oblast Re-training Institute): 16 child protection specialists from 12 organizations from Brest oblast started In-Service PRIDE program (21st-23^d of November 2011).</p> <p>Mogilev oblast Re-training Institute: 16 local community specialists completed Pre-Service PRIDE program, including the Training of Trainers (12th - 14th of October; 9th - 11th of November; 7th – 9th of December,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% of specialists reported improvements of specific knowledge and skills related to the training topics. 75% of the trainees applied the obtained knowledge and skills on the PRIDE model in working with foster/adoptive parents this quarter.

Note:

* These targets were planned for quarters 1-3. The In-service trainings will be continued in quarters 2-3. Groups from Grodno, Minsk city, and Minsk oblast as well as from Brest will continue training next quarter while the group in Mogilev completed the pre-service program

NGO Capacity Building in Child Protection

To ensure more active participation of civil society organizations in child protection ChildFund Belarus developed and conducted training on child protection and prevention of child abuse and neglect. As a result, 8 out of 18 training participants submitted 7 project proposals initiating new services for children and families in the second Call for Proposals.

Activity: Workshop for NGOs on child abuse and neglect prevention and rehabilitation, project design (11th -12th of November 2011)

Annual targets	Actual targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 15 representatives of NGOs will be trained • 80% of NGOs' representatives will improve their knowledge on the effects of child abuse and neglect on a child's development and child abuse and neglect identification. • 70% of NGOs will participate in ChildFund's sub-grants contest to start new prevention and rehabilitation services.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 representatives of 16 NGOs were trained. • 100% of NGOs' representatives obtained specific knowledge about risk factors and effects of child abuse and neglect on a child's development. The trainees discussed opportunities for their involvement in the creation and support of new prevention and rehabilitation services. • 50% of NGOs (8 of 18) participated in ChildFund's small grants contest to start new prevention and rehabilitation services*

Notes:

* This target will be also evaluated in the next quarter, as one more Call for Proposals is to be announced.

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.

National Conference on Quality Standards in Child Protection (16th -18th of October 2011).

This quarter ChildFund Belarus in partnership with the Ministry of Education, UNICEF, and the INGO "Hope and Homes for Children" held a **National Conference on Quality Standards in Child Protection**. About 150 representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection as well as higher educational institutions, Academy of Post-Diploma Education, Heads of Oblast Committees on Juvenile Delinquency, and child protection authorities from all over the country participated in the Conference. OVC partners from the targeted communities presented on the positive impact of quality standards pioneered by their respective communities during the course of project implementation, and innovative programs and services that helped to implement the new quality standards. Within the series of masters classes OVC Task Group members presented two standards developed by the Task Group members as well as a database developed to support multidisciplinary cooperation in the targeted communities. One of the main outcomes of the Conference was the Action Plans developed and presented by each oblast which aimed to incorporate the new quality standards into practice within their child protection systems.

In the final resolution of the Conference the participants recommended incorporation of the developed documents in national child protection practice.

Advocacy & Lobbying

ChildFund Belarus continued strengthening its role in the national child protection arena. By the request of the Ministry of Education ChildFund Belarus submitted *33 proposals* to be included in the National Action Plan to Improve Children's Lives and Protect Children's Rights for 2012-2015. These proposals aimed to improve functioning of the child protection system (early detection, introduction of quality standards into the national legislation), improvement of re-training for child protection specialists, and inclusive education.

Raising Awareness of the Committees on Juvenile Delinquents

ChildFund Belarus puts its efforts into incorporating changes into the child protection system not only through close cooperation with local authorities, but also through maintaining partnerships with regional Committees on Juvenile Delinquents. Due to the success of the workshop for Committees on Juvenile Delinquents from Grodno, Brest, and Minsk oblasts conducted in Year 6 ChildFund Belarus received a request from Minsk City Committee on Juvenile Delinquents to provide a workshop on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection. The workshop was conducted by trainers of ChildFund Belarus' national trainers' team from the 23rd to the 25th of November 2011. The heads of 7 district committees on Juvenile Delinquents of Minsk, front-line child protection practitioners, and district police departments involved in the child protection system (27 participants in total) participated in the event.

Task Group on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

This quarter the Task Group developed a new training module on child abuse and neglect and their effects on child development. These topics will strengthen the existing Parenting Skills Enhancement Program. At the meeting (*24th-25th of October 2011*) the Task Group approved the final version of the training module that will be piloted by trainers on parenting in the next quarter.

III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

• Coordination with USAID

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

In December 2011 Mary Moran (Sr. Program Specialist – ECD, ChildFund International Headquarters) and Irina Mironova, Chief of Party, visited the DCOF office in Washington and shared the success 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 Skype.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

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

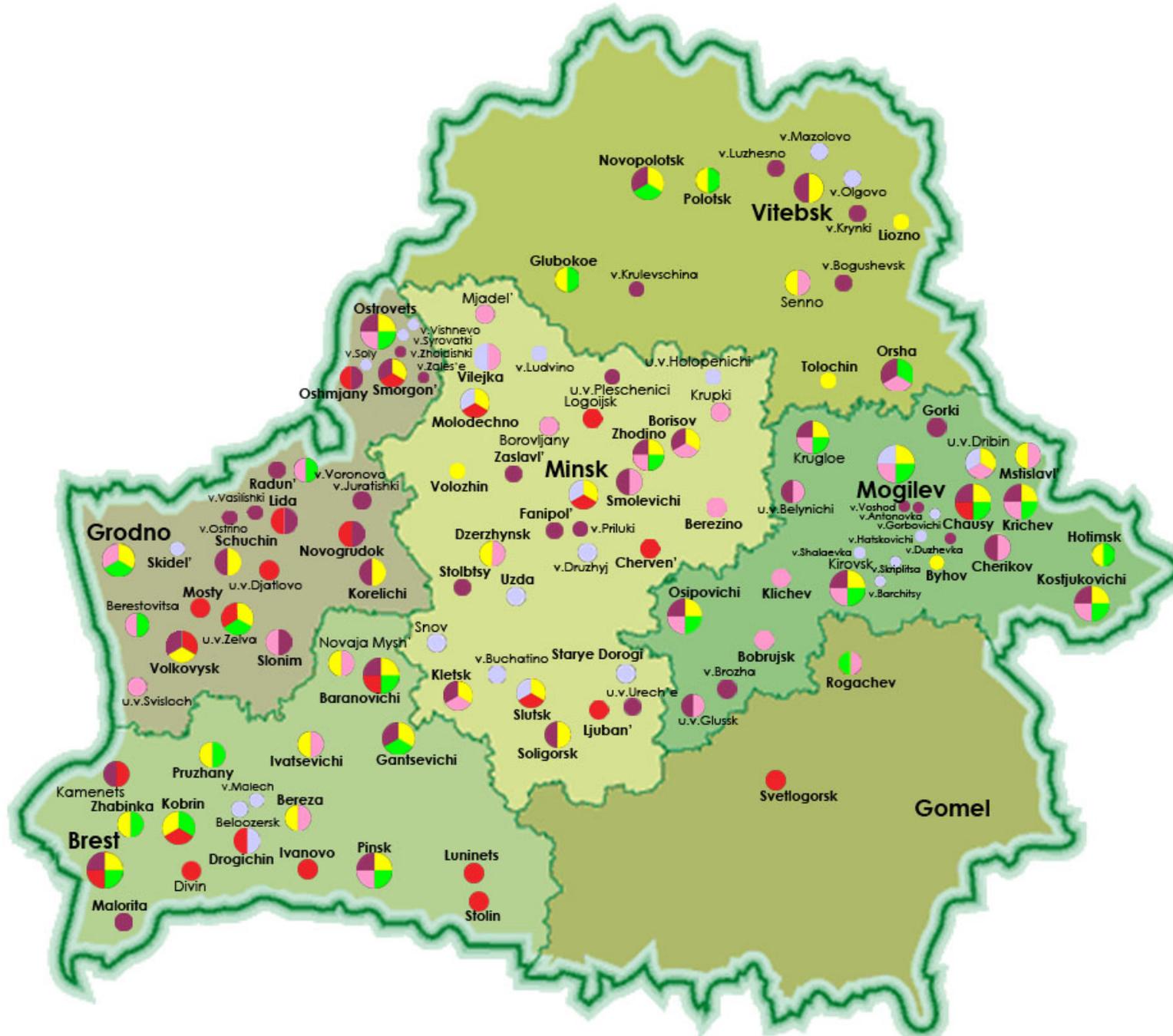
This quarter two new specialists joined ChildFund Belarus' team. Julia Popruzhenko was hired as the Small Grants Manager and Natalia Veko was hired as the Child Protection Specialist on Home visitation programs.

Irina Mironova, Chief of Party, successfully completed training on USAID/Federal Rules and Regulations conducted by InsideNGO in Washington DC. Travel, accommodation and training fees were charged to the project.

V. BUDGET

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

Annex 1: Geographic expansion of OVC project component (October – December 2011)



PRIDE

- implementation
- trained specialists

Child Protection

- reforming of child protection system
- trained specialists

Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

- implementation
- trained specialists

v. – village

u.v. urban village

Annex 2. Small grants implemented between October 2011–December 2011

#	NGO Name	Project name	Grant amount	Status
I. Creation of network database on child protection:				
1	Department of Education of Chausy Executive Committee	Cross-sector cooperation on child and family protection through creation of unified informational record system	\$24,851	In progress March 26, 2008- June 1, 2011 the project is prolonged until January 31, 2012
II. Reforming Child Protection System:				
1	Mogilev City Social-Pedagogic Center	Family-centered Approach in Mogilev child protection system	\$2,500	Completed April 18, 2011- December 18, 2011
2	Education Department of Grodno Executive Committee	Developing Multidisciplinary Cooperation of Child Protection Organizations	\$2,500	In progress May 6, 2011 - February 6, 2012 (the project was on hold for 2 months during summer time)
3	Education Department of Ostrovets Executive Committee	Prevention of Social Orphanage through introduction of Family-centered Approach in Child Protection System	\$2,500	In progress May 12, 2011- October 12, 2011 the project is prolonged until January 31, 2012
4	Education Department of Kirovsk Executive Committee	Family is Everyone's Concern	\$2,500	In progress May 30, 2011 January 30, 2012
5	Grodno Region Institute of Development of Education	No More Children's Tears	\$2,920	In progress June 2, 2011- March 2, 2012

				(the project was on hold for 2 months during summer time)
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I. Creation of network database on child protection:

NGO name: Department of Education of Chausy Executive Committee		Grant amount: \$24,851	Project dates: March 26, 2008- January 31, 2012
NGO contact information: 17, Leninskaya Str., Chausy, Mogilyov Region			
Project name: Cross-sector cooperation on child and family protection through creation of unified information and referral system			
Brief description:	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		
Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 organizations involved in child protection system (Social Services Center, Interior Department, Committee for Juvenile Delinquency, Central Hospital, Department of Education) provided with IT equipment to set up a network that connects partner organizations to a database server • 10 specialists from Chausy and Chausy region who work in the child protection system (education, healthcare, and law enforcement) trained to use the children database • Security protocol that defines roles and tasks of each service involved in social investigation and rehabilitation is developed • 5 organizations involved in the child protection system (Social Services Center, Interior Department, Committee for Juvenile Delinquency, Central Hospital, Department of Education) in Chausy use the network database that complies with the Database Procedures passed by the Local Executive Committee 		
Achieved project outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The network equipment was purchased and installed 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VPN-network that connects partner organizations to a database server was set up
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 organizations involved in child protection system were connected into the multidisciplinary network
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 specialists who work in the child protection system (healthcare, education, and law enforcement) were trained to use the database
Comments on the project activity	The server is fixed and will be placed in Chausy from the IT company in Minsk by January 13, 2012. There is an agreement with the company that provides Internet service for the database that it will be providing the support in setting up the server with the database and partner organizations and the function of the network system in general. It is expected that all works on server settlement and adjustments will be completed and the network system will start functioning by January 31, 2012.

II. Reforming Child Protection System:

NGO name: Mogilev City Social-Pedagogic Center	Grant amount: \$2,500	Project dates: April 18, 2011- December 18, 2011
Project duration: 8 months		
NGO contact information: 2a Melnikova str, Mogilev, Belarus		
Project name:	Family-centered Approach in Mogilev Child Protection System	
Brief description:	The goal of the project is to reform the child protection system and increase professional competence of local multidisciplinary teams of the specialists in Mogilev city by implementing a family-centered approach in the child protection system.	
Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 specialists who work in the child protection system (healthcare, education, social services, and law enforcement) trained in the family-centered approach in the child protection system as a part of a multidisciplinary team 	

- 169 specialists from Mogilev social and educational public agencies take part in the annual conference where the report on a family-centered approach in the child protection system will be presented.
- Expert group develops the document that regulates the procedure of the functioning of the child protection system organizations and presents it to the representatives

Established services and number of beneficiaries:

Number of participants: Total In the reported period

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • 15 specialists who work in the child protection system (healthcare, education, social services and law enforcement) participated in the trainings on a family-centered approach in the child protection system. | 15 specialists (1 male/14 females) | 15 specialists (1 male/14 females) |
| • Presentation of a family-centered approach on the annual meeting for the child protection system specialists | 169 people (3 males/166 females) | 169 people (3 males/166 females) |
| • Expert group develop the document that regulates the procedure of functioning of child protection system organizations | 7 people (7 females) | 7 people (7 females) |
| • The round table with the representatives of the Commission on Juvenile Delinquency, Ministry of Education, child protection organizations | 18 people (18 females) | 18 people (18 females) |

Comments on the project activity

The specialists who were trained on the family centered approach developed the document that regulates the procedure of the functioning of the child protection system organizations In Mogilev. This document was discussed at the round table that was held with the representatives of the Commission on Juvenile Delinquency, Ministry of Education, child protection organizations. As a result of the round table, the Commission on Juvenile Delinquency took responsibility for controlling the implementation of the regulated order of child protection organizations `cooperation. This shows that the child protection specialists see the importance of the family-oriented approach in their work and understand the significance of the cooperation with other departments involved in the child protection system.

NGO name: Education Department of Grodno Executive Committee **Grant amount:** \$2,500 **Project dates:** May 6, 2011 - February 6, 2012
Project duration: 10 months

NGO contact information: 76a Vrublevskogo str., Grodno, Belarus

Project name: Developing multidisciplinary cooperation of child protection organizations

Brief description: The goal of the project is to increase the professional competence of local specialists involved in the child protection system and strengthen multidisciplinary cooperation through implementation of a training program and developing the regulatory documents for the child protection system.

- Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:**
- 22 specialists who work in the child protection system (healthcare, education, social services and law enforcement) trained the family-centered approach in the child protection system as part of multidisciplinary team
 - Grodno City Executive Committee develops the document that regulates the procedure of the functioning of the child protection system organizations in the region

Established services and number of beneficiaries:	Number of participants:	Total	In the reported period
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 specialists who work in child protection system (healthcare, education, social services, and law enforcement) participated in the trainings on the family-centered approach in the child protection system as the part of multidisciplinary team 	23 (2 males/ 21 females)

NGO name: Education Department of Ostrovets Executive Committee **Grant amount:** \$2,500 **Project dates:** May 12, 2011- January 12, 2012
Project duration: 8 months

NGO contact information: 5 Pionerskaya str, Ostrovets, Belarus

Project name:	Prevention of social orphanage through introduction of a family-centered approach in the child protection system		
Brief description:	The goal of the project is to reform the child protection system in Ostrovets and develop multidisciplinary cooperation within the child protection system organizations by introducing a family-centered approach and creation of the document that regulates the procedure of child protection organizations functioning in the region.		
Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 specialists who work in the child protection system in Ostrovets district (healthcare, education, social services, and law enforcement) trained on a family-centered approach in the child protection system • 10 specialists who work in the child protection system participate in the round table where the project is presented. • Expert group develops and presents for the approval by local authorities the procedure of multidisciplinary cooperation in the child protection system in Ostrovets district 		
Established services and number of beneficiaries:	Number of participants:	Total	In the reported period
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Round table was held where the project was presented; participants approved the idea of the creation of the document that regulates the multidisciplinary cooperation of child protection system in Ostrovets (i.e. healthcare, education, social services, and law enforcement) 	11 (1 male /10 females)	11 (1 male /10 females)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 specialists who work in child protection system (healthcare, education, social services, and law enforcement) were trained in the family-centered approach in the child protection system as part of a multidisciplinary team 	18 (2 males/16 females)	16 (1 male/15 females)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert group developed the document that regulates the procedure of multidisciplinary cooperation in the child protection system in Ostrovets district 	8 people (1 male/7 females)	8 people (1 male/7 females)

NGO name: Education Department of Kirovsk Executive Committee		Grant amount:	Project dates:
Project duration: 8 months		\$2,500	May 30, 2011 Jan 30, 2012
NGO contact information: 23 Gagarina str., Kirovsk, Mogilev region, Belarus			
Project name:	Family is everyone's concern		
Brief description:	The goal of the project is to promote the development of multidisciplinary cooperation within the child protection system organizations by implementation of a training program for specialists who work in the child protection system.		
Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 specialists from Kirovsk region who work in the child protection system (healthcare, education, social services, and law enforcement) trained on the family-centered approach in the child protection system as part of a multidisciplinary team • 2 round tables for 17 executives of local agencies involved in child protection (education, health, law enforcement) to discuss and develop local policy/ procedures for multidisciplinary cooperation within the local child protection system in Kirovsk district 		
Established services and number of beneficiaries:	Number of participants:	Total	In the reported period
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inception round table with the executives of the local child protection system organizations (education, health, law enforcement, ECD, child protection) to inform the stakeholders about a family oriented approach in the child protection system and get their support to delegate representatives from their organizations 	18 people (6 males /12 females)	18 people (6 males /12 females)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 specialists who work in child protection system of Kirovsk region (healthcare, education, social services, and law enforcement) were trained in the family-centered approach in the child protection system as part of a multidisciplinary team 	28 (2 males/26 females)	28 (2 males/26 females)

NGO name: Grodno Region Institute of Development of Education Project duration: 10 months		Grant amount: \$2,920	Project dates: June 2, 2011 March 2, 2012
NGO contact information: 6 Gagarina str., Grodno, Belarus			
Project name:		No More Children's Tears	
Brief description:		The goal of the project is to strengthen the child protection system and develop multidisciplinary cooperation within the child protection system organizations in Grodno region by implementing of a family-centered approach in the child protection system.	
Planned services and planned number of beneficiaries:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 specialists who work in the child protection system of Kirovsk region (healthcare, education, social services and law enforcement) trained on the family-centered approach in the child protection system as a part of a multidisciplinary team • 30 authorities from Grodno social and educational organizations participate in a round table where the organization of multidisciplinary cooperation within the child protection system organizations is discussed • 100 copies of the brochure "Recommendation on the development of multidisciplinary cooperation within child protection system in Grodno region" to be published by Grodno Region Institute of Development of Education 	
Established services and number of beneficiaries:		Number of participants: Total	In the reported period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 specialists involved in the child protection system (healthcare, education, social services, and law enforcement) were trained on the family-centered approach in the child protection system 		20 people(17 females/3males)	13 (1 male/12 females)

Annex 3. A Healing Family For a Wounded Child

A healthy family environment is essential for the normal development of a child. Unluckily, for 4 year old Alex the situation was different. Throughout his early childhood Alex suffered from severe neglect. His mom had alcohol problems, his father was unknown. Frequently Alex spent long hours alone and hungry in a cold house while his mother was out with her drinking companions. Lack of proper care, emotional contact, communication, and play activities led to manifold developmental delays including speech disorders.



Alex received his first toys from his foster parents

Elena, an experienced parent of 4 grown children became Alex's foster mom a year ago after she had completed the PRIDE training program conducted by the specialists of Baranovichi socio-pedagogic center within ChildFund's USAID funded *Supporting orphans and vulnerable children in Belarus*.

The existing in-country training program for foster parents is focused on administrative aspects of fostering (reporting, labor legislation, etc.) Unlike this program, PRIDE, developed by U.S. specialists and foster parents, focuses on child needs and helps foster parents to create a safe and nurturing environment for children in their families, build attachment, overcome children's developmental delays, and address other negative effects of abuse and neglect. The program is innovative for Belarus as it creates a new child-centered concept of work for both a specialist and a foster parent.

Using the whole package of PRIDE tools and tactics Elena started laborious work. Together with child protection specialists

Elena worked out a comprehensive plan aimed at overcoming Alex's developmental delays and strengthening the child's relationship with his biological family. She organized play, activities, and created a protective and loving atmosphere within the family. She achieved a lot in building attachment with her foster son and helped Alex overcome the fears that impeded his normal development. She managed to create a healing family for a wounded child.

Elena: "Alex overcame self-isolation and started to communicate with us. He also made many friends. He improved his memory and speech abilities greatly. Now he enjoys learning poems and reciting them in front of us and his friends."

PRIDE training also helped Elena to understand the crucial role of the biological family in a child's development. As a result, she made efforts to find Alex's older sister and mother and encourage regular contact between them and Alex. It was a successful experience. In addition to fostering Alex, Elena took on another role of mentoring Alex's mom. Elena helped her to better understand the boy's needs, establish emotional contact with her son, and practice good parenting skills. As a result, Alex's birth mom started working towards family reunification. Now they all believe that very soon Alex, his mom, and sister will live together.

After PRIDE came into the Baranovichi community in 2009 the quality of foster parents' education and support improved significantly. It helped to increase the number of orphans who use community family type care instead of being institutionalized by 47%.