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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 April- 30 June 2010
Date of report: July 30, 2010
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 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 implemented according to its workplan and covered a wide spectrum of activities characterized by training, building strategic partnerships, geographic expansion, and advocacy.

Implementation of partnership agreements signed last quarter with three of six oblast Retraining institutions in Mogilev, Vitebsk, and Grodno, as well as with the Academy of Post-Diploma Education helped to promote sustainability in dissemination of the Parenting skills enhancement program, PRIDE, and a program on a family-centered approach to child protection services. 14 communities with trained personnel demonstrated high motivation and integrated new methodologies into the local child protection system. In addition, they shared the cost of implementing the PRIDE and Parenting Enhancement Programs. In total, 720 people (including parents, orphans, prospective and active foster/adoptive parents) benefited from the services. ChildFund-Belarus staff provided its technical support and regular monitoring and evaluation to ensure quality of service provision.

A partnership agreement was signed with Minsk oblast Re-training institute (a new partner organization) to replicate programs for oblast child protection specialists. Thus four (4) of six (6) existing in the country Oblast Re-training Institutes were included in ChildFund's partnership network. By the end of the quarter, the project expanded to 69 geographic locations from all over Belarus (please, see Annex 3: Project map).

Active advocacy efforts were undertaken to promote child protection reforms and improvements of family-type care for orphans. ChildFund Belarus kept momentum to influence national legislation development in child protection and submitted 18 suggestions for child protection system reform in Belarus to the Ministry of Education. It is expected that some of these suggestions will be included in the National Program "Children of Belarus" for 2011-2015.

The Ministry of Education invited ChildFund Belarus to participate in the working group meeting regarding a national survey of foster care quality in Belarus. ChildFund Belarus submitted 13 recommendations for improvement of foster care, 11 of them were included in the final recommendations.

ChildFund Belarus promoted child protection reforms through its panel presentation at the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect prevention and submitted eleven (11) recommendations to the final Resolution of the Conference to Belarus' Ministry of Education. These recommendations were focused on nation-wide use of proper social investigation of

child abuse and neglect, partnership with non-governmental organizations, and development of mechanisms of social contracting as well as further development of modern training programs for multidisciplinary teams of specialists.

In summary, thus far:

- A Partnership Agreement was signed with a new re-training entity, Minsk Oblast Re-training Institute, for sustainable dissemination of ChildFund Belarus' programs at the oblast level; thus four (4) of six (6) existing Re-training Institutes in the country are now included in ChildFund's partnership network.
- **720 people** (including parents, orphans, prospective and active foster/adoptive parents) benefited from the services;
- **44 child protection specialists** from 20 geographic locations representing 32 organizations improved their expertise in service provision to vulnerable children and families.
- ChildFund Belarus' Task Group has developed the first draft of the recommendations on Social Rehabilitation for families at risk of losing their children due to neglect and abuse.
- **42 suggestions (18 to the program Belarus Children, 13 to the survey on foster care development, 11 to the resolution of the national conference)** for reforming the child protection system in Belarus were submitted to Belarus' Ministry of Education.

C. CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS

Lack of IT professionals in the small towns (especially in the rural area) and low PC competence among local child protection specialists created barriers to successful piloting of the multidisciplinary network in Orsha and Chausy. ChildFund Belarus invited an IT expert from Minsk to assist local specialists from Chausy and Orsha in supporting the local network operation. Monitoring visits were conducted by ChildFund Belarus' Small Grant Manager to develop an action plan to resolve existing problems (for more information, please see Annex 1 Small grants).

D. LESSONS LEARNED

Child protection specialists trained by ChildFund through the network of re-training institutes met some challenges and lack of support from their untrained managers when applying new work methods. ChildFund is planning to conduct a series of short-term training for the authorities in order to build consensus between field staff and their managers. This situation was pretty unexpected because in our pilot communities managers were the first persons who desired training on new methodologies. Partner re-training institutes were responsible for forming training groups. They did not consider this risk and invited front-line practitioners to the training. This lesson will be considered when planning new cycles of training activity.

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.*

- PRIDE and Parenting Skills Enhancement Programs were successfully implemented within local community resources in 14 geographic locations Mogilev oblast (Chausy, Kirovsk, Bobruisk), Vitebsk oblast (Vitebsk, Vitebsk region, Liosno, Polotsk, and Novopolotsk), Brest oblast (Kobrin, Baranovihy, Luninets, Ivanovo, Novaya Mysh (Baranovichy region), Lida (Grodno oblast)
- **720 people** (including 165 parents, 397 children (208 institutionalized children, 189 others), 158 prospective and active foster/adoptive parents) benefited from the community-based services.

Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

This quarter, the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program was implemented using allocated local community resources (Vitebsk, and Vitebsk oblast communities, i.e. Vitebsk region, Liosno, Polotsk, and Novopolotsk) and within small grants support. **79% of all parenting program groups** were carried out with local resources. Two out of three small grants awarded last quarter were registered in the Department of Humanitarian Assistance. One of them has started its implementation in Kirovsk community. (For more information, please, see Annex 1 to the report).

As a result:

- **165 people** attended the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in schools and kindergartens in 6 geographic locations (Kirovsk (Mogilev oblast), Vitebsk, and Vitebsk oblast communities (i.e. Vitebsk region, Liosno, Polotsk, and Novopolotsk). 93% of all groups were completed by the end of this quarter.

- **22% of parents** attending the course were from an at-risk group or raising children with disabilities.
- **79% of all Parenting Skills Enhancement Program groups** were carried out using allocated local resources.
- 90% of parents reported that they better understand the reasons of children's misbehavior and cope with it without violence; 84% of trained parents assessed themselves as "responsible parents"; 86% of parents reported maintaining optimal emotional contacts with their children; 74% of parents reported using methods of stress management and self-regulation;

Parents say:

Anna K., Kirovsk, (Mogilev oblast):

"There are two children in our family. My husband is always very busy with his job and does not pay enough attention to raising kids. His relationships with our daughter were extremely complicated; they were not able to find common language. Our daughter used to go into hysterics and cry. One day she told me that she is thinking of running away from home. Finally she moved to her grandmother's. It was the first time when her father started thinking that he was losing his daughter. He came to the training on Parenting together with me. After the training session we had a family meeting and discussed the obligations of each family member, household duties, and leisure time. The results were printed on a piece of paper and stuck to the fridge. Our daughter started completing her tasks and her father no longer has any claims and reasons for quarreling. Peace and harmony are settled at home. "

Playgroups for children

Playgroups were organized for **31 children** in Vitebsk and Kirovsk while their parents were at parenting classes. **22%** of all children were from a risk group or have a disability. Individualized developmental programs were prepared by community trainers to develop children's capacity.

Life Skills for institutionalized children

Two hundred and eight (208) institutionalized children continued 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.

ChildFund Belarus signed special agreements with 10 institutions such as children's homes, shelters, and Habilitation Centers for children with disabilities from Grodno, Zhodino, Baranovichy, Divin (Kobrin region), Kobrin, Kirovsk, Ostrovets, Slonim, and Volkovysk for acquisition of sewing workshop equipment and vitamins. The purchased equipment creates a basis for life skills development among orphaned and sheltered children.

Family type care development

This quarter **50 prospective** foster/adoptive parents participated in the PRIDE pre-service training program in Zhodino, Kobrin, Luninets, Lida, Bobruisk, Baranovihy, and Novaya Mysh (Baranovichy region). 41% of parents trained since October 2009, have been providing family type care including foster care and adoption for 42 children.

By the end of the reporting period, **158 children** from Zhodino, Orsha, Kobrin, Chausy, Luninets, and Baranovichy were in family type care. 8.2% of them were adopted, 5.1% placed to foster care, 7.6% were using guardianship, and 1.3% were placed to family group homes. However 77.8% of them were placed into guest families that permanently provide placement for orphaned children on weekends, holidays, and vacations and are considered a resource for foster care development as a result of community mobilization.

The PRIDE **in-service** program was carried out in Kobrin, Chausy, Ivanovo (Brest oblast), to provide ongoing professional development and support for **97 foster/adoptive parents** in meeting challenges in day-to-day activity related to bringing up foster/adoptive children.

The Minsk Re-training Institute continued a series of workshops for **11 foster parents** from Minsk (*23rd of April, 2010*) based on the PRIDE in-service curriculum. The participants learned about attachment development among teens in foster care.

Facility based database

The projects focused on development of the facility-based computer database have been continued in Orsha and Chausy communities.

Chausy community has started practicing working with the facility-based database following the procedure passed by the Local Executive Committee. However, low IT competence of the involved stakeholders complicated successful functioning of the database in the network format.

Orsha community remained behind schedule but succeeded in reaching agreement with the local branch of the state Internet provider "Beltelecom" on connecting to Internet child protection services (including the local Department of Internal Affairs) that should be united into the network for effective functioning of the database.

ChildFund Belarus carried out meetings with all involved community stakeholders in Orsha and Chausy to define the main problems and to elaborate action plans to speed up the process of the database functioning.

Zhodino community started working with the database - and submitted its M&E reports to ChildFund Belarus using the developed software.

For more information, please, see Annex 1 to the 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 Belarus focused its efforts on implementation of partnership agreements signed last quarter with three of seven Oblast Re-training 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. A group of 30 child protection specialists from 8 locations in Grodno oblast completed training course on Family-centered approach to child protection services.

A partnership agreement was signed with new partner organization Minsk Oblast Re-training Institute to replicate programs for oblast child protection specialists. Thus, by the end of this quarter four of seven Oblast Re-training Institutes existing in the country were included in ChildFund's partnership network.

- **44 local child protection** specialists from 20 new geographic locations were trained this quarter;
- **32 organizations** were assisted to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families.

TOT on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

- **69% of specialists** trained on Parenting Skills Enhancement program last quarter have applied received knowledge and skills into practice;
- **Fourteen specialists** from twelve Minsk oblast cities were trained within partnership with Minsk Oblast Re-training Institute which shared expenses for the training activity.

<i>Activity: Training of Trainers (ToT) on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program* (7-9th; 16-18th of June 2010)</i>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
At least 14 community specialists from Minsk oblast will be trained as Parenting Skills Enhancement Program providers.	<p><i>Fourteen specialists</i> from twelve Minsk oblast geographic location representing kindergartens, schools, Social-pedagogic Centers, and Minsk oblast Re-training Institute 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> <p>Two representatives from Minsk Oblast Re-training Institute were trained to carry out monitoring of the program, as well as to provide sustainability and consistency in preparation of trainers in the region.</p> <p>An action plan for monitoring and further dissemination of this program</p>

<p>90% of participants will report improvements of specific knowledge and skills, to run Parenting Skills Enhancement Program.</p>	<p>in Minsk oblast has been developed by Minsk oblast Re-training Institute in partnership with ChildFund Belarus.</p> <p>100% of participants successfully passed testing training and reported improvement of specific knowledge and skills on the training topic.</p>
<p><i>Critical note:</i> *This training was carried out in partnership with Minsk Oblast Re-training Institute that shared expenses for transportation, food, and premises.</p>	

TOT on Family-centered Approach to Child Protection Services

This quarter the training program on a family-centered approach to child protection services was successfully completed in Grodno oblast Re-training Institute (07th-09th; 20th-23rd of April, 2010) by **30 child protection specialists** representing 20 institutions from 8 geographic locations. **100%** of them improved knowledge and skills in conducting effective social investigation, assessment (risk assessment, safety assessment, and family assessment), case planning, separation, placement and reunification. The program was carried out by a national trainers’ team on child protection that was promoted as a unique resource at the oblast level. Grodno Oblast Re-training institute cost-shared travel expenses of the participants.

ChildFund Belarus developed and distributed the questionnaire for the participants of the training course on Family-centered Approach to Child Protection services from Mogilev and Grodno oblasts to define training outcomes and difficulties in application of the obtained knowledge into practice. The final results will be available next quarter.

One specialist said:

Natalia M., Grodno oblast:

"Practicing the values of the program I realized that families at risk need support, attention, and understanding. Parents become more adequate, calm, self-respectful and willing to change. It helps to build partnership and effective cooperation with them for the sake of their children. Assessment forms are proved to be extremely useful and helpful for information collection, case planning, making sound decision and achieving stable results."

Technical assistance to small grant implementation

Two workshops on M&E and PR activities within small grant implementation were conducted for small grant recipients.

Activity/Expected results	Targets achieved
<p>Workshop 1: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (May 11-12, Minsk) ChildFund-Belarus’ grantees will improve their M&E knowledge and skills</p>	<p>Representatives of two*of three small grantee organizations improved their M&E knowledge and skills and designed M&E plans with respect to ChildFund performance and measurement targets and improved capacity in grants administration.</p>
<p>Workshop 2: PR and Mass Media Collaboration (May 26, Minsk) All ChildFund-Belarus’ grantees will be presented with ChildFund International Branding Policy and improve their PR skills</p>	<p>Representatives of 1 of 3 small grantee organizations* improved skills in success story and press release writing, and in branding of PR materials and publications produced within the course of small grant implementation.</p>

***Note:** There are currently three recipient organizations of small grants within OVC. Most of them had a previous history of cooperation with ChildFund and were trained on these topics before. Those who did not receive this training before were integrated in a training group of new PWD small grant recipients in order to minimize training costs.

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.

This quarter a period of preparation and development of the different new national programs/ strategies in child welfare began for 2011-2015. ChildFund Belarus kept momentum and used any opportunity to influence national legislation and strategy development in child welfare. Active advocacy efforts were undertaken to promote **child protection reforms** and improvements of family-type care for orphans.

- **18 proposals** for inclusion into the Children of Belarus Program for 2011-2015 related to national child protection system development were submitted to Belarus Ministry of Education
- **13 proposals** to the survey on foster care development were submitted to the Ministry of Education
- **11 suggestions** were submitted to the final resolution of the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
- **303 organizations** were assisted with resource materials published within the project

Advocacy efforts for Improvement of child abuse and neglect prevention

On May 26th ChildFund Belarus specialists participated in the National Conference on child abuse and neglect prevention organized by Belarus Ministry of Education. ChildFund Belarus' Chief of Party presented its achievements in early detection, investigation and prevention of child abuse and neglect. As a follow-up ChildFund Belarus submitted eleven (11) recommendations to the Resolution of the Conference to Belarus Ministry of Education. These recommendations promoted national wide use of proper social investigation of child abuse and neglect, partnership with non-governmental organizations and development of mechanism of social contracting, further development of modern training programs for multidisciplinary teams of the specialists.

ChildFund Belarus kept momentum to influence national legislation development in child protection and submitted 18 suggestions for **child protection system reform** in Belarus to the Ministry of Education. It is expected that some of these suggestions will be included in the National Program "**Children of Belarus**" for 2011-2015. The suggestions were based on analyses of the OVC project achievements and covered a multidisciplinary approach in the child protection system, further development of infrastructure and the material basis of child protection organizations, access to modern IT and INTERNET, countrywide dissemination of the computer database for child protection, and improvement of the national regulatory and methodological basis. ChildFund also promoted inclusion of modern knowledge and best international experience in the national curriculum for child protection specialists, and advocated for the necessity to revise programs and curriculum for health care providers, ECD specialists, law enforcement specialists, and to include child protection issues. ChildFund also suggested to optimize functions of the existing community-based organizations and use strategic approaches toward development of new community based prevention and rehabilitation services that would target the main risk factors of child abuse and neglect. Development of effective inter-sectoral partnerships between governmental and non-governmental organizations was also suggested as one of the key priorities.

Improvement of Child protection regulatory and methodological environment

By the request of Belarus' Ministry of Education, ChildFund Belarus' Task Group has continued working on the elaboration of the **Methodical Recommendations on Social Rehabilitation of Families at Risk**. A series of working meetings were carried out (27-28th of May, 22-23rd of June, 2010) to discuss the materials developed by the Task Group members describing the most effective methods of social rehabilitation of disadvantaged families and children at risk supplemented with the practical examples of its application into child protection practice. The meetings resulted in producing the first draft of the Recommendations.

Advocacy for improvement of family type care for orphans In Belarus

This quarter ChildFund Belarus kept momentum to advocate for quality standards development of the family type care for children. The Ministry of Education invited ChildFund Belarus to participate in a working group meeting regarding a national survey of quality of foster care in Belarus. ChildFund Belarus submitted 13 recommendations to the final report on the survey and discussed it with the members of the working group representing key stakeholders such as Belarus' Ministry of Education, National Adoption Center, UNICEF, and local NGOs. Eleven (11) of them were included in the final version of recommendations.

ChildFund Belarus continued its advocacy efforts on promotion of PRIDE as a national program for training foster/adoptive parents. Despite the fact that a Terms of Reference to develop a manual on implementation of the PRIDE model in Belarus was elaborated and disseminated among the interested stakeholders last quarter an Expert Group comprised of scientists and

practitioners having expertise in PRIDE did not manage to elaborate the concept of the manual based on ChildFund Belarus' requirement.

The PRIDE Expert Group held a series of meetings (14-15th of April, 03-04th of June, 2010) to continue final adaptation of the PRIDE pre-service program taking into account the feedback of the trainers with the expertise of PRIDE implementation at the community level.

Perspectives of adoption development at the community level were discussed at the local Round Table organized in Divin (Kobrin region) on 14th of May 2010. Administration of the children's village together with foster and guest parents disclosed that state benefits for orphaned children are the main barrier for adoption development. This proved the results of the research on impediments on national adoption development conducted by ChildFund Belarus last year.

Dissemination of informational resources

Resource materials such as a brochure on "Safe Parenting", and a Report on National Adoption Development were distributed among **303** institutions to develop capacity of local child protection specialists.

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.

• Cooperation with ChildFund International Headquarters

ChildFund Belarus was in regular communication via e-mail and conference calls with its Headquarters in Richmond. On 13-16 of May, Anne Lynam Goddard, President and CEO of ChildFund International, visited Belarus and met with Jahor Novikau, USAID AOTR and acting Charge d'Affaires of the US Embassy in Belarus. Anne carried out visits to project sites and met with the project's Community Advisory Board, partner organizations, as well as orphans and foster parents assisted through ChildFund's USAID funded program. She also met with the Head of the Child Protection Department of the Ministry of Education and discussed the prospect of further partnership between ChildFund and the Ministry. Anne highly appreciated ChildFund Belarus' programs and achievements.

• Cooperation with NGOs and partner organizations

ChildFund Belarus participated at the national Conference on child abuse and neglect prevention (26th of May, 2010) organized by Belarus' Ministry of Education and presented project implementation results.

ChildFund Belarus carried out a meeting with Belarus' Ministry of Education to discuss the possibilities of PRIDE legalization as well as quality standards for family type care development elaborated by National Adoption Center.

ChildFund Belarus took part in the meeting with UNICEF, Ministry of Education, National Adoption Center and NGOs to discuss UNICEF research on foster care in Belarus.

A series of meetings with NGOs (NGO "SOS-Kinderdorf", "Hope and Homes for children", "Healthy Choice") were carried out to coordinate joint efforts in national child protection development.

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.

ChildFund Belarus developed rules and procedures for contracting external experts to ensure transparency, management, monitoring and measurement of external experts' performance.

V. BUDGET

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



SMALL GRANTS implemented in April-June, 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";

II. Parenting Skills Enhancement program:

- Education Department of Kirovsk Executive Committee:
 3. "Parenting academy";
- Education Department of Chausy Executive Committee:
 4. "Learning to be a parent".

I. Creation of network database on child protection:

<i>Grantee Name/address:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
Educational department of Chausy executive committee	Cross-sector cooperation on child and family protection through creation of unified informational and referral system	26.03.2008
Address: Leninskaya Str., 17, Chausy, Mogilyov Region		31.08.2010
Amount: \$24,851		
<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	
OUTPUTS:		
<p>The equipment has been purchased and installed, computer network created, software installed, and training of the child protection specialists to use the database conducted. Chausy community has started practicing working with the facility-based database based on Procedure of Database network defining security protocol, roles and tasks of each service involved in social investigation and rehabilitation, passed by the Local Executive Committee. However low IT competence of the involved stakeholders complicated successful functioning of the database in the network format: the project team still has technical difficulties in connecting modems to Internet in Chausy Center for Social Support of Population, and Chausy Central Hospital.</p> <p>In April 2010, ChildFund Belarus invited an IT specialist to provide technical assistance in setting up Internet access and maintain local network. The Database was successfully functioning in network format until a thunderstorm that took place in June and destroyed the connection to Internet. Reasonable efforts are being undertaken by the grantee to restore connection of the modems to the Internet using local community resources. If necessary ChildFund Belarus will provide additional technical expertise to solve this problem next quarter.</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
Address: Zamkovaya Str., 11, Orsha, Vitebsk Region		31.08.2010
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.	

OUTPUTS: The network equipment was purchased and installed.

During the monitoring visit to Orsha the representatives of ChildFund Belarus organized meetings with all involved stakeholders to develop an action plan to resolve the problems as soon as possible. Orsha community still remained behind schedule, but succeeded in reaching the agreement with local branch of the state Internet provider "Beltelecom" on connecting to Internet 5 project partners (including the local Department of Internal Affairs).

It is planned to connect 5 partner organizations to Internet, to create computer network, to install software, to train child protection specialists to use the database and to start inputting data into the database next quarter. According to the action plan all the project activities have been completed by the 31st of August, 2010.

II. Parenting Skills Enhancement program:

<i>Grantee Name:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
Education Department of Kirovsk Executive Committee	Parenting academy	27.04.2010 27.09.2010
Address: Kirov, Gagarin Str, 23, Mogilyov Region		
Amount: \$1 800		
<i>Brief description:</i>	The goal of the project is to decrease family stress and enhance family functioning through expansion to Kirovsk educational institutions Parenting Skills Enhancement Program introduced by ChildFund as result of the cooperation in the previous years.	
<i>Planned target:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 48 parents will participate in Parenting Skills Enhancement Program - 20 children will be involved in playgroup activity - 12 specialists of educational institutions will be trained as trainers to expand Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Kirovsk 	
<i>Established services and reached number of beneficiaries</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24 (2 male/22 female) participated in Parenting Skills Enhancement Program - 12 (7 boys/5 girls) were involved in playgroup activity 	

<i>Grantee Name:</i>	<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Project duration:</i>
Education Department of Chausy Executive Committee	Learning to be a parent	01.09.2010* 31.12.2010

Address: Leninskaya Str., 17, Chausy, Mogilyov Region		*The project start was postponed due to summer season. Specialists of educational institutions, which form the bigger part of the project target group, have their vacations in summer. The project will start on the 1st of September, 2010.
Amount: \$1 800		
<i>Brief description:</i>	The goal of the project is to decrease family stress and enhance family functioning through expansion to Chausy educational institutions of Parenting Skills Enhancement Program introduced by ChildFund as a result of the cooperation in the previous years.	
<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 	

**LIST OF GRANTS ON REGISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION),
Small Grants March 2010**

Organization Name	Project name	Contract signed	Amount \$	Transfer date	Start of registration
Parenting Skills Enhancement Program					
Education Department of Smorgon Executive Committee	Way to successful parenting	19.03.2010	\$1,800	15.04.2010	May 2010, pending registration

ChildFund's USAID funded Project Helps to Improve Quality of Foster Care for Belarusian Children

When Nikolai was 2 months old he was placed in an orphanage. His mother was deprived of her parental rights due to a drinking problem and his father was in jail. Now Nikolai is 11 years old. For the last 5 years he has been living in a foster family in Kobrin district.

His foster parents had grown-up children of their own and were confident that with their previous experience bringing up a child from the orphanage would be easy for them. Therefore they did not receive any pre-service training. They considered that all a child who suffered before needs is a good loving family to forget about the bad and open up his heart. But it did not turn out that way. In addition to misbehavior, stealing became a real problem with Nikolai. Having faced such a problem for the first time, the foster parents tried to find a solution intuitively, they used common methods such as strapping. But nothing changed, the boy kept stealing, the foster parents were desperate, and they started doubting their parental competence.



Nikolai with his foster parents

At the same time the foster parents were feeling hopeless and starting to think about placing Nikolai back in the orphanage, a new small project was launched at the Kobrin Socio-Pedagogical Center - "Foster and Adoptive Parents Training on PRIDE Model". The project was conducted with the support of ChildFund Belarus as part of the USAID-funded project "Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus". Within the small project, specialists of Kobrin Socio-Pedagogical Center offered a system of pre-service and in-service training on parenting for prospective foster families and those who already had orphans placed with their families. Nikolai's foster parents had never attended any classes on parenting before and did not believe in its effectiveness. At first they rejected the offer to participate in the course due to their lack of free time. Still, the situation in the family was critical and in the end, they

agreed to try. After the first training they understood that the course was cut out for them, dwelling on the issues of their keen interest. Within the course they were able to form and develop necessary competencies to fulfill their roles as foster parents to the best of their abilities serving the needs of the child. Having understood the special nature of bringing children up who have suffered losses, abuse and neglect they became capable of rendering the required help and support to Nikolai.

Nikolai's foster mom: "Nikolai stole family jewelry and then presented or sold it to the kids at school. With the help of the course trainer we analyzed the situation and looked at it from a new perspective. We understood that he did that to gain recognition of friends and to attract attention of schoolmates. We stopped punishing him for stealing, but concentrated all our efforts on building his self-esteem, improving his self-confidence so that he would feel significant among his friends. And that strategy worked! The stealing problem was resolved. "

What is more, the course became a unique ground where foster parents communicated, shared experiences, and discussed problems. All foster parents found this opportunity extremely enlightening and after successful completion of the course established a club "Ray of Hope" where foster parents meet, share personal experiences, arrange entertaining activities for adopted children, and invite specialists (such as lawyers, psychologists) to help them sort out different issues.

The project is over now but the specialists from the Kobrin Socio-Pedagogical Center responding to the foster parents' immense demand for support and guidance continue trainings for them focusing on their educational needs. The PRIDE program proved of great demand for community specialists and was disseminated to 8 geographic locations all over Belarus.

