



Christian Children's Fund - Belarus

“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS”

QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT

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Component I “Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus”

Author's Name:

Irina Mironova

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Organizational Contact Information:

CCF Belarus Irina Mironova Country Representative Christian Children's Fund, Belarus 39 Pushkin Avenue, office 16 Minsk 220092 Belarus Phone: 375-17-257-77-08 (09) E-mail: irina@ccf-belarus.org	USA Headquarters: Craig Stein Director, Grants Development and Management Christian Children's Fund 2821 Emerywood Parkway PO Box 26484 Richmond, Virginia 23261-6484, USA Phone: (804) 756-2700 Fax: (804) 756-2718 E-mail: CDStein@ccfusa.org
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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

CCF's project "Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children" is aimed at reducing the number of children in Belarus being institutionalized in state-administered orphanages and boarding schools. The program's goal is to prevent institutionalization in selected communities of Belarus by supporting a cultural environment conducive to at-home family care and also to move children out of 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 whose parents 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.

This component has three main objectives:

- To improve access to and further develop an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families as well as institutionalized and at-risk children.
- To improve the quality of training and education available to social service providers and awareness of community members surrounding the development of favorable family environments for children.
- To provide technical assistance to the Belarus Ministry of Education (MOE) in order to strengthen the national regulatory and methodological base promoting de-institutionalization and to disseminate key learning's of the project throughout Belarus to build a foundation for replication and sustainability.

B. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The 1st quarter of the Year 3 created a platform for further services development, geographic expansion and more active NGO involvement in project implementation.

To achieve it *three new Calls for Proposals* were issued. One of them was designed for innovative NGO projects. Thirty six (36) project proposals were submitted, *eleven (11)* of them were selected for financial support by CCF.

Increased community initiative for child protection system development.

Ten more projects awarded in Year 2 were registered by the Department of Humanitarian Aid. *Thus nineteen (19) small grants* were started by the local communities. The small grants' activity is focused on capacity building for multidisciplinary teams to better address key risk factors, alternative family type care development, raising public awareness about danger of child abuse and neglect and necessity for family type care for orphans, facility-based information system.

Alternative care development.

In order to increase number and quality of resource families available for foster care and adoption PRIDE training program was introduced in the targeted communities within small grant scheme. First *4 groups (47 people)* were in training this quarter. The first group of prospective parents completed pre-service training and 7 children have already been fostered and *1* adopted by them.

Raising Awareness on the influence of child abuse and neglect on further child's development.

National Round table was conducted for *thirty eight (38) participants* representing Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection, Universities, NGOs as well as key stakeholders from oblast and community levels. Recent scientific research on early brain development, problems with removal and placement of children up to 3 years old, NGO role in child protection were discussed by the participants.

Incorporation of new child protection policies/methodologies in to local community practice.

The procedure of Investigation of Child Abuse and Neglect Cases presented at the local Round Tables last year was adapted and passed by Executive Committees as local regulatory document in *four out of five targeted communities*.

Prevention programs such as Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, Health Education and Substance Abuse prevention, Life Skills Education Programs in local schools, orphanages, social-pedagogical centers and shelters were continued in Orsha, Zhodino and Kobrin communities. They addressed an array of risk factors-ranging from cultural norms and parenting practices conducive to child abuse to unwanted pregnancies and alcohol misuse.

In summary thus far:

- **Three Calls for Proposals** issued on Parenting and Health Education Program dissemination as well as NGO innovative projects development. **36 applications** were received by the end of the quarter and **11 of them** were selected.
- **Ten (10)** new projects were registered in the Department of Humanitarian Aid;
- **Twenty one (21) new community-based services** were started within small grant scheme in 5 project sites;
- **214 specialists** took part in **14 capacity building events**
- The total number of project **direct beneficiaries** reached by prevention and rehabilitation services this quarter reached **1, 313 people**.
- The total number of project **indirect beneficiaries** is **83, 282 people**.
- The Procedure of developed by Task Group Experts was approved **in 4 out of 5** Executive Committees as local regulatory document.

C. CHALLENGES/ CONSTRAINTS

- Unclear and time-consuming procedure of small grants registration in the Department of Humanitarian Aid holds back up the start up of projects supported by CCF at the end of the Year 2. – Additional Meetings with Belarus Ministry of Education will be organized to ask for their involvement for speeding up the process.
- Lack of project management skills among community specialists. – Additional trainings on Project Cycle management, Monitoring and Evaluation as well as individual counseling were organized by CCF-Belarus staff.
- Insufficient number of staff and high rates of staff turnover in partner community organizations created some barriers for successful implementation of training programs on domestic violence
- A Call for NGO innovative projects showed low level of understanding of child protection and deinstitutionalization issues among NGOs. – To increase the quality of projects submitted by NGOs it is required to carry out additional capacity building training on child abuse and neglect oriented at specialists from NGOs.

II. ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1

To improve access to and further develop an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families as well as institutionalized and at-risk children.

Four (4) community based **prevention services** programs such as Life Skills, Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention, integrated playgroup activity for typically developing children and children at risk were continued in project sites.

Twenty one (21) new community based rehabilitation services were introduced in 5 communities as a result of small grants implementation.

1, 313 people (parents, orphans and children at risk) benefited from prevention and rehabilitation services

83, 282 people were indirect beneficiaries of the project

519 orphans were enrolled in Life Skills programs

80 % of orphans reporting improvement of knowledge and skills related to Life Skills trainings.

Five (5) CAB meetings were conducted in targeted communities aimed at elaboration of the strategic plan of child protection system development and de-institutionalization.

Prevention Services.

Activity: Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Zhodino, Orsha and Kobrin	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>Twelve groups (12) of parents (140 people) take part in Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Orsha, Volozhin, Chausy and Kobrin.</p> <p>Participation will improve parents' competence and develop parenting skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Twelve (12) groups of parents (144 people) have already completed Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Orsha, Volozhin, Chausy and Kobrin this quarter. ▪ Among them 27% (39 people) were parents from the risk group*. This program helps to integrate them into joint activities and to learn positive models of parent-children relationships. <p>83 % of parents better understand the reasons of children's misbehavior and cope with it without violence; 82, 5% of trained parents assessed themselves as "responsible parents"; 87% of parents reported achievement of optimal emotional contact with their children; 59% of parents started using methods of stress management and self-regulation.</p>
<p><u><i>Critical notes:</i></u> <i>* Risk group - parents who are under close supervision of social services and police because of their asocial behavior and inability to provide adequate care for their children</i></p> <p>Reports about Parenting Skills Enhancement Program group activity including lists of the participants, analyses of pre-post evaluation forms are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request.</p>	
Activity: Playgroups for typical children and children at risk.	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 140 (18 groups) take part in integrated playgroup activities;</p>	<p>One hundred fifty (150) children and children at risk were involved in 18 playgroups, creative and development activities in Orsha, Chausy, Volozhin and Kobrin while their parents were at Parenting classes.</p> <p>41 of 150 participated children were from risk group, those who are under close supervision of social services and police because of their asocial behavior, removed from the family. Integration of children at risk into joint activity with their peers helps to discover their talents, practice communication skills and develop appropriate patterns of behavior.</p>
<p><u><i>Critical notes.</i></u> Trainer's reports and developmental programs are available upon request at CCF-Belarus office.</p>	

Integrated playgroup trainers say:

Inna, Volozhin trainer: "...Children from risk group involved in the playgroup activity had a chance to develop communication skills, tolerance and friendship, to support each other ...it helped to decrease their level of aggression in a day-to-day life..."

Activity: Life Skills Program for institutionalized children in Zhodino, Orsha, Kobrin, Chausy and Volozhin	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>Nine groups (9) of orphaned, sheltered and children at risk (115 people) took part in Life Skills Program in Zhodino, Orsha and Kobrin, Chausy and Volozhin.</p> <p>65 % of enrolled orphaned children reporting improvements of specific</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ten (10) groups of orphaned, sheltered children and children at risk (122 people) have completed Life Skills Program in Zhodino, Orsha, Kobrin, Chausy and Volozhin this quarter. <p>As a result of the Life Skills course 80% of teenagers learned how to define personal positive characteristics; learned about</p>

<p>knowledge and skills related to trainings topic.</p> <p>Approximately 350 institutionalized children will practice life skills in social apartments, sewing and carpentry workshops in Orsha, Zhodino, Chausy, Volozhin and Kobrin</p>	<p>interconnection between values, decisions and behavior; master effective communication; learned about defining and achieving goals, effective decision making and particularities of gender roles; formed the attitude towards parenting; practice methods of stress management how to say ‘no’, how to criticize effectively, how to solve conflicts.</p> <p>Three hundred ninety seven (397) institutionalized children have continued life skills development classes in Zhodino, Orsha, Chausy, Volozhin and Kobrin using equipment purchased for these purposes. As a result children keep up sewing and carpentry sills, repaired old clothe and created new one, practiced cooking.</p>
<p><u>Critical notes.</u></p> <p>Reports about Life Skills Program activity including lists of the participants, analyses of pre-post evaluation forms and reports of the trainers are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request.</p>	

From the Trainer’s report (Group №1 Divin Boarding School) :

“...One of the most important topics in the training course is how to set a goal and to achieve it. The children learned how to make goals and differentiate short-term and long-term goals. Each child made a goal and then we discussed the progress he/she had made in achieving it.

Another important training session is Decision making. When we discuss some situations, everything seems clear to the children, they give the right answers, but the real life is much more complicated, and I hope they will use the skills and knowledge they got at our classes.

In general all the topics of Life Skills training program are very significant, but for institutionalized children it is overwhelmingly important. They cannot learn the right life skills from their parents; they do not understand what family values are. The staff at the boarding school take care of these children, make all decisions for them and fence them from the real life ... This training program has taught the children the skills they will need in their grown-up life. It gave them the opportunity to look at themselves, their families and future profession from a different perspective.”

The children who visited the Life Skills Trainings say:

Group 1 (Divin Boarding School):

“...- I liked the training very much. Everything was unusual and interesting for me. Especially I enjoyed the open atmosphere of the training. I have learned how to set goals as well as to achieve them. Now I know how to be a good parent, how to take care of a young child. I have learned a lot of new things, which will be necessary for my future profession. It was great that we have the opportunity to attend these classes.”

Orsha, Group #3:

Anya, 14 years old girl: “- The class “Dealing with Depression and Suicide” was very interesting and helpful. There was a girl in our school who wanted to commit suicide. She behaved exactly as it is described in the training handbook. And we did not know what to do, if we should tell about her to the adults or not... Had we had this training before we would have known what to do in such situation. Now I will always be more considerate to other people.”

Misha, 15 years old boy : “... I wanted to get a job last summer, but I knew neither how to start looking for a job nor how to speak with the employer... The trainings “How to read a job advertisement” and “How to behave at a job interview” have helped me a lot. I think I will find a job soon.”

Activity: Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program in Zhodino, Volozhin, Chausy and Orsha	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>Fourteen (14) groups of schoolchildren (160 people) take part in Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program in Zhodino, Orsha, Volozhin and Chausy.</p> <p>75% Schoolchildren participating in the program report improvements of specific knowledge and skills related to trainings topic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fifteen (15) groups of children (185 people) have been in training on Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program in Zhodino, Volozhyn, Chausy and Orsha this quarter. ▪ Three (3) out of fifteen (15) groups were completed. As a result 77, 7% of schoolchildren participating in the program reported improvement of knowledge and skills on HIV/AIDS issues, men's and women's reproductive health, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS, about the consequences of abortion and pregnancy prevention. <p>Complex results will be available next quarter after training program completion.</p>
<p><u><i>Critical notes.</i></u> Replication of the Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program on the community level will be supported within small grant scheme. Six (6) projects were submitted to CCF-Belarus for funding. Selection of the projects will be completed next quarter.</p>	

Care and Support for disabled children and their families

Services for families of children with disabilities have continued its development in Kobrin, Orsha and Zhodino and were started in Chausy. Self-help group activity in Kobrin was continued within new small grant of Kobrin Branch of NGO BelAPDIIMI supported by CCF-Belarus. New types of services for disabled children and their families such as respite care and mobile toy library are part of the new small grant activity plan. These services will be introduced on the local level next quarter. (For more information, please see, Annex 1)

Activity: Volunteer activity to support families with disabled children	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>Seven volunteer groups in targeted communities provide support for disabled children and their families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven volunteer groups continued its activity in Kobrin, Orsha, Volozhin, Chausy and Zhodino. • Twenty four (24) cultural/leisure activities for disabled children were conducted by eighty nine (89) volunteers from Volozhin, Chausy, Kobrin, Zhodino and Orsha schools. Disabled children (137 children) were active participants of such activities as sport games, Fall Ball, celebration of the New Year, joint decoration of the Rehabilitation Center for Christmas holidays, concerts, theatre performances, playing activities, walks, assistance in life skills development. • Home visits for 3 disabled children were organized by ten (10) volunteers on a regular basis in Kobrin.
<p><u><i>Critical notes.</i></u> Volunteer group leaders' reports are available upon request at CCF-Belarus office.</p>	

s Innovative community-based services

Ten (10) more projects were registered in the Department of Humanitarian Aid and started in Orsha, Volozhin, Kobrin and Zhodino. In total **19 small grants** awarded in the Year 2 were in the process of implementation this quarter. Three projects are still in the process of registration.

The following projects are being implemented:

<i>Projects</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Location</i>
Kobrin branch of Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth	Family Support Center - 2	Kobrin
Kobrin rehabilitation center for disabled children	Family-centered approach in child protection system	Kobrin
Kobrin Territorial Center of Social Support of Population	Children against violence	Kobrin
Educational department of Zhodino Executive committee	Assistance to prevention of social orphanage through creation of favorable conditions for family support, strengthening family upbringing and development of children life skills	Zhodino
Educational department of Zhodino Executive committee	Zhodino Social Network	Zhodino
Social-pedagogic center of Zhodino	Childhood without violence	Zhodino
Social-pedagogic center of Zhodino	Educative course for future adoptive parents	Zhodino
NGO "Focus-group"	Future Without Violence and Abuse	Zhodino
Social-pedagogic center of Orsha	Assistance to prevention of social orphanage through creation of favorable conditions for family support, strengthening family upbringing and development of children life skills	Orsha,
Social-pedagogic center of Orsha	Informational campaign on alternative forms of adoption of orphans	Orsha,
Social-pedagogic center of Orsha	Educative program for candidates to adoptive parents	Orsha,
Orsha School #20	Development of preventive services to strengthen family capacity and to prevent child abuse and neglect	Orsha,
Volozhin state regional Social-pedagogic center	Prevention of social orphanage in institutions working in child protection system	Volozhin
Social-pedagogic center of Volozhin region	Let's say "no" to child abuse	Volozhin
Social-pedagogic center of Volozhin region	A family to every child	Volozhin
Educational Department of Chausy Executive Committee	Education of future adoptive parents on PRIDE program	Chausy
Social-pedagogic center of Chausy	Information campaign on alternative forms of child care development	Chausy
National NGO "Mothers against Drugs"	A Way to Recovery-2	Chausy, Orsha, Kobrin, Zhodino and Volozhin
Public Union "Radislava"	Help Service as a form of counteraction to child and women violence	Chausy, Orsha, Kobrin, Zhodino and Volozhin

Results of small grants implementation

Most of the projects have just passed the preparatory stage of small grants implementation. Nevertheless as a result of small grants implementation ten (10) *new types of community-based services* were developed in Kobrin, Zhodino, Orsha, Chausy and Volozhin. Small grants enriched a palette of new services in the local communities introducing those services that have never *existed before*.

To raise public awareness *information campaign on child abuse and neglect prevention* is going on in Volozhin, Zhodino and Kobrin.

Training program for perspective foster/adoptive parent based on PRIDE methodology was started in Chausy, Orsha, Zhodino and Volozhin communities. It helped to increase the quality of selection and training of perspective foster/adoptive parents and maintain the platform for alternative care development. Training program is supplemented by *information campaign on alternative care development* to inform the population of the local communities about alternative care for orphaned children

To support services development for victims of domestic violence a *training program for community specialists* has been conducted by NGO “Radislava”. It is a unique opportunity for local specialists to get knowledge and practical skills of services provision for domestic violence victims.

Children at risk are one of the small grants’ target groups. Children from Zhodino evening school become active participants of a *training program on family values* and can get *individual counseling* on the most acute questions within NGO “Focus Group” small grant.

The first step for *Parenting Skills Enhancement Program* dissemination on the local level within small grant was made in Orsha school #20. They partner with additional educational institutions and coordinate the program on the local level. First Parenting groups were completed as well as integrated playgroups for children.

The total number of services introduced within small grants in 5 project sites is **21**.

The total number of beneficiaries (vulnerable groups) directly assisted by the CCF grantees was **178**.

Among them:

- Prospective foster/adoptive parents - 47;
- Orphans placed into foster/ adoptive – 8 (7 children in foster care and one child adopted);
- Children from evening school – 68;
- Specialists working with victims of domestic violence – 21.
- Parents – 24;
- Children - 10;

Number of indirect beneficiaries (general public) reached through information campaigns – **83,282**.

For more information, please, see Annex 1.

*CCF sub-grantee’s quarterly reports are available at CCF-Belarus’ office upon request.

CABs activity.

This quarter series of CAB meetings were conducted in Volozhin (25th of October, 2007, 17th of the December), Orsha (17th of November, 2007) and Chausy (28th of November, 15th of December) to continue strategic plan elaboration aimed at child protection system development and de-institutionalization.

Community parents' associations

On 27th of October, 2007 a **Parent’s Assembly of the town of Zhodino** was organized by local Executive Committee and Department of Education and CCF. It was an opportunity for parents to raise the most acute problems of the community life. Chiefs of Health Care, Police departments and Education institutions together with parents discussed in small groups realization of children’s rights for education, child abuse and neglect prevention, implementation of the rights and interests of disabled children , promotion of healthy life style and leisure time activity. The results of the group activity were presented for all the participants and local authorities. The Head of the local Executive Committee and his team answered parent’s questions, discussed problem solutions and shared future plans. It was a bright example of the authorities’ accountability and parent’s involvement into decision-making process.

OBJECTIVE 2

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

*14 capacity building workshops were conducted within the reported period on different aspects
214 participants took part in 14 capacity building events (International workshops, Project Management, Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention, Monitoring and Evaluation, Proposal Writing, and other capacity building activities)*

96 % (against 85% planned) of capacity building workshops' participants reported improvements of specific knowledge and skills regarding training topic as a result of need-based approach application.

Activity: International Workshops “Communication skills and attachment development ”* <i>(1st of November; 2nd of November, 2007)</i>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 25 specialists from Habilitation Centers and boarding schools from local communities will take part in the International Workshop.</p> <p>Local service providers working with orphans and disabled children will get knowledge on new techniques used in services provision for parents and children with communication disorders.</p>	<p><i>Two (2) Workshops</i> led by an international expert Dr. Suzanne Zeedyk (an American currently teaching at the University of Dundee, UK) were organized for twenty eight (28) specialists representing Habilitation Centers as well as boarding school staff from 8 local communities.</p> <p>The Workshops were aimed at capacity building for specialists working with children who have communication disorders. The Intense Interaction technique (imitation) was introduced as a mean of promoting social engagement in children who are communicatively impaired.</p> <p>As a result of the Workshops the participants started using Intensive Interaction technique and presented it for parents and community specialists working with children having communication disorders.</p>
<p><u><i>Critical notes:</i></u> Report about the workshops including lists of the participants is available at CCF-Belarus office upon request. <i>For more information, please, see Annex 2</i></p>	
Activity: Workshop “Home Base Care Program: Holistic Assessment” (the workshop was financed through SDC-funded project) - <i>(4th of December – 6th of December, 2007)</i>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 4 specialists from Habilitation Centers from local communities will take part in the Workshop.</p> <p>Local service providers working with disabled children and their parents will better understand the possibilities for building partnership with parents to create more favorable family environments.</p>	<p><i>Three-day Workshop</i> led by an international expert John Harris (UK) was organized for sixteen (16) specialists representing Habilitation Centers from Bykhov, Orsha, Volozhin, Chausy, Zhodino as well as 9 parents of children with special needs.</p> <p>The Workshop was aimed at shifting focus from specialist-focused approach to family-centered practices on all stages of habilitation work with children with disabilities.</p> <p>As a result of the Workshop a Framework and tools for holistic assessment of family and a child has been introduced.</p>

<p><u>Critical notes:</u> New tools for holistic assessment will be tested by the specialists and parents and adapted as necessary. The findings will be presented to CCF-Belarus office by the end of January 2008.</p> <p>Report about the workshop including lists of the participants is available at CCF-Belarus office upon request.</p>
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Activity: Trainings of Trainers (ToT) on Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program for Chausy and Volozhin specialists	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 25 community specialists from Chausy and Volozhin will participate in testing training on Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program</p> <p>70% of participants will report improvements of specific knowledge and skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Twenty seven (27) community specialists from Chausy (12th -13th of October, 2007) and Volozhin (9th -10th of October, 2007) had completed final testing training on Health Education and Substance Abuse prevention program. ▪ 50% of participants proved their ability to carry out training program for school children showing good theoretical knowledge, application of the interactive methods, ability to work with a group. The rest of the training group can be involved into training program implementation after additional technical assistances and self-education about some medical aspects and theory. * Due to this follow-up support we expect that at least 35% of the rest of the group will achieve the required level of knowledge and skills and as the result app 80-85% of TOT participants will be involved in trainer's work.
<p><u>Critical notes:</u> Reports about TOT workshops including lists of the participants, analyses of pre-post tests and evaluation forms of the participants are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request * TOT content will be revised. Medical aspects of the training will be divided into basic and advanced levels. TOT will provide basic level information while advanced level will be covered through further technical assistance by CCF-Belarus specialists.</p>	

To increase capacity of Kobrin and Orsha communities series of ToTs were continued in partnership with the NGO "Cooperation for Children's Future" within its UNICEF funded project. **Twenty eight (28) specialists** from these towns were trained on such topics as:

ToT "Interactive methods" – Orsha (9-10 of November, 2007; Kobrin (16-17th of October, 2007).

Training on peer education (14-16th of December, 2007)

Testing trainings – Orsha (29-30th of November), Kobrin (15-16th of November)

Activity: Training on Project Management for Grantees (26th-27th of November, 2007).	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 14 small grant managers from organizations implementing small grants supported by CCF will take part in the Training on Project Management</p> <p>100% of participants will apply new knowledge and skills into small grant management.</p>	<p>Fourteen (14) participants representing organizations implementing small grants took part in Training on Project Management and got acquainted with function of the project manager, planning and reporting tools, conducting tenders, documentation to be collected, and project staff responsibilities.</p> <p>Do we have a self report measure for management skills as is referenced in our expected results? No, we measured training impact such as more organized approach towards maintaining project documentation, reporting and activity planning. All the trainees have created a project folder where they collect all required documentation; they started developing monthly activity plans. The quality of their quarterly reports to CCF have been improved.</p>

Critical notes:

Report about the training including lists of the participants as well as quarterly reports of small grant recipients are available at CCF-Belarus office upon request.

**Activity: Additional capacity building for the Child Protection Trainer's team
(13th-14th of December, 2007).**

<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 13 trainers from 5 communities implementing projects on Child Protection capacity building will take part</p> <p>Adapted curriculum for teaching Module 5 "Investigative processes in Family-Centered Child Protective services" is designed.</p> <p>Trainees will improve their trainer's skills and tools</p>	<p>Thirteen (13) multidisciplinary trainer's team from 5 assisted communities took part in additional capacity building for the child protection trainers' team.</p> <p>As a result participants developed a curriculum for the Module 5 (Investigative processes in Family-Centered Child Protective services) and practiced different trainers' skills such as conducting brain storming, group work, role plays, etc.</p>

Report about the workshop including lists of the participants is available at CCF-Belarus office upon request.

Activity: Additional capacity building for volunteer groups in Orsha, Chausy and Volozhin.

<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>At least 45 volunteers will take part in additional capacity building event</p> <p>Trainees will apply new knowledge and skills into their volunteer activity.</p>	<p>49 young volunteers took part in additional capacity building trainings in Orsha (19-20th of October, 2007), Volozhin (23-24th of November, 2007) and Chausy (14-15th of December, 2007). The participants were acquainted with new methods that can be used in work with disabled children, practiced basics of art therapy, role play and fairy-tale therapy.</p> <p>Volunteers applied received knowledge and skills in organizing and conducting nine (9) activities together with the disabled children. Among them there were home visiting, leisure time and play activities, sports events and meetings with peers, making handcrafts and souvenirs for a New Year. These souvenirs and paintings were displayed in the Habilitation Centers and admired by parents and teachers.</p>

Report about the workshop including lists of the participants, analyses of their evaluation forms available at CCF-Belarus office upon request.

A workshop "Monitoring and Evaluation: Reporting Tools" was conducted on 9th-10th of October, 2007 for organizations implementing small grants. The participants had practiced how to use new Reporting Form in order to better reflect their achievements and needs. The participants revised their M&E systems and submitted it to CCF.

Three (3) Calls for Proposals were issued this quarter. Selection of the service providers was accompanied by Workshops on Proposal Writing for potential applicants on 5-6th of November, 9-10th of November and 11th of November 2007. In addition, NGO meeting was organized on 23rd of November, 2007. NGOs were introduced in the concept framework and risk factors re institutionalization to address them in their future projects. The main problems and the most vulnerable groups for the projects were identified. As a result of all the events 62 participants representing 36 organizations were supported in preparing their proposals, 36 applications were submitted to CCF-Belarus office for funding.

OBJECTIVE 3

To provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Education in Belarus in order to strengthen the national regulatory and methodological base in the area of de-institutionalization and family support and to disseminate key learning's of the project throughout Belarus to build a foundation for replication and sustainability.

This quarter CCF-Belarus focused its efforts on raising awareness about the influence of child abuse and neglect on child's development and incorporation of the new regulatory document into the practice. The Procedure of Investigation of Child Abuse and Neglect developed by Task Group was officially approved and put into practice in CCF targeted communities. It will help to prevent scandalous thing with groundless removal of child from a family that happen in the other places.

Reasonable efforts were done to disseminate key project learning to non-assisted communities all over Belarus. In order to achieve it CCF-Belarus started cooperation with Academy of Post-Diploma Education. This quarter Irina Mironova, CCF-Belarus Country Director conducted training on Effects of Child Abuse and Neglect for 21 students of the Academy. They were masters of schools, social workers, leaders of method learning of educational system from all over Belarus (Minsk, Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Vitebsk regions).

In summary thus far:

Thus to the date four (4) out of five (5) local Executive Communities passed the Procedure of Investigation of Child Abuse and Neglect cases developed by Task Group as local regulatory act obligatory for multidisciplinary team of specialists; Orsha community passed this document on the level of local Department of Education;

Thirty eight (38) participants from the different Ministries, Academic institutions and child protection authorities took part in the National Round Table;

Ten (10) articles as well as ***7 radio and 2 TV broadcastings*** covered the results of the small grants implementation.

21 masters of schools, social workers, leaders of method learning of educational system from all over Belarus (Minsk, Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Vitebsk regions) participated in training on child abuser and neglect.

Activity: National Round Table “Effects of Abuse and Neglect on Child’s Development”	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<p>Representatives from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection, Universities, NGOs as well as key stakeholders from oblast and community levels will take part in the Round table.</p> <p>The Round Table will be conducted to raise the issue of child’s placement in the case of the removal from the family</p> <p>Resources and gaps in services provision for children under 3 years old will be identified.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Thirty eight (38) participants</i> representing Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Protection, Universities, NGOs as well as key stakeholders from oblast and community levels took part in the Round Table. They discussed the role of attachment and empathy in child’s physical and psychological development as well as his successful functioning in the society. The mechanisms that lead parenting in the early years to have long-term consequences for children were presented by Dr. Suzanne Zeedyk (Dundee University, UK). ▪ Governmental and non-governmental organizations presented educational programs for families/children and family support models. Participants underlined the acute need to start Parenting program for schoolchildren, pregnant women and young parents, to lobby changes in legislation in order to provide legal status for a short-term foster families, to train nurses/pediatricians from polyclinics on comprehensive home visiting program to support families with children under 3. ▪ The Round Table resolution will be used for the Task Group Action plan development and introducing changes into Parenting program adequate for new target groups, for training program on home visiting development.

Planned activity for the next quarter:

The report about the Round table including lists of participants are available at CCF-Belarus office upon request.

III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

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

In November Irina Mironova and Marina Ananenko (CCF-Belarus) met with Dr. Mary Moran, CCF, Inc. Senior program specialist, at IHS office while they were at study visit to Columbus, Ohio. Training priorities and schedule for Year 3, as well as national adoption development issues were coordinated.

- ***Coordination with USAID***

Irina Mironova, CCF-Belarus Chief of the Party, and Mariana Ananenko, CCF-Belarus OVC Project Manager, as well as Vladimir Korzh, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, had a meeting with Jahor Novikov, USAID-Belarus CTO, and Larissa Komarova, USAID/Belarus Program Development Specialist to discuss adjustments to PMP.

On 31st of October Irina Mironova, CCF-Belarus Chief of the Party, met with USAID Regional Legal Advisor, Irina Yurchenko (USAID-Kiev) and Jahor Novikov (USAID CTO-Minsk).

On the 1st of November Irina Mironova, CCF-Belarus Chief of the Party, met with Earl Gast and up-dated him about the project implementation

- ***Coordination with Ministry of Education of Belarus***

Irina Mironova was invited as an expert by the Ministry of Education of Belarus for development of the III and IV National Periodical Report about Convention of Children's Rights implementation in Belarus.

On the 5th of December, 2007 Irina Mironova, CCF-Belarus Chief of the Party and Mariana Ananenko, CCF-Belarus OVC Project Manager took part in the *working meeting* organized by Belarus Ministry of Education and UNICEF on social standards development. Practitioners from different Belarus regions as well as Academy of Post-Diploma Education participated in the meeting. CCF-Belarus presented existing USA standards.

- ***Other agencies***

Coordination with WHO was continued in the reported period. Marina Ananenko met with Dr. Dinesh Sethi at the presentation of WHO Violence and Injury Prevention (VIP) TOT program. Future steps in cooperation with WHO were identified.

- ***Cost-share and leveraging***

SDC sponsored a *Workshop "Home Base Care Program: Holistic Assessment"* provided by CCF-Belarus for community specialists working with disabled children and their families. The total cost-share with SDC for this quarter was **\$3 299. 46 USD**.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

On the 20-21st of November, 2007 Elena Chesnovich, CCF-Belarus Child Protection Specialist, and Valentina Ahmetova, community coordinator in Chausy, took part in the *International Workshop in Kiev, Ukraine*, on legislation about child abuse and neglect prevention within the family. They were acquainted with the experience of governmental and non-governmental organizations from Russia, Ukraine and Moldova in identification of child abuse and neglect cases, legislation, prevention programs and rehabilitation services provision for the victims.

On 5-8th of November 2007, Irina Mironova participated in WHO Regional VIP TOT on Violence Prevention, in Salzburg (Austria). WHO covered all the expenses.

On 23rd of November-2nd of December, 2007 Irina Mironova, CCF-Belarus Chief of the Party, and Mariana Ananenko, CCF-Belarus OVC Project Manager, took part in the study tour to USA (Columbus, Ohio) organized in partnership with Institute for Human Services (IHS). IHS is CCF partner in introducing Child Protection training program for Belarus community specialists at international workshops. As a result the visit the experience of alternative care development and child protection training program coordination on state level was learned, perspectives of further cooperation were identified. CCF-Belarus and IHS specialists had a

meeting with the Governor of State of Ohio where they presented how Ohio child protection model influenced the development of child protection system in Belarus.

V. BUDGET

SF-272 (this report will be submitted under separate cover)



Overview of micro-grants progress in frames of “Community services to vulnerable groups” contracted by CCF in 2007

The general list:

o ACTIVE MICRO-GRANTS contracted in 2007:

I. Chausy community:

1. Educational department of Chausy executive committee (project “Education of future foster parents on PRIDE program”);
2. Chausy Social-pedagogic center (project “Information campaign on alternative forms of child care development”);

II. Zhodino community:

3. Social-pedagogic center of Zhodino (2 projects: “Education course for future foster parents” and “Childhood without violence”);
4. Educational department of Zhodino Executive committee (project “Zhodino Social Network”);
5. NGO “Focus Group” (project “Future Without Violence and Abuse”);

III. Volozhin community:

6. Social-pedagogic center of Volozhin region (3 projects: “A family to every child”, “Let's say "no" to child abuse” and “Introduction of social orphanage prevention services to the work of child protection system”);

IV. Kobrin community:

7. Kobrin Territorial Center of Social Support of Population (project “Children against violence”);
8. Kobrin branch of Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth (project “Family Support Center – 2”);

V. Orsha community:

9. Social-pedagogic center of Orsha (3 projects: “Education program for candidates to foster parents”, “Informational campaign on alternative forms of adoption of orphans” and “Assistance to prevention of social orphanage through creation of favorable conditions for family support, strengthening family upbringing and development of children life skills”);
10. Orsha School #20 (project “Development of preventive services to strengthen family capacity and to prevent child abuse and neglect”);

VI. Multiple communities:

11. Public Union "Radislava" (project “Support Service as a form of counteraction to child and women violence”);
12. National NGO "Mothers against Drugs" (project “A Way to Recovery -2”).

o ACTIVE MICRO-GRANTS contracted in 2007:

I. Chausy community:

Name:	Educational department of Chausy executive committee	
Project name:	<i>Education of future foster parents on PRIDE program</i>	
Project duration:	26.06.2007 - 26.06.2008	
Project status:	Active	
Services established by present time:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment and pre- service training for prospective foster and adoptive families on PRIDE program 	
Number of beneficiaries and outputs:	Prospective foster parents, completed PRIDE program	12
	Prospective adoptive parents, completed PRIDE program	3
	Prospective foster parents, completed half of PRIDE program	12
	Orphans placed into foster care	7
	Orphans placed into adoptive families	1
	total	35

Name:	Social-pedagogic center of Chausy	
Project name:	<i>Information campaign on alternative forms of child care development</i>	
Project duration:	27.06.2007 - 27.06.2008	
Project status:	Active	
Services established by present time:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness activities (articles, public presentations, radio talks, special event) on foster care and adoption 	
Indirect beneficiaries and outputs:	Population reached by public awareness activities:	
	1 article in the local newspaper <i>Iskra</i>	2626
	Dissemination of information cards about institutionalized children who need to be placed in alternative care (among workers of local enterprises)	318
	2 public presentations before workers of the local enterprises	170
	1 special event for foster parents	135
	2 talks on the local radio	2000
	total	5249

II. Zhodino community:

<i>Name:</i>	Zhodino Social-pedagogic center	
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Education course for future foster parents</i>	
<i>Project duration:</i>	06.08.07 - 06.06.08	
<i>Project status:</i>	Active	
<i>Services established by present time:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness activities on foster care and adoption (publications in local newspapers, information actions on local enterprises, presentations on the local radio, dissemination of children's information cards) 	
<i>Indirect beneficiaries and outputs:</i>	Population reached by public awareness activities:	
	Reached through an article in local newspaper "Zhodzinskiya Naviny"	3 896
	Reached through an article in local newspaper "Zhodinskie Vesti"	3100
	Reached through an article in local newspaper "Novosti BelAZa"	2700
	Reached through information actions on 4 local enterprises	192
	Reached through 2 presentations the local radio on local enterprises	10000
	Reached through dissemination of information cards about institutionalized children who need to be placed in alternative care (among workers of local enterprises)	300
	<i>total</i>	<i>20188</i>

<i>Name:</i>	Social-pedagogic center of Zhodino	
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Childhood without violence</i>	
<i>Project duration:</i>	06.08.2007 - 06.08.2008	
<i>Project status:</i>	Active	
<i>Services established by present time:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness activities (public presentations, radio talks, special event) on child abuse and neglect prevention. 	
<i>Indirect beneficiaries and outputs:</i>	Population reached by public awareness activities:	
	1 presentation at the round table at a public school	20
	5 presentations at parents' meetings in public schools	730
	1 presentation at the seminar for deputy directors of public schools	21
	1 talk on the radio station of the factory <i>Svitanok</i>	2000
	<i>total</i>	<i>2771</i>

<i>Name:</i>	Educational department of Zhodino executive committee
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Zhodino Social Network</i> (Creation of a computer network with access to electronic data-base on disadvantaged families and children at risk)
<i>Project duration:</i>	13.12.2007 - 13.12.2008
<i>Project status:</i>	Active
OUTPUTS: As less then a month of project has passed, the results will be reported next period	

<i>NGO name:</i>	NGO "Focus Group"
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Future Without Violence and Abuse</i>
<i>Project duration:</i>	12.06.2007 - 12.06.2008
<i>Project status:</i>	Active
<i>Services established by present time and outputs:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A training room for project activities was equipped ▪ Trainings for young people on parenting skills development on 2 themes were implemented ▪ Ongoing psychological counseling for young people is being implemented
<i>Number of beneficiaries:</i>	pupils (15-19 y.o.) of the Zhodino evening school
	65

III. Volozhin community:

<i>Name:</i>	Volozhin region Social-pedagogic center	
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>A family for every child</i>	
<i>Project duration:</i>	22.08.2007 - 22.08.2008	
<i>Project status:</i>	Active	
<i>Services established by present time:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PRIDE training for prospective foster and adoptive families ▪ Public awareness activities on foster care and adoption (school meetings for parents, an article in a regional newspaper) 	
<i>Number of beneficiaries and outputs:</i>	Prospective foster parents, participating in PRIDE training program	9
	Prospective adoptive parents, participating in PRIDE training program	1
	<i>total</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Indirect beneficiaries and outputs:</i>	Reached through 1 article in a regional newspaper "Minskaya Pravda"	500
	Reached through 2 information actions on school meetings for parents	864
	<i>total</i>	<i>1364</i>

<i>Name:</i>	Social-pedagogic center of Volozhin region	
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Let's say "no" to child abuse</i>	
<i>Project duration:</i>	22.08.2007 - 22.08.2008	
<i>Project status:</i>	Active	
<i>Services established by present time:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness activities (public presentations, round tables) on child abuse and neglect prevention. 	
<i>Indirect beneficiaries and outputs:</i>	Population reached by public awareness activities:	
	1 round table for specialists of education institutions	22
	1 round table for specialists of child protection services	12
	4 presentations at parents' meetings in public schools	645
	<i>total</i>	<i>679</i>

<i>Name:</i>	Social-pedagogic center of Volozhin region	
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Introduction of social orphanage prevention services to the work of child protection system (Strengthening multidisciplinary cooperation and increasing professional competence of local child protection specialists)</i>	

<i>Project duration:</i>	02.11.2007 - 02.11.2008	
<i>Project status:</i>	Active	
<i>Services established by present time:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A round table for multidisciplinary team has been implemented 	
<i>Planned number of beneficiaries:</i>	Multidisciplinary team working in child protection system	30
OUTPUTS: As less then a 2 months of project has passed, the results will be reported next period		

IV. Kobrin community:

<i>Name:</i>	Kobrin Territorial Center of Social Support of Population	
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Children against violence</i>	
<i>Project duration:</i>	10.09.2007 - 10.07.2008	
<i>Project status:</i>	Active	
<i>Services established by present time:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public awareness activities (special event) on child abuse and neglect prevention. 	
<i>Indirect beneficiaries and outputs:</i>	Population reached by public awareness activities:	
	1 special event "My Voice Against Child Abuse and Neglect" at a public school	134
	<i>total</i>	<i>134</i>

<i>Name:</i>	NGO "Kobrin branch of Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth"	
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>"Family Support Center - 2"</i> (Strengthening family capacity and coping skills, increasing community support and acceptance of disabled children)	
<i>Project duration:</i>	26.12.2007 - 26.10.2008	
<i>Project status:</i>	Active	
<i>Planned number of beneficiaries:</i>	Parents of children with disabilities	45
	Children with disabilities	35
	<i>total</i>	<i>80</i>
OUTPUTS:	As less then a month of project has passed, the results will be reported next period	

V. Orsha community:

<i>Name:</i>	Social-pedagogic center of Orsha
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Informational campaign on alternative forms of adoption of orphans</i>
<i>Project duration:</i>	04.10.2007 - 04.10.2008
<i>Project status:</i>	Active
OUTPUTS: As less then a quarter of project has passed, the results will be reported next period	

<i>Name:</i>	Orsha Social-pedagogic center	
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Education program for candidates to foster parents</i>	
<i>Project duration:</i>	04.10.07 - 04.07.08	
<i>Project status:</i>	Active	
<i>Services established by present time:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PRIDE training for prospective foster and adoptive families 	
<i>Number of beneficiaries and outputs:</i>	Prospective foster parents, completed half of PRIDE trainings	10
	<i>total</i>	<i>10</i>

<i>Name:</i>	Social-pedagogic center of Orsha
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Assistance to prevention of social orphanage through creation of favorable conditions for family support, strengthening family upbringing and development of children life skills</i>
<i>Project duration:</i>	19.10.2007 - 19.10.2008
<i>Project status:</i>	Active
OUTPUTS: As less then a quarter of project has passed, the results will be reported next period	

<i>Name:</i>	Orsha School #20
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Development of preventive services to strengthen family capacity and to prevent child abuse and neglect</i>
<i>Project duration:</i>	04.10.2007 - 04.10.2008
<i>Project status:</i>	Active
<i>Services established by present time:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parenting skills enhancement program ▪ Integrated playgroup activity for typical children and children at risk ▪ Public awareness activities on prevention of child abuse and neglect on working places for the workers of local enterprises

<i>Number of beneficiaries and outputs:</i>	Parents, participating in parenting skills enhancement program	24
	Children, participating in integrated playgroup activity for typical children and children at risk	10
	<i>total</i>	34

VI. Multiple communities:

<i>NGO name:</i>	NGO "Radislava"	
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>Support Service as a form of counteraction to child and women violence</i>	
<i>Project duration:</i>	27.08.2007 - 27.08.2008	
<i>Project status:</i>	Active	
<i>Project locations:</i>	Zhodino, Orsha, Kobrin, Chausy, Volozhin	
<i>Services established by present time:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training program for the specialists of Territorial Centers of Social Support of Population and Social-pedagogic centers on creation and work of Support Service as a form of assistance for women and children suffered from violence ▪ Public awareness activities (TV and radio programs, thematic articles, Information leaflets) on Support service as a form of assistance for women and children suffered from violence 	
<i>Number of beneficiaries and outputs:</i>	Specialists of Territorial Centers of Social Support of Population and Social-pedagogic centers participated in 2 trainings	14
<i>Indirect beneficiaries and outputs:</i>	Population reached by public awareness activities:	
	1 round table for specialists working in Child protection sphere	42
	1 article in local newspaper	5760
	2 talks on local radio	40200
	Dissemination of Information leaflets on Support Service availability in the communities	500
	Reached through TV program on Republic-wide TV channel	52897

<i>NGO name:</i>	National NGO "Mothers against Drugs"	
<i>Project name:</i>	<i>"A Way to Recovery - 2"</i>	
<i>Project duration:</i>	19.10.2007 - 19.10.2008	
<i>Project status:</i>	Active	
<i>Services established by present time:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuation of Self-help groups for alcohol addicted in Orsha community and creation of the groups in Zhodino, Kobrin and Volozhin; ▪ Continuation of Self-help groups for co-dependent in Orsha community and creation of the groups in Zhodino, Kobrin and Volozhin; ▪ Creation of a film and library for methodological support of the groups. 	
<i>Project locations:</i>	Zhodino, Orsha, Kobrin, Volozhin	
<i>Planned number of direct beneficiaries:</i>	Alcohol addicted and Co-dependant relatives	400
OUTPUTS:		
As less then a quarter of project has passed, the results will be reported next period		

○ LIST OF GRANTS ON REGISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATION), subcontracts 2007.

Organization Name	Project name	Contract signed	Amount \$	Transfer date	Start of registration
<i>Strengthening multidisciplinary cooperation and increasing professional competence of local child protection specialists</i>					
Educative department of Chausy Executive committee	Prevention of social orphanage through introduction of family-centered approach to institutions of child protection system	15.08.2007	\$9 649,00	15.08.2007	August 2007
<i>Creation of a computer network with access to electronic data-base on disadvantaged families and children at risk</i>					
Educative department of Chausy Executive committee	Cross-sector cooperation on child and family protection through creation of unified informational record system	28.09.2007	\$24 851,00	28.09.2007	October 2007
Educational department of Orsha Executive committee	Creation of network database on child protection in Orsha	28.09.2007	\$19 862,00	28.09.2007	October 2007



CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, Inc. **Representative Office in Belarus**

International workshop organized by CCF-Belarus proved that miracles can really happen while working with severely disabled children with communication disorders using the method of Intensive Interaction (Imitation).

2 November, 2007 CCF-Belarus organized a workshop conducted by Dr. Suzan Zeedyk (University of Dundee, UK) to acquaint the specialists of Belarusian habilitation centers with the Intensive Interaction (Imitation) technique that can be used in working with children with serious communication disorders.

This approach has been used for some years in the UK, and the research conducted confirms that it is very effective even for the most severely disabled individuals. The approach has already attracted international attention, with projects now instituted in New Zealand, Denmark, Czech Republic and Romania. The method has many advantages: it is easy to be trained to use it, it is easy to deliver and can be of used by both staff and parents.



Dr. Suzan Zeedyk with Anya, 5 demonstrates the effectiveness of the imitation technique.

The program of the workshop covered theoretical background of Intensive Interaction and gave a chance to the participants to observe and practice the new method working with children who have severe communication disorders such as autism.

Dr. Suzan Zeedyk demonstrated the possibility to start person-to-person contact with a child who had rarely communicated with parents and specialists. It took her about 5 minutes to establish effective communication which is quite unusual for children suffering from autism.

After the workshop the participants started to present the new technique to their colleagues and parents of disabled children in their communities. And many of them have already achieved some good results in it.

Larisa, specialist of Chausy Habilitation Center: *"... Thanks to the method of imitation nine-year-old Sasha who has a severe mental retardation and cerebral palsy began to smile, was able to concentrate on a toy and react to his name... it is a miracle as he had never done that before..."*

Irina, specialist of Volozhin Habilitation Center: *"... As soon as I started using the Imitation technique working with a three-years-old Vanya, who suffers from cerebral palsy and has a severe form of mental retardation, he began to pronounce more sounds and was able to contact with the specialist for a longer time..."*

Valeria, Orsha Habilitation Center specialist: *"... 8-year-old girl suffering from a severe form of mental retardation and cerebral palsy started to concentrate on a toy and to react at other people after a short time of using the imitation..."*