



Christian Children's Fund - Belarus

“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS”

ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

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Component I “Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus”

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Development objective:

Democracy, human rights and development

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

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 goals are 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 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.

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

In the first Year CCF has achieved challenging objectives it set out to accomplish for Year 1. The project activity was implemented within budget and time frames.

CCF program covered a wide spectrum of activities characterized by office mobilization and remodeling premises, selection of three project sites (towns of Kobrin, Zhodino, Orsha), project staff recruitment both in Minsk and in the targeted communities, development of Annual Implementation Plan, PMEP and base-line report, partnership development on the community, national and international levels, needs assessment and specific training activities, small grant disbursement.

The main focus of Year 1 activity was done on **strengthening material basis** of partner organizations and **capacity building** for community specialists dealing with family and children's issues.

The trainees represented the different community-based services such as socio-pedagogical centers, centers for social protection, schools, and child protection units of educational departments, local and national NGOs. App. 88% of them improved their knowledge, skills, attitudes and demonstrated ability to deliver new innovative programs and services for families and children.

Reasonable efforts were undertaken in order to **improve a community infrastructure** supportive to integrated system of family care services. Considering poor and inadequate material and technical base of community-based services (shelters, socio-pedagogical centers, centers of social protection, Habilitation Centers for children with disabilities, children's institutions, and school social services) CCF-Belarus conducted careful analyses and assessment of their needs and assisted them in purchasing some pieces of equipment, materials and supplies.

Capacity building events for community specialists coupled with equipment purchase resulted in **new types of prevention services** such as day care and respite services for disabled children, self-support groups for their parents, integrated playgroups, parenting skills enhancement programs, and support services to disabled children by youth volunteer groups. In addition three requests for proposals to develop additional services for

families at risks and vulnerable children were issued. Implementation of five selected and registered projects will be continued in Year 2.

The project facilitated **integrated approach** towards service delivery. Training program on Child Protection services for multidisciplinary teams started in Year1 became the first step towards it. Specialists- participants of the program became better aware about their specific roles and functions within multidisciplinary teams. Community Advisory Boards facilitated by CCF and consisting of local authorities, representatives of education and health care, social protection, police, child protection services, mass media, and NGOs, became a platform for open discussion, problem identification and solution, joint decision making and evaluation.

Technical Assistance Task Group created within the project course conducted detailed assessment and analyses of existing regulatory and methodological environment, identified gaps and priorities to be addressed, and developed the first **regulatory document** - the Procedure of Child removal from a family helping to avoid groundless and subjective decisions on this matter.

Annual participatory evaluation conducted by CCF demonstrated high assessment of project activity by all stakeholders involved. It showed their great enthusiasm, improvement of the professional level of the specialists, increased level of support and understanding among local authorities towards the project.

From the interview of Lidia Samusevich, Child Protection Specialists from Zhodino Department of Education to newspaper "Zhodino Naviny":

"....cooperation with CCF-Belarus gives an opportunity for mobilization of existing community resources to solve the problem of families and children at risk, to maintain cooperation between stakeholders on orphanhood prevention...."

In summary thus far:

- About 100 community specialists representing 19 partner organizations have been trained as the trainers in 11 subjects covering Parenting Skills Enhancement program, Health Education and Substance Abuse prevention, Youth Mobilization and Volunteer management, Life Skills Education, and Child Protection Services;
- 155 parents and 213 children including those with disabilities benefited from the new prevention services for parents and children in Orsha and Kobrin;
- Three requests for proposals were issued, 11 proposals received from community-based organizations and national/ local NGOs. 49,047 USD in seed grants, i.e 5 grants in total, have been awarded;
- Twelve (12) poorest community-based services got an opportunity to improve their material resources and receive new equipment;
- Task Group produced the first draft of the Procedure of Child removal from a family helping to avoid groundless and subjective decisions on this matter.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITY IMPACT

OBJECTIVE 1

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

Prevention Services.

Prevention services provided in Year 1 were targeted at individuals or groups in order to prevent the danger of escalation of normative problems into the crises, decrease risk of child abuse and neglect in the families. It included *Parenting Skills Enhancement Program*, that is aimed at decreasing family stress and enhancing family functioning, *self-help group activity* and *integrated playgroups* to support disabled children and their families, *volunteer group activity* focused on inclusion of children with disabilities into activities of the peer groups.

Activity: Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

Eight groups of parents (106 people) from Orsha and Kobrin completed Parenting Skills Enhancement Program. Among them 20% (20 people) were parents of disabled children; 8% (8 people) were parents from the 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*). ***Two groups of parents (26 people)*** from Zhodino are in training since September 2006.

As a result:

- **85% of parents** who completed the Parenting Enhancement Program reported better understanding of the reasons of children's misbehavior and cope with it without violence;
- **82% of parents** reported improvement of their parents' competence and skills ;
- **82% of trained parents** assessed themselves as "responsible parents";
- **90% of parents** maintained optimal emotional contacts with their children;
- **75% of parents** started using methods of stress management and self-regulation.

Parents' Quotes:

Natasha, a mother of a 14-teen year old son: "...I was trying to find a way to solve problems with children using my intuition. But now I've become more rational in analyzing son's behavior. ..I have started to discuss the problem together with my son..."

Note: Reports about Parenting Skills Enhancement Program group activity including lists of the participants, analyses of pre-post evaluation forms and focus group discussions notes are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request.

Care and Support for disabled children and their families

Without community services, disabled children will likely be raised in institutions. Although there are some services in this area, more are needed.

The project helped to establish/support day care services, respite care for disabled children. To assist in **day care and respite care services** development CCF allocated **8, 465, 32 USD** to purchase special equipment for three (3) state **Habilitation Centers for Disabled Children**. As a result new day care groups were started in Orsha and Kobrin in September 2006. Respite care development was supported in Zhodino Habilitation Center for disabled children due to new equipment installation in night care group for 8 children.

This year community services aimed at support provision, facilitating inclusion, overcoming stigma and discrimination of disabled children and their families have been continued in Kobrin and co-sponsored by SDC. Among such services are self-support groups for parents of disabled children, integrated playgroups, siblings groups and volunteer activity targeted at assistance for families with disabled children.

Activity: Self-help groups for parents of disabled children in Kobrin

While network of state services provide rehabilitation and medical care for children with disabilities, unique stresses and needs experienced by families parenting children with disabilities are still poorly understood and met. *Services for families* of children with disabilities provided within the project addressed all three factors of the crisis equation:

- *the reduction of situational and psychological stress ;*
- *strengthening a family's ability to cope and access supportive services and resources; and*
- *helping families achieve a realistic perception of their situation.*

Parents support groups and *parent association* helped overcome social isolation and serve multiple functions, including education and training, recreation and leisure, counseling and peer support.

Three meetings of the self-help group were organized in Kobrin Habilitation Center. **Fourteen (14) parents of disabled children** took part in the meetings. These meetings were targeted at consultation provision for parents of disabled children. Parents of disabled children shared their fears, learned how to handle outside aggression caused by ill-natured reaction to disabled children, and how to control and cope with their negative emotions. They discussed how to improve the psychological environment in a family, and the role of fathers of disabled children. This activity was sponsored by SDC project.

- **93% of parents improved communication** with wide range of community specialists regarding family issues

- **93% of parents** of children with disabilities established **inter-group relationships and improved social networking**

-**100% of parents increased self-confidence** and created foundations for joint activities targeting children's rights and family issues

Parents- participants suggested new ideas for service provision for them and their children:

"...Continue self-support group meeting and trainings for parents, organization of working places for disabled youth, improve conditions at rehabilitation Center, provide more developmental and educational opportunities for disabled children on the community level; involve social pedagogues in self-support group activities"

Activity: Community parents' associations

Parents being together can make a difference not just in their families but also in the communities.

In Kobrin 8 most active participants of local Parents' Association BelAPDiMI took part in CCF training on participatory planning and proposal writing. They upgraded their knowledge and skills on team building, effective communication, participatory planning and coordination

As the result 1 proposal designed jointly with local Habilitation Center Centre, young volunteers from school № 3 was submitted to and approved by CCF (please, see Annex 4).

To assist in parents' of disabled children involvement into the activities provided by Habilitation Center and to develop services for families with disabled children a **two-day Workshop "Building Partnership with Parents"** was organized by British expert Dr. John Harris for siblings and their parents, specialists of Habilitation Center and psychologists from Kobrin schools in *March 27-28, 2006*. Participants were provided with knowledge about relations, situations and role of siblings in the life of the disabled and their families; they better understood needs of siblings, and what kind of support parents and specialists can provide for them. It will become a platform for development of new services targeting disabled children and their families.

Activity: Volunteer activity to support families with disabled children.

Inclusion of children with disabilities into activity of the peer groups can promote healthy social interaction and beneficial growth experience for all participants. Typical children who are reared in everyday interaction with disabled ones relate to disability as a matter of course; the disability becomes a single, and not always relevant, characteristic in understanding the nature of the person. Volunteer group consisting of children from Kobrin schools was started with a support of SDC.

Work of youth volunteer groups created additional cycle of community support to families raising handicapped children. Young volunteers implemented activities to match the needs and aspirations of disabled children and their families.

- **Fifty one (51)** volunteers from school #3 and school#1 in Kobrin carried out 12 cultural/leisure activities for disabled children from Kobrin Habilitation Center (New Year and Christmas celebration, St.Valentine's Day, Boy's Day, Mardi cras farewell, Girl's day, Mother's Day, Easter celebration, etc.) for **ninety seven (97) disabled children and 22 parents**. The activities included concerts, sport competitions, folk signing, dancing, sweet parties, a joint trip to the national forest reserve.
- **Six hundred (600) small gifts** for disabled children were collected and delivered by 200 volunteers from 19 schools of Kobrin district. This action was initiated by youth volunteer group from CCF partner school #3.

Svetlana Nikolenko (School #3, Kobrin) "...Volunteer activity made the problem of disabled children vivid in the community. Beforehand they were unseen in the town...Volunteers are no longer afraid or terrified of communication with disabled children. They are friends now..."

Olga Deyneko, 15 years old: "... We were pleased to feel that someone needs us as volunteers..."

Activity: Social Interactive Theater in School #3 (Kobrin)

App.150 children and teachers of school № 3 (Kobrin) participated in 7 performances of Social Interactive Theater prepared by young volunteers and dedicated problems of disabled children. According to focus group discussions children of school № 3 became better aware regarding problems of children with disabilities and their families. This activity was co-sponsored by SDC.

Activity: Integrated playgroups for typical and disabled children

Integrated playgroups for typical and disabled children consist of developmental programs, programs of social interaction and adaptation for children while their parents are at Parenting Classes. As children with disabilities participate in the playgroup activity volunteers are involved to assist the trainer. This activity was implemented in Kobrin (sponsored by SDC project) and Orsha.

As a result:

- **One hundred sixteen (116)** non-disabled children and children with disabilities (30 of 116) were involved in 10 integrated playgroups, creative and development activities in Orsha and Kobrin.
- **13 young volunteers** regularly provided assistance to integrated playgroup activities
- **12 unique developmental programs for integrated playgroups** are prepared by community trainers (art therapy, cognitive, emotional and aesthetic development, basic IT skills, and communication skills).
- **Sixteen (16)** non-disabled children from risk group are involved into playgroup activity in Zhodino since September 2006.

Elena Obukhovich, integrated playgroup trainer:

"... There were two boys with disabilities in our group but the other children did not consider it as something unusual. All children were so nice and kind to each other. Volunteers were very helpful!"

Note:

Trainer's reports, developmental programs are available upon request at CCF-Belarus office

Rehabilitation Services

Key community problems that should be solved to prevent children's institutionalization were identified during community needs assessment. To support communities and in order to facilitate development of new rehabilitation services three (3) Requests for Proposals were announced by CCF. As a result 11 projects were submitted and five (5) of them were approved for the total amount of 49, 047 USD. The selected projects are aimed at strengthening capacity of at risk families, alternative care development, services provision for

disabled children and their families; substance abuse counseling and self-help group for alcohol abused and their relatives. (For more information, please see *Annex 4*)

All the projects were registered in the Department of Humanitarian Aid till the beginning of August 2006. The projects were started in August 2006.

Note:

Original applications, lists of participants and Partnership Agreements are available from the CCF-Belarus office upon request.

Equipment purchasing

Needs assessment conducted by CCF in the targeted communities resulted in *special agreements for equipment purchase for 12 poorest community services for total sum of 25763.02 USD*. Equipment for nine (9) social services such as Habilitation Centers for Disabled Children, Centers of Social Support, Boarding Schools for orphaned children, shelters was purchased. Money transferred for three other institutions are still in process of registration in the Department on Humanitarian Aid. As a result three new PC stations for community and school coordinators, equipment for training rooms and a day care groups for disabled children (including comfortable beds, convenient tables that respond to needs of children with disabilities), social apartments for shelters, sewing machines were purchased to develop prevention and rehabilitation services.

The purchased equipment created a basis for implementation of prevention and rehabilitation services such as Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, Life Skills Education Program, Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

Lists of equipment and financial reports are available at CCF-Belarus office upon request. For more information, please see Annex 1.

Activity: Community Advisory Board Establishment

CCF facilitated creation of Community Advisory Boards (CAB) consisted of local authorities, representatives of education and health care, social protection, police, child protection services, mass media, NGOs. CABs became the first step towards inter-sector cooperation and development of a favorable environment for family care. Action Plan for each CAB developed by the local communities and coordinated with CCF. For more information, please see Annex 2.

OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance the professional training and education of social service providers and awareness of community members with regards to the development of favorable family environments for children.

As the activities of the Year 1 were targeted at capacity building for local specialists CCF provided trainings on Parenting Enhancement Program; on Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program; on Life Skills Program; on Volunteer Management. Series of workshops for multidisciplinary team of the specialists on Organization of Child Protective Services was started.

It total 100 specialists were trained within the Year 1 to implement above mentioned programs. All the participants were provided with Manuals, Books and video materials that can be helpful while working on different programs with children and families at risk, institutionalized and sheltered children.

Activity: Training of Trainers (ToT) on Parenting Enhancement Programs in targeted communities (Orsha, Kobrin)

Four (4) ToT workshops (March 22-24; March 29-31 and June 12-14; June 19-21) were conducted for community specialists from Orsha, Kobrin and Zhodino; one workshop was held in Orsha in March 16-17. Twenty three (23) community specialists were trained on Parenting course curriculum, adults learning techniques, interactive methods of teaching, working with different types of participants. Special attention was given to M&E of the results of parenting education

As a result:

- 94% of the participants reported improvements in specific knowledge and skills such as understanding the process of group work, adults learning techniques, interactive methods of teaching, working with different types of participants, implementation of M&E system;
- Two (2) groups on Parenting Skills Enhancement programs have been started in Zhodino since September 2006;

Nine (9) groups will be started in Orsha, Zhodino and Kobrin in October 2006.

Trainees say:

Nina P.: "...The training showed new perspectives in my professional activity...I was planning to retire but now I want to continue working using new methods..."

"...There are no skeptics any longer in our school. Everyone is ready to try new methods and technologies of work with parents and children at risk...I have started thinking in a completely different way...."

"... The training helped me to view the problem of child's upbringing in a new way. I hope the knowledge and skills obtained will be useful in my work with schoolchildren and their parents"

Activity: Trainings of Trainers (ToT) on Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program

Eleven (11) community specialists from Zhodino participated in series of 4 workshops on new approaches to HIV/AIDS prevention, Reproductive Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, Interactive methods of work with children and youth in Health Education (6-8th of April, 11-13th of May, 18-20 May, 21-23 June). The program was ended up with Test session on 21-23 of September where participants showed their ability to work with different age groups of children on different training issues.

As a result:

Based on the results of the Test session only three (3) participants (33%) will be able to start Health Education Program groups in October 2006 in school #9 and in boarding school in Zhodino. Low results of the testing training showed that it is necessary to select the participants for the trainings more precisely taking their motivation into account via pre-training selection of participants. The rest of trainees will have an opportunity to keep up with a program and pass testing training in November 2006.

Activity: Training of Trainers (ToT) on Life Skills Program

Eight (8) participants* completed ToT sessions on Life Skills Program on 26-28th of April (Part 1) and 15-17th of May (Part 2). They were provided with knowledge on methods of organizing trainings for teens, characteristics of teenagers, as well as how to teach them basic life skills (money management, meal preparation, employment skills and etc.). Twelve participants started ToT in April but 4 people could not come to the second session in May because of their huge workload. They will complete TOT course in October, 2006.

As a result:

- 66% of participants reported about improvement of specific knowledge and 50% will start working next year.
- One (1) group on Life Skills Program (12 children) has been started in Divin boarding school (Kobrin) in September 2006; two groups on Life Skills program will be started in each community in October 2006.

Activity: Volunteer Management

In order to provide new services in the area of care and support for disabled children and to support volunteer group managers Training on Volunteer Management was organized on 18th of April 2006 in Minsk.

An exchange visit to Kobrin Habilitation Center for Disabled Children and School #3 was organized on 21-23 of September 2006 to acquaint volunteer group managers with the best practice of volunteer activity. Three (3) representatives of Habilitation Centers for Disabled children and two (2) school volunteer group leaders from Orsha and Zhodino took part in exchange program.

For more information, please, see Annex 3

Activity: Workshops for the multidisciplinary team of the specialists on Child Protective Services

Multidisciplinary team (19 persons) consisted of representatives of Departments of Education, schools, police, child protection services, shelters and social-pedagogical centers as well as health care took part in two-days *Introduction Training* on 24-25th of June 2006 and *Training on Family Centered Approach and Engagement Families to Child Protective Services* (15th -17th of September).

As a result 100 % of the trainees got new knowledge on how to identify children who have been physically abused, neglected, sexually abused, or emotionally maltreated, how to work within a community-based system of child protection; how to approach and relate to families in a culturally respectful and competent manner; how to determine the level of immediate and future risk of abuse or neglect to children in their homes; how to complete a thorough assessment that identifies family needs, strengths, contributors to maltreatment, and resources to promote children's safety; how to plan and conduct investigation process.

Activity: Additional Capacity Building

Additional capacity building events ensured quality of project implementation.

On April 13, 2006 CCF-Belarus staff held training session on **Project Cycle Management** for 13 representatives of partner organizations. All of them reported about improvements of their knowledge on result-oriented project management, planning, reporting, and partnership development. As the result community coordinators provide CCF-Belarus with monthly reports and plans, community organizations started cooperation and maintained links between each other.

Two workshops on Proposal Writing (on April 28 in Kobrin and on May, 4 in Minsk) helped representatives of the community social services develop their proposals aimed to prevent social orphan hood and strengthen families. As the result nine applications were submitted to the grant contests, three of them were awarded.

*Reports about trainings, TOT workshops and exchange visit 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

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.

Activity: Technical Task Group Meetings

Task Group consisted of 6 leading Belarusian experts - representatives of Ministry of Education, National Institute of Education, socio-pedagogical centers, social work practitioners and administrators, child protection specialists was established. Within Year 1 the Task Group held four (4) meetings (25th of April, 26th of May, 26th of June, 29th of September, 2006) and conducted detailed assessment and analyses of existing regulatory and methodological environment, identified gaps and priorities to be addressed, and developed Annual Action Plan.

As the result the first procedure on Child Removal from a Family was developed, participatory mechanism of its discussion with all stakeholders was discussed. The procedure will help to avoid groundless and subjective decisions on this matter, ensure child safety.

CCF provided Task Group with examples of appropriate policy documents from the US, Sweden, translated into Russian. Members of Task Group were involved in capacity building events with international experts.

Activity: Dissemination and Replication activity.

On 27th of September CCF-Belarus together with Vitebsk Oblast Executive Committee held a Round Table "Rehabilitation of Teenagers at Risk" in Orsha. Fifty (50) participants including local authorities, Local Child Protection specialists and police representatives from Vitebsk oblast were acquainted with the project "Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children". Marina Ananenko, Project Manager, presented the results of project implementation in Orsha. The ways of future cooperation were discussed with local authorities. It was strengthened during the workshop that project activity is highly appreciated by local administration and

governmental structures involved into child protection on the local level. Among the other issues discussed there were problems of rehabilitation of children at risk, best practices from the region and all over Belarus.

CCF-Belarus presented the project during the **Round Table** in the National Press Center on 23, June, 2006. Representatives from Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Statistics and Analyses, Minsk Executive Committee, UNICEF, SOS-Children's Village and national mass media. As a result on the **04th of July 2006** a publication was made in the National newspaper "**Narodnaya Gazeta**" (*circulation - 35 000 copies*).

The community of Zhodino reflected the success of the project implementation in the local newspaper "**Zhodinskya Naviny**" (*article from 20.09. 2006 – circulation 6329 copies*).

III. CHALLENGES/ CONSTRAINTS

- The Presidential elections rescheduled from July to March 19, 2006 influenced CCF-Belarus' activity. State institutions (Ministry of Education and administrations of the targeted local communities) were involved in the preparation process. For this reason CCF-Belarus faced delays in signing Agreements with local administration. Implementation of some activities in the towns of Orsha, Korbin and Zhodino were postponed because local authorities preferred to continue cooperation after the elections were over.
- Distrust of the local authorities in the early phase of cooperation.
- Validity of the statistics received from communities is still a problem as there is no standardized equal format for statistic collection and reporting.
- Lack of capacity, and project management skills of staff from state social services impacted smooth project implementation
- Lack of experience of the governmental structures in proposal writing as they are not used to applying for funding from the donors
- There are some stereotypes in the communities dealing with volunteer group activities. It is a tradition that volunteers help elderly people and veterans. They do not consider disabled children as a target group of their activity.
- There are prejudice and stereotypes on the local level towards alternative and foster care

IV. LESSONS LEARNED

- Lack of capacity, result – and- project oriented thinking skills in staff of state social services created impediment to smooth project implementation- need for additional training on needs assessment, project design, project cycle management, M&E must be considered.
- Child Protection Services were even less developed then was expected. Considering their special role in child protection, family support and institutionalization process there is a need for its further development on the national level. That's why training of Child protection services will be transformed in TOT format in order to create national pool of trainers/ experts on Child Protection services. This approach will involve additional expenses for translation of Child Protection modules kindly provide by Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) and the Institute for Human Services (a US organization).
- Project correlation with national priorities and new Presidential program "Children of Belarus", support from the Ministry of Education became a means of legitimization of project activities for the local authorities and ensure its smooth implementation.
- There is a need to develop a computerized Database that can be used by Child Protection specialists working in different agencies – tool for their better integration and data collection.
- Selection of ToT participants must be done more carefully and based on their motivation, abilities, taking in to account both project requirements and real job responsibilities; local coordinators and authorities should aware and foster this approach.
- Networking between the communities and exchange visits to the place of the best practices facilitate creativity, inspiration and quick impact.

III. PROJECT CHANGES

As a result of lessons learned additional trainings on Proposal Writing will be provided for the specialists from state social services.

IV. COORDINATION/ COOPERATION/COST SHARING

• CCF, HQ

Regular communication and teleconferences, with CCF HQ were organized to support project implementation, to coordinate activities and to discuss needs.

CCF-Belarus and CCF HQ coordinated their efforts in identification of the suitable international sub-contractors for Child protection training programs and alternative family type care in Belarus.

In May 14- 26 Mary Moran, CCF HQ Program Specialist and Ingrid Jones , CCF Regional Program Manager visited CCF-Belarus. They discussed with the project staff ways of further project development, clarified specifics and schedule of Child protection workshops.

• USAID

CCF Country Director Irina Mironova, and Project Manager Marina Ananenko had regular quarterly meetings with USAID CTO Marina Abrosimova, and her replacement Yahor Novikau. During the meetings quarterly reports were discussed and the results of the project implementation were presented.

USAID worked closely with CCF to develop PMEP and baseline report

USAID monitored CCF project and supported activities by attending project events

In July CCF-Belarus Country Director and USAI CTO Jahor Novikau met with USAID Regional mission in Kiev in order to discuss project progress and its prospective

In May 2006, Mary Moran, the HQ based Technical Advisor to the project, and Ingrid Jones, the Regional Program Specialist met with the outgoing CTO, the new CTO Jahor Novikau, Chuck Howell, and other USAID personnel.

• Coordination with Ministry of Education of Belarus

Within the reported period CCF-Belarus held a series of the working meetings with Ministry of Education of Belarus to discuss project implementation.

The Ministry of Education of Belarus suggested the sites for the project implementation based on the statistics on orphanhood in the regions. These recommendations were taken into account.

By the request of CCF-Belarus Ministry of Education issued a *Letter of Support* to provide smooth project implementation on the national and local levels.

Senior Specialist of Ministry of Education Mrs. Galina Rudenkova participated in Task Group meetings.

• Coordination with UNICEF

The first quarter CCF Country Director informed UNICEF project coordinators Ms. Eleonora Gvozdeva and Mr. Alexander Karankevich about start of the project "Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus". UNICEF offered to discuss in details possible ways of cooperation/ coordination upon approval of UNICEF Annual Work Plan for Year 2005 by the Government of Belarus.

On the 17th of April 2006 Irina Mironova, Alexei Golontsov, Marina Ananenko, Nadezhda Karaseva and Inna Chirko took part in the meeting with UNICEF representative Mr. Alexander Karankevich. During the meeting the results of the CCF-Belarus project were presented and the ways of cooperation in legal acts and procedures development were discussed.

- ***Cooperation with local partners and information dissemination.***

On 23rd of June 2006 CCF-Belarus Child Protection Specialist took part in the Round Table “Belarus Orphans: Creating Favorable Environment for Development and Self-realization of Orphans and Children Without Parental Care”. It was organized in National Press Center. Representatives from Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Statistics and Analyses, Minsk Executive Committee, UNICEF, SOS-Children’s Village and mass media participated in the Round Table as well. As a result on the 04th of July 2006 a publication was made in the National newspaper “Narodnaya Gazeta” (circulation - 35 000).

- ***Cost share and leveraging***

Within the reported period SDC sponsored some activities provided by CCF-Belarus in the town of Kobrin. The total cost-share with SDC for this year was **9, 844.49 USD**. This is calculated on the services for disabled children, their families, and training with international expert for the specialists, parents, siblings and young volunteers. This contribution provides better access to social services as well as integration of disabled children and their families to the community.

V. ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Annual plan of the project was developed and submitted in August 2006 to USAID CTO, Yahor Novikau.

VI. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

To implement the project the following staff members were hired and involved in project implementation this year:

Irina Mironova, Country Director - leadership, strategic planning and management, evaluation and reporting, donor relationships, strategic alliances with stakeholders, HR management and development, budget control, payments approval

Marina Ananenko, Project Manager, - operational planning management and control over the project implementation, reporting, project staff supervision.

Inna Chirko, Project Assistant, – administrative and managerial support for the team; ensuring effective communication and information exchange within the team as well as partner organizations and stakeholders.

Nadezhda Karaseva, Child Protection Specialist, - planning, management and control over effective implementation of the child protective initiatives, coordination of local child protective initiatives on local and national levels.

Natalia Kovalchuk , Finance Manager (part time)-, fin reporting, balances, budget projections and adjustment, control of payments; ***Natalia Katkevich, Bookkeeper***- payments, accounting;

Anna Arhangel'skay , Grant manager (50%) - planning, management and control of effective implementation of CCF Small Grants and Subcontract Scheme in accordance with established rules, regulations and framework, preparation, registration and negotiation of subcontracts and grants agreements.

Olga Zuzkevich , Driver/ Logistic (part time –) -transportation and logistic

Staff Review meetings

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.

Administrative systems developed in the reported period:

- ***Project Management Guidelines***

Guidelines for CCF-Belarus management team are developed. Key project staff has been trained on how to use the guidelines in day-to-day operations to support effective project’s planning, coordination, implementation and evaluation activities.

▪ *Child Protection Policy*

In the reporting period CCF-Belarus adopted the CCF Inc. *Child Protection Policy* in order to ensure child security, high quality standards and ethics of all CCF-Belarus staff, sub-contractors and consultants' working with children.

• *Small Grants Guidelines*

CCF-Belarus staff developed management system for the small grants. This document covers issues of the transparent selection and evaluation processes of the proposals, proper documentation, reporting and M&E of the small grants awarded within the CCF project.

Staff development

Project staff participated in 7 workshops covering administration, child protection, M&E, effective finance management issues. All the expenses were covered by CCF-HQ and CCF regional office.

Among the topics were:

- CCF's Inception Workshop where it was *acquainted* with CCF management structure; working rules, procedures, and Business and Ethics Codes.
- *Child Protection Policy that was conducted by CCF-Belarus Child Protection Specialist* Nadezhda Karaseva. CCF-Staff was acquainted with the background, guidelines, standards and procedures of CCF's International Child Protection Policy via this training.
- *Regional training on Child Protection in Vilnius for Country Directors, Project Managers and Child Protection Specialists, sponsored by CCF -EE Region on 4-7th of April. Expenses covered through CCF regional office*
- *Monitoring and Evaluation* workshops on the 16th of March and on the 25th of May. These workshops were organized by CCF-Belarus Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist. As a result the project team learned skills and structured knowledge on monitoring and evaluation, and discussed project outputs and outcomes. During the second training project indicators, information to be collected, methods of information collection based were defined.
- Finance Manager Natalia Kovalchuk took part in series of training on Financial Management. In March, for example, she completed a two-month **training course** "*Fundamental Training in International Financial Reporting Standards*" (IFRS). This Eighty hour (80) IFRS (IAS) training program was delivered by **Deloitte** Audit Company and the **School of Business and Management of Technology**. As the result she was acquainted with various mechanisms of International reporting Standards, and imbibed fundamental principles and concepts of IAS. *On September 4-15, 2006*, Finance Manager Natalia Kovalchuk took part in Training "Financial Management for Development NGOs - Foundation, Tools and Strategies" organized by Management Accounting for Non Governmental Organisations (MANGO) (UK, Oxford). These training were financed by CCF HQ.
- *USAID Rules and Regulations and Indirect Cost Workshop* in Brighton (UK) on 12-14th of July 2006. This training was financed by CCF HQ. As a result the Project Manager was acquainted with a Detailed Review of USAID's Administrative Rule; Standard Award Provisions for U.S Based and Non-US Based Organizations; Policies on Source, Origin and Nationality of USAID-Financed Goods and Services; What's Negotiable When You're Applying for USAID Assistance; Policies and Procedures for Sub awarding Funds; Cost Allow ability and Audit Readiness and Survival. The training costs were covered by CCF, HQ.

V. BUDGET

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

The list of Annexes to the Annual Report:

Annex 1: Equipment purchased for community social services

Annex 2: Community Advisory Board activity

Annex 3: Exchange visit to Kobrin Habilitation Center

Annex 4: The list of Small Grants Awarded.

Annex 5: PMEP of the OVC project.

Annex 5a: Comments to PMEP of the OVC project



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

CCF-Belarus equips state social and child care institutions to ensure better prevention and rehabilitation services to families and children at risk

A needs assessment conducted recently in several state social and child care institutions within CCF-Belarus' project ***Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children*** revealed that lack of special equipment and technical facilities continues to be one of the main obstacles for providing adequate prevention and rehabilitation services to families and children at risk.

Responding to this need, computers and special furniture at total value of \$25,000 were purchased for 12 selected institutions in Orsha, Kobrin and Zhodino, including public schools, habilitation centers for disabled children, social support centers, shelters, and boarding schools for orphaned children.



A new work station for a community coordinator of the Social Support Center in Kobryn



A comfortable sofa for play and rest at Habilitation Center For Disabled Children in Zhodino

Three PC work stations were purchased for social support centers to improve the quality and efficiency of the day-to-day work and communication with partners. The new equipment will also be used to create in each community a data base on families and children at risk.

Furniture for a training room was purchased for School #9 in Zhodino, making it possible to start several new preventive services for families and children, such as Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, Life Skills Program, Health Education and Substance Abuse Prevention Program.

Over \$ 8,000 was allocated for furniture for children with special needs to be installed in day care and respite care institutions in the targeted communities. As a result, new day care groups were started in habilitation centers for disabled children in Orsha and Kobrin, and one night care group was launched in the center in Zhodino.

Natalia, a mother of 15-year old Natasha:
"This is exactly what was needed for our children!"



Desks and chairs for children with special needs



Irina Labkovskaya, specialist of Habilitation Center for Disabled Children, Zhodino:

"The furniture that has been purchased meets the special needs of our children and helps to create a comfortable, cosy, and home-like atmosphere, so that the children can feel at home even staying in the institution five days a week. As a result, they will more actively participate in the educational activities..."



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

CCF-Belarus helps creating Community Advisory Boards for stronger participation of local stakeholders in the deinstitutionalization activities in the communities

To create a mechanism for the local stakeholders to play a key role in the deinstitutionalization activities implemented within **Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children** project, CCF-Belarus helped to establish Community Advisory Boards (CABs) in each of the three targeted communities.

In August and September, first meetings of CABs were held in Orsha, Kobrin, and Zhodino. Local authorities, managers of state social and child care institutions, leaders NGOs, and members of parents' associations took part in the meetings. CAB members were elected and the next steps were identified.

The CABs will serve as dialog platforms and coordinating bodies for the local care providers of different sectors such as health, education, social services and NGOs, and will become effective tools for developing community needs-based solutions to most urgent problems of child and family well-being.



During CAB meeting in Zhodino



Members of CAB in Kobryn discuss development of the local deinstitutionalization plan

CAB members will make decisions about key aspects of the project implementation on the community level, specifically focusing on:

- defining problems to be addressed in the near future;
- reviewing and recommending proposals for funding from CCF within the small grants initiative;
- monitoring results achieved in the community within the project;
- developing and implementing in cooperation with CCF local deinstitutionalization plans.

In each of the three communities, the process of CAB's creation was received with much enthusiasm and high expectations for a positive change. According to many local stakeholders, participation in CAB is a first real opportunity for many of them to make a difference for children and families in the community. ***"This project has stirred up the inert and stagnant local people... It [first meeting of CAB] is a stone that has been thrown into the water and its effects cover the entire community..."***, said Ludmila M., Director of Social Pedagogical Center, member of CAB in Zhodino.

The CAB initiative also increased the commitment to the project among the local authorities. Many of them became active CAB members and expressed desire to play a more active role in supporting the project activities.

**Evgeny G.,
Head of Department of Education, Zhodino:**
"...Now I consider you a solid and reliable partner and I am ready to provide any necessary assistance to the project implementation on the local level..."



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

CCF-Belarus organizes first experience exchange visit on creating volunteers' groups to encourage development of new services for disabled children in the targeted communities

The volunteers' groups method which helps to actively involve children with disabilities into various activities with their typically developed peers is an effective tool of social integration and inclusion of disabled children. Typically, volunteers' groups consist of school children living in the community who are specially trained to work, play and interact with their disabled peers.

In Belarus such volunteers' groups programs are poorly developed and are mainly limited to those focused on helping elderly people. The main reason is lack of necessary experience and skills of the care givers. This is why acquainting child care professionals with the existing best practices in this area is an important task within CCF-Belarus' project **Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children**, as it is a first step for creating new services for disabled children in the targeted communities.



During joint activity demonstration

September 21-22, CCF organized an experience exchange visit to Kobrin Habilitation Center for Disabled Children for a group of care providers from Orsha and Zhodino interested in starting a volunteers' group program in their cities.

During the visit, the participants (specialists of public schools and habilitation centers for disabled children) learned about the techniques and methods of creating and running volunteers' groups program implemented by Kobrin Habilitation Center for Disabled Children in cooperating with a local public school.

Irena Rumyantseva, director of the center, demonstrated to her colleagues from other cities a wide range of services provided for disabled children and their families, including self-help group sessions, parents' groups activities, early childhood development program, and the integrated playgroups for typically developed children and their peers with disabilities. In most of these services the volunteers are actively involved.

The participants observed several joint educational activities in which volunteers (public school students) interacted with the disabled children and specialists of the center.

After the demonstration they had a chance to talk to the volunteers and to learn about their motivation for participating in the volunteers' group and experience of working together with their disabled peers. As several participants pointed out, the children's' answers were a strong encouragement and inspiration for their future work as volunteers' groups managers.

Oksana, Social Pedagogical Center, Orsha *"...I am impressed with the professionalism of staff of the center and the commitment of the children-volunteers ... with their enthusiasm and talent for working with the [disabled] kids..."*



Participants of the experience exchange visit

Tatiana S., Public School #9, Zhodino : *"...I now realize how important it is to start creating a volunteers' group in our city to teach our schoolchildren to communicate with their disabled peers..."*

It is expected, that the visit, first of its kind in Belarus, will result in at least two new volunteers' groups being created.



CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, Inc.
Representative Office in Belarus
Small Grants supported within OVC project

pr.N	Org. Name	Project name	Project description	Amount \$	Status
CCF-B 2006-OVC-03	Youth NGO "Healthy Choice"	"Family University"	The project is aimed at strengthening capacity of at risk families, through development of preventive and rehabilitation services. Project activities are designed in a form of family club, where trainings, consultations and healthy life-style activities will be implemented.	6,266.00	<i>Implementation phase</i> first quarterly report will be submitted in November 2006
CCF-B 2006-OVC-04	Educational establishment "Divin State Boarding School for Orphans and Children Without Parental Care"	Host family	The goal of the project is to raise motivation and awareness of families living in Kobrin area to host children from Divin boarding school during vacations and weekends.	2,938.00	<i>Implementation phase</i> The first quarterly report will be submitted in November 2006
CCF-B 2006-OVC-05	NGO "Kobrin branch of Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth"	"Family Support Center"	The goal of the project is to prevent social orphan hood and institutionalization of disabled children through strengthening family capacity and coping skills and increasing community support and acceptance of handicapped children.	6,101.58	<i>Implementation phase</i> The first quarterly report will be submitted in November 2006
CCF-B 2006-OVC-10	NGO BelAPDIIMI "Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth"	"Together for a "Special" Child"	The goal of the initiated project is to improve living conditions of families with disabled children and young people through development of integrated family-centered services.	18,742.00	<i>Implementation phase</i> The first quarterly report will be submitted in October 2006
CCF-B 2006-OVC-11	National NGO "Mothers against Drugs"	"A Way to Recovery"	The goal of the project is to enlarge rehabilitation services for people with alcohol problems through organizing self-help groups based on 12 step programs for them and their relatives.	15,000.00	<i>Implementation phase</i> The first quarterly report will be submitted in November 2006

	Community Services	Provider	Users	
			Zhodino	Orsha
1	Information and reference for children and parents at risk	Territorial Center of Social Support of Population, Social-pedagogical Centers, schools, Department of Childhood defense in the local Department of Education	1	1
2	Psycho-social diagnostics	Social-pedagogical Centers, schools	1	1
3	Consultations for children	Social-pedagogical Centers, schools	1	1
4	Consultations for parents	Territorial Center of Social Support of Population, Social-pedagogical Centers, schools	1	1
5	Consultation on professional orientation for orphans	Boarding schools	1	1
6	Temporary shelter for children	Shelter	1	1
7	Development of self-service skills in institutionalized children (cooking, hygiene skills)	Boarding schools, shelters	1	1
8	Assistance for parents at-risk families in finding the job	Employment Centers	1	1
9	Legal support and assistance to parents	Territorial Center of Social Support of Population	1	1
10	Parent's meetings	Territorial Center of Social Support of Population	1	1
11	Follow up support and guardianship for alumni of children's institutions	Boarding schools	1	1
12	Leisure activities	Territorial Center of Social Support of Population, Social-pedagogical Centers, schools, Boarding schools, clubs by interests	1	1
13	Assistance in receiving benefits (consultation on preparation of the documents)	Territorial Center of Social Support of Population	1	1
14	Humanitarian aid for families and children at risk	Territorial Center of Social Support of Population, Social-pedagogical Centers	1	1
15	Assistance in finding educational institution for children with disabilities	Habilitation Center for children with disabilities	1	1
16	Early intervention to prevent children's early disabilities	Habilitation Center for children with disabilities	1	1
17	Medical and social rehabilitation of children with disabilities	Habilitation Center for children with disabilities	1	1
18	Education of foster families	Territorial Center of Social Support of Population, Social-pedagogical Centers	1	1
19	Visiting foster families	Social-pedagogical Centers, schools	1	1
20	Parenting course		0	1

21	Day care for children with disabilities	Habilitation Center for children with disabilities (BASELINE:) (YEAR 2006:)	1	1
			(5 group)	(2 groups)
			(5 group)	(3 groups)
		BASELINE TOTAL:	20	21
	NEW/RENEWED COMMUNITY SERVICES (OVC Impact)	Provider	Zhodino	Orsha
22	Integrated groups of children from families attending Parenting Course	Local trainers trained by CCF	0	0
23	Volunteer activity for disabled children	School No3, Habilitation Center for children with disabilities	0	0
24	Life skills program	Boarding schools and shelters	1	1
25	Self-help groups for parents of disabled children	Habilitation Center for children with disabilities	0	0
26	Night care group	Habilitation Center for children with disabilities	1	0
		TOTAL:	2	1
		YEAR 2006 TOTAL:	22	22

1
(2 groups)
(3 groups)
21
Kobrin
1
1
1
1
0
4
25

Comments to PMP of OVC Project

Project Overall Impact

Indicator I. Number of children using alternative care

Indicator I measures the number of children who started to use alternative care (foster families, guardianship, adoption) out of the total number of orphans and sheltered children.

Target value for this indicator for Year 1 is 340 children comparing with Baseline of 335 children. The achievement of Year 1 is 561 children on alternative care. This is an additional value of +241 children.

The reasons for that are:

- Zhodino restructured its statistics which resulted in the increase of number of alternative care children by almost +80;
- in 2005 Kobrin community did not report 114 children from children's village who are actually using alternative care;
- the rest of the increase in the number of children using alternative care was added by Divin orphanage in Kobrin region. Currently Divin orphanage is receiving financial and technical support from OVC and constitutes the part of the target communities.

It is too soon so far to assess the OVC impact on the situation with the alternative care because Year 1 was dedicated to the capacity building of the communities with the consequent improvement/creation of relevant services. Such community-based prevention and rehabilitation services are planned to begin in Year 2.

At the same time even now interviews and focus groups with the project implementers and local decision-makers demonstrate that all target communities report positive influence of OVC project on the situation with children at risk through the strengthening of the material base of institutions involved in promoting and providing alternative care for the risk children.

Indicator II. Number of children returned to biological family

Indicator II measures the number of children who were returned to their biological families after they had been institutionalized (put into orphanages/boarding schools, and shelters).

Direct provision of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services regarding such children will begin in Year 2. To ensure better impact of OVC on these services in Year 2 two NGO projects have been supported by OVC and started in September in all the three targeted communities. The services within the projects focus on the prevention of alcohol and drug abuse in families at risk. The problems of alcohol and drug abuse in the risk families were identified by OVC as key issues as a result of community needs assessment.

The Baseline for the indicator is 125 children. By the reporting date the achievement of Indicator II is 101 child returned to biological families comparing with targeted 130 for Year 2006. The value is lower due to the reason stated above, but the ratio of the children who were returned to biological families out of the total number of institutionalized children that existed in 2005 has remained almost the same (in 2006 101 child out of 443=22,78% was returned to biological family. In 2005 the ratio was $125/534=23,41\%$)

Indicator III. Number of institutionalized children

Indicator III measures number of institutionalized children, that is, those who were put into orphanages/boarding schools, and shelters.

The indicator proved to depend in its major part on the changes caused by factors beyond the OVC project influence so far.

The initial number of orphans and sheltered children registered in the Baseline was 1238. In 2006, due to the closure of the orphanage in Orsha, the restructuring of Zhodino and Borisov orphanages (the orphanage in Borisov was closed and some children got to Zhodino), and the

involvement into the OVC project of Divin orphanage from Kobrin region, the total number of orphans and sheltered children in targeted communities reduced to 1185 (1004 – orphans, 181 – sheltered). Number of institutionalized children also reduced from 534 to 443.

The Baseline for the indicator is 534 children. The target value for Year 2006 is 530. The actual number of institutionalized children (443) compared with this target value (530), shows the reduction of the number by -57.

It is also worth mentioning that the OVC project is reported by focus groups in all the target communities as producing positive changes in the attitudes of specialists, parents, and decision-makers to child-protection approaches, which contributes to the improvement of the situation.

Indicator IV. Ratio of children prevented from being institutionalized

This indicator is not applicable so far.

But it is important to note here that as OVC project has its main focus on working with alternative care services and biological families in order to prevent institutionalization, the number of children who have already benefited from these activities has increased from 460 in 2005 to 662 in 2006 demonstrating the growth of positive ratio from 37% of the total number of target-group children in 2005 to 55,8% in 2006.

Objective 1

Indicator 1.1. Number of visits by community members including families, orphans, and children at risk for new prevention and rehabilitation services.

a) Zhodino

The indicator was not applicable in the Baseline, and Target Value for Year 2006 was 0. The reason for such a value is explained by the fact that Year 1 was aimed at capacity building of the community. This included trainings for specialists and technical equipment of the community services. As a result of OVC financial and technical support:

- training room was repaired, furnished, and equipped at School No9;
- working place for school coordinator was equipped at School No9;
- social apartment was equipped at Socio-Pedagogical Center;
- new equipment was provided for new groups of disabled children at Habilitation Center.

During Year 1 OVC managed to exceed the planned value of 0, and in September 2006 a group of 26 parents, with 16 children visiting playgroups, started attending Parenting Course in the community. Thus, total number of all the visits reached 42 (26+16) instead of the planned 0.

Target – 0 Fact - 42

Service	Visits by families (parents)	Visits by children	Total visits
Parenting Course	26		42
Playgroups		16	

b) Orsha

The indicator was not applicable in the Baseline, and Target Value for Year 2006 was 35. By the end of the reported year 24 parents attended Parenting Course, with 21 children attending play group. Thus, the total number of visits reached 45 (24+21). This is an additional value of +10 to the planned number.

Target – 35 Fact - 45

Service	Visits by families (parents)	Visits by children	Total visits
Parenting Course	24		45
Playgroups		13	

The fact that made this result possible is the availability in the community of 4 trainers that were trained by CCF in the previous years. The trainers demonstrated willingness to provide services for the community and produced the above mentioned results.

Additionally, as a result of OVC financial and technical support:

- money were transferred in September 2006 for repairing, furnishing, and equipment of the training room at School No19;
- working place for community coordinator was equipped at Socio-Pedagogical Center as well as social apartment;
- new equipment was provided for new groups of disabled children at Habilitation Center.

c) Kobrin

The indicator in the Baseline was 33 visits, and Target Value for Year 2006 was set at 150. By the end of the reported year 191 visits were registered:

- 82 parents of disabled children (# of disabled children is reported under Indicator 1.2.) attending Parenting Course;
- 73 children attending playgroups;
- 14 parents attending self-help groups;
- 22 parents using services of volunteers.

This result was made possible due to the availability of the larger number of local trainers who were trained in SDC cost-sharing project and due to volunteers who work with children at risk.

This is an additional value of +41 to the planned number.

Target – 150 Fact - 191

Service	Visits by families (parents)	Visits by children	Total visits
Parenting Course	82		191
Integrated Playgroups		73	
Self-Help Groups	14		
Volunteers Activities	22		

Additionally, OVC financial and technical support was provided for the community:

- money were transferred in September 2006 for repairing, furnishing, and equipment of the training room at School No 9
- working place for community coordinator was equipped in Local Social Center of Support for Population;
- new equipment was provided for new groups of disabled children at Habilitation Center;
- sewing machines were purchased for the Social Shelter as well as a washing machine.

Indicator 1.2. Number of visits by children and adolescents with disabilities for new educational and social services.

a) Zhodino

The indicator in the Baseline was not applicable, and Target Value for Year 2006 was set at 0. Year 1 was aimed at capacity building of the community. That is why it was not expected that children and adolescents with disabilities will start using new services. At the same time, after

more detailed study of children's needs, new equipment was purchased for the community by OVC which made it possible to develop a night care service. 8 children are currently registered using this service. This is an additional value of +8 children and adolescents with disabilities to the planned target.

b) Orsha

The indicator in the Baseline was not applicable, and Target Value for Year 2006 was set at 0. In this community, as well as in Zhodino, new equipment (furniture) that was purchased by OVC made it possible for 3 children with disabilities to start a new day-care group and for 6 children from existing day-care group to get access to the improved service. Thus, 9 children with disabilities are registered using the service, which is an additional value of +9 to the planned target.

c) Kobrin

The indicator in the Baseline was not applicable, and Target Value for Year 2006 was set at 40. At the beginning of 2006 new services were already starting to be introduced based on SDC-cost-share Parenting Course for parents with children with disabilities.

By the reporting date the actual number of visits by children and adolescents with disabilities reached 128:

- 9 children started a new day-care group;
- 97 participants-children with disabilities were involved into the activities organized by volunteers;
- 22 children visited integrated playgroups.

The result of 128 visits is achieved due to the active work of volunteers who were trained in Kobrin in Project Management and in methods of work with disabled children by SDC. Thus, the additional value is +88 to the planned target.

Indicator 1.3. Number of community-based services provided in targeted communities.

a) Zhodino

The indicator in the Baseline was 20, and the Target value for Year 1 was also 20 services, because it was not planned to create any new services in this year.

Nevertheless, the strengthening of the community institutions with new equipment made it possible to additionally develop a night care group service. So the achieved value for this indicator is 21 services.

b) Orsha

The indicator in the Baseline was 21, and the Target value for Year 1 was also 21 services due to the reasons explained in the case with Zhodino. Nevertheless, the community added yet one more service to the existing number, that is, the playgroup for children of parents who started to attend Parenting Course. So the achieved value for this indicator in the community is 22 services. Additionally, due to OVC-purchased equipment, one more day-care group was started, making the total number of 3 day-care groups.

c) Kobrin

The indicator in the Baseline was 21, and the Target value for Year 1 was also 21 services. During Year 1 of the project the actual number of services increased as 4 more new/renewed services were added. Those are Integrated groups of children from families attending Parenting Course, Volunteer activity for disabled children, Life skills course, and Self-help groups for parents of disabled children. So the achieved value for this indicator is 24 services.

Additionally, due to OVC-purchased equipment, one more day-care group was started, making the total number of 3 day-care groups.

Indicator 1.4. Number of orphaned children enrolled in life skills development programs.

The indicator in the Baseline for Zhodino and Orsha was not applicable, and Target Value for Year 2006 in these communities was set at 0. The achieved value both in Zhodino and in Orsha corresponds to the plan of Year 1.

The indicator in the Baseline for Kobrin was also not applicable, but the target value was set at 40 – the number expected to be reached due to the starting life skills development course. The local trainers for this course finished their Training of Trainers only in May, had to stay inactive during the vacation period in June-August, and started providing their life skills development services in September produced the lower actual number of orphaned children enrolled in life skills development course. In September 12 sheltered children started attending the course, with more children to join in the coming months.

Indicators 1.5.-1.7.:

ratio of enrolled orphaned children reporting improvements of specific knowledge and skills related to trainings topic;

number of community members including families, orphans, and children informed through informational and referral system;

number of community organizations/ services integrated into and using informational and referral system.

The data for these indicators is not yet available as the activities start in Year 2.

Indicator 1.8.

Number of Community Advisory Boards established in project targeted communities.

This indicator is registered and correspond to the target. One Community Advisory Board is established in each of the targeted communities.

Indicator 1.9.

Number of community members participated in Community Advisory Boards work.

The target value for Year 2006 for this indicator was set at 5 people participating in the work of each Community Advisory Board.

The achieved value is higher in all the communities: 13 people in Zhodino, 9 – in Orsha, and 8 – in Kobrin. The reason for these higher numbers is that community people feel really interested and committed to the objectives and the opportunities of Community Advisory Boards. The participants of the Boards include the variety of communities' stakeholders and represent:

- in Zhodino:
 - o Local Administration/Deputy Head of the Local Authority
 - o The Head of the Department of Education
 - o Police Juvenile Inspection
 - o Commission on Juvenile Delinquents Issues
 - o Child Protection Specialists
 - o Director of the Social and Pedagogical Center
 - o Local Center of Social Support of Population
 - o NGOs
 - o Mass Media
 - o Church

- in Orsha:
 - o Department of Education
 - o Director of the Social Pedagogical Center
 - o Habilitation Center for Disabled Children
 - o Police Juvenile Inspection
 - o Local Center of Social Support of Population
 - o Commission on Juvenile Delinquents Issues
 - o Health Care
 - o School

- in Kobrin:
 - o Local Center of Social Support of Population
 - o Department of Education
 - o Commission on Juvenile Delinquents Issues
 - o Health Care
 - o NGO
 - o School Volunteers Group

Objective 1 also contained small grants funding within its activities. The following activities were funded to develop improved and new services in the target communities.

Small Grants supported within OVC project:

Org. Name	Project name	Project description	Amount \$	Location	Sums by community
Youth NGO "Healthy Choice"	"Family University"	The project is aimed at strengthening capacity of at risk families through development of preventive and rehabilitation services. Project activities are designed in a form of family club, where trainings, consultations and healthy life-style activities will be implemented.	6,266.00	Zhodino	6,266.00
Educational establishment "Divin State Boarding School for Orphans and Children Without Parental Care"	«Host family»	The goal of the project is to raise motivation and awareness of families living in Kobrin area to host children from Divin boarding school during vacations and weekends.	2,938.00	Divin, Kobrin area	2,938.00
NGO "Kobrin branch of Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth"	"Family Support Center"	The goal of the project is to prevent social orphan hood and institutionalization of disabled children through strengthening family capacity and coping skills and increasing community support and acceptance of handicapped children.	6,101.58	Kobrin	6,101.58
NGO BelAPDiMI "Belarusian Association of Assistance to Disabled Children and Youth"	"Together for a "Special" Child"	The goal of the initiated project is to improve living conditions of families with disabled children and young people through development of integrated family-centered services.	18,742.00	Zhodino*	6,247.33
				Kobrin*	6,247.33
				Orsha*	6,247.33
National NGO "Mothers against Drugs"	"A Way to Recovery"	The goal of the project is to enlarge rehabilitation services for people with alcohol problems through	15,000.00	Zhodino*	5,000.00
				Kobrin*	5,000.00

		organizing self-help groups based on 12 step program for them and their relatives.		Orsha*	5,000.00
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* The sum is approximate (total project sum was divided by 3) as projects have common administrative and partially project costs

Objective 2

Indicator 2.1.

Ratio of participants reporting improvements of specific knowledge and skills related to trainings topic.

The Indicator measures the percentage of local specialists from targeted communities with improved knowledge and skills who will conduct prevention services for families and children. The target value for Year 2006 was set at 85% for each of the communities. The actual results show planned or better achievements of the targeted value, as is stated in the table below:

Location	Topic	# pars	# pars reporting improved knowledge and skills	% pars reporting improved knowledge and skills
Zhodino				
	Parenting	26	22	85%
	Life Skills			
	Health			
Orsha				
	Parenting	11	10	91%
	Life Skills			
Kobrin				
	Parenting	9	8	89%
	Life Skills			

Indicator 2.2.

Ratio of participants reporting practical use of obtained knowledge and skills in services for family and children.

The Baseline and the Target Value for this indicator was not applicable.

The data for the indicator is not yet available as the activities start in Year 2.

Indicator 2.3.

Number of community members reached through public awareness events/actions, publications and outlets.

The data for this indicator is stated in the Baseline as not available because mass public awareness activities are starting in Year 2.

Nevertheless, the activities of Year 1 have already produced 2 articles – one published July 4, 2006 in a national newspaper “Narodnaya Gazeta” with total number of copies in targeted communities – 792 (Zhodino – 142 copies, Orsha – 473 copies, Kobrin – 177 copies), the other published September 20, 2006 in a local newspaper “Zhodinskiya naviny” (circulation is 6329 copies).

Objective 3

Indicators 3.1.-3.2.

Number of regulatory and methodological documents/ standards/ criteria developed;

Action Plan as a common framework for incorporation of developed documents into practice is available.

Though the data for these indicators is stated in the Baseline as not available because the outcomes are planned for Years 2-3, the activities of Year 1 have already produced two basic outputs:

- in March 2006 Technical Assistance Task Group involved in the development of regulatory documents was created. Currently 6 people met monthly and worked out the “*Procedures of Children Removal from a Family*” that is already available;
- the Action Plan for incorporation of developed documents into practice was created.

Indicator 3.3.

Number of stakeholders reached through project’s dissemination and replication activities.

Target value for Year 1 was 25 people. Project activities resulted in higher value of the indicator – 56 people.

In September 2006 in Orsha, Vitebsk oblast, 56 participants of the seminar “*Cooperation of Governmental Organizations and NGOs in social support provision for children at risk*”, organized in partnership with local authorities, discussed the results of project implementation in Orsha and the ways of future cooperation with local authorities.