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

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

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

The project has three main objectives:

- Improve access to and further develop an integrated system of community-based prevention and services for families with institutionalized and at-risk children;
- Improve the quality of training and education available to social service providers;
- Provide technical assistance to social service providers through policy development, methodology consultations, and advocacy efforts.

B. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

This quarter, the project continued countrywide dissemination of a successful model of de-institutionalization that was piloted in 2005-2008. The main elements of this model are: an effective child protection system, improvement of parents' skills and competencies, and development of alternative family-type placement for orphans (PRIDE model).

The analyses of the semi-annual PMEP proved again the effectiveness of ChildFund's model of de-institutionalization. According to PMEP data, the average level of institutionalization in 12 targeted communities in 6 months of this project year dropped from 4.4% to 1% while the countrywide indicator was 17.5%. Baranovichi community demonstrated the most evident success of the Model: in 6 months the institutionalization level dropped from 38% to 8% (against 25% planned annually). Two new communities, Ostrovets and Oshmyany, reached 0% of institutionalization for the first time, while Zhodino, Chausy, Kirovsk, Smorgon, Smolevichi, Soligorsk and Berestovitsa demonstrated the project sustainability by maintaining 0% institutionalization.

Capacity building was one of the main project successes: according to the semi-annual PMEP, by March 30, 2013, the number of trained specialists reached **1,536** individuals, exceeding the annual target of **818** people (**188%**). Eighty-five percent (85%) of trained individuals (instead of the annual target of 75%) reported practical application of new knowledge and skills in their work with vulnerable children and families. This was achieved through the partnership with the network of re-training institutes. This quarter, increasing the number of geographic locations covered by project interventions from 157 to 166 helped. To ensure practical application of new knowledge and skills and on-going support to child protection reforms on the community and oblast levels, ChildFund announced a call for proposals for the creation of a Resource Center on Child Protection. Minsk City Re-training Institute won the sub-grant competition and will pilot the first Resource Center on Child Protection in the country.

The Re-training Institutes moved toward sustainability of the ChildFund Model by including ChildFund's innovative programs in their regular curriculum. By March, 2013, Grodno Oblast Re-Training Institute incorporated 100% of three training elements of the Model (Family centered Approach in Child Protection Services, PRIDE and Parenting Skills Enhancement Program) into its 2013 curriculum. The other 2 partner re-training institutes (Minsk City and Minsk Oblast) are in the process of incorporating all 3 programs into their regular curriculums.

This quarter, 100% of all innovative rehabilitation and prevention services for vulnerable children and families were implemented through allocated community resources and delivered by alumni of ChildFund TOTs and by sub-grant projects

completed in the previous project year. The sub-grant projects completed in previous project years proved their sustainability by continuing to provide services created within the sub-grants on a regular basis. This was possible due to the administrative and financial support of local authorities.

In total this quarter:

- 2748 parents and 545 children accessed community-based prevention and rehabilitation services.
- 309 child protection specialists and local authorities from 247 organizations participated in capacity building events provided by partner re-training institutes, alumni of TOTs and ChildFund specialists.
- 484 specialists, alumni of ChildFund training programs were supported with targeted consultations, methodological and information materials provided by ChildFund.
- 166 geographic locations were covered by project interventions (157 in previous quarter).
- ChildFund issued a call for proposals on Creation of a Resource Center for Child Protection at Re-Training Institutes. Minsk City Re-Training Institute was awarded the sub-grant of \$ 3500.

C. CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS/OPPORTUNITIES

- High level of staff turnover remains a serious risk for project sustainability. 30% (32 trainers out of 105) trainers trained on Family-centered Approach Program in 2010-2012 left child protection organizations. In order to restore trainers' resources ChildFund plans to organize additional TOTs on the program in partnership with oblast Re-Training Institutes.
- The requests for SafeCare home visitation services exceed the available HR resources trained on this methodology. That's why ChildFund changed the topic of SafeCare workshop and instead of coaching conducted a Training of Trainers workshop. The ToT will help to increase the number of trained home visitors in the communities and improve access to these services for vulnerable families.
- By March 30, 2013 two oblasts (Brest and Vitebsk) reached their annual targets of number of the communities where the full model of de-institutionalization was implemented, while the other three did not yet reach their targets. The main reason for this is the high level of staff turnover in child protection agencies and the lack of capacity and resources to restore the lost potential. Responding to this situation, the ChildFund Belarus team analyzed the situation and prepared action plans for each oblast (*for more detailed information, please see Annex 3 PMEP Comments*)

D. LESSONS LEARNED

- Motivational meetings with the Directors of Socio-pedagogical Centers (the entities that perform functions of community child protection agencies) and re-enforcement of messages and information about the effectiveness of the ChildFund model of de-institutionalization helped to increase the practical application of new methodologies, knowledge and skills received by their staff through ChildFund's trainings. This quarter, ChildFund Belarus was invited by Brest Oblast Re-training Institute and the Department of Education to take part in the working meeting of Directors of all Socio-Pedagogical Centers of Brest Oblast. The participation of ChildFund motivated participants to support implementation of ChildFund's PRIDE and Family Centered Approach programs and the de-institutionalization model in their communities. This led to an increase in the number of local communities implementing the full model of the de-institutionalization program in Brest Oblast from 17% to 30%. After the meeting, Brest Oblast Re-training Institute received a lot of requests from the communities for training on ChildFund programs. They therefore scheduled additional training sessions on the Parenting Program for June, 2013. ChildFund plans to take part in the meetings of Directors of Socio-Pedagogical Centers from the other oblasts.
- A group of faculties from the universities that are being trained on the Family-Centered Approach Program became an effective resource for support and dissemination of ChildFund's program. 100% of the training course participants gained new knowledge and skills in the different subjects and courses on child protection issues.

- Child protection specialists trained as trainers on the Family-Centered Approach have difficulties in organizing trainings for multidisciplinary teams in their communities because they do not have enough authority to do it. The best results were achieved when the Directors of Social Pedagogic Centers were trained on Family-Centered Approach Program along with child protection specialists, and provided organizational support to their specialists in further disseminating the new knowledge to multidisciplinary teams in their respective communities.

II. ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1: *Improve access to and further develop an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families with institutionalized and at-risk children.*

This quarter, 100% of the new/improved services were delivered through allocated community resources and with the support of sub-grant projects completed in the previous project year. ChildFund specialists provided targeted consultations and interventions in order to support sustainability of the previously established services such as Parenting, PRIDE, and reformation of the child protection system through multidisciplinary cooperation. These supportive interventions included networking and experience exchange through information bulletins on PRIDE and Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, needs assessment, individual consultation on fidelity of methodologies, and the creation of resource libraries on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and PRIDE in community-based organizations.

According to the semi-annual PMEPP, by March 30, 2013:

- **3,988 parents** (against 4,136 people planned annually) accessed community-based prevention and rehabilitation services including **2,748** parents served this quarter.
- **1,371 children** (against 2,626 planned annually) were covered by community-based prevention and rehabilitation services including **545 children** served this quarter
- **100% of all the services** were implemented by community resources demonstrating the high level of buy-in of ChildFund programs

ChildFund specialists provided their support to the implementation of new programs and services in the communities by targeted interventions including consultations, methodological materials for step-down training, and sharing best practices. The following are the results for this quarter:

- **484 child protection specialists** were supported with consultations, methodological and information materials provided by ChildFund.
- **388** trainers on parenting and PRIDE were informed about the best practices, achievements through the information bulletins on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and PRIDE.
- **704** community specialists **from 501** local schools, shelters, hospitals, and kindergartens took part in step-down training on the Family-Centered Approach Program in local communities.

SafeCare home visitation services for vulnerable children

SafeCare is a 24-week program providing biweekly home visits for families with children from birth to age 5 that focuses on altering parental behavior in three core domains: (1) health, (2) safety, and (3) parent-child interaction.

Home visits focus on training parents to use health reference materials and access appropriate treatment, identify and eliminate safety and health hazards, and increase positive parent-child interactions. The program helps to decrease risk of the different types of child maltreatment.

SafeCare home visitation program is focused on families at risk for child abuse and neglect, such as first-time parents, single mothers and adolescent parents raising children 0-5 years old.

This quarter 18 child protection specialists from education and health care agencies trained in Year 7 by SafeCare experts from Georgia State University provided home visitation services for **46 parents with 39 young children (0-5 years old)**

from at-risk families in 8 pilot communities (Minsk, Borisov, Grodno, Chausy, Rogachev, Soligorsk, Orsha, Zhodino). 100% of the home visitation services were provided using local communities' resources. As a result, according to an assessment held by child protection services, **76% (35 parents)** demonstrated improvement of their parenting skills.

Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

The Parenting Skills Enhancement Program is 8-10 week program that consists of three training programs according to the age group of children (for 0-5, 5-13, 13-18 years old). Small groups of parents (10-12 people) take part in weekly training sessions about emotional, physical, psychological and sexual violence and its effects on the development of children and adolescents; reasons for a child's misbehavior and methods and skills for non-violent disciplining of children, as well as stress management and self-regulation. The participants are encouraged to foster assertive parenting styles that respect the rights of children and parents. The program helps to prevent child abuse and neglect by addressing the risk factors of child maltreatment such as parental knowledge and expectations of child development, parental attitudes and skills regarding discipline, and using non-violent methods of interaction between parent and child.

This quarter, the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program was implemented in **62** geographic locations (55 local communities in previous quarter) in **Mogilev, Minsk, Vitebsk, Brest, Grodno oblasts** and in **Minsk** (for more details, please see Annex 1 Project Map) using allocated local community resources. The program was implemented by the alumni of Parenting TOTs conducted by ChildFund specialists and by master-trainers trained within sub-grant projects implemented in the previous year. The sub-grants on the Parenting Program implemented in Year 7 proved their sustainability through continued Parenting Groups this quarter. To insure sustainability in the communities with no sub-grant, ChildFund provided materials and resources for the creation of Resource Libraries on Parenting in thirty one (31) community organizations (schools, kindergartens, social centers).

As a result:

- **1,307 parents** (110 groups) attended the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program this quarter in schools and preschools in 62 geographic locations, **27% of these parents (353 people)** attending the course were those under supervision of child protection services or those parenting children with disabilities;
- **100% (110)** of all parenting program groups were carried out with local communities' resources.
- **47 groups (43%)** were completed by the end of this quarter while 63 groups (57%) will continue trainings next quarter.

Outcomes of Parenting Skills Enhancement Program:

- **81%** of parents reported they demonstrate an assertive parenting style;
- **81%** of parents reported that they know the reasons for a child's misbehavior;
- **84%** of parents know and practice non-violent methods of discipline;
- **87%** reported they know about the stages of a child's development;
- **86%** reported understanding a child's feelings and emotions and practice proper reaction

Family-type Care Development for Orphans (PRIDE model)

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

This quarter the PRIDE training program was implemented in **37** geographic locations against 35 communities in the previous quarter (Please, see Annex 1 Project Map) using local community resources.

- **112 prospective foster/adoptive parents** participated in the PRIDE pre-service training program in Brest Oblast (Kobrin, Baranovichy, Luninets, Brest, Ivatsevichi, Kamenets), Grodno Oblast (Lida, Smorgon, Volkovysk, Berestovitsa), Minsk Oblast (Molodechno, Zhodino, Slutsk, Kletsk) and Minsk.

- 41 children were provided with family-type care by the foster/adoptive parents trained this quarter. Nine of them, 9 (22%) have been adopted and 32 children (78%) were placed into foster care.
- 664 foster/adoptive parents from Brest Oblast (Kobrin, Baranovichy region, Baranovichy, Luninets, Beryoza, Stolin, Kamenets, Brest, Brest district, Ivatsevichi, Ivanovo, Drogichin), Grodno Oblast (Grodno district, Ostrovets, Slonim, Oshmyany, Zelva, Svisloch, Smorgon), Minsk Oblast (Zhodino, Slutsk, Cherven, Luban', Kletsk, Vileika, Molodechno), Rogochev (Gomel Oblast), Mogilev Oblast (Chausy, Kirovsk, Belynichi, Kostyukovichy, Kichev, Bobruisk) and Minsk mastered their parenting skills through the PRIDE in-service program.

Reformation of the local child protection system

Reformation of Child Protection system includes a shift from uncoordinated work of the different specialists who often duplicate and overlap their efforts, use of subjective and ungrounded decisions about removal of a child from a family and family re-unification, lack of knowledge, skills and services for rehabilitation of risky families, and considering institutionalization as the best option for orphaned children to the creation of well coordinated, multidisciplinary teams trained on a family-centered approach, practicing evidence-based decision making based on professional investigation of child abuse and neglect, planning and implementing rehabilitation services according to the individual needs of each family and providing family-type care for children whose parents were unable to demonstrate visible progress in rehabilitation and unable to provide a safe family environment.

Forty (40) communities (37 local communities in previous quarter) from all over Belarus were in different stages of reformation of their child protection systems this quarter. The local child protection specialists trained as trainers in partner re-training institutes (Brest oblast, Minsk oblast, Vitebsk oblast and Minsk city Re-training Institutes) in the previous project year served as agents of change who disseminated new knowledge and skills on a Family-centered Approach in Child Protection Services to multidisciplinary teams of specialists in their respective communities. Trainings and workshops for child protection specialists were conducted in **Mogilev oblast** (Mogilev, Chausy, Kirovsk, Osipovichy, Krugloe, Krichev, Khotimsk, Kostyukovichy), **Grodno Oblast** (Grodno, Ostrovets, Beresovitsa, Smorgon, and Zelva), **Brest Oblast** (Brest region, Zhabinka, Malorita, Lyakhovichy, Luninets, Gantsevichy, Pruzhany, Pinsk, Baranovichy, Ivatsevichy, Kobrin), **Vitebsk Oblast** (Polotsk, Glubokoe, Novopolotsk, Liozno, Senno, Orsha), and **Minsk Oblast** (Dzerzhinsk, Borisov, Molodechno, Smolevichy, Soligorsk, Zhodino, Kletsk) and **Minsk**.

This quarter the TOT alumni provided step-down trainings using local community resources for:

- 704 community specialists from 501 local schools, shelters, hospitals, and kindergartens using local community resources.

Promoting sustainability of the project services through networking and experience exchange

To support sustainability of community-based services created within the OVC project for children and parents and increase motivation of local trainers ChildFund published informational newsletters on the PRIDE program and Parenting Skills Enhancement Program. The bulletins give opportunity for trainers to exchange professional experiences and successes, report on new programs and training events, and disseminate information about project outcomes.

Newsletters on PRIDE and Parenting Skills Enhancement Program	
Expected results	Actual targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information newsletters on PRIDE, Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, SafeCare will be published and disseminated on a semi-annual basis. • At least 6 issues of information bulletins on PRIDE, the Parenting Program, and SafeCare will be published and disseminated among alumni of ChildFund training programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This quarter Information <i>newsletter on PRIDE</i> were published and disseminated to 80 trainers on the PRIDE program working in local communities and partner Re-training Institutes. • <i>The information newsletter on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program</i> was published and disseminated among 308 alumni of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in local communities and partner Re-training Institutes.

Note: The newsletters are available on ChildFund's web-site: www.cfi-belarus.org Information newsletters on Child Protection and a new issue of the newsletter on SafeCare Home Visitation program will be published next quarter

Targeted consultations and Interventions	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular communication and needs assessment, site visits, a series of individual need-based targeted consultations on a Family-Centered Approach, PRIDE, the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, SafeCare Home Visitation Model and Family-Group Conference methodology will be provided by ChildFund project staff. • Communication strategy with partner communities developed, coordinated and implemented. • Information about current needs and anticipated problems collected and analyzed in a timely manner, corrective actions and support provided to ensure smooth implementation of the project activities. 	<p>This quarter OVC project staff continued providing individual consultations on ChildFund programs at the request of partners from communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 PRIDE trainers from 16 local communities received 19 consultations on PRIDE methodology and informational support on new legislation re: foster and adoptive family care that took effect in 2012. This assistance was provided both via phone and e-mail. 4 partner organizations were supported with 118 training manuals on the PRIDE in-service program for foster/adoptive parents. • Resource Libraries in 31 organizations were supported with Manuals on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and CDs with video. • ChildFund specialists visited Ivatsevichi, Mogilev, Krichev and Baranovichi communities. During 4 site visits ChildFund explored needs and barriers to incorporation of ChildFund's programs into practice, discussed perspectives of further partnership with local child protection agencies and their plans for child protection system reform. The innovative result-oriented methodology of strategic planning applied at the workshop with Grodno Oblast communities in the previous quarter was practiced during the meetings with child protection specialists at Baranovichi and Krichev social pedagogic centers. • ChildFund specialist on Parenting Programs visited Grodno Oblast Re-training Institute to monitor TOT on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and discuss the perspectives of incorporation of ChildFund's innovative program in the regular curriculum for 2014 and 2015. • 8 specialists on SafeCare home visitation from 7 communities were assisted with 8 consultations on SafeCare methodology. ChildFund also provided the trainers with legal documents in child protection and national programs on child protection adopted the previous project year.

Life Skills for Institutionalized Children

One hundred fifty two (152) institutionalized children continued mastering life skills through life skills education classes in Zhodino, Orsha, Chausy, Volozhin, Divin and Kobrin using equipment purchased for these purposes. They also continued

mastering sewing and carpentry skills, repaired old clothes, created new ones, and practiced cooking using domestic equipment.

Innovative prevention and rehabilitation services provided as follow-up to sub-grant projects

During the reported period sub-grant projects completed in previous project years proved their sustainability. The sub-grantees continue providing services created within the sub-grants on a regular basis. This was possible due to administrative and financial support of local authorities.

- ***Aflatoun program of financial and social literacy for children***

Aflatoun program of financial and social literacy for children from 6 to 17 years of age continued to be successfully implemented in Kobrin, Smorgon and Grodno communities. The program was incorporated into the extra-curriculum plan of Grodno special school for children with impaired hearing.

In Kobrin School #3 and Smorgon Socio-Pedagogic Center regular classes on Aflatoun program were provided for children. This quarter **154** children (orphans and fostered children, children with disabilities, and children from at-risk families) continued trainings on the program. In Kobrin the socio-economic focus of the curriculum was underpinned by the engagement of school Social Interactive Theatre. The SIT play 'Cobweb' that explores financial issues became a regular repertoire and was performed for school graduates in Kobrin schools this quarter.

Please see Annex 4: Success Story.

- ***Other innovative prevention and rehabilitation services***

Family Center in Dovsk gimnazium

The family Center "Dialogue" established in Year 7 continued using its venue, competence and published materials for regular sessions with at-risk children and their families that reside in rural areas: **22** parents regularly attended the social lounge gatherings on constructive methods of maintaining cooperation; **27** children benefited from storytelling therapy sessions that helped them to process traumatic experience.

Family Support Center in Grodno preschool #100

A family support center established in a remote city area of Grodno continued provision of day care service for **30** preschool children.

The Resource Center on Inclusive Education and Sensory Room services for children with impaired vision in Smorgon preschool #6

The Resource Center that was established within the sub-grant project in 2012 provided **60** parents with comprehensive individual consultations on addressing and responding to the needs of children with visual impairments. The visitors were provided with thematic information designed to promote an inclusive model for preschool education. This quarter, **72** preschool children with visual impairments used habilitation opportunities of the Sensory Room service.

Educational Events on Child Abuse Prevention in Oshmyany gymnasium # 1

Several meetings on child abuse prevention were conducted by the project team in local schools. **537** parents that participated in these events were provided with informational leaflets created within the project.

Training on financial literacy for orphaned children by NGO "Mutual Financial Assistance Consumer's Cooperative Association"

This quarter, NGO "Mutual Financial Assistance Consumer's Cooperative Association" conducted a training on financial literacy for **30 children** raised in Divin Children's Home. The sub-grant project implemented in 2012 with ChildFund support allowed this NGO to re-shape their strategy and to start delivering their services to institutionalized children. This year despite this fact that the sub-grant project completed the NGO continues working with vulnerable children using their own resources using methodology developed within the sub-grant.

Call for proposals for sub-grant projects on Resource Centers Creation

This quarter, a call for proposals on the Creation of Resource Centers on Child Protection was issued.

<i>Sub-grants program</i>	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Targets achieved</i>
A call for proposals is issued. The possible topics are establishing Resource Centers on Family-Centered Approach and dissemination of Home Visitation services All interested parties are informed in a timely way about the sub-grant opportunity	A Call for Proposals on Creation of Resource Centers on Child Protection was issued All interested parties (7 Re-training Institutes and 6 Universities) were timely informed about the grant opportunity.
Proposals submitted to ChildFund Belarus will be reviewed and selected against established criteria. Approximately 3-4 sub-grant projects for the total amount of 12,000 USD selected and awarded	ChildFund received 3 project proposals from Re-training Institutes. The proposals were reviewed according the established criteria. As a result, one project proposal was selected. Sub-grant for the amount of \$ 3500 was awarded to Minsk City Re-training Institute.
Sub-award recipients timely application for registration of the awarded projects to the Department of Humanitarian Aid	The sub-grantee applied for registration of the awarded project to the Department of Humanitarian Aid.
<u>Note:</u> <i>This quarter ChildFund offered to the alumni of TOT on SafeCare Home Visitation Program the opportunity to receive financial support for follow-up trainings in their local communities. The applicants will implement their follow-up activities next quarter. A call for proposals for further countywide dissemination of SafeCare methodology will be issued in September, 2013.</i>	

Day Care Centers: a Community-based Response to Child Maltreatment

Among risky families there are a large proportion of families experiencing **periodic** deterioration of their capacity to provide adequate care and support to their children. These situations are usually caused by environmental stress factors (loss of jobs, domestic violence, conflicts, health problems, etc.) coupled with parents' inability to control their addiction to alcohol. A child's removal from the family is still considered by many social service workers and child protection specialists as the best option to protect him/her from abuse and neglect. *The Day Care Service aims to prevent unnecessary removal of children from the biological family.* Day Care Centers help to keep family integrity through building a family-support model that is less traumatic for both children and parents. On the other hand, it will reduce the impact of psychological trauma for children's development providing safety and stability for kids. In addition, the created model will maintain custody and parent's responsibility for their kids. The development of Day Care Centers is project match of the OVC/USAID component supported through a financial contribution received from one of ChildFund's major sponsors (private) from the USA.

This quarter the contracts for creation of Day Care Centers and equipment purchasing were signed with Rogachev and Smorgon Departments of Education. Premises for Day Care Centers were repaired using allocated local community resources. The communities developed equipment purchase lists for Day Care Centers. As a result the total amount of **\$5342,8** was transferred to their bank accounts and the process of money registration in the Department of Humanitarian Aid has been started.

Objective 2. Improve the quality of training and education available to social service providers.

The capacity building was one of the main project successes. This quarter ChildFund and its partner re-training institutes conducted trainings on a Family-centered Approach and Parenting Skills Enhancement Program within their regular curriculums. This partnership helped to increase the number of geographic locations covered by project interventions from 157 to 166 this quarter. To ensure practical application of new knowledge and skills and on-going support to child protection reforms on the community and oblast levels a call for proposals for the creation of Resource Center on Child Protection was

announced. Minsk City re-training Institute won the sub-grant competition and will pilot the first Resource Center on Child Protection in the country.

The re-training institutes moved toward sustainability of the ChildFund Model by including ChildFund's innovative programs into their regular curriculum. By March, 2013, Grodno Oblast Re-Training Institute incorporated 100% of three training elements of the model (Family-centered Approach in Child Protection Services, PRIDE and Parenting Skills Enhancement Program) into its 2013 curriculum. The other 2 partner re-training institutes (Minsk City and Minsk Oblast) are in the process of incorporation of all 3 programs into their regular curriculums.

According to the semi-annual PMEP in period of October 2012- March 30, 2013:

- 1,536 specialists (against 818 planned annually) were trained to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families, including 309 specialists trained this quarter
- 85,3% of the specialists that took part in training activities (against 75% planned annually) reported practical use of obtained knowledge and skills in services for family and children

Training Program on a Family-Centered Approach in Child Protection Services

Trainings and workshops on the Family-Centered Approach program were conducted in Minsk City Re-Training Institute, Vitebsk Oblast Re-training Institute, Brest Oblast Re-training Institute and Grodno Oblast Re-training Institute within their regular curriculum for 2013. The trainings on the program were conducted by faculty members trained by ChildFund in previous project years:

- **50 child protection specialists of 49 organizations** participated in the training program and workshops on a Family-Centered Approach at Grodno Oblast Re-Training Institute.
- **25 child protection specialists of 25 organizations** participated in workshops on a Family-Centered Approach conducted at Vitebsk Oblast Re-training Institute.
- **20 child protection specialists of 19 organizations** participated in trainings on a Family-Centered Approach in Brest Oblast Re-training Institute.
- **81 child protection specialists of 75 organizations** participated in trainings on a Family-Centered Approach in Minsk City Re-training Institute.

Activity: Training program on a Family-centered Approach in Child Protection Services for the faculties of re-training institutes and universities (23th -25th of January, 13th-15th of February, 11th – 13th of March, 2013)	
Expected results	Actual targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 three-day training sessions for at least 15 faculty members from Minsk, Brest, Mogilev and Vitebsk will be trained as the trainers for replication of the program at the oblast level. • 80% of the trainees learn about methods of organizing trainings for adults; types and particulars of active methods of learning; interactive teaching; and working with difficult trainees • 75% of trainers will replicate the program on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection at the oblast level.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twenty one (21) participants: faculty members of 6 Universities from Minsk, Brest, Mogilev, Grodno, Gomel and Vitebsk, and of Gomel Oblast, Mogilev Oblast and Minsk Oblast Re-training Institutes, child protection specialists from local communities were trained on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection (3 three-day training sessions). • 100% of the trainees improved their knowledge and skills on child abuse and neglect identification, case-planning, family engagement, family assessment, social investigation and rehabilitation.

Note:

*As the planning process in Universities and Re-training Institutes starts in April-May, this target will be evaluated next quarter. 100% of faculties reported that they incorporated new information in courses on child protection. The training of faculties of Universities that train future child protection specialists in all regions of Belarus will build a platform for sustainability of ChildFund programs in local communities and at the national level.

PRIDE model

This quarter alumni of TOTs on PRIDE Model that were trained by ChildFund in partnership with Brest oblast Re-training Institutes in previous project years provided training sessions on the selected topics from PRIDE In-Service program. The trainees were child protection specialists involved in family care development in local communities. The trainings were organized using local communities' resources:

- 15 child protection specialists of 2 organizations improved their skills in Interaction of Teachers with Foster Children at Brest district social pedagogic center;
- 11 child protection specialists of 1 organization improved their skills in Helping Children to Survive Loss at Vygonoschi Secondary School (Ivatsevichi district).

SafeCare Home Visitation Program

**Activity: SafeCare/Home visitation International Training of Trainers (Safe Care expert (USA), 1 workshop *3 days)*
(20th -23th of February, 2013)**

Expected results	Actual targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 20 child protection specialists of local communities will be trained as coaches of SafeCare Home Visitors.• A National Group of Coaches on Home Visitation program created• 80% of the participants report improvements of specific knowledge and coaching skills• 75% of trainees report practical implementation of the received knowledge and skills***	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 16** child protection specialists from 11 organizations (including 1 NGO) of local communities were trained as trainers on SafeCare Training Program.• A National Group of trainers on Home Visitation program was created.• 100% of the participants report improvements of specific knowledge and skills in SafeCare training fundamentals, fidelity assessment, conducting structured assessment of different modules, providing positive and corrective feedback, reviewing parent's performance.

Note:

* In order to respond to the growing demand for Safe Care service ChildFund organized Training of Trainers on SafeCare Home Visitation Program instead of Training for Coaches. The trainers will disseminate SafeCare Program among local child protection specialists who will provide this service for families in local communities.

**The number of participants is 20% less than planned because according to SafeCare methodology the TOT participants should be previously trained on SafeCare methodology and have practical experience of its implementation in working with risky families. The number of the participants meeting these criteria was only 18 people, but two of them could not come to the training although were invited

***It will be evaluated in the next quarters as the trainers are submitting applications to ChildFund to receive support for conducting follow-up trainings for Home Visitors in their respective communities.

Follow-ups of Safe Care TOT- Trainings for new group of Home Visitors in Grodno City Social Pedagogic Center

This quarter the alumni TOT on SafeCare started to replicate SafeCare Home Visitation Program for child protection specialists in Grodno city. As a result, 2 groups of 38 new Home Visitors from 34 child protection organizations were formed.

Trainings on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

This quarter Parenting Skills Enhancement Program was implemented in Mogilev oblast Re-training Institute and Grodno oblast Re-training Institute within their regular curriculum for 2013. The trainings on the program were conducted by faculties trained by ChildFund in previous project years. As a result,

- 20 child protection specialists from 19 organizations participated in TOT on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Grodno Oblast Re-training Institute;
- 12 child protection specialists from 12 organizations participated in Workshop on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Mogilev oblast Re-training Institute.

OBJECTIVE 3: Provide technical assistance to social service providers through policy development, methodology consultations, and advocacy efforts.

Task Group on Child Protection Activity

The Task Group completed their work on the final draft "*Methodological Recommendations on Social Rehabilitation of Families at Risk (Part II)*" and submitted the document for reviewing by scientists. The document will help child protection practitioners to effectively organize the rehabilitation process, its planning, and case management based on the results of the midterm evaluation, case closing, and effectiveness assessment. Along with the documents, "*The Collection of Methods of Social Rehabilitation of Families at Risk*" and "*Standards on Social Rehabilitation*" developed by the Task Group in the previous years, they will create a platform for effective rehabilitation of disadvantaged and at-risk families.

Advocacy for development of national legislation in child protection

This quarter ChildFund maintained its momentum in influencing national legislation in child protection. ChildFund Task Group members were invited by the Ministry of Education to participate in the working meeting of the Expert Group on the revision of **Instruction #47 on Child Abuse and Neglect Detection (12th of March, 2013)**. The expert group approved the ChildFund Task Groups' suggestions that promote Standards of Social Investigation and a structured decision-making process based on the results of the different types of assessment was approved by the Expert Group for incorporating into the Instruction.

Motivational meeting with the Directors of Social-Pedagogic Centers' of Brest oblast

This quarter, the ChildFund Task Group participated in the Working Meeting of local Social-Pedagogic Centers' Directors of Brest Oblast (26th of February, 2013). The Task Group presented to participants the Standards on Social Investigation and Rehabilitation, discussed perspectives on the incorporation of ChildFund's de-institutionalization model in local communities of Brest Oblast. Re-enforcement of messages/ information about the effectiveness of the ChildFund model of de-institutionalization helped to increase practical application of new methodologies, raise awareness about knowledge and skills received by the their staff earlier through ChildFund's training activities and motivate the participants to support implementation of ChildFund's PRIDE and Family Centered Approach Programs and the de-institutionalization model in their communities. This led to increase of number of local communities that implement the full model of the de-institutionalization program in Brest Oblast from 17% to 30%.

III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

• *Coordination with USAID*

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

• *Cooperation with ChildFund International Headquarters*

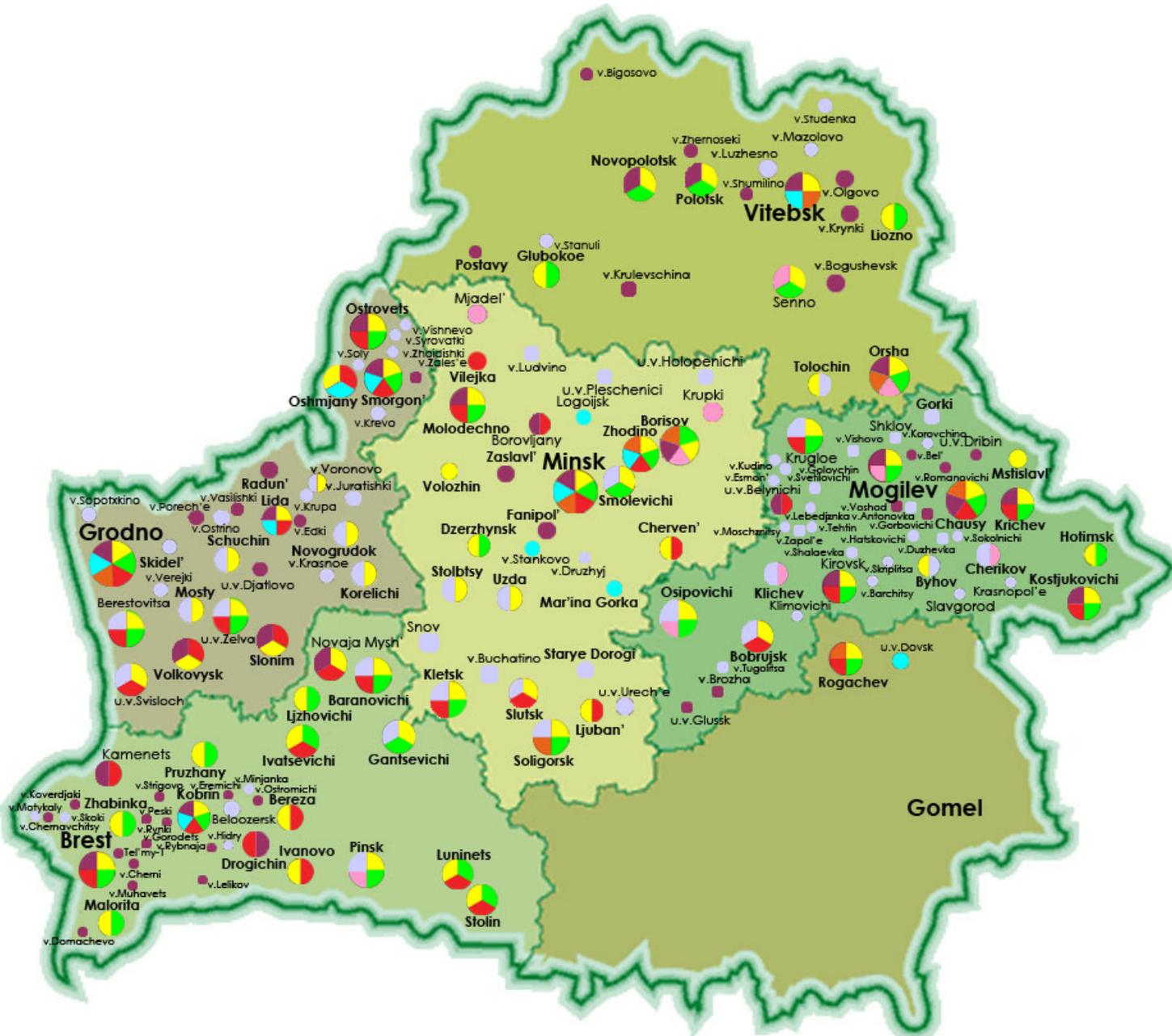
ChildFund Belarus was in regular communication with ChildFund International's Headquarters in Richmond via e-mail and Skype.

IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

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

This quarter, the project staff was introduced to the new system of Performance Planning and Evaluation used by ChildFund internationally. Key Result Areas and Performance standards for each position were developed and coordinated with the staff.

Annex 1: Geographic expansion of OVC project component (January – March 2013)



PRIDE

- implementation
- trained specialists

Child Protection

- reforming of child protection system
- trained specialists

Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

- implementation
- trained specialists

SafeCare Training Program

- implementation
- trained specialists
- innovative services

Annex 2: Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Component I "Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus"

Reporting period: 1 October 2012 – 31 March 2013

Overall project impact and measures

Decreased percentage of children placed in institutions

Indicator	Definition & Unit of measure	Target communities	Baseline	Performance targets	
			2012	Annually planned target 2013	Achieved target (semi-annual)
OVC I. Percent of institutionalized children	Definition: Percentage of institutionalized children after being sheltered Unit: Percent	Zhodino	0%	0%	0% (0 out of 15)
		Orsha	6%	5%	0% (0 out of 54)
		Kirovsk	0%	0%	0% (0 out of 14)
		Kobrin	0%	0%	4,5% (1 out of 22)
		Berestovitsa	0%	0%	0% (0 out of 9)
		Baranovichy	38%	25%	8% (3 out of 37)
		Chausy	0%	0%	0% (0 out of 10)
		Ostrovets	3,3 %	2%	0% (0 out of 19)
		Smorgon	0%	0%	0% (0 out of 15)
		Oshmyany	5,5%	4%	0% (0 out of 18)
		Smolevichi	0%	0%	0% (0 out of 13)
		Soligorsk	0%	0%	0% (0 out of 28)
		Other communities	n/a	n/a	n/a
Contextual information demonstrated the nationwide trends:					
Percent of institutionalized children in Belarus			19,7% (801 out of 4049 children)	17,5 % (543 out of 3084 children)	
Number of orphaned children in Belarus in state institutions			15 067	15,067*	



****The official statistics for 2013 will be available in April 2014**

Objective 1. To improve access to and further develop an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families of institutionalized and at-risk children.

Indicator	Definition & Unit of measure	Baseline	Performance targets		
		2012	Annually planned target 2013	Achieved target (semi-annual)	
OVC 1.1. Number of children (sex-disaggregated) that have been meaningfully served	<p>Definition: Number of vulnerable children including children with disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - using alternative care as a result of PRIDE course and adoption services - returned to biological family - trained in social apartments - using integration and developmental opportunities - enrolled in home visitation programs - served by innovation prevention and rehabilitation services <p>Unit: Number</p>	2626	2169	1371 (722 m/ 649 f)	
OVC 1.2. Number of parents (sex-disaggregated) that have been meaningfully served	<p>Definition: Number of vulnerable children's parents who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - attended Parenting Course within the Project Component - attended PRIDE Course within the Project Component - attended other childcare-related educational events - included in home visitation programs; - using adoption and post-adoption services - prospective adoptive parents recruited and trained <p>Unit: Number</p>	5155	4136	3988 (440 m/ 3548 f)	
OVC 1.3. Per cent of the communities (in each selected oblast) where the full de-institutionalization model implemented	<p>Percentage of communities in each targeted oblast where the selection of community-based services targeting the main risk factors of child abuse and neglect provided, including but not limited by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early detection, investigation, multidisciplinary cooperation and case management in child protection services 	Communities	Baseline 2012	Annually planned target 2013	Achieved target (semi-annual)
		Brest Oblast	17% (3 of 17)	30% (5 of 17)	30% (5 of 17)



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRIDE model for recruiting, training and support of foster/adoptive parents • and • family support services: home visiting and parent's education/ or integration and inclusion of children with disabilities and their families/ or adoption services / or innovative prevention and rehabilitation services targeting the main risk factors of child abuse and neglect / or • day care centers <p>Unit: per cent</p>	Minsk Oblast	26% (6 of 23)	35% (8 of 23)	13% (3 out of 23)
	Vitebsk Oblast	4% (1 of 22)	4% (1 of 22)	4% (1 out of 22)
	Mogilev Oblast	32% (7 of 22)	41% (9 of 22)	18% (4 out of 22)
	Grodno Oblast	28% (5 of 18)	40% (7 of 18)	28% (5 of 18)

Objective 2. To improve the quality of training and education available to social service providers.

Indicator	Definition & Unit of measure	Baseline	Performance targets	
		2012	Annually planned target 2013	Achieved target (semi-annual)
OVC 2.1. Number of individuals (sex-disaggregated) trained to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families	Definition: Number of individuals and NGO representatives trained within OVC component to increase their technical capacity/ability to advocate for/provide services to vulnerable children and families Unit: Number	2823	818	1,536 (64 m /1472 f)
OVC 2.2. Percent of participants reporting practical use of obtained knowledge and skills in services for family and children.	Definition: Percentage of specialists – training participants reporting practical use of obtained knowledge and skills in services for family and children. Unit: Percentage	83%	75%	85,3%
OVC 2.3. Number of organizations assisted to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families	Definition: Number of organizations assisted within OVC component to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families Unit: Number	1466	405	1135
OVC 2.4 Percent of partner oblast re-training institutes that incorporated programs	Definition: Percentage of partner oblast retraining institutes that officially approved and provide at least	20% (1 out of 5)	40% (2 out of 5)	20% (1 out of 5)

on family-centered approach in their regular curriculum	once a year training courses on family centered approach , PRIDE, Parenting education Unit: Percentage			
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Objective 3. To promote de-institutionalization of children through the technical assistance to the national child welfare agencies in strengthening the national child protection regulatory and methodological base; to disseminate key findings of the project throughout Belarus in order to build a foundation for replication and sustainability

Indicator	Definition & Unit of measure	Baseline	Performance targets	
		2012	Annually planned target 2013	Achieved target (semi-annual)
OVC 3.1. Number of the regulatory and methodological documents/standards/criteria developed.	Definition: Number of the regulatory and methodological documents/standards developed by the Technical Assistance Task Group. Unit: Number	3	1	1
OVC 3.2. Number of organizations assisted as a result of Task Group activities	Definition: Number of organizations using regulatory and methodological documents/ standards developed by the Technical Assistance Task Group. Unit: Number	375	200	202*

*Please see Appendix "Comments to PMEP report" for analysis of these results.



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Annex 3: Comments to Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP) of OVC Project (October 2012- March 2013)

Project Overall Impact

Indicator 1. Percent of institutionalized children

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

Annual target: *Zhodino – 0%, Orsha – 5%, Kobrin – 0%, Chausy – 0%, Ostrovets – 2%, Kirovsk – 0%, Oshmyany -4%, Baranovichi – 25%, Soligorsk – 0%, Smorgon – 0%, Berestovitsa – 0%.*

Current value of the indicator: *Zhodino – 0%* (0 out of 15) against 0% planned, *Orsha – 0%* (0 out of 54) against 5% planned, *Kobrin – 4,5%* (1 out of 22) against 0% planned, *Chausy – 0%* (0 out of 10) against 0% planned, *Ostrovets – 0%* (0 out of 19) against 2% planned, *Kirovsk – 0%* (0 out of 14) against 0% planned, *Oshmyany -0%* (0 out of 18) against 4% planned, *Baranovichi – 8%* (3 out of 37) against 25% planned, *Soligorsk – 0%* (0 out of 28) against 0% planned, *Smorgon – 0%* (0 out of 15) against 0% planned, *Berestovitsa – 0%* (0 out of 9) against 0% planned.

The current value of the indicator proved again the effectiveness of ChildFund model of de-institutionalization. The most evident success of the model was demonstrated by Baranovichi community: in 6 months, the institutionalization level dropped from 38% to 8% (against 25% planned annually). Ostrovets and Oshmyany decreased institutionalization from 3,3% and 5,5% (in September, 2012) to 0% that also less than the planned annual targets of 2% and 4% respectively.

The average level of institutionalization in the targeted communities in 6 months dropped from 4.4% to 1% while the countrywide indicator was 17.5%.

Zhodino, Chausy, Kirovsk, Smorgon, Smolevichi, Soligorsk and Berestovitsa demonstrated the project's sustainability by maintaining a level of 0% for the level of institutionalization indicator. Kobrin community did not manage to maintain 0% of institutionalization achieved in 2012. Because they placed one child into an institution, the rate increased to 4, 5% for this semi-annual period.

Objective 1

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

Planned annual target: **2,169 children**

Achieved: **1,367 children (722 boys and 649 girls)**

The current value of the indicator is **1371 children (722 boys and 649 girls)** which is **63%** of the annual target of children. This was possible due to the high motivation of local specialists trained by ChildFund Belarus who continued providing prevention and rehabilitation services for children using allocated local community resources.

The second reason is sustainability of the services established within sub-grants supported by ChildFund in 2011-2012 such as Aflatoun program, sensory room for children with impaired vision, info-sessions on child abuse prevention in schools, etc.

It is expected that the number of children will increase in next quarter when new Home Visitors will be trained on the SafeCare program and start to provide new service for families with children aged 0-5 in their local communities.

Activity	Total Individuals	Male	Female
Children returned to biological family	105	59	46
Zhodino	5	3	2
Orsha	27	14	13
Kirovsk	8	2	6
Kobrin	16	9	7
Berestovitsa	0	0	0
Baranovichy	1	1	0
Chausy	3	2	1
Ostrovets	9	6	3
Smorgon	12	8	4
Oshmyany	11	7	4
Smolevichi	6	3	3
Soligorsk	7	4	3
Other communities	n/a		
Children using alternative care	200	110	90
Zhodino	2	1	1
Orsha	42	28	14
Kirovsk	6	5	1
Kobrin	26	14	12
Berestovitsa	4	2	2
Baranovichy	17	5	12
Chausy	10	4	6
Ostrovets	10	3	7
Smorgon	9	5	4
Oshmyany	28	16	12

Smolevichi	7	4	3
Soligorsk	18	11	7
Other communities where children receive alternative family care due to implementation of PRIDE pre-service program (Luninets, Kamenets, Brest, Lida, Volkovyssk, Minsk, Kletsk, Dzerzinsk)	25	14	11
Children trained in social apartments	152	82	70
Orsha	21	12	9
Zhodino	27	15	12
Chausy	13	7	6
Volozhin	54	27	27
Kobrin (including Divin)	37	11	16
Children with disabilities using toy library services	328	204	124
Orsha	80	53	27
Chausy	79	47	32
Kobrin	45	26	19
Zhodino	100	61	39
Volozhin	24	17	7
Children (0-5 y.o) using SafeCare Home Visitation Service (in Minsk, Vitebsk, Orsha, Chausy, Rogachev, Soligorsk, Grodno, Zhodino and Borisov communities)	57	27	30
Children served by innovative prevention and rehabilitation services as post sub-grants activities	525	238	287
Aflatoun financial and social literacy program for children (Kobrin, Smorgon, Grodno)	154	69	85
Story Telling Therapy service in Dovsk Gimnazium	27	10	17
Sensory room for children with impaired vision in Smorgon preschool #6	72	31	41
Financial Literacy program for children in Divin Children's Home	30	14	16
Respite Care service for young children from vulnerable families in Grodno preschool #100	30	15	15
Info-sessions on child abuse prevention in Oshmyany Gimnazium	212	99	113
TOTAL	1371	722	649

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

Planned annual target: **4136 parents**

Achieved: **3988 (440 men and 3548 women)**

The current value of the indicator is parents **3988 (440 men and 3548 women)** against the planned annual target of 4136. Achieving **96%** of the planned target of served parents was possible due to the sustainability of project interventions in those local communities where the enthusiasm of local specialists trained by ChildFund is supported by local administrative authorities. Incorporation of PRIDE In-Service program into curriculum for training of foster parents at oblast Re-training Institutes also contributed to this target. Another reason is sustainability of services established in sub-grant projects that were implemented in 2012.

Activity	Total Individuals	Male	Female
Parents attended Parenting Skills Enhancement Program	1984	181	1803
Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Minsk	168	24	144
Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Minsk Oblast	172	41	131
Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Mogilev Oblast	419	30	389
Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Brest Oblast	494	25	469
Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Vitebsk Oblast	352	25	327
Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Grodno Oblast	379	36	343
Parents attended PRIDE Pre-Service Program	218	91	127
PRIDE Pre-Service Program in Minsk	64	25	39
PRIDE Pre-Service Program in Minsk Oblast	32	15	17
PRIDE Pre-Service Program in Mogilev Oblast	22	9	13
PRIDE Pre-Service Program in Brest Oblast	75	35	40
PRIDE Pre-Service Program in Grodno Oblast	25	7	18
Foster/adoptive parents attended PRIDE In-Service Program	997	72	925
PRIDE In-Service Program in Minsk	107	7	100
PRIDE In-Service Program in Minsk Oblast	163	12	151
PRIDE In-Service Program in Mogilev Oblast	133	3	130
PRIDE In-Service Program in Brest Oblast	414	41	373
PRIDE In-Service Program in Grodno Oblast	163	8	155
PRIDE In-Service Program in Rogachev (Gomel Oblast)	17	1	16

Parents benefited from SafeCare Home Visitation Service (in Grodno, Minsk, Borisov, Soligorsk, Orsha, Rogachev, Vitebsk and Chaussy)	58	7	51
Innovative services for parents (post sub-grants activities)	731	89	642
Information sessions on child abuse prevention in Oshmyany (Grodno oblast)	537	55	482
Psychological Café for parents in Dovsk Gimnazium (Gomel oblast)	18	2	16
Consultations for parents of children with impaired vision in Smorgon preschool #6	176	32	144
TOTAL	3988	440	3548

Indicator 1.3. Percent of the communities (in each selected oblast) where the full de-institutionalization model is implemented.

Target achieved: Brest Oblast – 30% (5 out of 17 communities): Brest district, Kobrin, Baranovichi city, Baranovichi district, Drogichin.

Minsk Oblast – 13% (3 out of 23 communities): Zhodino, Borisov, Molodechno,

Vitebsk Oblast – 4% (1 out of 22 communities): Orsha

Mogilev Oblast – 18% (4 out of 22 communities): Chausy, Kirovsk, Kostykovichi, Krichev

Grodno Oblast – 28% (5 out of 18 communities): Grodno, Ostrovets, Volkovysk, Lida, Smorgon.

OVC 1.3. Percent of the communities (in each selected oblast) where the full de-institutionalization model implemented	Percentage of communities in each targeted oblast where the selection of community-based services targeting the main risk factors of child abuse and neglect provided, including but not limited by	Communities	Baseline 2012	Annually planned target 2013	Achieved target (semi-annual)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early detection, investigation, multidisciplinary cooperation and case management in child protection services • PRIDE model for recruiting, training and support of foster/adoptive parents and • family support services: home visiting and parent's education/ or integration and inclusion of children with disabilities and their families/ or adoption services / or innovative 	Brest oblast	17% (3 of 17)	30% (5 of 17)	30% (5 of 17)
		Minsk oblast	26% (6 of 23)	35% (8 of 23)	13% (3 out of 23)
		Vitebsk oblast	4% (1 of 22)	4% (1 of 22)	4% (1 out of 22)

prevention and rehabilitation services targeting the main risk factors of child abuse and neglect / or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> day care centers 	Mogilev oblast	32% (7 of 22)	41%(9 of 22)	18% (4 out of 22)
	Grodno oblast	28% (5 of 18)	40% (7 of 18)	28% (5 of 18)
Unit: per cent				

By March 30, 2013, two oblasts (Brest and Vitebsk) reached their annual targets, while the other 3 did not yet reach their targets. Among oblasts that did not reach its annual targets, just one oblast (Grodno) kept its baseline level while the other two (Mogilev and Minsk) demonstrated a decrease the number of communities where the full de-institutionalization model was implemented. The main reason is high level of staff turnover in child protection agencies and lack of capacity/ resources to restore the lost potential. Responding to this situation, the ChildFund Belarus team analyzed the situation in each oblast and prepared action plans for each oblast.

Brest Oblast during this 6-month period has achieved the planned indicator of 30% communities where the full de-institutionalization model was implemented. ChildFund analyzed the existing resources in local communities and in Brest Oblast Re-training Institute. There are many specialists and authorities that were trained on new methodologies and modern approaches to child protection. That's why the main strategy for Brest oblast will be direct partnership with the local communities in promoting the de-institutionalization model and assisting them in its planning and implementation. The action plan for 2014-2015 calls for further incorporation of the Family-Centered Approach Program, PRIDE Model, and Parenting skills Enhancement Program into the practice of child protection organizations in an additional 7 communities in Brest Oblast.

Minsk Oblast did not succeed yet in achieving the planned target of 35% (8 of 23 communities). During this 6-month period, 13% (3 out of 23) local communities implemented the full de-institutionalization model, even less than the baseline of 26% (6 of 23). ChildFund specialists discussed barriers to implementation of the de-institutionalization model and analyzed the existing training resources in local communities and in Minsk Oblast Re-training Institute. The main reason of this decrease in number of communities is the high level of staff turnover in child protection organizations.

Partnership with Minsk Oblast Committee on Juvenile Delinquencies, Minsk Oblast Re-training Institute, and support of follow-up activities of the alumni of ChildFund's training programs will be the key strategy for dissemination of the ChildFund model of de-institutionalization. The action plan for further incorporation of Family Centered Approach Program, PRIDE Model and Parenting skills Enhancement Program into the practice of child protection organizations in additional 12 communities in Minsk Oblast for 2014 and 2015 was developed.

Mogilev Oblast demonstrated a decrease in the number of local communities implemented the full de-institutionalization model (18% (4 out of 22) against the baseline of 32% (7 of 22). The main reasons for the decrease in this indicator is the high level of staff turnover in child protection organizations (almost all specialists trained previously left the system) coupled with the reluctance of Mogilev Oblast Re-training Institute to incorporate PRIDE Pre-Service Program and full training course on Family-centered Approach in their curriculum. According to Mogilev Oblast Re-training Institute, it is not allowed by Mogilev Oblast Educational Department to incorporate programs for more than 36 academic hours while these programs requires at least 72 hours. ChildFund plans to discuss the situation with the Mogilev Oblast Educational Department and with the Ministry of Education.

The action plan for further incorporation of family Centered Approach Program, PRIDE Model and Parenting skills Enhancement Program into the practice of child protection organizations in additional 4 communities in Mogilev oblast for 2014-2015 was developed.

Grodno Oblast has not made any significant progress yet in achieving the planned target. However, the training course on Family-Centered Approach Program and TOT that will be conducted in May 2013 in partnership with Grodno Re-training Institute are expected to improve the situation. ChildFund will coordinate the list of perspective communities that lack trainers on the programs with Grodno Re-training Institute.

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

Planned annual target: **818 people**

Achieved: **1536 (64 men and 1472 women)**

Note: The list of trained individuals is available upon request at the ChildFund Belarus office.

The current value of the indicator is **1,536** individuals, which exceeded the annual target of **818** people, which is **188%** of the annual target. This was achieved through maintaining sustainable partnership with Re-training Institutes. Grodno Oblast Re-training Institute and Mogilev Oblast Re-Training Institute incorporated the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program into their regular curriculum and conducted trainings on the program. Grodno Re-training Institute also incorporated a Family-Centered Approach Program into the regular curriculum for 2013 and provided trainings and workshops for child protection specialists from local communities in Grodno Oblast. Grodno and Brest Oblast Re-training Institutes started to disseminate the PRIDE In-Service Training Program through workshops for child protection specialists from respective oblasts. ChildFund Belarus' specialists provided demand driven support through consultations to provide additional information for those who did this training. ChildFund also provided training manuals for the trainings in Re-training Institutes on request. Another reason for such a significant surplus of trained individuals is active dissemination and follow-up training activity by alumni of ChildFund's training programs conducted in 2011-2012. Alumni of ChildFund's training programs did not just apply their new skills but conducted follow-up trainings for their colleagues from local child protection system organizations.

Trainings	Total Individuals	Male	Female
Training Program on Family Centered Approach to Child Protection	40	0	40
Workshop on Family-Centered Approach for local authorities of Grodno oblast	19	0	19
Training Program on Family-Centered Approach for Universities and Re-training Institutes	21	0	21
Workshop on Planning child Protection Reforms in local communities of Grodno oblast	16	0	16
Follow-ups of the TOTs on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection:	1262	57	1205
Training program on Family-Centered Approach in Minsk Oblast	375	18	357
Trainings and workshops on Family-Centered Approach in local communities (Kletsk, Molodechno, Soligorsk, Zhodino, Dzerzhinsk)	265	10	255
Workshops on Family-Centered Approach in Minsk oblast Re-training Institute for local communities of Minsk oblast (Luban, Cherven, Uzda, Luban, Stolbtsy)	110	2	108
Training program on Family-Centered Approach in Minsk	300	4	296

Training programs and workshops on Family-Centered Approach in Minsk City Re-training Institute	175	3	172
Workshops on Family-Centered Approach in Social Pedagogic Centers in Minsk	125	1	124
Training program on Family-Centered Approach in Brest Oblast	229	20	209
Workshop on Family-Centered Approach in Brest oblast Re-training Institute	20	0	20
Training programs and workshops on Family-Centered Approach in local communities of Brest oblast (Baranovichi district, Baranovichi, Stolin, Brest district, Lyakhovichi, Pruzhany, Pinsk district, Malorita)	209	20	189
Training program on Family-Centered Approach in Vitebsk Oblast (Polotsk, Novopolotsk, Vitebsk district, Liozno, Senno)	113	7	106
Training programs and workshops on Family-Centered Approach in Mogilev Oblast (Khotimsk, Chaussy, Mogilev, Krichev)	141	7	134
Training program on Family-Centered Approach in Grodno Oblast	104	1	103
Training program and workshops on Family-Centered Approach in Grodno Re-training Institute for local communities of Grodno oblast (Lida, Svisloch, Mosty, Ivye, Volkovysk)	84	1	83
Workshop on Family-Centered Approach in Smorgon Social Pedagogic Center	20	0	20
PRIDE Training Program	132	7	125
Training course on PRIDE program in Grodno Oblast Re-training Institute	34	1	33
Workshop on PRIDE program in Grodno Oblast Re-training Institute	19	0	19
Workshop on PRIDE program in Beryoza Social Pedagogic Center (Brest Oblast)	28	2	26
Workshop on PRIDE program in Brest Oblast Re-training Institute	25	2	25
Workshop on PRIDE program in Vygonoschi Secondary School (Ivatsevichi district, Brest Oblast)	11	2	9
Workshop on PRIDE program in Brest District Social Pedagogic Center	15	0	15
Parenting Skills Enhancement Training Program for child protection specialists	32	0	32
TOT on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Grodno	20	0	20

Oblast Re-training Institute			
Workshop on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Mogilev Oblast Re-training Institute	12	0	12
SafeCare Home Visitation Training Program	54	0	54
TOT on SafeCare Home Visitation Program (in partnership with National SafeCare® Training and Research Center, USA)	16	0	16
Follow-ups of TOT on SafeCare Home Visitation Program in Grodno City Social Pedagogic Center	38	0	38
TOTAL	1536	64	1472

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

Planned annual target: 75 %

Achieved: 85,3%

The average percent of individuals trained by ChildFund is 66% which is 9% less than planned target. It is expected that this target will increase in the next project quarter when alumni of TOT on SafeCare will have the opportunity to receive support on their follow-up trainings in local communities.

Trainings	% of participants reporting practical use of obtained knowledge and skills
Trainings	%
Workshop on Family-Centered Approach for Grodno authorities	100%
Training Program on Family-Centered Approach for Universities and Re-training Institutes	100%
Workshop on Planning child Protection Reforms in local communities of Grodno Oblast	56%*
AVERAGE	85.3%

* ChildFund in partnership with Grodno oblast authorities will organize additional working meeting on development of plans on de-institutionalization and their incorporation into the child protection system in local communities.

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

Planned annual target: 405 organizations

Achieved: 1135 organizations

Note: A list of organizations is available upon request at ChildFund Belarus' office.

The current value of the indicator is 1135 organizations. This exceeds the planned annual target by 180%. Assisting an additional 730 organizations was possible due to our partnership with Re-training Institutes and to the high motivation of alumni of ChildFund Belarus' training programs to apply their new skills and disseminate new knowledge among their partner organizations within the local child protection system.

Trainings	Number of organizations assisted to improve their expertise
Training Program on Family Centered Approach to Child Protection	30
Workshop on Family-Centered Approach for local authorities of Grodno Oblast	19
Training Program on Family-Centered Approach for Universities and Re-training Institutes	11
Workshop on Planning child Protection Reforms in local communities of Grodno Oblast	16
Follow-ups of the TOTs on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection:	946
Training program on Family-Centered Approach in Minsk Oblast	
Trainings and workshops on Family-Centered Approach in local communities (Kletsk, Molodechno, Soligorsk, Zhodino, Dzerzhinsk)	147
Workshops on Family-Centered Approach in Minsk oblast Re-training Institute for local communities of Minsk oblast (Luban, Cherven, Uzda, Luban, Stolbtsy)	100
Training program on Family-Centered Approach in Minsk	259
Training programs and workshops on Family-Centered Approach in Minsk City Re-training Institute	154
Workshops on Family-Centered Approach in Social Pedagogic Centers in Minsk	105
Training program on Family-Centered Approach in Brest Oblast	178
Workshop on Family-Centered Approach in Brest oblast Re-training Institute	19
Training programs and workshops on Family-Centered Approach in local communities of Brest oblast (Baranovich district, Baranovich, Stolin, Brest district, Lyakhovich, Pruzhany, Pinsk district, Malorita)	159
Training program on Family-Centered Approach in Vitebsk oblast (Polotsk, Novopolotsk, Vitebsk distric, Liozno, Senno)	93
Training programs and workshops on Family-Centered Approach in Mogilev oblast (Khotimsk, Chausy, Mogilev, Krichev)	141
Training program on Family-Centered Approach in Grodno Oblast	104
Training program and workshops on Family-Centered Approach in Grodno Re-training Institute for local communities of Grodno oblast (Lida, Svisloch, Mosty, Ivey, Volkovysk)	84
Workshop on Family-Centered Approach in Smorgon Social Pedagogic Center	20
PRIDE Training Program	102
Training course on PRIDE program in Grodno Oblast Re-training Institute	34

Workshop on PRIDE program in Grodno Oblast Re-training Institute	16
Workshop on PRIDE program in Beryoza Social Pedagogic Center (Brest Oblast)	24
Workshop on PRIDE program in Brest Oblast Re-training Institute	25
Workshop on PRIDE program in Vygonoschi Secondary School (Ivatssevichi district, Brest Oblast)	1
Workshop on PRIDE program in Brest District Social Pedagogic Center	2
Parenting Skills Enhancement Training Program for child protection specialists	31
TOT on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Grodno Oblast Re-training Institute	19
Workshop on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Mogilev Oblast Re-training Institute	12
SafeCare Home Visitation Training Program	45
TOT on SafeCare Home Visitation Program (in partnership with SafeCare Research Center)	11
Follow-ups of TOT on SafeCare Home Visitation Program in Grodno City Social Pedagogic Center	34
Consultations on PRIDE model for local trainers	26
TOTAL	1135*

* According to the chart the total number of assisted organizations was 1196 but since 61 of them took part in several trainings provided by ChildFund and its partners the actual number was 1135.

Indicator 2.4 Percent of partner re-training institutes that incorporated programs on family-centered approach in their regular curriculum.

Planned annual target: **40% (2 of 5 institutes)**

Achieved: **20% (1 of 5 institutes)**

By March, 2013 Grodno Oblast Re-Training Institute incorporated all ChildFund's training courses including Family centered Approach in Child Protection Services, PRIDE and Parenting Skills Enhancement Program for 2013. The other 2 partner re-training institutes (Minsk City and Minsk Oblast) are in the process of incorporation of all 3 programs into their regular curriculums.

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

Planned annual target: **1 document**

Achieved: **1 documents**

A series of Task Group on Child Protection meetings resulted in elaboration of the final versions of "**Methodological Recommendations on Social Rehabilitation of Families at Risk**" (Part II). The documents will help child

protection practitioners to effectively organize the rehabilitation process, its planning, and case management based on the results of the midterm evaluation, case closing, and effectiveness assessment.

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

Planned annual target: **200 organizations**

Achieved: **202 organizations**

The current value of the indicator is **202**, which is **101%** of the planned target.

Activities	Number of organizations
Final Conference on OVC project	41
Workshop on SafeCare Home Visitation Program at the National Conference	119
Working meeting of Social-Pedagogic Centers' directors from local communities of Brest oblast	21
Creation of Resource Libraries on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in local communities	31
Dissemination of manuals on PRIDE Pre-Service for trainers	10
Dissemination of manual J.S. Rycus "Social Psychological Support for Risk Families"	27
TOTAL	202*

*According to the chart the total number of assisted organizations was 249 but since 47 of them took part in several activities provided by Task group members, the actual number was 202, which is 101% of the annual target.

A list of the assisted organizations is available upon request at the ChildFund Belarus office.

Annex 4. All you need is love?...

Many foster parents in Belarus think that contact with biological parents is very harmful for foster children. Foster parents blame biological parents for terrible cases of child abuse and neglect that caused deprivation of their parental rights and placement of their children into foster care or institutions. Unfortunately, nobody explained to them how important contact with a child's biological family is for the child's identity and self-esteem, even if the family was not perfect. The modern best international practices include ability to maintain contacts with biological parent into the set of the most crucial competencies of foster parents.

Marina (39 y.o.) and Leonid (50 y.o.) are a happy family. They have stable and strong relationships, two children, and a spacious house. Many years ago, before their wedding, the couple promised each other to give love not only to their own children, but also to children left without parental warmth and caring. Like many people, Marina and Leonid thought being a good foster parent means you should only love the child. The family turned to Luninets socio-pedagogic center, where specialists were earlier trained on PRIDE, a competence-based program for future foster and adoptive parents by ChildFund Belarus' USAID-funded project component, "Community Services to Vulnerable Groups: Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus." Marina and Leonid were trained on the PRIDE model, and thanks to acquired knowledge and skills, they understood how to protect and nurture children, meet their developmental needs and address developmental delays, support relationships between children and their biological families, connect children to safe, nurturing relationships intended to last a lifetime, and work as a member of a professional team together with experts on child protection. This is how the story of a new family for the two boys from the shelter – Seryozha, who was 7 years old, and Sasha, who was 6 years old, began. The boys were placed into a shelter not for the first time: they had been put there earlier together with two elder sisters and a brother. Their mother had serious problems with alcohol abuse, and she did not take care of her children and home. She often left boys home alone without food. Finally, she was deprived of parental rights, so the younger children - Seryozha and Sasha – were sent to the shelter again, while their elder siblings went to vocational school. Marina and Leonid heard the story of these boys and decided to take them to their family.



Due to PRIDE training, the foster parents understood that separation from biological family can negatively impact formation of self-esteem in their foster children and the children's understanding of the connection between their past and present. Marina tried to maintain contact between the foster children and their biological mother, but she was not able to meet with the boys because of serious problems with alcohol abuse. That is why the boys' three older siblings were always welcome in Marina and Leonid's home. The elder sisters and brother talked a lot with Sergei and Sasha, as well as with their foster parents, and after a while, they began to live together as one big loving family! Although Veronika, Toliya and Masha did not need foster care as they are about 18 years old, they found the permanency and support they needed in Marina and Leonid's family.. "I thought it would be hard, but thanks to PRIDE, we have a big family as we have always dreamed!" Marina smiles.

A year later, Marina and Leonid found out about two little children, Anya and Borya (5 y.o. and 4 y.o.), who were placed in a shelter. Their mother was deprived parental rights by court decision and there was no hope for the children to be returned to their biological family. Marina and Leonid decided to take them into the family without a moment's hesitation. Thanks to PRIDE trainings, Marina and her husband understood: it is very important for a child to be in a safe and permanent family environment that will help him and support him throughout his life, not only for a limited period of time. Long-term relationships of a child with the people who raise him form a sense of belonging, permanence, and stability, attachment and security. These feelings are necessary for a child to become an independent person with formed self-awareness and self-esteem. So Marina and Leonid firmly decided that they would become adoptive, not foster parents for Anya and Borya. "It will be much better for these kids if they know what they are in the family forever," Marina thinks.

When this couple was asked whether other people's children can become as dear as biological, they confidently answered: "Of course they can! You just should love a child so much as to free his soul from the pain...And you should be well trained to help him to reconcile with his past for a happy future."