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**“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS”
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**QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT
Reporting period: April 1 – June 30, 2014
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 aims 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 team's main focus was on ensuring sustainability of positive changes introduced by the project in the previous project years and overcoming barriers /challenges related to optimization of the education and child protection systems in the country.

This quarter, the implementation of a variety of effective community-based services targeting risk factors of child abuse, neglect and institutionalization continued. These services were supported through community resources and by alumni of ChildFund's training programs. Among the most popular services were: Parenting Skills Enhancement program, SafeCare home visitation service, PRIDE for foster and adoptive parents, reformation of the child protection system through multidisciplinary cooperation and the development of informal mechanisms in child protection system. ChildFund specialists provided targeted consultations and interventions in order to support child protection services' sustainability. These supportive interventions included networking and experience exchanges through working meetings and an informational newsletter on PRIDE, as well as individual consultations on fidelity of methodologies.

Implementation of new services requires more trained people to deliver it, but in the context of shrinking resources for the formal child protection system, it became a major challenge for the communities. In order to overcome this problem, the development of informal child protection mechanisms was pioneered this quarter. It was achieved through mobilization of young volunteers (students of medicine and vocational schools), health care providers and ECD specialists, and it was supported through two sub-grants. Alumni of ChildFund training programs initiated the process.

The first cohort of 276 social work students from six universities throughout the country completed a training course on the family-centered approach in child protection services. The training course was delivered by a group of university faculty who were trained as trainers by ChildFund in previous quarters. Successful piloting of this course led to its inclusion in the regular curriculum of the universities.

In the previous quarter, Gomel oblast demonstrated high motivation and technical capacity. This quarter, by the request of Gomel oblast, a TOT on PRIDE was conducted for a group of 23 child protection authorities and specialists from 16 communities (that comprises 76% of all communities in Gomel oblast). A group of 24 trainers were trained in the family-centered approach this quarter. This group will be an invaluable resource for Gomel's retraining institute and Gomel

University in their capacity-building efforts. Thus, in just three months, Gomel oblast achieved a sufficient level of trained specialists, which is one of the main pre-conditions for the successful transformation of a child protection system.

The figures below illustrate the main outputs of project implementation during the period between April 1 and June 3, 2014:

- **1,432** parents and **191** children accessed community-based prevention and rehabilitation services.
- **108** specialists -- alumni of ChildFund training programs -- were supported with targeted consultations and methodological and informational materials provided by ChildFund.
- **1,011** child protection specialists representing **895** organizations participated in capacity-building events.
- **276 social work students from 6 universities (100% of all state universities that prepare social workers) from all over the country** completed training program on the family-centered approach to child protection services.
- **Three information newsletters** on PRIDE, Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and the SafeCare home visitation program were issued and disseminated among partner communities.
- **One sub-grant** for the total amount of \$3,500 USD started its implementation.

C. CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS/OPPORTUNITIES

- Staff turnover continues to severely affect the education and child welfare sectors and it threatens the sustainability of the introduced changes. In Minsk, the child welfare specialists' turnover rate from January through July reached 200%. The resources of trainers developed during the project also start to dissolve. The trainers working in universities and retraining Institutes are somewhat less affected, as their salary is higher and the provision of trainings is their job responsibility.
- The government, again, issued a request to optimize the structure of retraining Institutes by 30% by September 2014. Similar to the previous optimization campaign, this time, the optimization will most likely translate into job cuts and work overload for the remaining positions. At the same time, retraining Institutes are being restructured to perform two functions simultaneously: monitoring of the education and social protection cadre on the oblast level and providing educational services to them. Both trends pose a risk to the sustainability of ChildFund's programs, by decreasing the opportunity for further dissemination of programs. There are also changes in leadership of retraining Institutes. This quarter, the Rector of Grodno Oblast Retraining Institute, who provided great support to ChildFund, resigned from her position.

D. LESSONS LEARNED

- Regular peer and experience exchange meetings for alumni of training programs helped to sustain their enthusiasm, even in a rather hostile environment. It is especially important to provide this support during the first year after training.
- University faculty proved to be a remarkable resource for implementation and assuring sustainability of the programs. Once the course is approved by the University Council, it is regularly provided to students in its full form, coherently and with due quality. This year, all social work students (276 people) who studied in six universities all over the country completed a full training course on the family-centered approach in child protection services. The next step is to incorporate the PRIDE program for foster and adoptive parents into university curriculum through a TOT for a group of university professors.
- Optimization of the work of retraining institutes led to problems when the obligatory number of hour per retraining group of specialists was shorten from 72 to 36 academic hours. For ChildFund's training programs, it was an insufficient number of hours. (The training course on the family-centered approach is about 76 academic hours). The attempt of Minsk Oblast retraining Institute to address this challenge by splitting one training program into two subsequent parts proved ineffective, because it became very

difficult to control participants' dropout rate and ensure training quality. One possible solution for retraining institutes is to provide short-term refresh training courses while universities deliver a full training programs.

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, the implementation of a variety of effective community-based services targeting risk factors of child abuse, neglect and institutionalization continued. These services were supported through community resources, sub-grants and by alumni of ChildFund's training programs. ChildFund specialists provided targeted consultations and interventions in order to support sustainability of the previously established services such as Parenting, SafeCare, PRIDE, reformation of the child protection system through multidisciplinary cooperation and the development of informal mechanisms in child protection system. These supportive interventions included networking and experience exchanges through working meetings, an informational newsletter on PRIDE, as well as individual consultations on fidelity of methodologies.

In this quarter:

- **1,432 parents** accessed community-based prevention and rehabilitation services.
- **191 children** were covered by community-based prevention and rehabilitation service.
- **108 child protection specialists** were supported with consultations, methodological and informational materials provided by ChildFund.
- **Three informational newsletters** on PRIDE, Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and the SafeCare home visitation program were issued and disseminated among partner communities.
- **One sub-grant** for the total amount of \$3,500 USD started its implementation.

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 interactions. 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 the risk of different types of child maltreatment. The 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, the SafeCare model continued its implementation using allocated local community resources.

In total, thus far:

- **25 home visitors** from **nine communities** (Chausy, Zhodino, Borisov, Soligorsk, Vitebsk, Rogachev, Orsha, Minsk and Grodno) provided home visitation services for **53 parents and 53 children**. Since the previous quarter, **six** families completed the course and **five** new families were enrolled in the course.
- Chassy community pioneered this service for **four** expecting at-risk mothers.
- A new group of **13 home visitors** who were trained in the previous quarter started their service for families in Grodno

ChildFund Belarus staff provided technical support to home visitors by giving consultations and support in planning follow ups conducting by TOT alumni in their respective local communities.

➤ **For more information, please see Annex 3. Success Story**

Sub-Grants for the development of the SafeCare implementation model in Belarus

One of the main barriers for SafeCare implementation in Belarus is limited HR resources within the formal child protection services. In order to overcome this challenge and mobilize existing community resources/informal child protection mechanisms, two sub-grants for the total amount of \$7,259 USD were awarded this quarter. Both sub-grant projects were submitted for grant registration with the Department for Humanitarian Aid. One project was registered and the second project is expected to receive its approval in the beginning of Quarter IV.

List of sub-grants

	Sub-grantee name	Project name	Grant amount	Project dates	Status
1	Grodno Department for Education, Grodno Socio-Pedagogic Center	Enhancing parenting capacity to interact with their child in a safe environment	\$3,500	April 23, 2014 - October 23, 2014	In progress
2	Chausy Socio-Pedagogic Center	At home amongst friends	\$3,759	6 months	Registration pending

➤ **For more information, please , see Annex 2 Sub-grant report**

Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

The Parenting Skills Enhancement Program is an 8-10 week program that consists of three training programs according to the age group of children (0-5, 5-13 and 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 discipline 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 for child maltreatment by building parental knowledge and expectations of child development, parental attitudes and skills regarding discipline and promoting the use of non-violent methods of interaction between parent and child.

This quarter, the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program was implemented in 43 geographic locations (please, see Annex1 OVC Project Map):

- **669 parents (56 groups)** attended the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program this quarter in schools and preschools in **43 geographic locations, 31% of these parents (209 people)** were parents under supervision of child protection services or those parenting children with disabilities.
- **100%** of all parenting groups were carried out with local communities’ resources.

Outcomes of Parenting Skills Enhancement Program:

- 82% of parents reported they demonstrate an assertive parenting style.
- 76% of parents reported that they know the reasons for a child’s misbehavior.
- 82% of parents know and practice non-violent methods of discipline.
- 83% reported they know about the stages of a child’s development.
- 73% reported understanding a child’s feelings and emotions and practicing proper reaction.

Family-type Care Development for Orphans (PRIDE model)

The PRIDE model is a resource for the development and support of family-type community care, including adoptive and foster families. 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 **33** geographic locations with **35 organizations** (please see Annex 1 Project Map) by the alumni of ChildFund using local community resources. The number of foster and adoptive parents who were supported through PRIDE's in-service training increased by 43% (from 424 in the previous quarter to 607 this quarter).

In summary:

- **99 prospective foster and adoptive parents** participated in the PRIDE pre-service training program in Brest oblast (Luninets, Baranovichi, Brest and Ivanovo), Minsk oblast (Zhodino, Frunzenski rayon of Minsk city), Grodno oblast (Smorgon, Volkovysk), Mogilev oblast (Krichev, Bobruisk, Krugloe), Vitebsk oblast (Liozno, Senno, Polotsk, Vitebsk city, Vitebsk district) and Gomel oblast (Gomel city, Chechersk).
- **13 children were provided with family-type care** by the foster and adoptive parents trained this quarter. Five of them (38%) were adopted and eight children (62%) were placed into foster care.
- **607 foster/adoptive** parents from communities of six oblasts mastered their parenting skills through the PRIDE in-service program in Brest oblast (Kobrin, Luninets, Baranovichi, Drogichin, Brest city, Brest district), Grodno oblast (Grodno district, Ostrovets, Volkovysk, Svisloch), Minsk oblast (Vileika, Slutsk, Minsk district), Vitebsk oblast (Orsha Lepel, Liozno, Postavy), Mogilev oblast (Kirovsk) and Gomel oblast (Rogachev, Petrikov, Gomel, Oktyabr, Dobrush). Among them, **127** foster and adoptive parents participated in the courses organized by four retraining institutes (in Brest, Grodno, Gomel and Minsk oblasts).

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

Among families at-risk, 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. At the same time, the center reduces the impact of psychological trauma to children's development by providing safety and stability for children ages 10 – 15 years. In addition, the model helps parents' maintain custody and responsibility for their children. The development of Day Care Centers is a project match of the OVC/USAID component, supported through a financial contribution received from one of ChildFund's major private donors from the USA.

The Day Care service established in pilot communities in FY 2013 continued to be provided to the total of **35** vulnerable children in Rogachev, Polotsk, and Zhodino. In Rogachev, a group of at-risk 15 primary school students was funded through the local budget. The children participated in the trauma treatment sessions by school specialists who were trained on trauma by ChildFund in 2013. In Polotsk, a group of 12 adolescents participated, including adolescents at social risk, adolescents that had engaged in destructive behavior and children from multi-sibling families. The children and adolescents received supervision during their afterschool time and support with school assignments. In addition, they participated in an Aflatoun course on social and financial literacy.

Advocacy for further dissemination

ChildFund undertook some advocacy efforts in order to expand this service to new communities. A set of advocacy materials consisted of the manual "Day Care Centers for Vulnerable Children and Teens" and a Resolution of the

Conference on Day Care services (Nov. 2013) that was sent personally to the attention of the Deputy Minister of Education, the Head of Department for Social Protection (MinEdu), Heads of the Departments of Education of oblasts and regions, Heads of Oblast Commissions on Juvenile Delinquency, and Heads of the socio-pedagogic centers of partner communities.

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 subjective and ungrounded decisions about removal of a child from a family; lack knowledge, skills and services for the rehabilitation of risky families; and perceive that institutionalization is 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.

By the end of June 2014,

- **78** communities (compared to 68 in the previous quarter) from all over Belarus had specialists trained on the family-centered approach and using its methods and tools in their everyday work with families. This presents a 14% growth since quarter two that was achieved due to the cooperation established with Gomel Re-training Institute.
- Among these communities, **42** of 78 communities (53%) were undergoing child protection system reforms and already have multidisciplinary teams that were trained by alumni of ChildFund’s training program.

In total, this quarter, the TOT alumni provided step-down trainings using local community resources for **942** community specialists from **833** organizations (schools and preschools, social support centers, hospitals and enterprises) in **277** localities.

Developing Informal mechanisms of child protection in the communities

Working Meeting on Volunteer Activity , Minsk , April 16, 2014 (unplanned activity)
Targets achieved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 specialists from 6 communities, alumni of the workshop on volunteer activity in the child protection system, shared their experiences and discussed pilot efforts of introducing volunteer services in their communities. They presented methods of volunteer recruitment and modes of possible volunteer participation to work with at-risk families and discussed challenges and ways to mitigate them. Building on collective experience, the participants developed guidelines for volunteer recruitment in communities. • Practitioners from Gradno socio-pedagogic center recognized the volunteer potential of youth from medical college. The center’s staff was concerned with the growing amount of children under three that are placed in hospitals and baby homes and the lack of staff there to provide children with proper care. Medical students possess necessary professional knowledge on taking care of children under three. Grodno socio-pedagogic center recruited 20 students that visited children and also worked to raise public awareness about the need for alternative types of family care for at-risk children. • In Baranovich, there are many young, single mothers who graduated from children’s institutions themselves and had very limited social skills. The center recruited and trained students from three local colleges, motivated and trained them to provide peer support to these young families.

Promoting sustainability of the project services through networking and experience exchange

To increase motivation of local trainers and ensure information exchange among partner communities, ChildFund published a regular informational newsletter on the PRIDE program, Parenting Skills Enhancement Program and SafeCare home visitation program. The newsletters present an opportunity for trainers to exchange professional experiences and successes, report on new programs and training events and disseminate information about project outcomes.

Informational Newsletters on PRIDE, SafeCare, Family-Centered Approach and Parenting Skills Enhancement Program	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational 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 during a project year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This quarter a new issue of the newsletter on PRIDE was published and disseminated to 100 trainers of the PRIDE program working in local communities and partner retraining institutes. • The newsletter on SafeCare for 16 trainers discussed local initiatives of program implementation in Baranovich, an interview with one of the trainers and shared the results of the trainers team working meeting on sustainable development of the program. • The newsletter on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program was issued to reach out to 410 trainers highlighting program expansion to new communities; best practices of the trainers from Baranovich, Polotsk and Minsk; and an interview with one of the trainers. <p>* The newsletters are available on ChildFund's web-site: www.cfi-belarus.org</p>

Targeted consultations and Interventions	
<i>Expected results</i>	<i>Actual targets achieved</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular communication and needs assessments; site visits; and a series of individual targeted needs-based consultations on the Family-Centered Approach, PRIDE, the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, the SafeCare Home Visitation Model and the 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, and 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"> • 8 PRIDE trainers from 8 local communities received 14 consultations on PRIDE methodology. This assistance was provided via phone and email to discuss the following issues: PRIDE training for the class of psychologists (appropriate topics and relevant assignments); building relationships with a child who left her guest family; and organization of trainings (topic choices and trainers). • 4 Retraining Institute faculty members were assisted with consultations on training design and organization for the course 'Family-Centered Approach in Child Protection services'. • 12 specialists received consultations on methods of volunteer recruitment and organization of family rehabilitation work with the help of volunteer resources. • 72 trainers from 54 organizations received individual

	<p>consultations on implementation of Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in local communities, including optimal structure and schedules for parenting groups, and the best ways to maintain fidelity of the program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 specialists on SafeCare home visitation from 12 communities were assisted with 15 consultations on SafeCare Home Visitation methodology (including: cooperation of NGO and state providers in home visitation; financial constraints and means of mitigating them; and preparing reports for peer review meetings). • ChildFund provided methodological and financial support to Minsk and Grodno Oblast Retraining Institutes in organizing the courses on Enhancement of Parenting Skills program. • ChildFund provided 13 sets of training materials on PRIDE courses to ensure sustainability in Chechersk district and the Gomel City socio-pedagogic center.
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Life Skills for Institutionalized Children

90 adolescents (49males and 41 females) 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, repairing old clothes, creating new one, and practicing cooking.

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

The goal of improving the quality of training and education available for social service providers was achieved through a partnership with the network of retraining institutes and cooperation with universities with education and social work departments.

In the previous quarter, the project in Gomel oblast demonstrated high motivation and technical capacity. This quarter, **16 communities** (76% of all communities in Gomel oblast) received specialists trained on the PRIDE model. In addition, ChildFund trained **24** master trainers on the Family-centered approach, who will serve as valuable teaching resources for the oblast Retraining Institute and Gomel University., as they organize regular trainings on for child protection specialists and social work students in future academic years.

This quarter, a group of professors trained on Family-centered approach in the previous quarters, completed piloting of this training course in **six** universities throughout Belarus. As a result, new cohorts of young **professionals** feel confident from the very start of their work in the field. The course was highly appreciated by both faculty and students as it offered a structured approach and practical methods to implement in the field.

This quarter:

- **1,011** child protection specialists representing **895** organizations participated in capacity-building events.
- **276 students of social work from 6 universities (100%) from all over the country** completed a training program on the family-centered approach in child protection services.

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

This quarter, trainings and workshops on Family-Centered Approach programs were conducted by the alumni of the TOTs conducted by ChildFund in previous project years.

- In total, **157** child protection specialists and **276 social work students** were trained this quarter.

Family-Centered Approach training through retraining institutes:

- Minsk Oblast Retraining Institute:
 - **25 child protection specialists of 25 organizations from 14 locations** participated in the training program on the Family-Centered Approach.
- Grodno Oblast Retraining Institute:
 - **105 child protection specialists of 105 organizations from 57 locations** participated in the seminars and training program on the Family-Centered Approach.
- Gomel Oblast Retraining Institute:
 - **27 specialists** from **14** communities from Gomel oblast (67%) participated. 100% of specialists reported their intent to apply knowledge and skills.

TOT on child protection programs, Gomel Retraining Institute June 17- 19 (unplanned activity)

Targets achieved

- **24 specialists** from **12** communities, alumni of training courses on PRIDE and the Family-centered approach acquired knowledge and skills in delivering training. They represented Gomel, Dobrush, Chechersk, Buda-Koshelevo, Vetki, Yelsk, Khoyniki, Mozyr, Rogachev, Bragin and Oktyabr oblasts. The TOT equipped the participants with skills necessary to teach these innovative programs to peer professionals in their respective communities.
- **100% of specialists** reported their intent to apply knowledge and skills beginning the next academic year in September. They intend to do this through creating interdisciplinary teams in their communities and training them on the family-centered approach; conducting workshops for psychologists in their local communities; recruiting a group of prospective foster parents and training them on the PRIDE course; sharing knowledge during regular professional meetings of social service providers; developing links with peers and creating a team.

Note: Their enhanced capacity will be a valuable training resource for Gomel oblast and enable the trainers to conduct regular trainings for child welfare professional in their communities. Also, 24 master-trainers will serve as a valuable teaching resource for the oblast Retraining Institute that will organize regular trainings on these programs for child welfare specialists in the academic years to come.

Family-Centered Approach through Universities

This quarter, a group of professors trained on the family-centered approach in the previous quarters completed piloting of a training course in **six** universities throughout Belarus. As a result, new cohorts of young professionals feel confident from the very start of the work in the field. The course was highly appreciated by both faculty and students as it offered a structured approach and practical methods to implement in the field.

In total:

- **276 students of social work** were provided with cutting-edge knowledge on the Family-centered approach in child protection services.

By university:

- Grodno State University provided the course to **23 students**.
- Minsk State Pedagogic University started the course for **87 students**.

- Mogilev State University provided the course for **58 students**.
- Gomel State University provided the course to **20 students**.
- Brest State University provided the course for **43 students**.
- Vitebsk University enrolled **45 students** for the course.

Note: During the second academic semester, universities of Brest, Gomel, Grodno, Vitebsk, Mogilev and Minsk educated two groups of undergraduate students and one group of graduate students.

Resource Center on Child Protection (Minsk)

This quarter, the Resource Center on Child Protection in Minsk established with support from a ChildFund sub-grant in 2013 continued providing its resources to child protection specialists in Minsk City:

- Training session for **70** child protection specialists on the Family-centered approach in Moskovsky and Pervomaiski rayons (districts).
- Developed a manual on methodology of social investigation that was approved by Minsk City Retraining Institute in May. These manuals will be approved by the Minsk City Department of Education by September 1.

Training Program on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

This quarter, trainings and workshops on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program were in two partner Retraining Institutes by the alumni of the TOTs conducted by ChildFund in previous project years:

In total:

- **45** specialists were trained on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program.

Including:

- Through Grodno Oblast Retraining Institute: **19 child protection professionals from 17 organizations** participated in the training program on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program.
- Through Minsk Oblast Retraining Institute: **26 child protection professionals of 16 organizations** participated in a training on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program.

The trained specialists were from different types of educational institutions (preschools, primary and secondary schools and socio-pedagogic centers) developed skills to deliver the innovative service to at-risk families in their communities. The new cohort of trainers on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program were highly motivated and confirmed their intentions to organize parental groups in their respective communities in Grodno and Minsk oblasts.

Resource Library

In order to support sustainable provision of training services to specialists in areas near Minsk Oblast Retraining Institute, ChildFund facilitated the establishment of a Resource Library in the institute. The set of training materials on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, which will be regularly used by groups of practitioners, will be available at the resource library, thereby, significantly decreasing the costs of trainings and contributing to their sustainability. ChildFund will continue to provide methodological support to individual trainers.

Training of home visitors on SafeCare

The Department of Education of Baranovich City (Brest region) expressed strong interest in the SafeCare home visitation service. The industrial city with high labor migration rates observes increases in birthrates as well as in the number of at-risk families. The child welfare system of the city faces the challenge of a growing number of accidents for children under five (some fatal). Specialists of Baranovich Socio-pedagogic Center are willing to introduce home visitation services to tackle this challenge. The goal is to introduce home visitation services to all kindergartens in Baranovich (44 in total) that are responsible for providing care and preventing child neglect in children 1.5 – 6 years old.

Training on SafeCare program, Baranovich, May 20-22, 2014 (unplanned activity)

Targets achieved

- **22** home visitors from **15** institutions (kindergartens, socio-pedagogic centers and healthcare providers) participated in the training on the SafeCare home visiting program. ChildFund provided methodological and technical support (trainers from the national team and training manuals).

Working meeting on SafeCare, Minsk, April 23, 2014 (unplanned activity)

Targets achieved

- **16 child welfare specialists** participated in the working meeting organized by ChildFund to reflect on best practices of implementing the home visitation program. During the meeting, participants had an opportunity to share their unique experiences, discuss different options of organizing service provision and consider various risks as well as ways of mitigating them. The meeting concluded with a list of actions that would encourage further dissemination and implementation of the program.

PRIDE Model

This quarter, alumni of TOTs on the PRIDE Model that were trained in Year 8 by ChildFund in partnership with retraining institutes provided training sessions and individual consultations to local child protection specialists involved in family-type care development. A total of:

- **112 specialists** participated in trainings in Brest Re-training Institute, in Postavy community and in Orsha community of Vitebsk oblast.

Training on PRIDE program, Gomel Oblast Retraining Institute, March 31 – April 5, 2014 (unplanned activity)

Planned

To ensure that at least 65% of all communities in Gomel oblast have a specialist trained on PRIDE methodology.

Actual targets achieved

- **16 of 21 communities (76%)** in Gomel oblast received specialists trained on PRIDE.
- **23 specialists** from **19 organizations** representing **16 communities** were trained on PRIDE.

Notes:

- **86%** of training participants were inspectors of child participation and guardianship responsible for making decisions in their communities related to alternative family care development. New knowledge and attitudes will help them make more informed decisions, including conducting objective entry evaluations of prospective foster parents, advocating for keeping/resuming relationships with biological families, and supporting parents who have potential for reinstating their parental rights
- Training was provided on a cost-share basis. ChildFund provided training materials and trainer's fee while Gomel Re-training Institute provided accommodations, equipment, food and facilities for the participants and trainers.
- **Sustainability:** The Retraining Institute will schedule the same set of trainings for the academic year 2014-2015.

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

Cooperation with Minsk oblast child protection authorities

ChildFund organized a meeting with Alla Polevchuk, the Head of the Minsk Oblast Commission on Juvenile Delinquency – a long time partner of ChildFund in reformation of the child protection system in Minsk oblast. During the meeting, ChildFund advocated for new Safe Care home visitation services for at-risk families, Day Care centers and the Parenting Skills program. As the result of the discussion, Alla Polevchuk suggested to promote these services through the annual meeting of decision makers from every region of Minsk oblast. The meeting is scheduled for August 2014. The meeting will be followed by a training session on home visitation services for specialists from the 10 most active communities that express interest and prove their readiness.

The Minsk Oblast Commission on Juvenile Delinquency asked ChildFund to provide technical and methodological support to a series of trainings on Trauma-informed Care for child protection specialists that will be conducted in Minsk Oblast Re-training Institute in the coming academic year.

III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

Coordination with USAID

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

Cooperation with ChildFund International Headquarters

ChildFund Belarus was in regular communication with ChildFund International's Headquarters in Richmond via email 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.

V. BUDGET

Project expenses for the period between April - June 2013 totaled **\$81,903.25 (29%** of the annual budget) including ICR (Indirect Cost Rate).

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