“COMMUNITY SERVICES TO VULNERABLE GROUPS”
USAID Cooperative Agreement Number: 121-A-00-05-00703-00

QUARTERLY PROGRAM REPORT
Reporting period: 1 October– 31 December, 2010
Component I “Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus”

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Publication or issuance date of report: January 27, 2011

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<td>Grants Compliance Coordinator</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Development objective: Democracy, human rights and development
I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

The project has three main objectives:

- improving access to and furthering development of an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families as well as institutionalized and at-risk children;

- improving the quality of training and education available to social service providers and building awareness of community members surrounding the development of favorable family environments for children;

- promoting de-institutionalization of children through technical assistance to the national child welfare agencies in strengthening the national regulatory and methodological base; disseminating key findings of the project throughout Belarus to build a foundation for replication and sustainability.

B. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS
This quarter the project was implemented according to its work plan and budget and continued geographic expansion of ChildFund’s successful model of de-institutionalization piloted in the targeted communities in previous project years. Three main areas of interventions selected for further replication were the focus of the project team. They were reformation of the child protection system, development of family type placement for orphaned children, and improvement of parenting skills and competencies to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Geographic expansion and implementation of three selected project components were based on extensive training for service providers that was started last year and expanded this quarter. Vitebsk and Brest oblast Re-training institutes have just joined ChildFund Belarus’ partnership network. Thus by the end of the reporting period six (6) out of seven (7) re-training institutes were engaged in the capacity building for specialists based on PRIDE, Parenting Skills Enhancement Program, and a program on a family-centered approach to child protection services. As a result of the established strategic partnerships, by the end of the quarter, the project expanded to 89 geographic locations from all over Belarus (please, see Annex 2: Project map).

Significant improvement of quality of training and education available to social service providers was achieved this quarter. Two (2) re-training institutes from Mogilev and Grodno have included the training program on a family-centered approach to child protection services in their regular curriculum. Faculties of these educational establishments were equipped with necessary knowledge, skills and material assets in order to successfully deliver this program.

One of the pre-conditions for successful child protection reforms is overcoming attitudinal barriers existing in key community groups and authorities. Transferring new knowledge and skills to them is the key issue. The specialists from Mogilev and Grodno regions who completed the training program on child protection last project year served as agents of change in their respectful communities. This quarter they obtained additional knowledge and skills on training methodology through TOT workshops. Alumni of TOT courses started their own training groups on child protection in their communities in order to build common understanding of a family-centered approach in child protection services among key community groups (for more information, please see the project map in Annex 1).

In order to support their efforts and eliminate possible administrative barriers, ChildFund specialists and members of ChildFund’s Task Group conducted 2 round tables advocating for child protection reforms in Grodno and Mogilev regions.
The participants of the round table were not only regional authorities from education, health, police and social protection but also stakeholders from the communities with specialists previously trained by ChildFund. The round table discussions helped to formulate a joint vision of child protection reforms and build consensus between field staff trained by ChildFund and their managers. The recommendations of the round table were included in Grodno’s regional action plan on prevention of social orphanhood.

ChildFund continued increasing its influence on the national child protection arena. This quarter we targeted the national network of the Committees on Juvenile Delinquencies operating under the Belarus Council of Ministries. These powerful Committees decide about the removal of a child from a family and approve plans for rehabilitation of biological families. This new target group does not have access to any modern training on child protection and too often promotes rudimentary approaches based on repressive methods of work. This quarter ChildFund participated in the National Meeting of these Committees and did a presentation about the “Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus” component of the USAID funded Community Services to Vulnerable Groups project, its achievements and resources. Afterward ChildFund was requested by the Head of Grodno’s Regional Committee on Juvenile Delinquencies to conduct the training program on Family-centered approach for all the Committees from Grodno region. Negotiations about its format and cost sharing are in progress.

Parenting Skills Enhancement Programs were successfully implemented in new locations in Minsk region by the alumni of the TOT. 78% of the trainees have already started the program and reached 10 Minsk oblast geographic locations using local community resources. Alumni of the Parenting TOT from Vitebsk region recruited new groups of parents and plan to start services next quarter.

Small grants helped to expand the Parenting Skills program to remote and rural areas located in Grodno region. Dissemination of the PRIDE model was started in partnership with Minsk oblast re-training institute.

In summary, thus far:

- Implementation of 3 projects for on the Parenting Skills program for a total amount of $5,400 USD awarded in the previous project Year were continued.
- One call for proposals on child protection reforms was issued; 5 proposals were received;
- 495 parents (against 170 planned as an annual target) and 275 children (against 320 as an annual target) have been meaningfully served.
- 99 child protection specialists (against 60 planned annually) improved their expertise in service provision to vulnerable children and families.
- Two (2) re-training institutes from Mogilev and Grodno have included the training program on a family-centered approach to child protection services into their regular curriculum.
- 84 organizations (against 30 planned annually) were assisted to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families.
- 67% of participants (against 75% planned annually) have already reported practical use of the obtained knowledge and skills.

C. CHALLENGES/CONSTRAINTS

- Ministry of Education cannot approve any training program/materials developed by international specialists. This rule created impediments for PRIDE legalization in Belarus because only the “officially approved by the Ministry programs” could be used for foster parents. This quarter local authorities in Lida stopped PRIDE implementation and passed a decision to use the program of the National Adoption Center despite its poor quality. ChildFund Belarus developed a plan for PRIDE legalization through the network of partner re-training institutions.
- This quarter trainers on Parenting from Vitebsk region, one of the poorest regions of Belarus, experienced difficulties with starting parenting groups. It was caused by deterioration of the economic situation in this region and shrinking local resources available for social programs. ChildFund will support its counterparts from Vitebsk region and next quarter at least 50% of them will renew their services for parenting skills enhancement.
- Despite the provided training on proposal writing, specialists from state sponsored organizations and child protection centers from new communities lack project-oriented thinking skills and have very little, if any, experience in proposal writing. This became a serious impediment for their participation in the small grant competition.

D. LESSONS LEARNED
• Participation of the Task Group members in the Round Tables with local authorities in Grodno and Mogilev increased their effectiveness. A peer approach and demonstration of the achievements of child protection reforms in the pilot project communities were very convincing for the authorities from other communities.

• Small financial support to the Parenting Skills Program allocated through small grants (each about $1,800) helped to disseminate the program to rural communities and increase the number of people reached by trained specialists.

II. ACTIVITIES

OBJECTIVE 1: Improving access to and furthering development of an integrated system of community-based prevention and rehabilitation services for families as well as institutionalized and at-risk children.

This quarter three types of services selected for further replication were the focus of the project team and its counterparts in the regions. They were: reformation of the child protection system, development of family type placement for orphaned children (PRIDE model), and improvement of parenting skills and competencies to prevent child abuse and neglect (Parenting Skills Enhancement Program). The total number of geographic locations with new/improved services influenced by the project reached 47 (please see project map in Annex 1).

Child Protection reforms were started in 9 communities located in Mogilev and Grodno region (please see project map in Annex 1). PRIDE and Parenting Skills Enhancement Programs have been successfully implemented in Minsk region (and Vitebsk region as well as in Kobrin, Orsha, Smorgon, and villages around Smorgon (vil. Krevo, vil. Zhoudishki, vil. Soly, vil. Syrovatki, vil. Vishnevo, vil. Zales’e), Chausy, Baranovichi, Brest region and Novaya Mysh (Baranovichy region), Ivanovo (Brest oblast), Borisov, and Bobruisk (Mogilev oblast) (please see the project map in Annex 1).

In total this quarter:
• Implementation of 3 projects on the Parenting Skills Program for a total amount of $5,400 USD awarded in the previous project Year were continued
• One call for proposal on child protection reforms was issued, 5 proposals were received;
• 275 children (against 320 planned as an annual target) and 495 parents (against 170 planned annually) were meaningfully served by new/improved community based services.
• 45% of services were provided using local community resources

Parenting Skills Enhancement Program

Within the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program the participants were offered 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 of non-violent disciplining of children, stress management and self-regulation. The participants were encouraged to foster assertive parenting styles that respect the rights of children and parents.

This quarter, the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program was implemented in Minsk oblast (Zaslavl, Molodechno, Vileyka, Snov, Stolitsy, Urechje, Slutsk, Fanipol, Kletsk, vil. Buchatino), Vitebsk oblast ( Senno), Kobrin, and Orsha using allocated local community resources. In Smorgon and Smorgon district including vil. Krevo, vil. Zhoudishki, vil. Soly, vil. Syrovatki, vil. Vishnevo, vil. Zales’e as well as in Chausy the Parenting Program was implemented within small grants. (For more information, please see Annex 2 Small Grant Report).

In total:
• 344 people (35 groups) attended the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in schools and kindergartens in 21 geographic locations. 38% of all groups were completed by the end of this quarter.
• 22% of parents attending the course were those under supervision of child protection services or those parenting children with disabilities.
• 35% of all Parenting Skills Enhancement Program groups were carried out using allocated local resources.
• 78% of parents reported that they have a better understanding of the reasons for children’s misbehavior and cope with it without violence; 83% of trained parents assessed themselves as “responsible parents”; 85% of parents reported maintaining optimal emotional contacts with their children; 69% of parents reported using methods of stress management and self-regulation.
Parents say:
Elena P., Fanipol, (Minsk oblast):
"My son Rodion got some psychosomatic disorders. As I was told by a psychologist, it was caused by a variety of stress factors. First, it was due to my second marriage. There were many conflicts between Rodion and my husband (his stepfather) about discipline. Secondly, Rodion became a first-year pupil this year and that is always a stress for a child. This year Rodion got a little brother that made him jealous of me. My husband and I took part in the parenting program together and understood that Rodion needs a safe, predictable, and supportive environment for his successful development. Together we worked out joint rules for maintaining discipline and conflict resolution in our family and started consistently using them. It helped to decrease conflicts in the family and put everything in a good and predictable order. It helped my son to overcome the disorder and we discovered how important a child’s emotional and psychological well-being is. I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate in the program as I discovered the secrets of good parenting.”

Playgroups for children
Playgroups were organized for 25 children from Chausy while their parents were at parenting classes. 36% of all children were from a risk group. Individualized developmental programs were prepared by community trainers to develop children’s capacity.

Family type care development
ChildFund used the PRIDE model for the development and support of family type community care and resource families (adoptive and foster parents). The PRIDE program 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 program continued in 9 geographic locations.

In total:
- 28 prospective foster/adoptive parents participated in the PRIDE pre-service training program in Kobrin, Baranovichi, Novaya Mysy (Baranovichi region), and Brest region.
- 51% of parents trained since October 2009, have been providing family type care for 62 children. 34% (21 children) of them were adopted, 39% (24 children) placed into foster care, 27% (17 children) were placed in family group homes.
- 123 foster/adoptive parents from Kobrin, Chausy, Ivanovo (Brest oblast), Orsha, Borisov, and Bobruisk (Mogilev oblast) mastered their parenting skills through the PRIDE in-service program.

Also, please see Annex 3 Success Story

Reforming child protection system
One of the pre-conditions for successful child protection reforms is overcoming attitudinal barriers existing in key community groups and authorities. Transferring new knowledge and skills to them is the key issue. The specialists from Mogilev and Grodno regions who completed the training program on child protection last project year served as agents of change in their respective communities. By the end of the reported period they did the first steps towards reformation of the child protection system and started dissemination of the program among social pedagogues from community schools and kindergartens. The program covers such aspects as early detection of abused and neglected children, effects of child abuse and neglect on a child’s development, investigation, family assessment and case planning; the emotional impact of a child’s removal on family members, attachment, separation and placement; and engaging families in the initial stages of family-centered child protective services.
For more details, please see information under Objective 2.

To acquaint multidisciplinary oblast level stakeholders with the approaches to successful reformation of the child protection system ChildFund Belarus conducted oblast level Round Tables in Grodno and Mogilev. For more details, please see information under Objective 3.
This quarter ChildFund Belarus issued a Call for Proposals to strengthen multidisciplinary community cooperation and support local initiatives on reforming the child protection system in Mogilev and Grodno oblasts’ communities. Selection of the service providers was accompanied by a Workshop on Proposal Writing for potential applicants (14-15th of December, 2010). As a result by the end of this quarter five applications were submitted to ChildFund Belarus’ office for funding. The proposals were prepared by Grodno city social-pedagogic center, Kirovsk Department of Education, Mogilev City social-pedagogic center, and Grodno oblast Re-training institute. Next quarter the project proposals will be selected, contracts with grantees will be signed, and money will be transferred.

**Life Skills for institutionalized children**

One hundred eighty-eight (188) institutionalized children continued mastering life skills through developmental classes in Zhodino, Orsha, Chausy, Voŭlozhin and Kobrin using equipment purchased for these purposes. They continued mastering sewing and carpentry skills, repaired old clothes, created new ones, and practiced cooking.

ChildFund Belarus signed special agreements with Smorgon, Bobruisk, Oshmiany, and Lida Departments of Education for acquisition of sewing machines for family group homes. The purchased equipment creates a basis for life skills development among children using family-type care.

**OBJECTIVE 2: Improving the quality of training and education available to social service providers and building awareness of community members surrounding the development of favorable family environments for children.**

The goal of improving the quality of training and education available for social service providers was achieved through partnership with the network of re-training institutes. These institutes shared costs and provided their logistical and administrative support to ChildFund’s training activity. Participation of the staff of the re-training institutes in ChildFund capacity building events created a platform for incorporation of new training programs in their regular curriculum and further sustainability in dissemination of new knowledge and best practices to Belarus’ regions.

By the end of the quarter:

- Two (2) re-training institutes from Mogilev and Grodno had included the program on a family-centered approach to child protection services in their regular curriculum that significantly improved the quality of training and education available to social service providers from these regions.
- Two re-training institutes from Brest and Vitebsk oblast signed their partnership agreement with ChildFund. Thus, by the end of this quarter six of seven Re-training Institutes existing in the country were included in ChildFund’s partnership network.
- 99 local child protection specialists (against 60 planned as an annual target) were trained this quarter;
- 84 organizations (against 30 planned as an annual target) were assisted to improve their expertise in services to vulnerable children and families.
- 67% of participants (against 75% planned as an annual target) have already reported practical use of the obtained knowledge and skills.

**Training of Trainers (TOT) on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program**

This quarter trainings on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program for community specialists was carried out in partnership with Minsk Oblast Re-training institute and within small grants allocated last year.

In total:

- 57 specialists representing 52 organizations from Kirovsk, Smorgon, Chausy regions as well as 15 geographic locations from Minsk oblast were trained.
- 89% of specialists trained on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program have applied the knowledge and skills they received;
- Cadres of six master trainers were prepared for further replication of the program on the regional level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity: Training of Trainers (ToT) on Parenting Skills Enhancement Program*</th>
<th>Expected results</th>
<th>Actual targets achieved</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(29th of November-1st of December; 6-8th of December, 2010)</td>
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<tr>
<td>At least 14 community specialists from Minsk oblast</td>
<td>Fifteen (15) specialists from fifteen Minsk oblast geographic</td>
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</table>
will be trained as Parenting Skills Enhancement Program providers.

90% of participants will report improvements of specific knowledge and skills to run the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program.

locations representing kindergartens and schools completed two ToT sessions on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program. They were provided with knowledge and skills on the training topic, learned about the process of group work, adult learning techniques, interactive methods of teaching, and implementation of an M&E system.

A representative from Minsk Oblast Re-training Institute was engaged in conducting a training and proved her expertise to be a Master Trainer, to provide consistency in preparation of the oblast’s cadre of trainers on the topic within the re-training institute.

100% of participants successfully passed post-training testing and reported improvement of specific knowledge and skills on the training topic.

Critical note:
*This training was carried out in partnership with Minsk Oblast Re-training Institute, which shared expenses for transportation, food, and the premises.

OUTCOMES:
The alumni of the ToT will start groups next quarter.

In addition, 42 community specialists representing 37 organizations have passed the ToT on the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program within small grants in Smorgon (6-7th and 13-14th of October, 20-21 and 27-28th of October), Chausy (15-16th and 21-22nd of December, 2010), and Kirovsk (1-5th of November, 2010). ChildFund Belarus’ Parenting Specialist coached six Master Trainers from these communities for further expansion and sustainability of the program.

Training of Trainers (TOT) on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection Services
This quarter ChildFund Belarus focused its efforts on developing the training skills among alumni of the training program on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection Services conducted last year in Grodno and Mogilev oblast Re-training Institutes. 29 child protection specialists representing 19 organizations from Mogilev and Grodno oblasts were selected and trained as trainers for further replication of the program on the community level. 100% of the participants learned about the logical framework of the training, training planning, methods of organizing trainings for adults, types and particulars of active methods of learning, and standards for training delivery. The participants practiced carrying out a training session based on the curriculum of the program on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection. Grodno and Mogilev oblast Re-training Institutes cost-shared the expanses for the training. By the end of the quarter 47% of the trainees have already started a training program on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection in their local communities as a first step toward child protection system reformation. To guarantee sustainability and further reformation of the child protection system Mogilev and Grodno Re-training institutes have included the program on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection Services into their curriculum.

Training of Trainers (TOT) on PRIDE model
This quarter ChildFund Belarus has started PRIDE training program in partnership with Minsk Oblast Re-training institute which shared the travel expenses of the participants. ChildFund Belarus’ trainers conducted PRIDE training sessions for 13 child protection specialists from 13 Minsk oblast regions (9th- 11th of November, 7th-9th of December, 2010). 100% of the participants learned about the PRIDE model, obtained knowledge about the impact of abuse and neglect on a child’s development and attachment formation; types of losses and their impact on the child and his/her behavior; supportive contacts with the biological family; the importance of a permanent family environment for children; and mutual assessment and decision-making in training prospective foster/adoptive parents.

OBJECTIVE 3: Promoting de-institutionalization of children through technical assistance to the national child welfare agencies in strengthening the national regulatory and methodological base and disseminating key findings of the project throughout Belarus to build a foundation for replication and sustainability.
Round tables on Child protection system reforms

Child protection specialists trained by ChildFund through the network of re-training institutes met some challenges and lack of support from their untrained managers when applying new work methods. To address the challenge ChildFund specialists and members of the ChildFund’s Task Group conducted 2 round tables (5th of November, 12th of November, 2010) advocating for child protection reforms in Grodno and Mogilev regions.

Among 69 participants of the round table were regional authorities from education, health, police and social protection as well as stakeholders from the communities with specialists previously trained by ChildFund. The round table discussions helped to formulate a joint vision of child protection reforms and build consensus between field staff trained by ChildFund and their managers. As a result, recommendations of the round table were included in Grodno regional action plan on prevention of social orphanhood.

Grodno Regional Department of Education has entrusted the Re-training Institute with carrying out the program on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection for oblast level child protection specialists. Mogilev oblast Re-training Institute has also developed a plan for further expansion of this program in Mogilev oblast communities.

Presentation at the regional workshop in Vitebsk

The program on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection was promoted at a workshop (25th of November, 2010) for Vitebsk oblast child protection specialists from 21 districts. It created a platform for cooperation between ChildFund Belarus and Vitebsk Re-training Institute and further signing of the partnership agreement for 2011-2012.

Building Partnership with Committees on Juvenile Delinquencies

ChildFund continued increasing its influence on the national child protection arena. This quarter it targeted the national network of the Committees on Juvenile Delinquencies operating under the Belarus Council of Ministries. These powerful Committees decide about removal of a child from a family and approve plans for the rehabilitation of biological families. This new target group does not have access to any modern training on child protection and too often promote rudimentary approaches based on repressive methods of work.

On 29th of November - 1st of December, 2010, ChildFund participated in the National Meeting of these Committees and did a presentation about ChildFund’s project “Supporting Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Belarus”, its achievements and resources. Afterward ChildFund was requested by the Head of Grodno Regional Committee on Juvenile Delinquencies to conduct the training program on a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection Services for all the Committees from Grodno region. Negotiations about its format and cost-sharing are in process.

III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

- Coordination with USAID
  Irina Mironova, ChildFund’s Chief of Party, and Jahor Novikau, USAID AOTR communicated regularly through meetings, e-mails, and phone calls.

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

Mary Moran, ChildFund International’s Senior Specialist on Child Development visited Minsk between the 4-8th of October 2010 to discuss the achievements and challenges of the project and perspectives for its future development. The concept of the proposal was discussed.

- Cooperation with NGOs and partner organizations
  ChildFund Belarus partnered with the Academy of Post-Diploma Education and carried out workshops on Life Skills, a Family-centered Approach to Child Protection, and family assessment for the participants of the national seminar “Acute conditions and prospects of psychological activity in the educational institutions” (17th of November 2010).

On 23rd of December 2010 ChildFund had a strategic meeting with representatives from Minsk Executive Committee to discuss the perspectives of further cooperation.
IV. PROJECT MANAGEMENT & STAFF DEVELOPMENT
ChildFund Belarus has held weekly project review meetings in Minsk to strengthen project management, performance, and integration leading to enhanced cooperation and communication between project staff.

Project Staff development:
ChildFund Belarus staff gained access to the e-learning program Harvard ManageMentor. This program is a new capacity building opportunity provided through ChildFund International. Among the courses selected by ChildFund Belarus’ staff and management are courses on Project Management, Financial Management, Effective Decision Making, Writing Skills, and Time Management—all which will have a positive impact on the quality of project implementation.

V. BUDGET
The SF-425 report has been submitted under separate cover by ChildFund Headquarters.

- **PRIDE**
  - implementation
  - trained specialists

- **Child Protection**
  - reforming of child protection system
  - trained specialists

- **Parenting Skills Enhancement program**
  - implementation
  - trained specialists
Annex 2. SMALL GRANTS implemented between October 2010–December 2010

I. Creation of network database on child protection:

- Department of Education of Orsha Executive Committee:
  1. "Creation of network database on child protection in Orsha";
- Department of Education of Chausy Executive Committee:
  2. "Cross-sector cooperation on child and family protection through creation of unified informational record system".

II. Parenting Skills Enhancement program:

- Department of Education Education of Kirovsk Executive Committee:
  3. "Parenting academy";
- Department of Education of Chausy Executive Committee:
  4. "Learning to be a parent";
- Department of Education of Smorgon Executive Committee:
  5. "Way to successful parenting".
I. Creation of network database on child protection:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantee Name/Address</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Project duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Education of Orsha Executive Committee</td>
<td>Creation of network database on child protection in Orsha</td>
<td>26.10.2007 - 15.03.2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address: Zamkovaya Str., 11, Orsha, Vitebsk Region</td>
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<td>Amount: $19,862</td>
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<td>Brief description:</td>
<td>The goal of the project is to strengthen cross-sector cooperation of community child protection organizations in Orsha through creation of a computer network with access to an electronic database on disadvantaged families and children at risk.</td>
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**OUTPUTS:** The network equipment was purchased and installed. Orsha reached agreement with the local branch of the state Internet provider “Beltelecom” on connecting to the internet child protection services that should be united into the network for effective functioning of the database. A new IT specialist from the local Education Department was involved in project implementation. In the reported period Orsha community made progress in preparing conditions for effective functioning of the facility-based computer database. The newly appointed system administrator with IT qualification elaborated the alternative solution for multidisciplinary network operation. It was a contribution of the Orsha Department of Education (implementing partner) in the supported project. The next quarter it is planned to set up the network based on the proposed design and train the multidisciplinary specialists on using the software.

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<tr>
<th>Grantee Name/address</th>
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<th>Project duration</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Education of Chausy Executive Committee</td>
<td>Cross-sector cooperation on child and family protection through creation of unified information and referral system</td>
<td>26.03.2008 - Temporarily halted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Address: 17, Leninskaya Str., Chausy, Mogilyov Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount: $24,851</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief description:</td>
<td>The goal of the project is to strengthen cross-sector cooperation of community child protection organizations in Chausy through creation of a computer network with access to electronic data-base on disadvantaged families and children at risk.</td>
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**OUTPUTS:** Chausy Department of Education made an attempt to find an external sub-contractor to create a new network design. The draft of the contract was presented to ChildFund.
Belarus. But the document did not contain the description of the network configuration, information about installation-specific settings, and the suggested warranty period was insufficient. This is extremely important to minimize risks and guarantee sustainability of the network operation, as Chaussy community lacks IT-professionals who will be able to support effective network operation after the warranty is expired. Next quarter ChildFund Belarus specialists will carry out a monitoring visit to Chaussy and meet with the local authorities and project partners to make a final decision about prolonging the project.

II. Parenting Skills Enhancement program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grantee Name:</th>
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<th>Project duration:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Education of Kirovsk Executive Committee</td>
<td>Parenting academy</td>
<td>27.04.2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address: Kirovsk, Gagarin Str, 23, Mogilyov Region</td>
<td></td>
<td>30.11.2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $1 800</td>
<td></td>
<td>Completed. Final narrative and financial reports were submitted to ChildFund Belarus.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brief description: The goal of the project is to decrease family stress and enhance family functioning through expansion of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program (which was introduced by ChildFund as a result of cooperation in previous years) to Kirovsk educational institutions.

Planned target:
- 48 parents will participate in the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program
- 20 children will be involved in playgroup activity
- 12 specialists of educational institutions will be trained as trainers to expand the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Kirovsk

Established services and reached number of beneficiaries:
- 60 (7 male/53 female) participated in the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program
- 24 (9 boys/15 girls) were involved in playgroup activity
- 12 (12 female) specialists of educational institutions were trained as trainers to expand Parenting Skills after the project is finished
- 2 (both female) trainers of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program were trained as master-trainers for the same program.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Education of Chausy Executive Committee</th>
<th>Learning to be a parent</th>
<th>01.09.2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address: Leninskaya Str, 17, Chausy, Mogilyov Region</td>
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<td>31.12.2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amount: $1 800</td>
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<td>Brief description:</td>
<td>The goal of the project is to decrease family stress and enhance family functioning through expansion of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program (introduced by ChildFund as result of cooperation in previous years) to Chausy educational institutions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planned target:</td>
<td>- 50 parents will participate in the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- 20 children will be involved in playgroup activity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- 10 specialists of educational institutions will be trained as trainers to expand the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Established services and reached number of beneficiaries:</td>
<td>- 25 children (17 boys/8 girls) were involved in playgroup activity</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- 50 (48 female/2 male) parents participated in the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- 10 (all female) specialists of educational institutions were trained as trainers to expand the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program after the project is finished</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 2 (both female) trainers of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program were trained as master-trainers on of the same program</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Education of Smorgon Executive Committee</th>
<th>Way to successful parenting</th>
<th>01.09.2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address: 17/1 Ya. Kolas Str, Smorgon, Grodno Region</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prolonged until 20.01.2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amount: $1 800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brief description:</td>
<td>The goal of the project is to decrease family stress and enhance family functioning through expansion of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program (introduced by ChildFund as a result of cooperation in previous years) to Smorgon educational institutions.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned target:</td>
<td>- 2 trainers of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program will be trained as master-trainers</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 20 specialists of educational institutions will be trained as trainers to expand the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program in Smorgon area</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 150 parents will participate in the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Established services and reached number of beneficiaries:

- 2 (both female) trainers of the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program were trained as master-trainers for the same program
- 20 (all female) specialists of educational institutions were trained as trainers to expand the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program
- 186 parents (9 male/177 female) participated in the Parenting Skills Enhancement Program
- 17 (all female) participants discussed the project results and prospects of dissemination of the Program in Smorgon region at the round table
Annex 3. Foster parent advocates for protective community environment for children

Irina was deputy director of children’s institution in Orsha. But she always felt that the institution was not the best place for children who were exposed to abuse and neglect in their families. She tried to learn more about alternative family type placement for such children. That’s why Irina became one of the first specialists who applied to the training group on the PRIDE model for development and support of foster and adoptive families. The model was designed in the USA with the aim to improve the quality of family type care. One of the aspects of PRIDE is training and on-going professional development of foster and adoptive parents to provide them with essential competencies for addressing developmental needs and delays in foster children and ensuring their safety and protection from further abuse and neglect. Implementation of the PRIDE model in Belarus became possible due to ChildFund’s USAID funded project Community Services to Vulnerable Groups.

PRIDE transformed Irina’s life. After completion of the training course she decided to leave the children’s institution and became a foster parent for 12-year old orphaned child Ilia. The boy was placed into Irina’s institution when he was 8. His mom had severe drinking problems; his father was unknown. The boy was severely neglected; sometimes he had to steal food from neighbors.

Using the knowledge and skills gained through PRIDE Irina successfully helped Ilia to overcome developmental delays and build positive relationships with friends. Everything went well in the family until the night when Ilia came home very drunk. Irina found out that he and his friends got alcohol at a local private store that sold it to teenagers although it was illegal.

The parents of Ilia’s friends knew about this situation but passively observed how their children were getting involved in alcohol misuse. This tolerant attitude towards alcohol misuse is quite typical for Belarusians. According to WHO statistics Belarus has one of highest alcohol rates in Europe (12 liters per capita, while 6 liters is already a dangerous rate). Deterioration of living conditions in the past decades as well as existing cultural norms and tolerant public attitudes has led to a large increase in alcohol use in 11 to 14 year-olds.

Irina had a choice of either hiding this case within the family like other parents did and passively observing how her foster son repeated the destiny of his mother or calling the police and making this case open for public discussion. She realized that silence was not a solution. But she also knew that involvement of the police would put her at multiple risks. This case could be considered poor supervision of a foster child and, as a result, Irina could lose her job. There was a high risk that Ilia could get a negative record from the police that would influence his further life. Moreover, the boy could consider Irina’s behavior as a betrayal and stop trusting her. Besides, public discussion of such a case was unusual for the local community and she could meet with public disapproval and lose her relationships with the neighbors.

Despite all the risks, she decided to start fighting against use of alcohol among teenagers and illegal selling of alcohol in her village. Irina called the police. According to the usual procedure this case was referred to the Committee on Juvenile Delinquencies. Irina came to the Committee and advocated for a healthy and safe environment for all children in her village. Some of the members of the Committee tried to make her guilty for bringing this case to public attention. They also tried to accuse her son and referred to his “bad genes”. But Irina managed to protect her foster son and received support from the other members of the Committee who had healthy attitudes toward the problem. As a result, the local authorities closed the store that illegally sold alcohol to children. Irina and Ilia did not receive any punishment. But what is more important, Ilia understood that Irina acted in his best interest:

“I do feel ashamed for the accident. Now I know that I must be responsible for any of my actions. I understood that my life is very important for Irina and I can rely on her in any situation. I am proud that she managed not only to protect me but also prevented other children from repeating my mistake.”

Irina thinks that due to PRIDE she obtained the necessary knowledge, skills and confidence to advocate for better child protection from any type of threats and hazards to children’s health and wellbeing. She says, “PRIDE trainings let me look at parent competence from a new angle. Together with parenting skills, PRIDE developed my leadership and helped me to develop a way to protect not only my child but all children in the community.” Now Irina has become a master trainer, conducts TOTs for specialists, and disseminates the PRIDE model all over Belarus.