

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Albania Disability Report

The following relates to the indicators listed in the April 18, 2005 e-mail from AA/E&E Kent Hill

Indicator 1: People with disabilities (PWDs) included in programs or initiatives funded by USAID.

1. USAID is funding the Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF) since September 2003 to implement the project: "Support services for persons with disabilities requiring wheelchairs in Albania". The primary focus of the project is to address the needs of PWDs for wheelchairs and to provide training, information, advocacy and technical expertise to wheelchair recipients. Based on a survey and a feasibility study conducted by ADRF in 12 regional offices in Albania, around 7000 people need mobility assistance.

The USAID assistance provides PWDs mobility, and through its multidimensional approach it helps make overall improvements in their living conditions and integration into social life. Specific activities include:

A. Provision of wheelchairs, crutches and other disability accessories to assist PWDs in social integration. Though the cost of a ADRF wheelchair is lower (**\$260**) than any other wheelchair produced in Western countries, its price is well beyond the means of the disabled, who receive very low government allowances.

ADRF's "Miresia" Employment workshop is the first and currently the only wheelchair production and distribution service in Albania, and distributes wheelchairs Albanian PWDs for a nominal fee. During 2004, almost **300 PWDs** benefited from these wheelchairs, which enabled them to reach and sustain optimum levels of independence and function and to have more chances for integration and equal participation in social life.

B. Advocacy campaigns on the necessity to build accessible environment. Alongside the great demand for wheelchairs and other disability accessories, these advocacy campaigns are focused not only on financial support to this service, but also on the necessity to build an accessible barrier-free environment, which will increase PWD's participation as an integral part of the Community's social, economic, political and cultural life .

C. Provision of information and training on independent skills of living. ADRF is an Information and Training Center. It has produced and distributed information helpful to PWD mobility means users, their family members and care givers. ADRF also trains PWDs, providing them with basic skills of independent living, disability rights and legislation etc. in ways that raise their self-esteem. Parents and care givers are involved in the training activities. During 2004, almost **420 PWDs** have been trained in these skills, nearly **100 PWDs** have received other forms of information, and an average of **1200 PWDs** have benefited from legal assistance.

D. Supporting the right of employment for people with disability. Some PWDs are already working at the wheelchair production workshop, supporting the normal activity of “Miresia” Employment Workshop.

Indicator 2: Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs) have increased capacity to provide assistance to PWDs and to advocate successfully for the rights of PWDs.

ADRF has a leading role in advocacy, networking and awareness-raising. This role has been crucial in lobbying the Government especially in the areas of legislation on a barrier-free environment, inclusive education, and PWD participation in the election process. Finally, stimulating and coordinating the efforts for a National Disability Policy that was written and approved in January 2005 by the Albanian Government.

Activities that contribute to this indicator include:

A. ADRF’s Advocacy Program. ADRF lobbies the Government and the business community at large to increase awareness of the necessity to support services for people with disabilities. Based on international experience, it is the state that should support such services for PWDs. Negotiations with the Government have been ongoing for several years to obtain concrete financial support for long-term development of a program to integrate PWDs into Albanian society. As a result of continuous advocacy and lobbying by ADRF, the Albanian government provided a limited fund for the first time last year for mobility means. The funding came from the Ministry of Labor through Social Insurance Institute.

The USAID/Albania grant addresses the Agency’s Disability Policy and supports equal opportunities for PWDs, such as wheelchair users in the development policies of the Albanian Government, other donors, and the business community.

ADRF is supporting and involving Albanian National and local NGOs. There are several disability-specific NGOs in Albania, among which are seven nation-wide NGOs: The National NGO of the blind; National Labor Invalids; NGO of Tetra and Paraplegic; National NGO of Disabled Women; Albanian National Association of the Deaf; National Association of People with Mental Handicaps etc. The number of NGOs involved in

ADRF's advocacy effort for the National Disability Strategy was 23, almost all disability NGOs in Albania.

Indicator 3: PWDs have access to, and are included in, the staff and activities of each USAID mission/office.

The USAID/Albania offices have no barriers to wheelchair access. The USAID staff includes at least one member with a mild disability.

Armenia

Indicator 1: People with disabilities (PWDs) included in programs or initiatives funded by USAID.

I. Under Strategic Objective 3.4 (“Improved Social Protection”), two key projects were initiated to support people with disabilities.

Through the Mission’s Public Works activity, a comprehensive renovation and reconstruction of the Kapan Psychiatric Hospital facility was undertaken. The Clinic is the only mental health facility in the southern region of Armenia and has over 75 permanent patients. The renovated hospital has improved the quality of psychiatric treatment in the Marz, affording thousands of people access to a modern facility dedicated to providing high-quality mental health care to patients, their families, and the larger community.

Next, USAID/Armenia is supporting a Child Welfare Program in the Vardashen Special Institution, the Nubarashen Boarding School and the Kanakert/Zeytun Special Orphanage. The Mission is funding a four-year program to improve conditions within children’s institutions and support child welfare and protect child rights. The project is helping the staff in children’s institutions to identify special needs, train institution staff to better care for child residents, and work with extremely poor families at risk of abandoning children. The program is also promoting the integration of children from institutions into mainstream schools as well as into Armenian society. These activities will be expanded to include home visits as well as provide counseling and emergency aid for extremely poor children, and support income-generating activities for families at risk. By improving the conditions of the schools and orphanages, and by helping families keep children from being institutionalized to begin with, this program will protect a generation of at-risk children.

To further develop synergies in the social protection environment, USAID assisted the Ministry of Labor and Social Issues to create two Integrated Social Service Centers in Lori and Ararat marzes. In addition to providing other social services, the centers introduced disability determination to assist disabled citizens in obtaining eligible benefits.

II. Several grant initiatives under Strategic Objective 4.2 (“Cross-Cutting Initiatives”) were undertaken to support PWDs, including:

HAVAT Public Organization of Hard Hearing Children’s Mothers: The program supported civil society development through the creation of sustainable mechanisms for the integration of disabled children into public life. The project has created a model for the integration of deaf children in the life of their communities in Yerevan and in the regions of Gavar, Armavir, Goris, Stepanavan, Vanadzor and Noyemberyan. Children and their parents were provided with training that will enable them to enroll in regular

schools and help them with further education and employment opportunities after graduating from high school.

HAVAT Public Organization of Hard Hearing Children's Mothers: To promote the socio-economic integration of disabled children into mainstream society, the project is providing sign language courses, computer literacy classes, and local-crafts training to hearing-impaired children.

Unison NGO for Support of People with Special Needs: In support of the acceptance and implementation of the "Law on a Barrierless Environment" (draft title) for people with disabilities, the project is monitoring the physical accessibility of public places as well as developing an action plan for implementing the law once it is passed.

Additionally, under Strategic 4.2, The Mission supported the participation of numerous individuals to conferences, forums and seminars around the world, including:

Vision 2005 Conference (London, England April 2-8, 2005)

Ms. Hovanush Goroyan, Head of Department, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia

Third World Blind Women's Forum "Leading The Way" & WBU Sixth General Assembly (Capetown, South Africa, December 2-11, 2004)

Ms. Hovanush Goroyan, Head of Department, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of Armenia

Eighth Congress on Disabled Children (Stavanger, Norway, June 13-20, 2004)

Ms. Anahit Muradyan, Senior Specialist, Ministry of Education and Science; Ms. Rubina Nuroyan, Tutor, Special School for Disabled Children #14; Ms. Ruzanna Sargsyan, Program Manager, Armenian Association for the Disabled "Pyunic"; Ms. Anahit Zhamkochyan, Headmaster of the School, Secondary School #27

NGO Conference and Exhibition 2004 (Yerevan, Armenia, October 15-17, 2004)

More than 208 NGOs participated in the conference, including the below NGOs on disabilities issues:

Ms. Irina Hovhannisyanyan, Astghatsolk; Ms. Narine Torchyan, "Mankuts Hashmandam" Women Council; Ms. Melania Epremyan, "Astghavard" Disabled Children Parents' Union; Ms. Anjela Hovhannisyanyan, "Tsiternak" Disabled Children Parents' NGO; Ms. Zhanna Avetisyan, "Arayi" Disabled Children Parents Union; Ms. Elmira Barseghyan, Astghashogh; Ms. Nune Pepanyan, "Lusatgh"; Mr. Gagik Serobyan, Armenian Union of Deaf People; Mr. Ashot Karapetyan, Armenian Democratic Forum; Ms. Emma Alexanyan, Noyastgh; Mr. Levon Nersisyan, Astghik Disabled Children Parents' Union; Ms. Marietta Danagulyan "Hearth of Hope" Mentally Disabled Persons' Mothers' NGO; Ms. Susanna Zhamkochyan "Havat" Hard Hearing Children Mothers' NGO

III. In Strategic Objective 2.1 ("Improved Democratic Governance"), the Armenian Legislative Strengthening Program is working with Coordinating Council Constituency

Groups to provide feedback to the National Assembly (Parliament) on disabled citizen access issues and information dissemination.

Indicator 2: Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) have increased capacity to provide assistance to PWDs and to advocate successfully for the rights of PWDs.

Since August 2001, USAID/Armenia, through a grants program, has been supporting Armenian NGOs working with the disabled. Many recipient organizations have lobbied for laws that provide people with disabilities with equal access to employment and education as well as to promote social integration generally.

“Bridge of Hope” and Armenia’s Ministry of Education and Science and signed an agreement on integrated education in five schools. This project was part of the broader work of NGOs through which the Republic of Armenia adopted the law “On Social Protection of Disabled Persons”. “Disabled persons have the same rights, liberties and obligations defined by Armenia’s Constitution and laws as other persons,” the law reads. Additionally, the third paragraph of Article 19 of Armenia’s Law on Education states: “The education of children requiring special educational conditions, at the parents’ will, may be organized both in public schools and in special institutions with a special schedule.”

Additionally, the Lusatgh Social Benevolent Union worked with the Handicapped Issues Committee in the National Assembly. Members of the Committee include 15 NGOs (5 of whom have received USAID grant support) advocating for the disabled as well as the Speaker of the National Assembly and a National Assembly Deputy. The Committee has worked on legislation related to the full participation of handicapped people in public life.

The 2004 Freedom House Index report “Nations in Transit” notes a positive demonstration of civil society’s capacity to influence policy making in Armenia, mentioning USAID/Armenia’s work with World Learning to support a group of Armenian NGOs in successfully lobbying the government for the protection of the rights of the disabled in urban planning and construction.

Indicator 3: PWDs have access to, and are included in, the staff and activities of each USAID mission/office.

As USAID/Armenia prepares to move to a New Embassy Compound in May 2005, the new building’s construction plans included accessibility for people with mobility impairment and universal accessibility. Additionally, Ms. Janet Allem visited the Mission in 2003 to train staff on disability issues.

Indicator 4: USAID missions/offices implement activities in accordance with their own disability plans of action.

At this stage, the Mission does not have a disability plan in place.

Belarus

USAID/Belarus funded numerous organizations and programs focused on people with disabilities in 2003 and 2004. Supported projects included the creation of public clubs and self-help groups for people with disabilities, of an advocacy initiative, and of social and sports activities such as a computer club and a therapeutic horseback riding association.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

Strategic Objective 3.1 Sustainable Minority Returns

USAID/BiH put approximately \$25 million into reconstruction in Bosnia from 2003 to 2004. In all reconstruction projects that involved vertical structures, such as schools and health centers, we ensured access for disabled persons. Toilets for disabled persons were also included. In large schools, we installed elevators for disabled persons as well.

Strategic Objective 4.2. Cross-Cutting:

Under our Participant Training Program for FY04, we funded the participation of 3 BiH representatives in the 8th International Congress on Children and Youth with Disabilities held in Stavanger, Norway, in June 2004.

2) Please identify any activities funded or organized by your mission/office that have supported the capacity-building of indigenous Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs), provided organizational or advocacy skills to DPOs and/or affected policy change/legal reform for people with disabilities.

In April 2005, USAID/BiH donated three computers and office furniture to the BH Association of People with Epilepsy. The total purchase value of this property donation was \$10,409.49.

Since 2003, USAID Bosnia has been funding a local NGO, the Centers for Civic Initiatives (CCI) to conduct a state wide public campaign entitled "We are All Equal" to assist people with disabilities by advocating for a series of legislative adjustments in accordance with the UN Charter for Disabilities. The Campaign is divided into three phases and CCI has just entered the third and final phase of the implementation. In the first phase, in response to CCI's initiative the State Government ratified the UN Charter and consequently agreed to adjust all relevant legislation to respect equal rights and opportunities of disabled persons. Furthermore, the coalition of all local NGOs with disabilities was formed to conduct a nation wide analysis on the number and a variety of disabilities existing in the country. The second phase included the creation of independent expert committees that drafted a Comparative Analysis that recommended the areas for necessary adjustments, including employment, health care and health insurance, education, social care, and registration of NGOs with disabilities. The Comparative Analysis became the foundation for the work of special Working Groups that also included members from respective state/entity Ministries.

As a result, in the last phase, the Republic Srpska National Assembly adopted the Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities and both Houses of the Federation BiH Parliament adopted the changes and amendments to the Law on the basis of social care for disabled. Both of these

adoptions were in harmony with recommendations written in the Comparative Analysis. In addition, working groups produced written materials for further changes that are waiting for parliamentary procedure. These include amendments to the sets of entity laws on associations and foundations and the laws on invalid organizations; laws on employment of persons with disabilities; laws on health care and laws on health insurance; laws on social care, and the Manual on schooling of children with disabilities. These materials will be delivered to the respected Ministries by the end of May 2005.

Also, CCI and the coalition started comparative research on the utilization of lottery funds in BiH and the Region in order to produce realistic and applicable recommendations to the government on using these funds for long-term funding of NGOs with disabilities.

3) Please describe the ways in which your mission/office has removed barriers to the participation of PWDs in its work and how PWDs have been included in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of USAID-supported programs.

Our building has access for people with disabilities and our website is accessible as well. All our Purchase Orders incorporate by-reference clause 52.222-36 Affirmative Action for Workers with Disabilities and two employees (short-term) who are disabled worked for USAID.

4) If your mission/office has developed a disability plan of action (a recommendation of the first report on the Disability Policy), please identify successes and/or challenges to its implementation.

We do not have a disability plan of action at this point, but we would be interested in seeing a sample of such a document when you have time.

Central Asian Republics

Indicator 1: People with disabilities (PWDs) included in programs or initiatives funded by USAID.

Please briefly describe program activities that have included PWDs, categorizing them by Mission strategic objective

<p>Mission: USAID/CAR SO: 2.1 Increased Democratic Culture Among Citizens and Target Institutions Program: The Civil Society Support Initiative Program Description: Implemented by “Counterpart International” in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan, and “IREX” in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, the Program provided leading NGO’s -- including organizations representing disabled people -- with institutional grants, equipment and training.</p>
<p>Mission: USAID/CAR SO: 2.1 Increased Democratic Culture Among Citizens and Target Institutions Program: The Civil Society Support Initiative Program -- Civic Advocacy Project Description: Provides institutional capacity building to membership-based organizations and special interest groups -- including invalid and disabled people groups -- to launch and implement nation-wide advocacy campaigns.</p>
<p>Mission: USAID/CAR SO: 3.2 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care Services in Select Population Program: Partnership program implemented by the American International Health Alliance. Description: Through the medical center “Demeu,” clubs were created for the elderly and disabled that offer activities conducted by volunteers. The center was formed and is managed through partnerships with the Astana City Administration, the Astana City Health Department, and Mercy Health System (Pittsburgh, PA).</p>
<p>Mission: USAID/CAR - Kazakhstan SO: 3.2 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care Services in Select Population Program/Description: In Kazakhstan, assistance was provided to the following organizations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Akбота League” built a swimming pool for disabled children. According to records, the pool has helped more than 34 children overcome muscle spasms and 100 children have shown positive psychological changes. • The “Association of Disabled Women” helps disabled women achieve greater independence • The organization, “Mentally Disabled Children and Invalids” provides treatment to help improve the coordination of mentally disabled children • The “Organization of Disabled People” provides therapy to children with cerebral spastic paralysis
<p>Mission: USAID/CAR - Kyrgyzstan SO: 3.2 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care Services in Select Population Program/Description: The NGO “Zhanie” identifies where health care needs exist for disabled children. They provide training for parents on how to best care for the children. Results include notable improvement in children’s health with better sleep, improved physical conditions and reduction of medicine.</p>
<p>Mission: USAID/CAR - Turkmenistan SO: 3.2 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care Services in Select Population Program/Description: In the City of Ashgabat, the NGO “Lukman-Hekim” provides training for teachers on how to properly care for disabled children in public schools. The NGO also develops public awareness campaigns. Since project inception, kindergarten staff acknowledge reduction of convulsion incidents among children and reduction in the number of children afflicted with respiratory disease and dysentery.</p>
<p>Mission: USAID/CAR - Tajikistan SO: 3.2 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care Services in Select Population Program/Description: The Public Foundation “Ansoy” improves the capacity of public health care workers in diagnosing genetic pathologies at early stages and increasing public awareness of genetic pathologies their causes, such as intermarriages, teenage pregnancy and risky behavior.</p>
<p>Mission: USAID/CAR - Uzbekistan SO: 3.2 Increased Utilization of Quality Primary Health Care Services in Select Population Program/Description: The NGO “Opa-singillar” provides training for women with disabilities.</p>

Indicator 2: Disabled People’s Organizations (DPOs) have increased capacity to provide assistance to PWDs and to advocate successfully for the rights of PWDs. *Identify activities funded or organized by your mission/office that have supported the capacity-building of indigenous DPOs, provided organizational or advocacy skills to DPOs and/or affected policy change/legal reform for people with disabilities.*

<p>Mission: USAID/CAR Program: The Civil Society Support Initiative Program -- Civic Advocacy Project: Overview: Provides training and support to professional membership-based organizations and special interest groups -- including invalid and disabled people groups -- to help them launch and implement advocacy campaigns. Capacity Building Activities Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Management • Office Management • Membership Development • Advocacy • Grants for purchasing equipment needed to support capacity building • Study tours and expert exchanges • Legal and rights training <p>DPOs Supported in Kazakhstan: Public Organization of Disabled People "KENES"; Public Organization "Association of disabled women "SHYRAK"; Public Organization "Advocacy of Disabled People"; Support Center for Deaf People "UMIT"; Public Organization of disabled people with higher education "NAMYS"; Federation of Suffered Women " Ekho Poligona"</p> <p>DPOs Supported in Kyrgyzstan: Public Association "Alliance on Reproductive Health" (provides invalids with legal assistance); Association of Parents of Disabled Children; Society of Disabled Children; Union of Women and Mothers of Disabled Children; Kyrgyz Society Central Administration of Blind and Deaf</p> <p>DPOs Supported in Kyrgyzstan: Children Foundation of the Khatlon Oblast; NGO for Disabled Children Dilshod; Scientific and Production Fund of the Society of Deaf People; Sigma NGO; Society of Invalids of the Rasht District; Special Olympics in Tajikistan</p> <p>DPOs Supported in Uzbekistan DPO Supported in Kyrgyzstan: Youth Support Center "Ariadna"; "Opa-Singillar" Disabled Women’s Society; Ferghana Oblast Center for Social Support of Children with Special Requirements "ZIYO"; Gamhormlik; Angren Center for Women with Disabled Children "Kamilla"; Uzbek Public Center for Support of Paralyzed Children and Teenagers "UMR"; Invalids Support Center "Haet"</p>
<p>Mission: USAID/CAR Program: Capacity building provided by the organization "Counterpart" to DPO’s. Countries/DPO’s included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Kazakhstan, the following Public Organizations: Akbota League, Association of Disabled Women, Mentally Disabled Children and Women, Public Organization of Disabled People • In Kyrgyzstan, the NGO Zhanie • In Turkmenistan, the NGO Lukman-Hekim • In Tajikistan, the Public Foundation Ansory • In Uzbekistan, the NGO "Opa-Singillar <p>Capacity Building Training to NGO’s Included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory Community Assessment and Planning • Community Project Design and Management • Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation • Action Plan Development

Indicator 3: PWDs have access to, and are included in, the staff and activities of each USAID mission/office. Please describe the ways in which your mission/office has removed barriers to the participation of PWDs in its work and how PWDs have been included in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of USAID-supported programs.

Response: USAID/CAR is currently (May 2005) removing an additional barrier to the participation of PWD through improving elevator access to the Agency’s workspaces.

Indicator 4: USAID missions/offices implement activities in accordance with their own disability plans of action. If your mission/office has developed a disability plan of action (a recommendation of the first report on the Disability Policy), please identify successes and/or challenges to its implementation.

Response: USAID/CAR does not currently have a disability plan of action relevant to this indicator.

Caucasus

USAID/Caucasus Activities with Persons with Disabilities

INDICATOR 1: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS) INCLUDED IN PROGRAMS OR INITIATIVES FUNDED BY USAID.

SO 3.4 Increased Use of Social and Health Services and Changed Behaviour

The advocacy action for disabled children was initiated through support of the USAID-funded Georgia Community Mobilization Initiative (GCMI). Local NGOs working on disabled children's issues, including their inclusion into mainstream education and society more broadly, represented successful examples of NGOs participating in both service provision and policy reform. At least one NGO in each GCMI region became involved in issues around integration and inclusive education for disabled children. One NGO, Tanadgoma, became a resource centre for other organizations working on these issues, working closely with the Ministry of Education, Parliament and schools; eight NGO representatives attended the 8th International Congress on Including Children and Youth with Disabilities in Community Life (in Norway) along with government and UNICEF representatives; and GCMI sub-grantees were actively involved in working with the government to develop policy around disabled children's issues.

In response to community requests for visibility for disabled children's issues, the GCMI Social Policy Unit published an information document for the Parliamentary committee considering legislation on children's disabilities and assistance to families of disabled children. New legislation developed through support of the GCMI Social Policy Unit was proposed to Parliament in 2003 and adopted on 12 February 2004. This new legislation will be a part of all new programming for disabled children in Georgia. Georgia as a UN member signed the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and thus undertook moral and political responsibility as opposed to the previous non-compulsory responsibility to create equal opportunities for the disabled in the countries. Now Georgia is making first steps in this direction. The document advocated by GCMI and adopted by the Parliament reflects the main directions of the state policy of Georgia for persons with disabilities. The state policy, strategy and specific programs for protection other rights of the disabled are based on these direction.

In response to community requests for addressing social and child welfare issues, SPU and an NGO workgroup drafted the National Strategy for Social Protection of Children in close collaboration with GCMI stakeholders and partner NGOs. In April 2004 SPU and an expert group successfully completed their advocacy campaign to the Georgian Parliament. As a result a number of amendments of the Education Law have been drafted, which lead to better access to education for disabled children. Also, policy makers in Parliament were encouraged to discuss the problems of disabled children through the publication of a short document conveying SPU's analysis of their situation.

Through the sub-grant mechanism of GCMI several community-based social services projects for disabled were implemented. GCMI worked on development of internal capacity of a wide variety of community, district and regional government and civil society structures/institutions.

Some NGOs under GCMI have developed their training capacities and plan to continue using those skills to act as resources for other local NGOs, as well as diversifying their own activities. Other NGOs have developed income generation projects with a view to developing greater financial independence and sustainability: for example the Union of Social Rehabilitation of Disabled Children in Tbilisi has started a poultry farm; the Gori Disabled Club, 'Way to Society' in Dedoplistskaro and the Association 'Mountain and Society' in Mtskheta have all opened internet cafes; and the Union of Providing Employment to Disabled People rehabilitated a shoemaking workshop for commercial activity.

Through Georgian Association of Mental Health, GCMI funded a project to improve the life of mentally-disabled people in Guria Region.

GCMI funded a pilot project for integrated learning of mentally-disabled children in Zugdidi, Samegrelo region where some school authorities were opposing opening integrated classes for disabled children. The reasons varied from resistance and stigma towards disabilities to personal dislike of parties involved. The purpose of the project was to support the education of mentally- and physically-disabled children. A comprehensive research of the families with disabled children was conducted. These families were isolated from the society, depressed and hopeless. The project helped them overcome the existing stigma related to disabled children and inspire the hope in their heart that their children will be accepted by the society. Eight teachers and two psychologists from Zugdidi were selected for training that was tailored to the needs of disabled children and was based on the behavioural analyses. Training included the assessment of children, analyses of children academic and functional skills, creation of individual education plans (IEP) and creation of curriculum. Zugdidi N1 secondary school administration allocated four classrooms for the children with disabilities, one classroom for the joint lessons with the students of the state school and a dining room. A playground is used by all children together. The classrooms were equipped with all school equipment and educational materials necessary for the disabled children.

In order to promote inclusion of disabled children in mainstream schools, GCMI invited applications from schools in the larger urban areas it works to apply for funding to improve the disabled access infrastructure. The target towns were chosen because the population density in urban areas makes it possible to provide more comprehensive support for a number of disabled students in one location. In Isani-Samgori of Tbilisi advocacy on this issue resulted in the municipal authorities allocating significant funding to comprehensively equip School #180 to address the needs of disabled students from the whole area.

School #4 in Telavi has constructed access ramps, widened doors to classrooms, toilets, sports and cultural facilities. As a result of the project, ten additional disabled children are now attending the school and the district education department has provided extra support e.g., assigning sports teachers to provide special physiotherapy classes for the disabled children.

The disabled access projects enabled communities to act to reduce the exclusion of a particularly vulnerable group in a straightforward but transformative and sustainable way, by adapting stairways and entrances to public buildings to accommodate wheelchair users.

Community Initiative Groups from School 180, Cholokashvili Street and Khmelnitski Street in Tbilisi formed a coalition 'Power in Unity' to carry out a project to provide support to the disabled population in their region. The project aimed to defend the rights of disabled people, and get active support from government including commitment of resources to elevator repair, ramp installation, and making buildings more accessible. The coalition argued their case in the light of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, signed by Georgia in 1994, and a law passed in 1995 committing the Government of Georgia to providing for the needs of disabled people in public buildings.

The Feeding Kitchens Program began in 1999, meeting the emergency nutritional needs of around 5,000 of the most vulnerable population of Georgia. In February 2004 the program was expanded for five months to increase the number of vulnerable persons supported by The Salvation Army grant. While the program was not primarily focused on PWD's in the expanded program, one of the beneficiaries was a 95 year-old single male pensioner, WW2 veteran, and a 1st group PWD. Along with other beneficiaries, each month he was provided the following food products: rice - 1kg, beans - 1kg, cream of wheat - 1 package, buckwheat - 1kg, wheat flour - 1kg, oil - 1 liter, powdered milk - 0.5kg, sugar - 1kg, and rolled oats - 1 kg. This helped him to temporarily be relieved from hunger.

Beginning FY 2005, the USAID-funded Building for the Future youth program intends to include disabled children and the following schools are selected to support disabled children: Tbilisi - #151 Secondary School (Vake-Saburtalo); #180 Secondary School (Varketili Region); and the Gori - # 4 Secondary School.

BFF invited the NGO "Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry" (GIP), which will conduct training-of-trainers for Coaches and Peer Coaches. GIP will also participate in summer camp activities. GIP is an international foundation and supports the development of integrative chains of mental health care services; promotes the empowerment of users and relatives, as well as their involvement in mental health care delivery; develops and implements training programs for mental health care personnel and other stakeholders; and stimulates the development of mental health policies and via its regional support organizations assists individuals and organizations working in mental health.

Trainings conducted by GIP in the program will focus on providing ethical, human and individualized treatment, and the care and support of disabled youth. In addition, it will assist Club Coaches to raise awareness about working with disabled children and developing activities for them during Summer Camps time.

INDICATOR 2: DISABLED PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS (DPOS) HAVE INCREASED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PWDS AND TO ADVOCATE SUCCESSFULLY FOR THE RIGHTS OF PWDS.

SO 4.2 Cross-Cutting Programs

Participant Training Program

Participants with disabilities are included in USAID-sponsored training programs wherever possible. USAID-sponsored training events include providing training of individuals who assist persons with disabilities, building advocacy and management capabilities of local organizations that represent the disabled. In CY 2004, USAID sponsored four persons to participate in **Disability and Inclusive Development Conference**, organized by World Bank. The conference took place in Washington DC from November 30 to December 1, 2004. The goal of the program was to contribute to creation of a framework to guarantee inclusion of socially vulnerable groups in every day economic and social life in Georgia. The program brought together organizations serving persons with disabilities, civil society organizations, donors, labor organizations and the academia. The objective of the training program was to build support for disabled children and adults to become part of regular health, social service and employment systems in Georgia. The Georgian participants represented organizations serving persons with disabilities, NGOs: "First Step" and "Library and Cultural Center for the Disabled" and Child Care Department of the Ministry of Education and Science. In order to increase the dialogue between the representatives of Georgia and USG on issues related to disability and development, the USAID Mission in Tbilisi scheduled post-conference meetings in Washington with USAID/W and other USG agencies.

As a result of this event, the group of three participants submitted a joint request for a follow-on funding to conduct a workshop and print information materials to USAID. The proposed activity aims at promoting inclusive education at the local level through increased public awareness and more active involvement on the part of parents and communities in protecting the rights of disabled children.

In June 2004 USAID sponsored the group of seven to attend the **8th International Congress on Including Children and Youth with Disabilities** in Stavanger, Norway. The participants included disabled youth, parents of disabled children, NGOs serving disabled persons and Ministry of Health and Social Affairs representatives. The Congress provided an opportunity to showcase different principles, approaches and ways that are used in broad array of both developed and developing countries in addressing issues related to disabled children and youth with special needs. Participants focused on building self-determination and self-reliance at the local level for children and adults of all abilities.

Eurasia Foundation – Georgia (EFG)

Election Rights of Disabled Voters

In 2004 EFG provided \$12,000 to the Union of Disabled "Welfare Guarantee". The purpose of the grant was to ensure high public participation and protection of voters' rights during the March 28, 2004 parliamentary elections in Georgia by carrying out a public awareness campaign targeting the visually impaired and other disabled voters. The project contributed to building public trust in the election process and encouraging people, especially disabled voters and their family members to actively participate in the elections.

In 2004 EFG awarded grant in the amount of \$39,000 to support **Adaptive Equipment Workshop (AEW)** for children with disabilities. This project was a direct follow on to the Norway conference on inclusion of children with disabilities to which the USAID Caucasus mission sponsored several delegates. Among the Georgian delegates sponsored by USAID was Irakli Natroshvili. Irakli is the co-founder of the local NGO "Rehabilitation Society for Children with Nervous System Diseases Union." The project goal is to support establishment of a self-sustaining not-for-profit adaptive equipment production workshop. Adaptive equipment is any kind of device that helps a child to overcome physical limitations and facilitates their integration into schools and society at large. Adaptive equipment includes specialized positioning chairs, mobile tables, adaptive writing equipment etc. that permit a child to participate in activities from which they would otherwise be excluded.

Reform of Georgian Childcare Institutions

In August 2004 EFG awarded \$26,221 to a local NGO "Child and Environment Association" to promote the reform of childcare institutions in Georgia. Working closely with the Ministry of Education and Science, the Association elaborated an action plan and legislative basis for the rationalization of childcare institutions, such as orphanages, boarding schools and houses for disabled children. It is expected that the project will enable the state childcare budget to be used more efficiently as well as reduce the incidence of corruption.

INDICATOR 3: PWDS HAVE ACCESS TO, AND ARE INCLUDED IN, THE STAFF AND ACTIVITIES OF EACH USAID MISSION/OFFICE.

The Mission's EXO/HR office conducts recruitment of staff according to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) requirements. People with disabilities (PWDs) have not participated in the recruitment so far.

INDICATOR 4: USAID MISSIONS/OFFICES IMPLEMENT ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR OWN DISABILITY PLANS OF ACTION.

USAID/Caucasus Mission programs are providing assistance to persons with disabilities (PWDs) through grants to organizations and institutions that provide services to PWDs. Even though USAID/Caucasus Mission does not have a disability plan, we are promoting Agency Disability Policy of non-discrimination against people with disabilities, in programs funded by USAID. USAID/Caucasus programs benefited blind, deaf, wheelchair-bound, and mentally-disabled adults and children. Whenever possible, USAID programs stimulate the engagement of host country counterparts, governments, implementing organizations and other donors in promoting non-discrimination against and equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

USAID implementing partners report on support to disabled individuals benefiting from their activities in the larger context of their work, but not as a specific reporting requirement.

Macedonia

Under its strategic objective (SO) of promoting more legitimate democratic institutions, one of the projects supported by USAID/Macedonia worked to build the capacity of local NGOs that help with marginalized groups, including NGOs working with people who have mental and physical disabilities. One USAID-supported project provided technical assistance, training, and financial support to an NGO that provides full-time care and treatment for people with intellectual disorders. The NGO set up a day care center, provided training to parents, organized lectures on diagnosis and treatment, and conducted advocacy and awareness-raising activities. That NGO is one of only five pilot programs that—under the new law on social protection—will be able to receive money from the local government to provide services. This fact means that the NGO will no longer depend exclusively on donor funds.

In 2003–04, this NGO partnered with other disabled people’s organizations to organize media and advocacy activities. Their efforts brought about changes in Macedonia’s labor laws affecting employment of persons with disabilities, including an increase in government subsidies for employees with disabilities and other incentives for employers to hire persons with disabilities.

Russia

SUMMARY

In keeping with USAID's commitment to include people who have physical and mental disabilities and those who advocate and offer services on behalf of people with disabilities, the USAID/Russia mission has developed and acted upon a Disability Action Plan. This action plan helped to focus our attention on promoting the inclusion of people with physical or mental disabilities (PWD) in our development activities within the Russian Federation. Within the USAID/Russia portfolio, a significant portion of our programming was oriented toward PWD, both within the Democracy and Health Strategic Objectives.

DISABILITY IN THE RUSSIAN CONTEXT

In the Russian Federation (RF), nearly 11 million people, representing 7.5 % of the total population, live with disability.¹ Each year, the number of registered PWDs increases rapidly. Over the past decade, the number of PWDs in the RF has more than doubled.² Despite this upward trend, the Government of the Russian Federation (GORF) has cut its funding of social welfare programs that target PWDs. Of the GORF funding, approximately 98% is directed to pension support and compensatory payments. Programs designed to improve the quality of life of PWDs in Russia are either nonexistent or chronically under funded.

Landmine casualties are one of the significant causes for physical disabilities in the RF. According to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), casualties caused by landmines have occurred in parts of the RF, particularly in Chechnya since 1994 and in Dagestan since 1999. As reported in the ICBL's Landmine Monitor Report 2003, the Ministry of Health of Chechnya states that there were 5,695 casualties caused by landmines or unexploded ordinances in Chechnya in 2002, of which 938 (16%) were children.³ In 2002 the number of casualties in Chechnya exceeded that of any other place in the world, including Afghanistan, which reported 1,286.⁴

In Russia children living with disabilities are particularly vulnerable. The total number of children (from 0 to 18 years of age) with disabilities in Russia was 658,000 in 2001.⁵ During the Soviet era, children with special needs were routinely placed in orphanages and state institutions. Lacking modern knowledge of child psychology and development, medical staff would encourage parents to place children with mental or physical disabilities into state institutions. Without community-based services and support systems, many families followed the advice of their doctors. The practice of institutionalizing children with special needs continues today with an increasing number of children at risk of abandonment. At present, there are 134 institutions for children with mental disorders that provide homes to 35,000 abandoned children aged 4-18.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN IMPLEMENTING THE DISABILITY POLICY IN RUSSIA

Indicator 1: People with disabilities (PWDs) included in programs or initiatives funded by USAID.

Democracy

SO 2.11 A More Open, Participatory Society

Russian Far East (RFE) Civic Initiatives Program

Resource centers in six RFE regions supported through the Civic Initiatives Program and resource centers in 11 Siberian regions, Samara and 6 Southern Russia regions that implement the Strengthening Grant

¹ Social Conditions and Standard of Living of the Russian Population, Statistical Yearbook 2002.

² Ibid.

³ "Russian Federation," *Landmine Monitor Report 2003: Toward a Mine-Free World*, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, <http://www.icbl.org/lm/2003/russia.html>.

⁴ "Major Findings," *Landmine Monitor Report 2003*, <http://www.icbl.org/lm/2003/findings.html>.

⁵ Ibid.

Management Capacity Program, have been extremely active in assisting local NGOs serving disabled clients to increase their institutional capacity, to provide more effective services, and to better represent the interests of the disabled at the local and regional levels.

In FY 2004, the resource centers provided over 40 local NGOs with more than \$50,000 in small grant funding to provide social services to disabled children, adults, and families. Most prevalent among the grants issued were those dealing with education and vocational training, educating the families, increasing legal awareness and integration of the disabled people in the society through festivals, artistic events and other joint activities. Noteworthy were the efforts where local residents and the disabled tried to improve the communities they shared building common sports or playgrounds, or when young people volunteered their time to provide home services, donated books, music and toys, or to build a ramp to the public library. A few grants were aimed at creating work places for the disabled people.

Two stories illustrate these efforts and their impact:

Thanks to a \$1,000 grant from the USAID-supported Siberian Civic Initiatives Support Center, DROODI, a Novosibirsk NGO for disabled children, partnered with the local housing maintenance department to provide physically and mentally challenged young people aged 13 to 22 years old with training in landscaping. The young participants worked paid summer jobs cutting bushes, shaping trees, trimming grass and performing other gardening tasks. The participants also designed and planted 11 small “greening” projects to beautify the area. The program provided local disabled youth with new skills and a summer salary, as well as a great sense of pride in their accomplishments.

In January 2004, USAID-funded Civic Initiatives Program, implemented by the Institute for Sustainable Communities in the Russian Far East, helped the local chapter of the All-Russia Union of the Deaf to launch an advocacy campaign for the rights of disabled people to communicate with the world. The first success of this small grant program was immediate – the local telecommunication company provided free tariff for SMS services to people with hearing disabilities. Previously, they had to pay 700 rubles per month for this service – an unaffordable price for a disabled person. Unexpectedly, charity turned out to bring bigger business profits: dozens of people with hearing disabilities bought cellular phones. Further on, the company had to hire a special translator provided by the Union of the Deaf to communicate with the deaf clients. Further plans of the Union include expanding access to information for deaf people about the community life through local TV stations, print media and Internet.

SO 2.21 Legal Systems Strengthened

Protection of the Human and Legal Rights of Russians with Disabilities -

This program strengthens disability NGOs' capacity to utilize legal advocacy to enforce and defend the human and legal rights of adults and children with disabilities to an equal education. Program activities increases the public's awareness and support for the human and legal rights of adults and children with disabilities, and community coalitions are used to enforce laws supporting access to equal education.

Health

SO 3.21 Increased Use of Improved Health and Child Welfare Practices

Assistance to Russian Orphans –

USAID/Russia has initiated and supports a \$9.61 million activity implemented by International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX) in partnership with Russian National Foundation for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NFPC). Assistance to Russian Orphans (ARO) Program is the first large non-governmental program and the biggest donor effort in Russia to start child abandonment prevention initiatives, build up a national child abandonment prevention system, promote child welfare reform and improve child welfare policies. Since 1999, ARO has served over 45,000 of Russia's most vulnerable children, including over 20,000 children with disabilities, in ARO priority regions of Tomsk, Khabarovsk and Magadan, as well as other regions of Russia. Over 100 grants have been awarded to support innovative services to children with severe developmental disorders such as Down syndrome, Ausher syndrome, autism, cleft palate, cerebral palsy, serious hearing and visual impairments.

The highlights of the Program include:

- The development of a Regional Early Intervention Model System in the Novgorod Region which includes the network of early intervention diagnostics and developmental service providing centers established at three levels – city, rayon, and remote rural districts of the oblast. These centers provide an entirely new type of assistance to very young children aged 0–3 with multiple disabilities which based on the principles of family-centered interdisciplinary team approach and continuity of rehabilitation efforts followed by successive mainstreaming into ordinary schools. The ARO-developed Regional Early Intervention Model System has been incorporated in the federal guidelines on establishment of such services across Russia.
- The Novgorod model of early intervention services has been replicated in Khabarovsk. The first clients of the newly formed services are 25 children who live in local Baby Home#2.
- Due to support of the ARO Program, another new initiative related to early assistance to children with disabilities is actively taking shape. It involves the development of Lecoteka, which can be defined as a play library, containing a wide range of developmental toys and equipment for children from birth upwards, who are experiencing a range of disabilities and developmental delays. Parents can borrow this rehabilitation equipment to use it at home. The first Lecoteka in Russia has been set up by the Moscow Regional NGO “Solace” due to ARO support. Recently, the Moscow Government has signed a decree on establishment of such lecotecas in each district of Moscow.
- One of the ARO2 substantial efforts aims at changing policies and practices in baby homes in the Ministry of Health’s system. Working in close collaboration with the Tver Oblast Health Department, ARO2 and ARO-supported NGO “Solace” is pursuing a pilot project in Tver on model restructuring and reorganizing the local baby home. NGO Solace staff trains medical staff at baby home in Konakovo in Tverskaya Oblast to carry out a specialized program that assist children with special needs to develop normally and to be placed in biological or substitute families. The project will serve as the basis for spurred negotiations and detailed discussions with Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation to get the model disseminated across Russia.
- ARO has started the replication of a unique model of the first integrative school in Russia which was created in Moscow in 1966 and has been recently registered by the Russian Education Ministry as the official experimental educational program to improve the access of mentally disabled children to equal education by mainstreaming them into ordinary schools. Due to ARO funding and technical assistance this school named “Kovcheg” has started to operate as a training center allowing specialists, educators, and government administrators from the ARO priority regions to get firsthand experience in integrative education methods.
- ARO has supported the replication of the model of assistance to deaf children developed by Leongard Center in Moscow which enables deaf children to communicate verbally and therefore to play a full part in society. The replication projects started in Novgorod, Irkutsk, Stavropol, Chelyabinsk, Khabarovsk and Magadan. The projects work in partnerships with local schools and government structures.
- The Tomsk Oblast and Rayon administrations, ARO, and the USAID-supported Siberian Civic Initiatives Support Center have joined financial resources and started to hold regular consolidated budget competitions to fund innovative community integration targeting disabled children in the region. Although the local administrations and NGO communities in Tomsk have worked together on grant-giving programs before, this is the first time the government chose to focus on child abandonment prevention activities. As of December 2004, eleven projects have been funded through consolidated budget competitions.

Special Olympics –

This activity promotes social integration of children and adults with mental disabilities through sports and sports-related community involvement, advocacy, and public awareness programs. Special Olympics, Inc. works in partnership with Special Olympics/Russia and local SO committees in eight regions to set up a comprehensive system of services targeting to:

- develop a pool of qualified coaches and coaching programs and deliver year-round, community-based sports and recreation activities for children and adults with mental disabilities;
- promote self-advocacy programs for athletes and establish a network of families of athletes;
- design integrative activities to include healthy athletes into SO activities; and
- involve local sport, medical, education, media and business communities into SO activities.

Special Olympics will launch in Russia such SO global initiatives as Torch Run, National Games, European Football Week, Athlete Leadership Program. It will also highlight the achievements of Russian sportsmen through participation in international events, including World Winter Games 2005, and European Games 2006, and will conduct a survey to show changes in public perception of individuals with learning disabilities before and after the SO events in the pilot regions. The beneficiaries of the SO Activity are children (80%) and adults (20%) with mental disabilities, and their families.

Indicator 2: Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) have increased capacity to provide assistance to PWDs and to advocate successfully for the rights of PWDs.

Protection of the Human and Legal Rights of Russians with Disabilities -

USAID/Russia supports a project implemented by a Russian NGO *Perspektiva* in partnership with the World Institute on Disability. Numerous activities are being carried out under this program:

- Establishing a network of legal advocates engaged in the protection of the rights of disabled persons through the clarification and enforcement of existing Federal and regional laws. The program is concentrated in five regions: Moscow, Moscow oblast, Nizhniy Novgorod, Ukhta and Samara (12 more regions recently joined the coalition of disability organizations, fighting for the rights of disabled).
- Strengthening and expanding teams of Disabled Youth Activists (DYAs) to effectively advocate for the human and legal rights of disabled children and adults and for equal access to education at all levels.
- Strengthening the capacity of the regional partner NGOs to be more effective advocates for the human and legal rights of children and adults with mental and physical disabilities.
- Utilizing community coalitions of disability NGOs, legal advocates, professionals, and parents to ensure that all children with disabilities, including children remaining in institutional care (Internals), have a legally enforceable right to a free and appropriate education.
- Increasing networking and sharing of lessons among disability NGOs, legal advocates, professionals, and parents, to encourage the replication of model community activities and programs.
- In October 2003 the first national seminar "Protection of legal rights of disabled people", the first forum "Education for all"
- In June 2004 international conference "Education for all" was successfully conducted. This event raised awareness about discrimination against disabled people in education, educated young adults and parents about their rights to equal education, established partnerships with parents' groups, lawyers, education professionals and decision makers to improve access to education for people with disabilities.
- 80 young disabled activists were trained, most of them actively involved in training process for groups mentioned above;
- over 5,000 members of the community, such as government officials, schoolchildren, school administrators, media representatives, activists participated in trainings;
- 10 professional lawyers work in the project and 12 students of law faculties actively complement their work;
- A Disability University Law Course has been developed and is being adopted in a number of Law Universities and legal clinics in partner regions.

Indicator 3: PWDs have access to, and are included in, the staff and activities of each USAID mission/office.

Since the completion of the Disability Action Plan in 2003 the Mission staff as focused its attention on the needs of the disabled in Russia as highlighted in our programs. Simultaneously, USAID/Russia has consistently operated in an inclusive manner within the Mission, providing all necessary assistance to PWD to both access our facilities, as well as our implementing partner facilities.

Indicator 4: USAID missions/offices implement activities in accordance with their own disability plans of action.

Since the completion of the Disability Action Plan in 2003, the mission has included a 'disability analysis' in the design stage of program activities. Also, the creation of the Disability Action Plan helped to focus the attention of the Mission staff on disability issues and potential inclusion of PWDs in future project implementation. Consequently, the USAID/Russia Mission has sought out other forms of funding, including the Displaced Children & Orphans Fund and the Leahy War Victims Fund for projects in the North Caucasus. The aim of these projects is to provide prosthetic devices to civilian victims of landmines as well as promote the development and sustainability of indigenous Russia prosthetic suppliers. This will both meet a great need in the North Caucasus as well as increase the capacity of domestic partners. Simultaneously, these actions will help to highlight the actions of disability-focused organizations within Russia.

USAID/Russia faces the challenge of reduced FSA funding for the foreseeable future. This has required the Mission to seek funding from other sources and limit the design and implementation of new projects, including disability-oriented projects.

Serbia

Under its Strategic Objective (SO) titled Increased, Better-Informed Citizens' Participation in Political and Economic Decision-Making and under the Community Revitalization through Democratic Action Program (an initiative run by five American NGOs), USAID provided funding for 29 projects targeting people with disabilities in FY2003–04. The initiatives included barrier-free city projects; construction, equipping, or both, of day care centers for people with special needs; improved access to municipal services for hearing and visually impaired people; sponsorship of sporting events; and job-creation projects. In addition, the Serbia Local Government Reform Program is requiring that all 15 municipalities that it is assisting to develop citizens information centers ensure that those facilities are accessible to people with disabilities.

The Community Revitalization Through Democratic Action Program co-funded 11 projects in 10 municipalities in FY2003–04 to provide material support for local NGOs advocating on behalf of people with disabilities. Projects included purchasing office equipment needed by people with disabilities and implementing public awareness campaigns about disability issues.

USAID West Newly Independent States of The Former Soviet Union

USAID/West/NIS Mission Activities Benefiting Persons with Disabilities

USAID/West/NIS Mission programs are providing assistance to persons with disabilities (PWDs) through technical assistance to organizations and institutions that provide services to PWDs. Even though USAID/West/NIS Mission does not have a disability plan, we are promoting Agency Disability Policy of non-discrimination against people with disabilities in programs funded by USAID. Whenever possible, USAID programs stimulate the engagement of host country counterparts, governments, implementing organizations and other donors in promoting non-discrimination against and equal opportunity for people with disabilities.

Regional Contracting Office will include the new special provisions in new awards and during modification of existing awards in accordance with AAPD 04-17.

USAID implementing partners report on support to disabled individuals benefiting from their activities in the larger context of their work, but not as a specific reporting requirement.

Key activities, success stories and accomplishments to date

UKRAINE

1. **The Ukrainian Reform Education Program (UREP) implemented by the Center for Ukrainian Reform Education (CURE)** cooperated with the Association of Lawyers with Disabilities during 2004.

The UREP produced the following three *Crossroads* programs dedicated to PWDs issues:

- Broadcast on April 11, 2004: “Charity – 2004” (this program was about psychiatric hospital in Chernihiv region;
- Broadcast on September 18, 2004: “Problem of People with Disabilities in Ukraine and Charity;”
- Broadcast on October 9, 2004: “People with Disabilities – Social Adaptation”.

The UREP Information Line consultants reported that nearly 50 percent of their calls in pension system and social protection are from people with disabilities.

2. **The Ukrainian Civic Action Network (UCAN) implemented by Institute of Sustainable Communities (ISC)**

While UCAN grant program has no primarily focus on organizations working with PWDs, such organizations receive ISC/UCAN grants and participate in ISC/UCAN trainings and conferences. At present UCAN awarded grants to 25 organizations for the total amount of \$154,357.

The following are UCAN grant program success stories:

- “Lyubystok” Center for Practical Family Psychology (Volyn oblast) established Parents Council which already provided social support for over 130 families who bring up children with cerebral palsy. 40 parents that participated in project seminars and trainings became volunteers and formed local support groups.
- Lviv Oblast Fund for Social Protection and Rehabilitation of Disabled made a step towards creating a system of assistance to physically challenged people. 45 PWDs were trained sewing skills and either got

a job or at least started dress-making for themselves and for their friends. As Ms. O.B. Petlikovs'ka (one of the trainees) said, "I feel needed in this life now".

- "PODA" Federation of Disabled Sportsmen with Limited Mobility Functions (the Autonomous Republic of Crimea) developed and tested an innovative spine cord injuries rehabilitation program. More than 50 people undergone rehabilitation. The Federation conducted a seminar and placed their program on a website to disseminate their experience and lessons learned to other CSOs.
- Green Cross Society (Lviv oblast) held integrative summer camps for over 30 people with physical disabilities. Here are some comments made by campers: "...this is the first ever activity of this kind I participated in. I live in the village, and there are little chances for disabled to go anywhere at all...", "...this is a very good way to get to know each other, talk to each other and listen to each other's problems. You start understanding that you're not alone. We became a real team here...", "...a trip to mountains was unforgettable. We have never been so mobile like sitting there in a truck and looking around".
- "Kastalia" Charitable Foundation for Social Adaptation and Integration (Kyiv) established arts gallery on the territory of psychiatric hospital to overcome public intolerance and prejudices against people with psychiatric diagnosis. The project creates a model of positive interaction between people with psychiatric diagnoses and the city public on the common cultural space – the first Ukrainian the gallery on the territory of psychiatric hospital. The Foundation has already organized 5 exhibitions which were quite positively perceived by Kyivits. Exhibitions allowed to raise USD 1,200 from private and business donations which were used for interior repairs at gallery as well as to organize an additional exhibition in the memory of Olexandrt Siryk. All recent exhibitions in the Kastalia gallery enjoyed wide popularity among ordinary people. Owing to community interest the Foundation recruited some volunteers for working in the gallery.
- "Dzherela" Charity Association for People with Learning, Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities (Kyiv) developed, piloted and introduced mechanism of efficient cooperation between NGOs, business and governmental organizations to ensure provision of social services to disabled people and their families. The CSO established stable relations with commercial companies (McDonald's, Coca Cola, Lola Pizza, etc.) which provide regular financial and in-kind contribution for the CSO activities. E.g. McDonald's restaurants regularly organize free-of-charge parties for people with disabilities and their families. 14 charitable foundations provided humanitarian aid for the amount of USD 3000, which was distributed to 420 families who foster children with mental disabilities. The CSO established partnership relations with the Obolon and Dnipro Raion City Administration – the latter allocated premises for training of mentally challenged people. The Association also worked to increase charitable donations from citizens: it placed boxes for private donations in bus and railway terminals and airports in Kyiv. At present around USD 400 were collected from the boxes and used to provide social services for the target group.
- Green Cross Society (Lviv) is the first organization that on the national level raised the issue of guaranteeing equal rights for different categories of disabled people for recreation and rest. These rights are guaranteed by Constitution but carry only declarative character. The activists of the organization directed their efforts at developing and implementing acting mechanisms that help disabled people to experience different tourist activities as the means of recreation. Together with active vulnerable group representatives they developed a system of symbols to mark tourist infrastructure objects that serve invalids, a list of requirements for conveniences and accommodations for disabled and a list of amendments to the law "On Tourism". All these documents will initiate systematic changes in the legislation and as the result will improve the quality of life of the target group. The list of amendments is submitted for Verkhovna Rada for consideration. One of the successes of the project might be considered a close cooperation of tourist business representatives and state authorities while implementing the program in Western region. About 100 tourist firms and companies as well as green tourism promoters expressed their readiness to support the program by adopting the new requirements and regulations when they become legible. This proves the fact that the whole society will benefit from the proposed changes: business may become more socially responsible and earn extra profit by being able to serve more customers, state authorities will partially solve social problems and ease the tension in

the society, and people will be more patient and compassionate, while the disabled groups will improve their life quality.

- The Sunlight organization in Kyiv, which received financial management and strategic planning training, drew on their new knowledge to plan a day care center for special needs children. The Ministry of Social Protection in Kyiv accepted the plan for the center and has agreed to financially support the center, which opens this year.
- All-Ukrainian Coalition for People with Intellectual Disability (Kyiv) developed and submitted to the Ministry of Labor a draft provision on licensing of social services for the newly adopted Law on social services (started in 2004). The draft provision was created using results of public discussion (60 regional and all-Ukrainian Coos, advisor of Ministry of Labor and Secretary of relevant committee in Cabinet of Ministries and expert an opinion from the International Center of Non-Profit Law (ICNL). The coalition also proposed some changes to the Law "On Licensing of Some Economic Activities" and submitted them to the Ministry of Labor. Both documents (draft provision and proposed changes to the Law) are being considered by the Ministries and by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Thanks to the project the Coalition established strong working relations with the Ministry of Labor, and it was recognized as a reliable and professional partner in creating legislation on services for disabled. The Coalition is invited to be a member of a working group on legislative changes at the Ministry of Labor.
- *Ednannia*: Initiative Center to Support Social Action Program *Citizen Will is Strong and Powerful* in the framework of the UCAN Program. Following is a list of *Ednannia* grantees working with PWDs:

List of Grants Approved for Funding

#	Name of NGO	Name of Project	Project Description	Amount approved
1.	Dovira – Mothers of Children Disabled From Early Childhood (Dnipropetrovs'k)	The Establishment of a Computer Center for Rehabilitation of Children and Youth with Hearing Problems	To establish a computer center and to publish a computer manual for children and youth with hearing problems in order to help them to improve their learning capacities and reach better employment opportunities.	\$3,000
2.	Eco-Ren' – Nature Protection NGO (Reni, Odes'ka obl.)	The Establishment of Assistance Center for Disabled People	To establish a center for disabled people. To provide them with social consultations and also with vocational training in folk handicrafts. To publish six issues of information bulletin.	\$3,000
3.	Health and Sport Association 2000 (Kramators'k, Donets'k oblast)	Health Gymnasium for Young People With Special Needs	To establish a "Health Gymnasium" for healthy youth and young invalids. To publish a booklet concerning young people with special needs.	\$2,930
4.	Hope – Vinnytsia City NGO for Providing Help to Mentally Retarded Children (Vinnytsia)	The Start Position for Our Dreams	To provide sport training to handicapped children. To organize a sport competition involving both healthy and handicapped children. To shoot a documentary and to conduct a round table on issues related to handicapped children.	\$3,000
5.	Hope – Vinnytsia City Public Organization for Providing Help To Mentally Retarded Children (Vinnytsia)	Discover the Kindness Inside Yourself	To deliver individual lessons to mentally retarded children. To provide training to volunteers and parents. To hold an art exhibition of works of mentally retarded children's and to release booklets and calendars illustrated with best works.	\$3,000
6.	Information and	NGO/Government	To conduct a seminar for social workers	\$2,935

	Prevention Crisis Center for Women (Vinnytsia)	Cooperation in Strengthening the Psychological Assistance Service to Families With Handicapped Children	and state officials on improving an assistance service to families with handicapped children. To provide psychological consultations to parents. To conduct an exhibition and a concert involving people with special needs. To publish a booklet.	
7.	Initiative – Youth Association of Zhmerynka (Zhmerynka)	Fishing-Rod Instead of a Fish (Encouraging Self-Employment Business Initiatives In Young Disabled People)	To deliver seminars and trainings to young disabled people on basics in effective business management, and on how to produce hand-made common and decorative goods. To conduct a roundtable, a charitable fair of such goods and an auction. To organize handicraft clubs.	\$2,871
8.	Mriya (Dream) – Society for Assistance to Invalid Children With Mental and other Disabilities (Mykhailivka, Lebedyn'skyi rayon, Sums'ka obl.)	The Alternative Social Service Network	To provide training to volunteers on how to participate in NGOs serving disabled people. To establish a network of volunteers for improved collection and distribution of humanitarian aid and also for providing social services to children with special needs.	\$2,989
9.	Nadiya (Hope) – Society of Parents With Invalid Children and Adults Disabled Since Their Childhood (Pavlograd, Dnipropetrovs'k oblast)	We Have a Right to Live a Full Life	To establish a social adaptation center for disabled children, to provide creative workshops to them. To conduct a round table on problems of disabled children and on how to encourage their creativity.	\$3000
10.	Parostok (Seedling) – Organization for Social Development and Confidence of Socially Vulnerable Categories of Young People (Vinnytsia)	My Future Is in My Hands	To help young disabled people in job search. To provide them with social and legal consultations and seminars, and with follow-up social assistance on working place. To conduct a round table for employers and managers.	\$2,285
11.	Ply (Mountain Path) – Health and Sport Club (Morshyn village, L'viv oblast)	Encouraging Local Community to Address Problems of Young People with Disabilities	To involve local community in the establishment of “Health Gymnasium” for young people with special needs and healthy youth. To organize a local government/community discussion on disabled youth issues.	\$3,000
12.	Rehabilitation Center (Kovel, Volyn oblast)	Increasing the Role of NGOs in the Sector of Social Services to Disabled	To provide trainings to disabled children. To organize an exhibition of children works, to publish booklets and calendars. To conduct a round table.	\$2,982
13.	Rehabilitation of Disabled People, L'viv Oblast Branch (L'viv)	Do Nothing for Us Without Involving Us	To organize a contest among architecture students for best design for disabled people accessibility of L'viv public buildings and areas. To conduct public hearings and roundtable. To advocate for improved building standards and regulations aimed at increased accessibility for disabled people.	\$3,000
14.	Sunray – Union of Mothers of Mentally Retarded Children in Obolons'kyi District in Kyiv	Joint Government/Community Efforts In Improving Social Protection Service	To conduct four social protection seminars, to establish consulting and assistance centers for families with mentally retarded children.	\$2,590

	(Kyiv)			
15.	Ukrainian Foundation for Rehabilitation of Disabled People, L'viv Oblast Branch (L'viv)	Do Nothing for Us Without Involving Us: To Improve Access for Disabled People to Public Facilities in L'viv City	To involve disabled people in identifying obstacles for their access to public facilities in L'viv. To include the issue of access for disabled people to public facilities in the agenda of L'viv deputy hearings and to encourage the development of municipal program for improving such access.	\$3,000
16.	Young Disabled Person – Charitable Foundation (Odesa)	An Employment Center for Youth with Special Needs	To establish an employment center for and provide trainings to young people with special needs. To publish booklets and calendars.	\$2,982

3. American Bar Association's Central European and Eurasian Legal Initiative (ABA/CEELI)

pursued the following projects assisting PWDs in 2004

- together with its partner, the Ukrainian-American Bureau on Human Rights, and the Association of Psychiatrists of Ukraine, advocated for the rights of (among others) people with mental disabilities;
- The *Ivana Franka* Legal Clinic of L'viv State University, a recipient of CEELI assistance, provided legal consultations to the Association for Social Adaptation of the Deaf as well as L'viv Regional Chapter of the Ukrainian Association of the Blind. This Legal Clinic together with the *Dzherelo* Charitable Organization working with children with disabilities, ran public legal awareness program and provided legal aid for parents;
- conducted public legal awareness program in cooperation with L'viv house for orphans and provided legal support.

- 4. Eurasia Foundation (EF)** provided assistance to PWDs, particularly in mainstreaming and employment. In 2003-2004 the EF supported four projects focusing on PWDs. The total value of these projects was \$ 38,965. As of today, 184 disabled people received training. 182 PWDs were employed. 395 people received consultations.

The following are the EF grant program success stories:

- *Agency of Social Partnership* (Donetsk), *Hortytsia Rehabilitation Center* (Zaporizhzhya), *Molodoy Invalid* Charitable Foundation (Odesa). These projects focused on increasing employment opportunities for the disabled through creation of a specialized job center. The grantees have established a broad program that helped to define the professional skills of disabled applicants, to provide training follow-up and to represent the interests of the job centers' disabled clients to potential employers. These projects helped to raise the level of social rehabilitation of the disabled in the region, decrease unemployment among the target group and increase awareness of the contribution that the disabled can make to the community. The projects were part of the matching grant program with the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine *Helping Hands* initiative that targets development of effective local civic and philanthropic organizations.
- *Center for Disabled Children Support* (Sevastopol). The project focused on improving community integration of mentally disabled children in Sevastopol by supporting a Center for Early Rehabilitation of the Mentally Disabled. Social workers from Sevastopol received extensive, professional training on successful, special educational methods at the Korchak Rehabilitation Institute in Odessa and developed educational curriculum for mentally disabled children that was implemented at the Center for Early Rehabilitation of the Mentally Disabled in Sevastopol. As a result of this project, mentally disabled children in Sevastopol have greater opportunities for an education, future employment and social integration.

As of today, the center of disabled provides services to 15 disabled children. 6 job places were created for family members of disabled children at the center. 8 staff members received trainings how to assist mentally disabled persons.

MOLDOVA

USAID/Moldova has no specific activities that have PWDs as their primary focus. USAID/Moldova does, however, have programs that include PWDs among their beneficiaries.

1. **Eurasia Foundation (EF)**. Eurasia Foundation awarded a \$20,000 grant to the Moldovan NGO *SOMATO* to implement the project *From Community Mobilization to Social Inclusion* over the period 07/01/2004 - 04/30/2005. The purpose of the project is to address the problem of social inclusion of people with mental disabilities through mobilization of local communities. The scope of the project included provision of integrated training, organized for local community representatives, and a public awareness campaign conducted on social problems, targeted to involve local government, mass-media and nongovernmental organizations. It is anticipated that the project activities will increase public awareness of problems faced by people with mental disabilities and help to attract more resources from the local community to implement charitable programs.
2. **American Bar Association's Central European and Eurasian Legal Initiative (ABA/CEELI)**. ABA/CEELI provides grants and training to NGOs providing pro bono legal assistance under its Traveling Lawyer and Legal Clinic activities, as part of the Rule of Law Program. Disabled individuals are among the beneficiary groups of this legal assistance. Legal assistance for disabled persons is primarily in the area of social protection, providing assistance to resolve problems related to disability benefits from the government. The impact of such assistance has been the enforcement of the right to receive disability benefits and the broader knowledge by disabled persons of their rights.
 - In 2003, CEELI advocacy partners provided legal assistance to 12 disabled persons in Orhei and Chisinau. \$1,700 can be attributed to legal assistance provided to disabled clients.
 - In 2004, CEELI greatly expanded the geographic coverage of its Traveling Lawyer and Legal Clinics programs. CEELI advocacy partners provided legal assistance to 151 disabled persons, primarily in the Orhei, Soroca, Balti, Causeni, and Comrat areas. \$8,641 can be attributed to legal assistance provided to disabled clients.
3. **Counterpart Communities and Humanitarian Assistance Program (CHAP)**. During 2003 and 2004, the CHAP program, implemented by Counterpart International, provided the following assistance related to disabled people:
 - Grant support to 12 social NGOs that offer services to disabled, orphans and low income families. Support included institutional capacity building through trainings and material and humanitarian assistance
 - Material humanitarian assistance was provided to 25 specialized social service organizations for further distribution to disabled people throughout Moldova
 - 240 wheelchairs valued at \$54,000 were distributed to disabled adults and children

