



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ALLIANCES IN ACTION

HIV/AIDS YOUTH PREVENTION ALLIANCE

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Over the past decade, Russia has experienced one of the fastest growing HIV/AIDS epidemics in the world. There are an estimated 10,000 street children and vulnerable youth in St. Petersburg, many of whom struggle with substance abuse and other behaviors that increase their risk for HIV/AIDS. Studies have shown that transmission rates among this group is alarmingly high at 37.4%, and access to clinical diagnosis, treatment, and care is lacking. Prior to 2005, there was little municipal infrastructure in place to reach this population and help them get the treatment they need.

PARTNER CHALLENGE

Around the globe, Johnson and Johnson seeks to bring innovative ideas, products and services to advance the health and well-being of people while also introducing new groups to Johnson and Johnson products.

APPROACH

Since 2005, USAID, Johnson & Johnson, HealthRight International, and local partner Doctors to Children have been collaborating on a community reintegration and HIV awareness program for vulnerable youth in St. Petersburg. With support from the St. Petersburg City Administration, the alliance established a municipal drop-in center and an overnight shelter for HIV-positive street youth. In March 2009, the partners launched a new phase of the alliance to reach more at-risk youth with HIV prevention messages. In addition to raising awareness, the partnership will also provide a broad continuum of services—including mobile voluntary testing and referrals to treatment and care—and develop a cadre of social workers trained in HIV prevention among street youth. A package of HIV prevention best practices will also be disseminated to government institutions and non-governmental organizations across the city.

PARTNERS



RESULTS

- The project has reached over 5,000 clients, with 720 children returning to their families and 153 children placed in foster care.
- The municipal drop-in center has served 645 HIV-positive youth and another 45 adolescents have become residents of the half-way house.
- A training program on risk assessment and family intervention has strengthened the professional capacity of 400 municipal and 125 non-governmental social workers.
- Two international conferences have been held to enable service providers to share best practices in working with homeless and neglected children.

FAST FACTS

START: 2006 END: 2009

PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS:

\$1,428,500