



# HealthProm

Ensuring vulnerable children have the best start in life

ANNUAL REVIEW 2018-19

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

## Who We Are

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For 35 years HealthProm has been supporting vulnerable children, women and families in the UK, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Afghanistan. Our unique approach to providing holistic services encompasses health, social care and education and is driven by our belief that every child should have the best start in life and has the right to appropriate care and support.

## What We Do

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We work in partnership with local organisations, governments and communities to develop better local services for children, women and families. We achieve this through:

- Improving professional practice
- Strengthening families and communities
- Developing innovative services
- Advocating for policy reform

Since our foundation, we have gained significant expertise in safe childbirth, the de-institutionalisation of care, palliative care for children, support for families of children with disabilities, and inclusive education.

## What We Offer

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HealthProm's extensive regional expertise, combined with access to an established network of technical specialists in the UK, Europe and Central Asia, enables us to connect parents and professionals and share best practice. We have an excellent track record of delivering innovative training programmes and participatory forum meetings, organising regional professional conferences and international study visits.

HealthProm builds local capacity, empowers local people and supports sustainable reforms. We assist local governments, professionals and civil society organisations in professional learning, strategy development, monitoring and evaluation, designing new projects and preparing funding proposals.

## Where We Work

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Afghanistan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom

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- AFGHANISTAN
  - BELARUS
  - GEORGIA
  - MOLDOVA
  - RUSSIA
  - TAJIKISTAN
  - UKRAINE
  - UNITED KINGDOM

# Foreword

HealthProm started working in Eastern Europe and Central Asia 35 years ago. The world has changed a lot in that time. Yet the challenges that are faced by vulnerable children and their parents remain significant. We are proud of what we have achieved over the years to help, but recognise there is still much we can do.

There is better evidence of what interventions work best to improve children's lives; evaluation of the impact of our activities has contributed to that collective knowledge. There is more political awareness of the issues and a heightened recognition of the need to address the rights of children and those with disabilities.

As we know from around the world, changing people's attitudes, giving greater voice to the vulnerable and ensuring alternative child care options are properly tested and safe all require time, persistence and sustained support. We hope we can continue to provide it.

This report gives detail of our work over the last year. We are pleased to be supporting local organisations and initiatives that are changing the lives of vulnerable children and their families.

Many thanks to all those who have financed and supported our work over the year. Without this, nothing would be possible.

**Simon Ray**

Chair of the Board of HealthProm

## OUR HISTORY A BRIEF TIMELINE

- 1984** • UK-USSR Medical Exchange Programme founded, focusing on general public health, child psychiatry, paediatrics and obstetrics.
- 1991** • Name changed to HealthProm.
- 1992** • HealthProm advises the UK Government on the development of a health cooperation programme between the UK and Russia, aimed at supporting professional exchange and evidence-based training.
- 1994-2006** • HealthProm develops new expertise in social care for vulnerable children and children with disabilities. It expands into several new countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.
- 2006 onwards** • HealthProm develops new programmes to support children with disabilities and develop community-based alternatives to institutional care of young children.
  - Work in maternal and child health continues with a programme to address maternal and under-5 mortality in Afghanistan.
  - HealthProm develops its work promoting inclusive education for children with disabilities.
  - New areas are developed, including mobilising parent advocacy for the rights of children with disabilities, civil society engagement and supporting children with severe disabilities requiring palliative care.



Photo courtesy of HADSO

## Afghanistan

We have been working in rural areas of Balkh Province since 2008 to improve maternal, newborn and child health through a range of initiatives at the community level. Our approach also addresses wider determinants of health through improving nutrition and livelihoods as well as access to clean water.

### Local partners

HADSO, Bakhtar Development Network, Provincial Directorate of Public Health

The project reduced maternal mortality to **10%** and child mortality to **13%** of the national Demographic and Health Survey 2015 estimates

Irrigation pipes serving **20 villages** were laid and **6,600 fruit trees** were planted

An independent review for DFID said that our project was “an **exemplar** for many other organisations and received global attention”

# Belarus

Our work in Belarus aims to protect and promote the rights of children with severe disabilities and life-limiting conditions in four regions. A key component of this work has been the development of an innovative community-based advocacy service for families.

**160 multidisciplinary participants** attended our international conference in Minsk in November 2018

**734 children** with severe disabilities and life-limiting conditions across the country received advocacy support

We helped our partners develop a **5-year strategy**



**Local partner**  
Belarusian Children's Hospice

# Russia

Our project in Russia promotes and strengthens capacity in inclusive education for children with disabilities across four regions of Siberia. We work across sectors, involving local community groups, parents of disabled children, schools and local Departments of Education in each region.



**138 teachers and social workers** received training in inclusive education

**72 participants** from across Siberia attended our inclusive education conference in April 2019

We supported the **capacity development** of our local partner not only in inclusive education but also in organisational development and financial sustainability

**Local partner**  
Krasnoyarsk Centre for Community Partnerships

# Tajikistan

In Tajikistan, we work with three local partners, UNICEF, and professional colleagues from three UK-based organisations to support the Government of Tajikistan to develop safe, community-based social services to reduce the social exclusion and institutionalisation of vulnerable young children.

## Local partners

Sarchashma, Hayot Dar Oila, Iroda

## UK partners

Falkirk Council, The Fostering Network, Mellow Parenting

## Associate

UNICEF



The number of babies living in the four Baby Homes **fell by 17%** because of better family support

**560 families** were supported, including **60 rurally isolated families**

Professionals improved their skills in safer care and development through **13 training courses**



# Ukraine

Our work centres upon building a strong foundation for parents of children with disabilities to advocate for Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) services in Ukraine. Working across ten regions, our project focuses on mobilising and building the capacity of parent-led civil society organisations to engage with policy makers and advocate for ECI at local and regional levels.

Local Authorities  
in **2 regions**  
**committed to funding**  
**Early Childhood**  
**Intervention services:**  
a direct result of  
parent advocacy

Over **200**  
**parents of children**  
**with disabilities**  
voiced the need for  
new services, quoting  
evidence and personal  
experience.

The  
**pioneering role**  
of the **All-Ukrainian**  
**Parents Forum for**  
**Early Intervention** was  
recognised by the  
national government

## Local partners

The National Assembly of People with Disabilities, Kyiv; the Charitable Foundation Early Intervention Institute, Kharkiv



## Other initiatives, past and present

2019 saw the start of new projects and the completion of others:

### GEORGIA

In collaboration with local NGO First Step Georgia, we implemented occupational therapy training for professionals working with severely disabled children in Tbilisi.

### UNITED KINGDOM

We launched a new initiative supporting Russian-speaking women from Eastern Europe and Central Asia living in London.

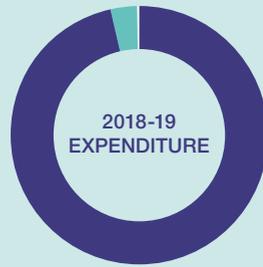
### MOLDOVA

In early 2019, we completed a three-year project improving access to early-years support for children with special needs in five regions of Moldova.

# Financial summary



- Statutory £723,678
- Trusts & Foundations £132,725
- Events £820
- Individuals £10,672
- Others £45,024



- International activities £871,575
- Operational programme support costs £28,442
- Cost of generating funds £2,063

## Thank you

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our funding partners. We would like to thank the following donors:



- Beatrice Lang Trust
- Bryan Lancaster's Trust
- British and Foreign School Society
- Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust
- Evan Cornish Foundation
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- GV and SJ Britten Trust
- Imperium Investment / Dmitry Leus
- Karen Woo Foundation
- Linda Norgrove Foundation
- National Lottery Awards for All
- Oakdale Trust
- Open Gate Trust
- Philip Henman Trust
- Souter Charitable Trust
- The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
- The Fulmer Charitable Trust
- The Raindance Charitable Trust
- RA and VB Reekie Charitable Trust
- The Toy Trust
- WF Southall Trust
- W. Howarth Charitable Settlement
- Zubeida Charitable Trust

We are also grateful to our **individual supporters** who have donated their time and money towards our work. Lastly, we wish to thank all our **volunteers and interns** for their hard work and commitment.