

HealthProm

Annual Review 2020-2021

Supporting disadvantaged
children, women and
families since 1984



Who we are

For over 35 years, HealthProm has worked in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Afghanistan and the UK to support vulnerable women, children and families. We support those at risk because of poverty, disability, social exclusion or limited state support. We are led by our commitment to strengthen families and communities, improve access to health and social services, promote education for all, and strengthen policy that gives greater rights to vulnerable people.

What we do

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.

Why us?

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.

Our regional expertise and connections with local partners internationally mean that our projects are tailored for our focus regions. We take into account cultural differences and fast changing socio-political environments to make the best decisions for our beneficiaries, whilst remaining committed to our core safeguarding policies and safe working practices.

Where we work

HealthProm currently works in Afghanistan, Belarus, Tajikistan and the UK, but our expertise in our focus regions spreads beyond the locations of our current projects. We have previously worked in Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan, and we have a deep connection with the post-Soviet region, owing to our foundation as a UK-USSR medical exchange programme.

-  UK
-  BELARUS
-  TAJIKISTAN
-  AFGHANISTAN



Foreword

2021 has been another difficult year for vulnerable children, women and families in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Afghanistan and the UK. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on health and the economy continues to affect the day-to-day lives of those whom HealthProm seeks to protect. Disadvantage and inequality have increased globally, and the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has made delivering help to the region more challenging than ever.

Despite all this, HealthProm remains committed to supporting the courage, enterprise and energy of our local partners and communities. This review reports on results in 2021 and updates details set out in HealthProm's published annual report and accounts for 2020-21.

In the coming months, we will reevaluate our five-year strategy to see how we can continue to meet the demand for HealthProm's services and consolidate the achievements we have already made. Crucial to this will be finding new sources of long-term financial support.

We are grateful to the donors who have assisted us this year and the dedication and commitment of all who work alongside HealthProm. Together, we can continue our mission to protect vulnerable children, women and families.

Simon Ray.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Ray', with a horizontal line underneath.

Chair of the Board of HealthProm.



Afghanistan

Improving maternal, newborn and child health in two rural districts of the Balkh Province, Afghanistan. Girls' education project in Kaldar.

Mother and Child Health Project

After nearly 12 years, our mother and child health component of the project in the Charkent district came to an end in June 2020.

In April 2020, we started a mother and child health project in the Kaldar district of the Balkh province, based on the knowledge we gained from our work in Charkent. Maternal mortality was very high in this region, and soon after the work there started, Afghanistan was hit hard by Covid-19.

The people in the Kaldar district have been very glad to work with the HADSO team from the start. In January 2021, we trained 16 community health workers (CHW) who will provide door-to-door services to people, with packages of essential medicines funded by HealthProm. This has led to a significant reduction in child deaths in the region.

Girls' Education Project

In Kaldar, parents had sent only their sons to school as girls' schools were closed by the Taliban in 1996, and when girls were allowed back to school, there were no schools for them. With a three-year grant from the British and Foreign School Society, we have this year started a girls' education project, which is renovating and refurnishing two derelict schools. This will enable 300 girls to get an education over three years, but the need is much bigger. We expect the number to rise as more girls will enrol every year.

Key achievements 2020-2021

1082 safe births supported

33% reduction of maternal deaths

39% reduction of under-5 deaths

16 community health workers trained

300 girls able to attend school for the first time

Afghanistan: HealthProm's response to crisis

In September 2021, the Taliban took full control of Afghanistan for the first time in 20 years. Our project activities were halted.

Our immediate response was to take steps to protect and support local staff and their families. We have been working hard to find a secure way to transfer funds to the project so that urgent support can be resumed.

In September, we launched an emergency Afghanistan appeal to support HealthProm's continued engagement in the country.

We have recently begun developing a project to assist Afghan refugees arriving after the crisis to integrate into life in the UK. This project is informed by our other UK migrant project work. We want to develop these services to ensure that our organisation supports Afghan communities following migration to the UK.

In the coming months we will continue to review the rapidly changing political, social, and economic situation in Afghanistan, to ensure we find the best ways to provide effective and timely support to our local partners and beneficiaries.



Local partners

- Health for All Development and Services Organisation (HADSO)
- Bakhtar Development Network
- Balkh Provincial Directorate of Public Health

Key funders

- The GV and SJ Britten Trust
- British Foreign School Society
- Overseas Aid & Development Commission of Guernsey



Belarus

Advocating for the rights of children with severe disabilities and life-limiting conditions.

In April 2020, we were awarded a three-year grant from the European Commission to continue and expand our activities in Belarus as part of a new project 'Building effective advocacy mechanisms to better protect the rights of children with severe disabilities and life-limiting conditions in Belarus'. This builds upon our previous work in the country and focuses on providing advocacy and legal support to families, empowering parents as advocates for the rights of their children, and developing early intervention services for new families.

Local partners

- Belarusian Children's Hospice (BCH)
- Belarusian Children's Fund in Mogilev (BCF)
- Office for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ORPD)
- Republican Association of Parents of Premature Children "RANO" (RANO)

Since the start of the project, Belarus has had to endure a series of challenges. The Covid-19 pandemic, political instability after the summer 2020 elections and pressure from the government on local civil society organisations are only some of the difficulties our local partners have faced this year. Despite this, we have been able to achieve many of our intended goals in 2020-2021.

Key achievements 2020-2021

- **519** families supported through consultations with the Belarusian Children's Hospice
- **391** parents attended regional advocacy meetings
- **44** new families of premature children supported
- **33** staff members trained on better professional practice
- **6** new regional advocates trained
- **6** new parent coordinators trained



Funded by the European Commission



Tajikistan

Putting Families First: supporting safe, sustainable families in urban and rural Tajikistan.

HealthProm started work in Tajikistan in 2006. We have implemented successive projects to protect children from being put into state care unnecessarily, and to support families in need of intervention services.

We established family support centres next to all 4 baby homes in Tajikistan and trained government and non-government health and social care professionals in contemporary best practices for child care, safeguarding and family support. This work aligned with the project's key objectives:

1. To transform the baby homes into Family and Child Support Centres;
2. To develop foster care services in Tajikistan;
3. To strengthen the national commitment to child protection.

Project partners

In Tajikistan: Hayot dar Oila, Sarchashma, Iroda
In the UK: Falkirk Council, Mellow Parenting and The Fostering Network

In 2020, we successfully transformed all baby homes in Tajikistan into Family and Child Support Centres. This is a key legislative change, that goes hand in hand with our advocacy for new regulations that greater ensure that children do not become separated from their families. With expert support from our local partners and Unicef, we wrote and edited these new regulations, and advocated for their implementation by relevant local government authorities.

Key achievements 2020-2021

650 families supported
1480 individuals completed our safer care and development programme
74 children under 4 prevented from institutionalisation
228 children returned to their families or an alternative family from the former baby homes
39 parenting groups conducted



UK

The Open Doors Project for Russian-speaking migrant women in London

The aim of our OpenDoors project is to provide support for vulnerable migrant women from Eastern Europe and Central Asia living in the UK. HealthProm already has a broad range of expertise in this part of the world – this project assists migrants from the region living in the UK who struggle with the following issues:

- Joblessness
- Social isolation
- Worsening mental health
- Low English proficiency

In 2020-2021, we focused not only on the integration of vulnerable Russian-speaking women into the wider community, but also on eliminating negative effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on migrant women's lives. This project provides safe spaces for women to gain new skills, improve their social and mental wellbeing, and become more active in the community.

Last year, we helped over 400 vulnerable migrant women gain self-confidence by participating in activities through our project.

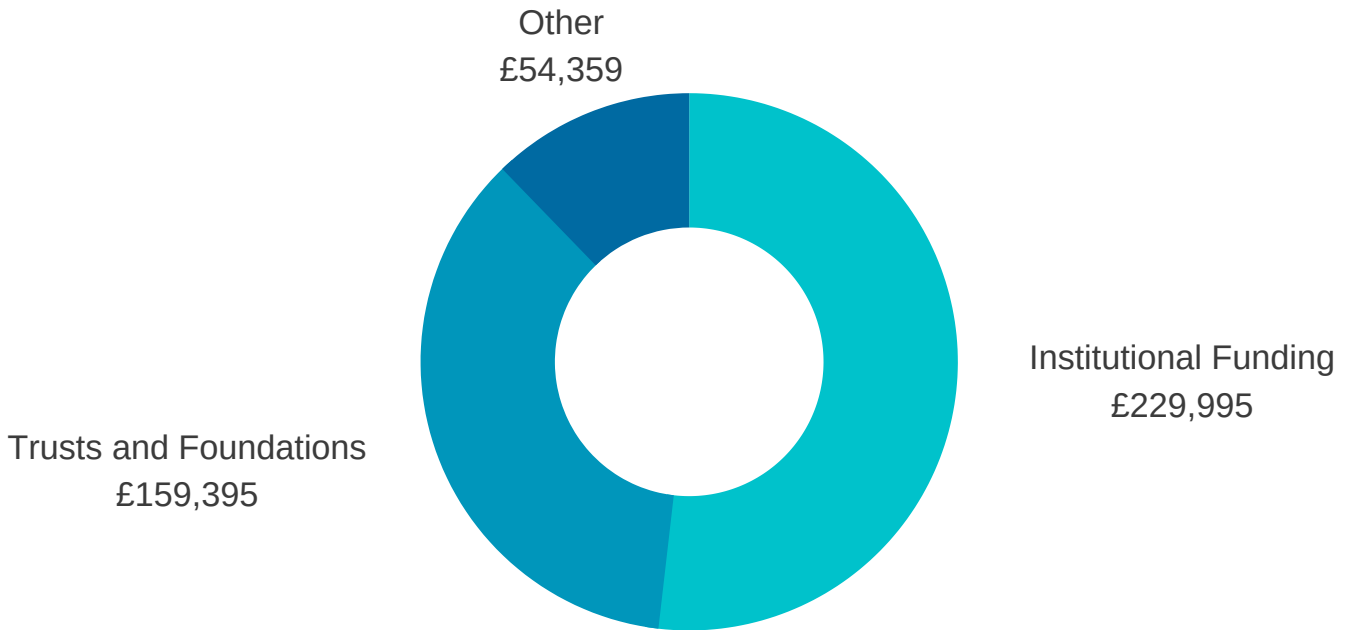
These sessions included, but were not limited to: English language classes and conversation clubs, careers counselling seminars, group counselling sessions and digital skills building classes.

Key achievements 2020-2021

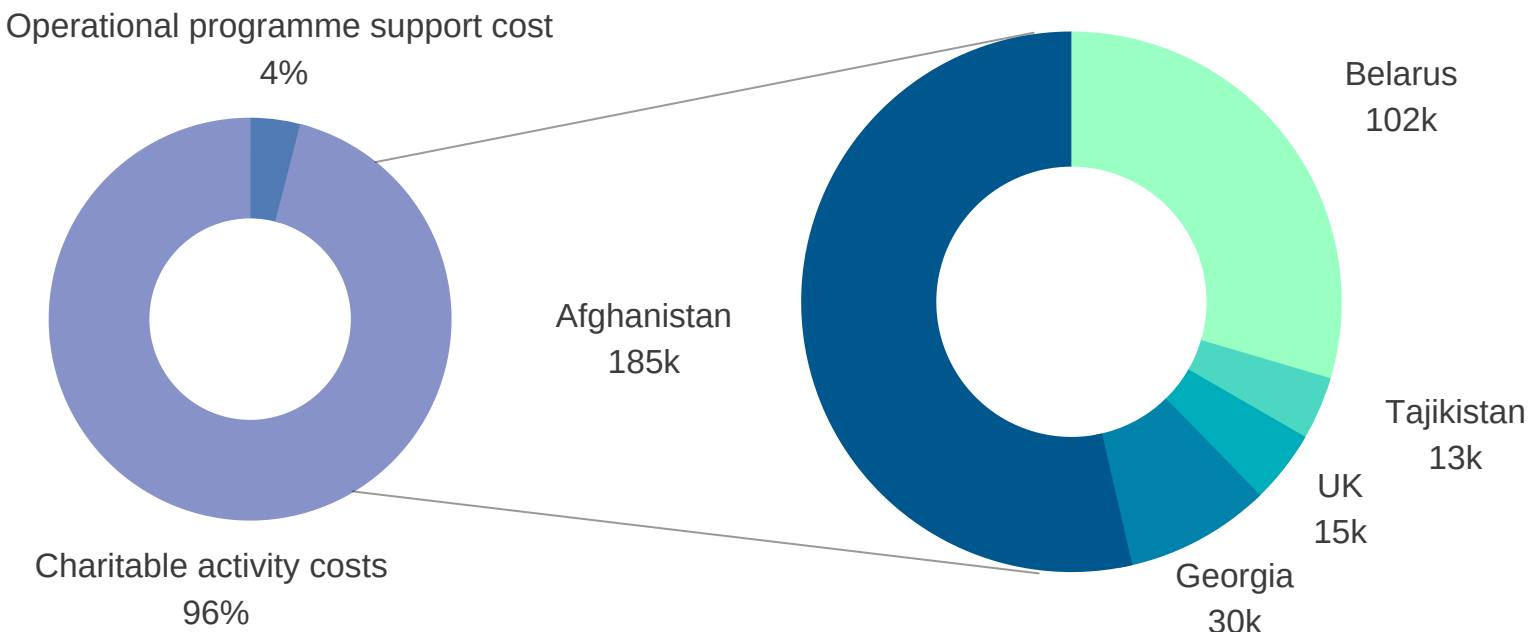
- **Over 400** women attended our skills building sessions
- **98%** positive feedback on our sessions
- **6** volunteers recruited and trained

Financial Summary

Income 2020-2021



Expenditure 2020-2021



Thank you

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our funding partners. We would like to thank the following donors for their contributions to HealthProm in 2020-2021:



- British and Foreign School Society
- Camden Giving
- Charities Aid Foundation
- The London Community Foundation
- Department for International Development (DFID)
- European Commission
- Falkirk Council
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- The Fulmer Charitable Trust
- GV & SJ Britten Trust
- Karen Woo Foundation
- Leus Family Foundation
- The Linda Norgrove Foundation
- Open Gate Trust
- Overseas Aid & Development Commission of Guernsey
- R A and V B Reekie Charitable Trust
- Rotary Club of London
- Souter Charitable Trust
- St James's Place Charitable Foundation
- The Almond Tree Cafe in Falkirk
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Unicef
- W F Southall Trust

We are also grateful to our individual supporters who have donated their time and money towards HealthProm's activities. Your financial support and belief in our work has guaranteed the continuation of our charity and its projects during these challenging times. Lastly, we wish to thank all our trustees, volunteers and interns for their hard work and commitment.

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