



HealthProm

Ensuring vulnerable children have the best start in life

Annual Review 2019-20

About Us

Who We Are

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 do 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.

What We Offer

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 do we work?

HealthProm currently works in:

 Afghanistan	 Belarus	 Georgia
 Russia	 Tajikistan	 Ukraine
 United Kingdom	 Kyrgyzstan*	 Moldova*

* Projects now completed



Foreword

For over 35 years, HealthProm has been working with local partners and communities in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Afghanistan to support vulnerable families and their children.

They are vulnerable because of poverty, disability and social exclusion.

COVID-19 has increased their vulnerability. Besides the direct effects of infection and illness, the pandemic has made them more isolated, reduced their economic opportunities and exposed women and children more to violence and abuse.

HealthProm has responded by providing immediate help to local partners as well as strengthening community-based support to the most vulnerable, helping women find employment, funding initiatives to support isolated families and building stronger ways to safeguard their safety and protection from violence and abuse.

We are providing this help now. And we are well placed to do more. We have the knowledge of what works and a network of local partners with whom we have worked over the years.

This annual review summarises our activities and results over the last year.

We are most grateful to all our funding partners who have financed and supported HealthProm's work, to the generosity of our members and individual donors and to those who have volunteered their time and energy to help us.

We need this continued support if we are to implement our plans. For ways to support us, visit: www.healthprom.org

Simon Ray

Chair of the Board of HealthProm



Afghanistan

Community-based initiatives aimed at improving maternal, newborn and child health in Balkh province, northern Afghanistan.

Funders

Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission and various UK Trusts and Foundations

Partners

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

Key Achievements

32 Safe Motherhood Groups and 32 Men's Support Groups active across the programme area.

38 Community Health Workers received regular supervision and medical supplies to provide primary health care for their communities.

892 Women in labour received support with transportation to hospitals or medical facilities.

1350 Clean birth kits were distributed to pregnant women and young mothers.

1363 Pregnant women received a minimum of two antenatal care visits.

Mother and Child Health

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

One of the many key achievements during this time was establishing Safe Motherhood Groups within villages, which helped to raise awareness of and reduce health risks during pregnancy and childbirth, and minimise risks to children under five. We are delighted that we will be continuing to deliver maternal and child health activities in a new district of Balkh province, Kaldar.

Thanks to fresh funding from Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission we have not left Charkent completely. The livelihood support component of our ongoing work in Balkh province will continue to improve villagers' access to water – helping with crop irrigation – and sustain gains already made in mother and child health.

Clean Water and Livelihood Support

Before HealthProm began work in the region, many babies were dying after weaning due to drinking contaminated water. To address this, we arranged to have spring water piped to the villages, contributing to a rapid reduction in child mortality. With a steady flow of safe, clean water, we also worked to drive further improvements in health and wellbeing for the local community. The surplus of water enabled us to provide fruit tree saplings and seeds for vegetable gardens, which supported the villagers' livelihoods and also improved nutrition.

Emergency Transport

Many women in remote villages were also dying in childbirth because of a lack of transport to health centres or distant hospitals. Our project met this challenge by providing vehicles, which improved access to emergency healthcare and greatly reduced maternal and neonatal mortality. To ensure sustainability, we helped families contribute to the funding of this emergency transport through a simple voucher system, which was made affordable due to our successful livelihood support

Education

In addition to starting new maternal and child health activities in Kaldar, HealthProm will also be launching a project targeting girls' education. There are currently no schools for girls in Kaldar district.

HealthProm has secured funding from the British & Foreign School Society for the opening of one primary school and one secondary school which will accommodate around 250 girls each year.



Belarus

Protecting and promoting the rights of children with severe disabilities and life-limiting conditions.

Funders

The European Commission

Partners

Belarusian Children's Hospice, Mogilev branch of the Belarusian Children's Fund, Association of Parents with Prematurely Born Children (RANO), Office for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

New project

In May 2020, HealthProm was awarded a three-year grant from the European Commission for a new project in Belarus: 'Building effective advocacy mechanisms to better protect the rights of children with severe disabilities and life-limiting conditions'.

This will build upon our previous work in the country, and see us partner again with the Belarusian Children's Hospice, as well as three additional local organisations.

Advocating for the most vulnerable children

The project will focus 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.

We will also develop a national monitoring system to ensure that the needs and rights of children living in state institutions are recognised and protected.



Georgia

Developing new partnerships in Georgia to support child disability services.

Funders

St James' Place Foundation

Project scoping visit

In June 2019 we organised a feasibility study visit to Tbilisi, Georgia, where we met with our new partner NGO, First Step Georgia, to discuss possible partnership work between our organisations.

This visit also included a two-day training course on occupational therapy for 25 child disability specialists

in Tbilisi, including social workers, psychologists, occupational and music therapists.

The training was run by Lesley Beath, our Consultant Occupational Therapist, and focused on basic occupational therapy principles and practice, sensory approaches to working with children with special needs, safe handling, sensory environments and a sensory check-list.

A new pilot project

Building on the success of this visit, we launched a new pilot project in summer 2020, aimed at developing early intervention and child disability services for ethnic minority communities living in the Kvemo Kartli region of Georgia



Russia

Initiative for Inclusion – building local partnerships for inclusion of children with disabilities in Siberia.

Funders

The European Commission and British and Foreign School Society

Partners

Tsentr Sotrudnichestvo (Krasnoyarsk Regional Youth Public Organisation Centre for Community Partnerships KCCP)

Key Achievements

62 parent-led organisations in four regions supported in developing their skills in inclusive education.

72 participants sharing information at the Krasnoyarsk Regional Conference.

760 people trained in five inclusive education topics.

1,956 parents of children with special educational needs positively affected by the project.

6,175 children with special educational needs positively affected by the project.

Improving the lives of 6,175 children

Our three-year project to provide training and support from educational professionals and social workers had a positive impact on the lives of 6,175 children with special educational needs (SEN) and 1,956 parents of SEN children. This support included individual consultations, mentoring, classroom support and involvement in inclusive education and special development programmes.

Establishing parent-led organisations in four regions

We built capacity of 62 parent-led organisations and parent initiative groups in four regions of Siberia (Krasnoyarsk, Tomsk, Novosibirsk and Altai), helping them to develop their skills in inclusive education.

In addition to these focus regions, this project helped to mobilise parent-led organisations and individual parents of children with disabilities across Siberia, providing them with the skills and resources needed to introduce the concepts and practice of inclusive education to better support their children.

Over 760 people trained

We provided inclusive education training for parents of children with disabilities, schoolteachers and administrators, child disability support specialists and social workers.

Training covered the following topics:

- Approaches to the development and implementation of individual development programmes for students with intellectual disabilities
- The use of alternative communication methods for children with various developmental disorders
- Basic principles of positioning for children with motor impairments and adaptation of the physical environment
- Teaching methods, techniques and lesson design for an inclusive class
- Assessment of the quality of education of students with disabilities in accordance with the Federal State Educational Standard of students with disabilities.

Krasnoyarsk regional conference

In 2019 we organised a regional conference in Krasnoyarsk, Siberia for 72 participants from Krasnoyarsk, Tomsk, Novosibirsk and Altai regions.

This conference allowed schoolteachers, administrators, parents and leaders of civil society organisations to share best practices for the development and support of children with disabilities. The event also presented and discussed the practice of creating inclusive environments in educational institutions for all members of the school community.



Tajikistan

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

Working to support the Government of Tajikistan and transform four institutional baby homes into open community-oriented Family and Child Support Centres.

Funders

The European Commission, Grand Challenges Canada, UK Aid, British Embassy in Dushanbe

Partners

Tajikistan: Ayot dar Oila, Sarchashma and Iroda.

UK: Falkirk Council, Mellow Parenting and The Fostering Network

Key Achievements

130	children transitioned from baby homes to their families.
740	Families currently benefiting from the project to date.
1480	Children and parents guided through our safer care and development programme.

Supporting families

HealthProm started work in Tajikistan in 2006 and has implemented successive projects in the country supporting families so that children are no longer abandoned in baby homes.

Our work has centred upon the establishment of family support centres next to all four baby homes in Tajikistan, which act as hubs for training both government and non-government health and social care professionals in contemporary best practices for child care, safeguarding and family support.

Three specific objectives

The current project has three specific objectives:

- 1. Transform the baby homes into Family and Child Support Centres**
- 2. To develop foster care as an alternative care pathway**
- 3. To strengthen child protection**

Main achievements in 2020

This year brought the total number of beneficiaries reached during the project to 740 families. During this time we have helped 130 children move from baby homes to their families, and guided 1480 children and parents through our safer care and development programmes.

One step closer to transforming baby homes into support centres

This year, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population finalised the regulations that will fully transform the baby homes into Family and Child Support Centres. Sughd Province has passed the by-law to implement the changes. Dushanbe has approved the regulations and we await the Mayor's final endorsement.

Plans for 2020/21

While the COVID-19 pandemic slowed activities at the end of 2020, projects are happily now resuming.

Thanks to a grant from the British Embassy in Dushanbe, our local partners continued their work to improve safeguarding and counter the negative impact of COVID-19.

We are now working to gain further resources which would enable us to extend family support and child protection services to cover the remaining two provinces of Khatlon and Gorno-Badakhstan, and to respond to the increased safeguarding challenges arising from COVID-19.



Ukraine

Strengthening the capacity of parent-led civil society organisations to take an active role in developing and delivering reforms addressing the rights and needs of children with disabilities.

Funders

The European Commission, UNICEF Ukraine, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Partners

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

Key Achievements

2

Regions achieved formal commitment to the development of Early Intervention services.

10

Regions continue working towards vital policy change led by HealthProm's initiative to mobilise parent leaders.

Mobilising parent-led organisations in 10 regions

Launched in 2016, HealthProm's project focused on mobilising and enabling parent-led civil society organisations in ten regions to advocate for the delivery of reforms and services that address the rights and needs of young children with disabilities.

Working closely with our local partners, we strengthened the capacity of parent organisations:

- to voice their personal experiences.
- to advocate for the need for evidence-based policy.
- to build strategic partnerships with key allies and regional governments.
- to build a national platform for change in the All-Ukrainian Parents Forum for Early Intervention.

Project success

This year saw the successful completion of this EC-funded programme. During the final year of the project, parent organisations in two regions achieved formal commitment to the development of Early Intervention (EI) services. Meanwhile, parent advocacy for change continues in all regions.

One of the EI services that has resulted from their efforts, in Vinnitsiya region, is providing online COVID-19 support for families, backed by in-service online staff training and mentoring from our partner, the Charitable Foundation Early Intervention Institute.

Full funding for one region achieved

Five early-stage services in Kharkiv region are being similarly supported, and in Luhansk—one of the two regions most affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine— a new parents' organization has persuaded the regional capital authorities to fully fund an EI service previously delivered part-time by volunteers.

The potential transformative impact of parent advocacy has been recognised by the Human Rights programme of Open Society Foundations, which has awarded five two-year grants to the parent organisations, helping them to continue their work towards an inclusive society in Ukraine.



United Kingdom

The Open Doors Project: supporting vulnerable migrant women from Eastern Europe and Central Asia living in London

Funders

National Lottery, Camden Giving, Citi Group

Our UK-based work is aimed at enabling vulnerable migrant women from Eastern Europe and Central Asia to overcome isolation and barriers to employment, helping them adapt to life in the UK and improving their mental and physical health.

This year, we continued to provide valuable support to this vulnerable group, with a specific focus on the Camden and Kings Cross areas of London.

Providing a range of support

The Open Doors Project includes free weekly English language classes, regular psychological support groups and legal information sessions with an immigration lawyer. The project also gives migrant women from Central Asia and Eastern Europe an opportunity to share their cultures with other communities— we recently organised a number of art workshops and an Uzbek Plov cooking class



Financial Summary



- Statutory: £349,310
- Trusts & Foundations: £116,086
- Events: £1,569
- Individuals: £10,436
- Others: £31,383



- International activities: £480,310
- Operational programme support costs: £22,312
- Cost of generating funds: £1,769

Thank You

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



Bearsden Baptist Church

British Embassy in Dushanbe

British and Foreign School Society

Camden Giving

Charities Aid Foundation

Chrysalis Trust

Citi Group

Falkirk Council

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Fulmer Charitable Trust

GV and SJ Britten Trust

Imperium Investments/Dmitry Leus

Karen Woo Foundation

Linda Norgrove Foundation

National Lottery

Open Gate Trust

Paget Charitable Trust

RA and VB Reekie Charitable Trust

Rotary Club of London

Souter Charitable Trust

St James' Place Foundation

The Almond Tree Cafe in Falkirk

W F Southall Trust

We are also grateful to our individual donors for their generous financial support.

How you can help

Make a donation

Regular giving provides essential support to the running of our projects. Please contact us for further information about how you can set up a regular donation.

You can also donate online at: [justgiving.com/health-prom](https://www.justgiving.com/health-prom)

Any gift, no matter how small, helps us to continue our work helping vulnerable children. Thank you.

Fundraise for us

Check our website for news about our regular fundraising events. Or why not be creative and host your own event or take part in a sports challenge to raise funds for our work.

Corporate involvement

If your company is interested in sponsoring events on our behalf or nominating us as a charity of the year, please do get in touch.

Legacies

Bequests in Wills can provide essential funding for HealthProm, helping to secure the future of vulnerable children and families for years to come. To find out more about how your legacy could help, please contact us.

Contact us

HealthProm, 200A Pentonville Road, London N1 9JP, UK

+44 (0)207 832 5832

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