NATional annual programme Progress report 2019

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| **Member association** | Ukraine |
| **Reporting period (from-till)** | January-December, 2019 |
| **Signed by, date** | Darya Kasyanova, NPDD |

## 1. General developments in the child welfare sector in the country and its implications on programme development within SOS MA

*How did the child welfare sector develop in the reporting period? Please provide a summary of recent KEY national or local legal and policy developments during reporting period that are relevant to the target group (e.g. new/changed national legislation, policy documents, national plans of actions, De-I process in the country etc.). The information is meant to provide insight into the national context and does not have to be directly linked to project activities.*

2019 was a difficult year for the child welfaresector - the year of presidential and parliamentary elections, which caused certain disorganization to the system of social services. There are no significant changes (improvements or deteriorations) so far. The rapid sectoral reforms in Ukraine created a significant risk for the child rights realization due to unclear vision of child protection functions that have been decentralized to the local authorities without clear financial reinforcement and assignments at local level. Often due to lack of capacity, the local authorities fail to ensure welfare for children and families facing protection challenges. Military conflict also remains a serious challenge.

The main priorities of national policy are retained - DI reform, development of the social services, decentralization.In these conditions, we are focused on preserving biological families and promoting DI reform.

## 2. Key achievements, good practices, and challenges in each Children’s Village Programme:

*Please provide an analytical summary of main achievements, good practices, challenges in the reporting period per programme and programme unit.* ***Please describe to what extent the programme is following the directions and targets set in the Strategy 2030, the MA mid-term strategy and RAP recommendations****. Whenever relevant, make a link to the programme related* ***Actions for Federation*** *that your MA implemented in 2019.*

**CV Programme 1 (name)**

1. Overall key developments in Children’s Village Programme for the reporting period: new, closed, modified, handed over programme units; programme changes in order to increase financial sustainability; programme partnerships and government relations; local income development; other:
2. Main developments in individual programme units: main results achieved; changes in services and reasons; changes in target group; achievement of planned targets; actions towards implementation of quality standards; quality downfalls and measures to overcome them; actions towards financial sustainability. In case a new programme unit is opened during reporting period, please provide more detailed explanations on the progress being made so far.

* **Alternative Care (please describe the different types of interventions):**

By the end of 2019 the SOS Children's Village Brovary has 12 family type children’s homes, 1 foster family and 2 short-term foster families, one of which is integrated into the community. It was created in 2019 together with governmental partners. These family forms of care bring up 80 orphans and children deprived of parental care (including children adopted by foster parents) and 7 biological children of foster parents). Two foster families are integrated into the community. One of them operates in a rented apartment (rented at the expense of the SOS Children's Village) and one family type children’s home housed in the house provided by local government partner.

In 2019 there were 8 new children placed to foster family care, compared to 2018 – there were 26 children and in 2017 there were 12 children, the figure of 2019 is lower due to almost 100% occupancy of foster families and family type children’s homes.

In 2019 one foster family made the decision to start of career finalization and moved from the SOS Children's Village to a rented apartment in the community. This foster family continues to receive all the services provided by the SOS Children's Village and meet the needs of children until all children leave care.

In 2019 there were 2 children reintegrated to a biological family. The reintegration process was carried out in close collaboration with the specialists of the Family Strengthening Program in accordance with the algorithm developed by the program.

Family type children`s home.

Mother Valentine brings up 6 foster children

During 2019 the Kyiv region SOS Children's Village Program carried out its work in close cooperation with local authorities of Kyiv city and Kyiv region, Brovary city and Brovary district. The SOS Children's Village cooperates with state partners on the basis of cooperation agreements signed between the SOS and the district state administration of Holosiivskyi and Solomenskiy districts of Kyiv and Brovary and Brovary district. It should be noted that during the negotiations with the administration of Brovary, in the context of cooperation for the year 2020, the budget of the city foresees expenses for children and families of SOS Children's Village:

- purchase of necessary furniture and appliances for the FTCH in the amount of 60 000,00 UAH;

- providing services of a neuropsychologist for orphans and children deprived of parental care in the amount of 44 100,00 UAH.

Also in 2019 a family type children’s home received a car from the Kyiv city State Administration.

Work in SOS Children's Villages Ukraine is based on the principle of providing strengthened support to foster parents so that they can meet the needs of foster children and remain resourceful for a long time.

Work with foster families, family type children’s homes and short term care foster families are based on case management technology. During the year services were provided to children and parents on the basis of needs assessment and individual development plans (IDP). Every three months there was the review and, if necessary, IDP correction. Work of Foster Family Care department (FFC) was carried out by using a project management approach, based on an implementation plan. The purpose of the department: "To provide quality family care for children deprived of parental care" is in line with Strategy 2030 and Care Promise, in accordance with the principles and values ​​of SOS.

Short Term Care. Mother Lyuba specializes in raising young children from 0 to 6 years

In order to achieve this goal in 2019 the foster family care unit was conducting its work in the following areas:

***Task 1. Increasing of parental capacity and keeping a stable psycho-emotional state of foster parents.*** In this area foster parents received individual and group supervision, as well as advanced vocational training. As a result of these activities 94% of parents remain resourceful for the upbringing of children, able to choose techniques and methods for working with each child. Two new services for parents remain relevant in 2019:

- psychotherapy for parents. The service is provided on the request of a social work professional accompanying the foster family and the supervisor; in 2019 one foster mother received this service, as a result of providing this service it was possible to prevent emotional and professional burnout and to provide the mother's psychoemotional recources and expand her ability to care for the children;

- assessment of family resources. This service is able to evaluate the foster family resource by independent experts, as a result of the evaluation we get an objective picture of parents' strengths and weaknesses, and can provide assistance and support in a targeted and timely manner, and this service reduces the risks of children’s placement in families in which the psychoemotional resource for coping with children is low.

***The following training activities were organized for foster parents in accordance with the educational needs:***

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| Educational needs | support, training | Results |
| Knowledge needed to prevent burnout, understand the processes that take place in the family, build effective interaction with the social work subjects, solve personal problems | Individual supervisions for foster parents once a month (10 meetings for each family) | Solution of individual and personal issues about the specifics of children’s upbringing, finding ways to solve difficulties that arise in the process of professional activity |
| Foster parents discuss current issues among themselves, share their experience under the supervision of a supervisor | 5 group supervisions | Foster parents activate their own resource to solve relevant issues for the purpose of more efficient functioning |
| Understand what may be causing the child's studying problems. How stress or traumatic events affect a child's cognitive processes and behavior. How the situation in the family or in the immediate environment can affect a child's well-being in school and their success. | Training "How to Make Max Learn: The Difficulty of Studying of a Difficult Child" | Foster parents have expanded their knowledge of the causes that influence the cognitive development of the child. They received recommendations on how to help a child who has difficulties in studying. They analyzed the tools and methods of working with the child and shared their own experiences. |
| Understand that support is important for every child who begins an independent life. Know and understand what services after leaving care are. Know and understand key information about supporting and planning the transition to an independent life. Know what support and resources will be available to children by adults. Be able to assess the needs of children after leaving care. | Training : "The crisis of adolescence. Adult’s support. Child is leaving to responsible Life” | Foster parents have improved their knowledge about the characteristics of adolescence and the causes of adolescent behavior. They understand the importance of preparing the child for independent life and planning of after leaving care. |
| Develop the ability to recognize the behaviors of children who are subjects of bulling. Prevention of bulling among children. | Training "Bulling at school: why children are bullied and what to do about it" | Foster parents are educated in the concept of bulling and understanding how to resist bulling and to stop the unacceptable behavior of others towards the child. |
| Develop a common vision for solving problematic situations that arise in educational institutions with the target category of children. | Roundtable discussion on the topic "Supporting an orphaned child and a child deprived of parental care in an educational institution: the obligations, cooperation and responsibility of the parties" | The algorithm of specialists of educational institutions interaction in case of difficult situations with orphaned children and children deprived of parental care was developed. |
| Creating the positive psycho-emotional state and conflict-free relationships in the team. Securing a feeling of success, developing motivation for further achievement. | Retreat, bus tour to Zakarpattia region | Increased team spirit, improved emotional state of foster parents. |
| Introducing foster parents to the tool “My Diary or Book of my life”, which influences the formation of a child's identity. | Training workshop: “Keeping a Book of the Child’s Life” | Foster parents have received books of life for their children to help to figure their child's identity and keep their biographical past, present and future. |
| Raising the competence of foster parents in legislation on the rights and interests of orphans and children deprived of parental care. | Workshop on "Legislative Aspects of Protection of Children of Unprotected Categories " | The foster parents received answers to questions regarding the regulation of the rights and interests of their children, including their housing rights, traveling abroad and communication with biological relatives. |
| Obtain information about the features of development of the sensory-perceptual sphere of the child, to understand what are the main goals of working with children in the activation and relaxation blocks, as well as to learn how to equip the “sensoric corner” or “sensoric room” by yourself. | Training: “Sensorium: in the world of sensations, sounds, smells and colors » | Foster parents have realized the importance of developing the sensory sphere of children who have experienced difficult events in their lives and received methodical advice on the development of sensory at home. |
| Increasing the educational potential of foster parents. | Advanced training courses in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine | Foster parents who have completed mandatory advanced training courses have the opportunity to work in foster family care. |

***Task 2. Satisfaction of needs of foster children.*** In this area children were provided with the services of full-time specialists on the basis of needs assessment and individual development plans: psychologist, social educator and speech therapist, as well as other services, if necessary, for example:

- psychotherapy: (provided by the request of foster parents, in accordance with the recommendations of a social work specialist and the conclusion of a psychologist of SOS Children's Village). During the year 17 children received the services of a psychotherapist, 4-8 times a month. Psychotherapy is conducted in several directions: neurocorrection, physical therapy, art therapy, psychoanalysis, cognitive and behavioral therapy, etc.

- educational services: 33 children received additional classes in school subjects: mathematics, Ukrainian, English, and corrective classes. 10 children (100% of those in need of this service) received tutoring services to prepare for the exams; as a result, all children entered vocational and higher education institutions where they planned to study;

- As government payments for foster care children often come with a delay of 2-5 months and new children are being placed to the family without clothing, shoes and essentials, the SOS provides financial support to foster families in an amount not less than the state payments (2 subsistence minimums, about 150 euros) for the support of children of the appropriate age until the state payments are received.

- two retreats were organized according to the “Adventure Pedagogy” methodology, in which 20 children participated. This methodology has helped to develop confidence to educators and group members, develop the personality of each child, regain a sense of control over their own lives, develop life skills and motivate children to learn about the world.

All services were provided according to an assessment of children’s needs, according to individual development plans.

***Task 3. Enhance community potential.*** During the implementation of this task specialists of educational establishments, in which children from SOS Children's Village study, were trained on the following topics:

1. Bulling at school: why children are bullying each other (25 participants).

2. Generation theory or how to communicate with a modern teenager. (23 participants of the training).

3. Prevention of self-harm and suicidal behavior: what parents can do (20 training participants).

4. Parent-child relationships: diagnosis and correction (20 specialists).

5. SIC (separation, independence, creation)- (19 participants of the training).

6. Organization of inclusive education (31 participants of the training).

7. Travel to the magical world of the child (use of art therapy methods in working with children) (20 participants of the training).

8. Coaching technologies in education (20 students of training).

9. Correction of aggressive behavior of younger students (18 participants of the training)

As a result of the training specialists from educational institutions in Brovary and Brovary district have improved their level of knowledge in the problems of child-rearing, understand the behavioral characteristics of orphans and children deprived of parental care, and have skills in dealing with traumatized children. This helped to build close contacts and strengthen the potential of community partners.

It should also be noted that in this area all new partners of the organization are familiar with the activities and standards of SOS Children's Village.

***Task 4. Integration of SOS families into the community.***

In 2019 there were 3 families in the program who were integrated into the community:

- 1 family-type children’s home that is operated in the house provided by a state partner;

- 1 foster family that is operated in a rented apartment (renting an apartment is paid by SOS Children's Village);

- 1 sort-term foster family who works in his own apartment, integrated into the community.

All families receive a complete list of services provided by the SOS Children's Village Standards and meet the needs of children and families.

***Task 5. Personnel development of the FFC department.*** In this area it was important to organize co-operative trainings for FFC and Family Strengthening (FS) department specialists of both programs. These are trainings for the implementation of Care Promise. The organization of co-operative trainings enables specialists to take a comprehensive approach of solving problematic issues, to develop a coherence and a unified approach in social work and to act cooperatively in the interests of children.

***Task 6. Compliance to child protection policies.*** In this area all employees of the both programs have been trained online and received certificates. Information on the protection of children’s rights to which children and adults have access has been updated. In autumn 2019 a training session was held on the Children's Rights Policy for the specialists of the National Office and the staff of the Kyiv Program in order to improve knowledge of the procedures for dealing with abuse and to form an understanding of each employee's responsibility for the Children's Rights Policy. Box for reports on ill-treatment was renovated.

***Best practics:***

1. Development of "Books of Life". This book is used as a tool for biographical method of working with children, which allows to create a family and social biography. The “Book of Life” helps the child to reconstruct his own life experience and to form a holistic vision of himself. The purpose of this method for child is to understand his coherent picture of his life and includes the following tasks: reconstruct the events of the child's life before entering the institution; helping the child to become aware of and accepting his or her true self; assisting the child in planning his or her future; promoting the child's development of self-reflection skills; psychological support and search for internal resources. The "book of life" is used for children aged 5 to 13 years, but if older children wish to work with this book, they can do it too. Younger children work with the book with their parents, school-age children can perform tasks on their own or with their mother or specialist. Teenagers most often want to work with a book of life on their own. They have the ability to do this privately.

2. Creation of metaphorical cards "Say NO to abuse". This deck of metaphorical cards was created for the work of psychologists, psychotherapists, social workers as a method of psychodiagnosis of abuse; psychotherapeutic work with people who have been abused; use as visual material in trainings aimed at preventing domestic abuse. The set includes: cards with pictures; word cards that describe the feelings of victims of violence and the signs of child abuse; information sheet that provides information on abuse, its types, causes and exercises for individual and group work.

Both products were created by program experts.

***Challenges:***

1. Shortage of candidates to foster parents, difficulties in selecting candidates to foster parents.

2. Increase in the number of children in need of placement in foster family care, including an increase in the number of adolescent children whose relatives refuse to fulfil guardianship / care.

3. Increase in the number of children without the legal status of orphan or of child deprived of parental care and in need of temporary placement.

4. In 2019, 4 cases of psychiatric disorders of children were recorded. The SOS Ukraine currently has a lack of the capacity to provide services for children with psychiatric disorders. Due to the fact that children with severe mental illness cannot stay in families with other children, because it poses a threat to the lives and health of both healthy children and children in need of psychiatric treatment. Since there are no foster family care for children with psychiatric illness in Ukraine, such children are being transferred to specialized institutions.

**Story of success**

****Before Dasha got to the foster family she has suffered many psychological traumas. Her biological mother very often left the child unattended and led an antisocial lifestyle. Dasha was taken to a children's hospital after her mother left her with strangers for 10 days. After that, Dasha lived in an orphanage for some time.

Over time the child got the legal orphan statusand at the age of 2.5 years Dasha was placed in a family type children’s home of Natalia Viktorovna, in which she is growing up to this day. Since childhood the foster mother has recognised the child's

Dasha`s training at home

talent and passion for ballet. It was very difficult to enroll thechild to an educational institution for professionalballet dancers. The only educational institution that trains ballet dancers starting from 5th form was the Kyiv State Choreographic School. But thanks to the efforts of the child, her persistent preparation for the entrance exams the support of the child by her foster mother, Dasha was able to enter for education to the 5th grade of the school.

During 5 years Dasha was able to prove herself as an active, diligent, capable student. The girl was constantly improving her skills, engaged in self-development. During all the years the foster mother was involving choreographers to train the girl, which in turn has had considerable financial costs. But after graduating from 9th grade, another test was waiting for Dasha: to enter the 1st year of the same school again; it was necessary to pass all stages of competitive selection, which included, as well as passing exams in general subjects of the school program (mathematics, Ukrainian), and passing the ballet professional exam. Due to the fact that during the year Dasha worked with tutors in mathematics and Ukrainian language to prepare her for exams, as well as through daily training of a girl in choreography, she was able to enter the first year and continue to realize her biggest dream in life, which is to become a famous ballerina not only in Ukraine, but all over the world. Already today Dasha takes part in many productions, she has repeatedly performed on the stage of the Academic Theater of the Kyiv State Choreographic School, National Opera of Ukraine, on tours of the school in Ukraine and abroad, in particular in 2019 she went to the Baltic States. But Dasha has an another dream and desire - to be adopted, and this year this dream will come true, as the foster mother decided to a dopt the girl and the adoption process is currently underway.



Dasha's performance at the National Opera

* **Youth Program**

In 2019 the Youth Program operated the following services: Youth Center, Small Group Home and Semi-Independent Living (SIL) Program.

At the end of 2019 the Youth Program provided services to 16 young people in the SIL program, 9 young people living in a Small Group House (SGH), and 207 teens and young people who visited the Youth Center (YC) .

**Youth Center (YC)**

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The Youth Center is an innovative platform that promotes the socialization and self-realization of adolescents and young people, creates the conditions for intellectual, moral and spiritual development. The activities of the Center are aimed at engaging children and young people to the non-formal education , enhancing their mobility, as well as creating interaction between orphaned children and children deprived of parental care, with adolescents and youth from the community.

The target group of the Youth Center is middle and older teenage children and young people (14-25 years). Not only teenagers living in Darnytskyi district, where YC is located, but also residents of Dniprovskyi and Desnyanskiy districts receive services of the Center, as it is the only resource center with free services in the abovementioned areas.

As of December 2019 there are 22 clients from the FSP project, 11 clients from the FBC and 174 clients from the community, who receive full-time services at the Center. In addition, 597 adolescents and young people from the community participated in one-time mass events of the Youth Center.

***The main tasks of the Center for 2019 were:***

**1. Increasing the attendance of the Center by youth, disseminating information about its activities among the community and establishing cooperation with partners, therefore the following activities were organized:**

- Printing and distribution of PR products,

- Outreach work during the city’ and district’ public events

- Organizing and hosting a Open Doors Day in April, attended by 4 FSP project clients, 5 FBC beneficiaries and 31 community beneficiaries,

- During the year, the visits to the educational institutions of Darnytskyi, Dniprovskyi and Desnyanskiy districts were made in order to spread the information on the services of the Center and conduct classes, aimed at developing the life and social skills of pupils and students (2 classes were held in School No. 16059 students attended, 3 classes in School No. 127, 64 students attended, 4 lectures were held in Kyiv Higher Vocational School of Technology and Clothing Design (97 students participated),

- Cooperation was established and contracts were signed with 10 educational establishments, 11 state organizations and 4 non-governmental ones.

**2. *Professionally oriented work, internship, employment assistance*:**

- Specialists of the Youth Center organized and carried out 2 large-scale vocational guidance trainings together with vocational schools, and 2 outdoor events together with the Kyiv City Employment Center, with the help of which young people participate in professional workshops on manicure, sewing and cooking.

- Carrying out workshops, aimed at helping in making the choice of profession (in theCenter): meetings with people of different professions, board and role-playing of vocational guidance, and testing - 65 participants participated in these events.

**3. Development of life and social skills and abilities for successful self-realization:**

In 2019 the following activities and trainings were carried out for youth aimed at developing socialization skills:

- Educational trainings aimed at personal growth (as we call them, the "Warm Meetings") with a psychologist, in which 32 young people participated,

- Training sessions: "Public Speaking", "Leadership and Advocacy", "Financial Literacy", "Personal Security. The art of saying "NO!", "Social network manipulation", "Stop abuse together!", "Domestic abuse. Where to go?”,“ Trafficking in human beings, how not to get trapped into slavery”,“Rights and obligations of minors ”, with 271 beneficiaries,

- Computer courses with the help of which 49 teenagers and young people improved their level of knowledge.

- Speaking club in English, attended by 52 clients,

- 47 beneficiaries visited individual consultations of psychologist and social educator,

- Carrying out thematic movie clubs for watching and discussing movies were attended by 39 teenagers,

- Five meetings were organized and carried out with law enforcement authorities and specialists of the Children and Family Services of Darnytskii District State Administration, which was attended by 117 young people. The meetings were focused on the prevention of risky behavior and bad habits.

- Carried out thematic discussions and movie clubs on healthy lifestyle, conscious attitude to sexual relations, valuable information was given to 63 young people,

The following workshops were carried out at the Center, aimed at development of creative potential and life skills:

- Creative workshops: painting with watercolor and oil paints, decoupage of wooden products, tailoring of eco-bags within the campaign "Say NO! to the person at the cashdesk” (which means avoiding the use of pastic bags), bottle decoration, wool felting, production of souvenir magnets in Ukrainian style, decorative wood burning, ribbon bracelets weaving, soap making, face painting, henna drawing, making Christmas ornaments from felt, coloring Christmas balls, manicure for beginners, making eco-friendly wax wipes. The workshop was attended by 260 community clients, 11 from the FFC and 10 from the FSP.

- Cooking workshops were attended by 149 young people and adolescents who were given practical skills to cut vegetables and fruits, to work with dough and to serve a table. The following workshops were held: "Carving - Art Carving on Vegetables and Fruits", "Vinaigrette Salad", "Pumpkin Muffins", "Natural Dried Fruits", "Pizza", "Milkshakes", "Baking Cupcakes".

**4. Useful leisure**

The Youth Center there were created all the conditions for communication and leisure activities for young people.

- Work of Anticafé, which organizes meaningful spending of leisure time for the youth - quests, role-playing and board games, discussion clubs, reading books. With these activities our clients learn to communicate with each other, express their opinions. 453 young people visited Anticafe.

- The work of a gym was organized, in which 23 young people regularly played sports during the year.

Youth in Anticafé

**5. Youth participation and leadership**

In September 2019 the Expert Council began to work actively, consisting of 10 beneficiaries who have an active life position and organizational skills. Young people began to participate in charity events and volunteer activities. In September 6 beneficiaries participated in the cleaning of the square in Darnytskyi district by their own initiative. In December 2019 8 beneficiaries carried out regular workshops for visitors at the St. Nicholas Residence at the Great Lavra Bell Tower.

Thus, the Youth Center is visited by adolescents and young people from the FSP project and from the FBC, but the big majority are clients from the community who really need development and self-realization in psychological and social-pedagogical support.

**6. Increasing community potential.**

- 52 professionals working with children and young people attended training sessions, aimed at developing their professional skills in dealing with children who have been in difficult straits, abused, adolescents with destructive behaviors, etc.

**Good Practice in 2019:**

Youth Volunteering: During 2019 the Youth Center actively involved youth in volunteering activities both at the center and beyond. In the winter they started volunteering at the St. Nicholas Residence. Young people were carrying out the workshops for little visitors, interacted with them, working with each child individually. In this way young people learned not only to take, but also to give, received new experiences of communication with children and their parents, learned to explain and send a message to each little client. Through such volunteer activities, youth can self-improve and self-fulfill themselves through work for the benefit of others, fostering an altruistic consciousness in themselves.

**Challenges:**

- About 20% of underage beneficiaries tend to skip classes in their schools often, have no interest in learning their chosen profession, and do not see any future prospects.

- 15% of beneficiaries are inclined to drink low alcohol drinks, 5% - to use light narcotic substances.

- The long distance of the Youth Center from the Children's Village, so teenagers living in Brovary Children's Village do not regularly visit the Center.

**Small Group Home (SGH)**

During 2019 there were 12 young people living in the Small Group Home, including 6 girls and 6 boys. As of December 2019, 9 young people were living in SGH - 5 girls and 4 boys; comparing to 2018, the number has increased.

The main purpose of youth work at SGH is to develop the skills of independent living: the ability to manage resources, the ability to meet their basic needs, the ability to establish social contacts, integration into society. During the year the following tasks were completed:

**Preparing young people for moving to Small group home:**

- 90% of young people were ready to leaving care and move to the Small Group Home.

- Study visits to the Small group house were carried out in order to get acquainted with the living conditions, rules, infrastructure of the area, a plan of moving to the Small group house was drawn up and implemented.

**Arrangement of living space and provision of necessary living conditions:**

All young people living in the Small Group House received essentials for a comfortable living in the apartment, each month receiving financial assistance for individual needs in the form of food, household chemicals, medicines and medical services, thus providing basic needs of young people.

**Communication between young people living in a Small Group Home:**

- once in a quarter, or when necessary, together with young people, the rules of living in the apartment are revised, that reduces the risk of conflict between young people

- 4 times a montht the evenings of common informative leisure were carried out - cooking together, board games, watching movies, goin`g to the theater or cinema, visiting quest-rooms; as a result, ability to interact with each other was improved and relationships between young people were established.

- once a month, short-term activities on Adventure Pedagogy technique were carried out - go-karting, rock climbing, sky-park, extreme role-playing quests, rafting on the river in kayaks; as a result, there were reduced emotional tension, improved physical health, improved relationships between people, youth strengthened self-esteem and sense of control over their lives, young people improved their ability to follow rules and compromise, and formed even more trusting relationships with mentors.

- 3 young people together with their mentors participated in the 10 km race at the Wizz Air Kyiv City Marathon.

**Employment of young people who live in SGH.**

2 young people study full-time in vocational schools, 3 young people combine their studies with work and 3 work full-time.

**Rights advocacy**

2 young people participated in the 2nd All-Ukrainian Forum of the National Council of Children and Youth “Ukraine is growing with me ", in which they developed their leadership skills, ability to work in a team and helped to attract the public attention to the family forms of child-rearing - foster family care, family type care homes.

**Young people satisfaction of Living in a Small Group House (Results based on a survey of young people):**

8 young people have improved their independent living skills

5 young people have improved their ability to prepare and plan food purchases on a weekly basis.

4 young people have improved self-care skills

3 young people have improved their ability to manage their finances

3 young people became more responsible

2 young people became more socialized, learned how to deal with conflict situations by finding compromises.

Also in 2019 one young man received a grant from the state to buy his own home.

**Challenges:**

- conflicts with neighbors of the house where the apartment is located due to stigmatization of orphans.

- professional burnout of mentors due to heavy workload, night duty and low wages.

**Best Practice:**

- 2 young people have opened deposits in the bank and make a deposit for the future every month

- 2 young people had the opportunity to temporarily stay in SGH for the period of solving their life difficulties in case of force majeure

- young people who are living already more than six months, support and help to adapt to the newcomers, sharing their experiences of living independently.

**3. Semi-independent living (SIL)**

During 2019, semi-independent living service was provided to 19 young people, among whom 3 young people became self-sufficient and were transferred to stage 3 of the Youth Program - self-sufficient living with the status of "self-sufficient" - all of whom have permanent residence and stable earnings.

 The main purpose of the semi-independent living program is to support young people who have left care. Based on this, the following activities were carried out during the year:

**Provision of conditions for the organization of residence**

- In 2019 2 subsidies were provided for the repair and refurbishment of their own homes, which provided good living conditions for 2 young people;

- During the year 19 young people received financial support in the form of food, household chemicals, shoes and clothing, household goods, medical services and medicines, which improved the quality of life of young people and met their basic needs;

- 2 young people received legal support to resolve problems with their own housing (disputes over property rights), as a result, the possibility of keeping their housing in ownership remained;

- thanks to cooperation with state partners 1 young man received an apartment in Brovary, 3 young people received a grant to buy their own housing.

**Employment**

- by the end of 2019 there were 8 young people employed, 1 young person is on maternity leave, 2 young people are in search of work, 8 young people are still receiving professional and higher education;

- 1 young person received financial support to pay for HR courses, which enabled the young person to become competitive in the labor market and to get a job promotion.

**Increasing the level of life and social skills**

5 young people received psychotherapy assistance during the year, as a result emotional stability level was increased and overall anxiety level was decreased.

2 events on "Adventure Technique" were organized and carried out (hiking trips)

- “Warm meetings” of young people with SOS employees (psychologist, mentors) were held once a month, at which young people had the opportunity to share their emotions, their experiences, to lift emotional tension, to improve communication skills and to spend their time with benefits.

2 young people participated in the 10 km race at the Wizz Air Kyiv City Marathon.

Adventure Technique: River Rafting

 - short-term activities on “Adventure Technique” were organized every month - hiking, climbing, skypark, extreme role-playing quests, 3 quests for developing smartness and endurance, as a result reduced emotional tension, improved physical and emotional health of people.

**Best practice:**

 - Involvement of young people in activities, workshops for younger teenagers living in Brovary Children's Village.

During 2019, 33 teens from the age of 14 were involved in activities carried out under the Youth Program.

**Challenges:**

- young people mostly have a consumerist attitude, high expectations that they should be given everything they need;

- Children from Brovary Children's Village aged 12-14 years are not able to participate actively in the activities of the Youth Center, ie. it is remote from the Village and it is dangerous for younger adolescents to reach it alone, so this category of children needs additional development programs. There was a need to develop a program "Preparation for independent life", which will be aimed at developing knowledge, skills and experience that will help to start preparing children for independent life from the age of 12. The program will also include preparation for leaving care.

* **Family Strengthening (please describe the different types of interventions):**

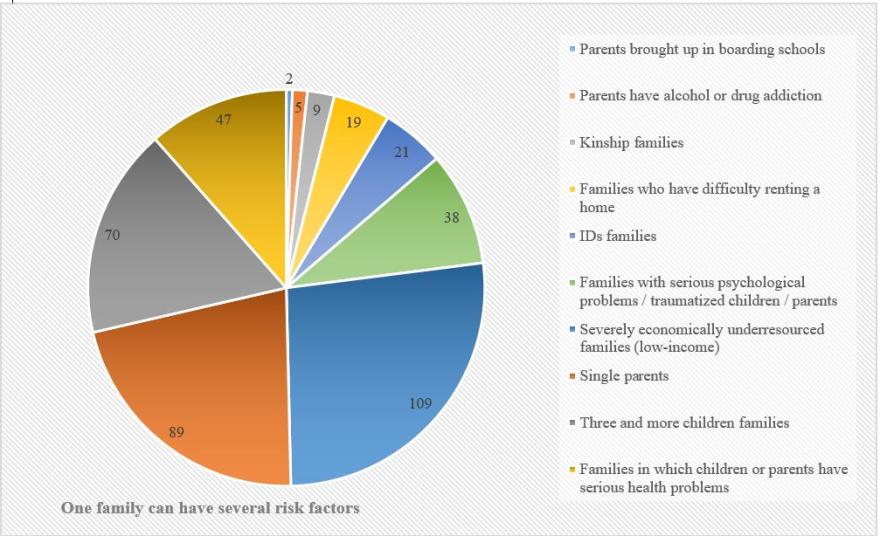
**FS Kyiv**

The target group, services and location of the provision of services had no significant changes. Despite the personnel changes (two social workers went on maternity leave, one social worker went on a long sick leave, one - left the organization), the center's activity was stable throughout the year.

The work was organized according to Strategy 2030 and related Strategic Initiative ІІ.

In 2019, **203 families (457 children) were under a comprehensive case management. 70%** of families with medium and high risk level.

**Target groups of FS Kyiv:**

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During the year, 80 families left the FSP Kyiv. **77% of families achieved self-reliance.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Self-reliance criteria** | **Support options provided by FS Kyiv** |
| Parenting capacity of caregiver | - Individual psychological consultations (44 parents)  - Individual psychotherapeutic consultations (12 adults)  - Individual pedagogical consultations for parents (227 consultations/61 parents)  - Thematic group consultations for parents (upbringing, care and development of children) - 17 group consultations/25 parents)  - Self-help group for parents (26 meetings/13 parents)  - Group for parents "The way of Parental Wisdom" (42 meetings/18 parents)  - Group for parents and children “Learning without torment” (41 meetings/22 beneficiaries)  - Early Child Development Programme for children and parents “Growing Together” (69 meetings/17 children/adults) |
| Sufficient family resources | - Consultations on access to state social payments  - Organization and/or payment of vocational training/retraining courses (master of manicure, hairdressing etc) – 10 parents  - Computer literacy courses (32 lessons / 16 parents)  - Purchase of special equipment that allows parents to secure employment/self-employment or to start their own business (9 parents)  “EU4Youth”\* project activities:  - 10 adults were trained on «Life Skills»  - 12 adults were trained on «Employability»  - 7 adults were trained on «Entrepreneurship»  - 8 adults took vocational training/retraining courses  \*EU4Youth – public funding project, that is being implemented by SOS Ukraine; see description on the page 34 of this report. |
| Access to essential services for the child | - Individual psychological consultations (45 children)  - Group art therapy for children (44 lessons/23 children)  - Individual psychotherapeutic consultations (13 children)  - Speech therapist services (328 lessons /34 children)  - Preparation for school (32 lessons / 2 groups / 20 children)  - Development classes for children with special needs (34 classes /4 children)  - Correctional work with children in the Multi Sensory room (24 children/72 hours)  - Developing classes for children and parents “Growing Together” (69 lessons/17 children/16 adults)  - Group lessons for adolescents and their parents “Way to Success” (88 lessons /9 children/5 parents)  - Group lessons “It is difficult to be a teenager” (24 lessons/14children)  - IT training for adolescents (32 lessons/36 children)  - Matetial support (food packages, food and hygiene for newborn babies, school uniforms, household items) – 203 families  - Medicines and vitamins provision (95 families) |

The main reasons exiting the FSP without success: failure to comply with family development plan, the only interest of getting material support or dropped out earlier at own wish. **None of the children from FS Kyiv lost parental care during the year.**

Services for adolescents of 14-25 years old are carried out on the basis of the Youth Center, which allowed to optimize running costs.

In 2019, psychologists expanded its work with children with special needs within the Multi-Sensory Rooms in Kyiv – provided services for children with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder), ASD (autism spectrum disorder), Asperger Syndrome, Down syndrome and different development delays.

In 2019, FS Kiev was supported by «Procter and Gamble», «Johnson&Jonson», «Porsche», «Oriflame», “St. Andrey Foundation», «Coca-Cola», hotel «Radisson», «Auchan», Pharmaceutical Company "Darnitsa". Individual sponsors were involved.

With the support of the Radisson hotel, two families (3 children) had the opportunity to relax in the hotel and attend an excursion. One teenager attended a paid internship at the Oriflame office.

Within the framework of the **«Grow Happily» project** with the support of Johnson&Johnson, children were provided with **educational support:**

- 9 children/96 hours of individual lessons in the Ukrainian language (preparation for State Final Examination);

- 3 children/48 individual lessons in English (preparation for State Final Examination);

- 1 child/16 individual lessons of history classes (preparation for the State Final Examination);

- 1 child/16 individual lessons in mathematics (preparation for Independent External Evaluation);

- 1 child/16 individual lessons in the Ukrainian language (preparation for Independent External Evaluation);

- 10 children - 84 hours of individual lessons in mathematics (preparation for State Final Examination).

 To improve the professional level of coworkers, the following training events were held in 2019:

- Webinar "SOS Care Promise e-learning course"

- Webinar "Child Abuse Prevention"

- Training "Effective teamwork in the interests of the family"

- Group supervision “Professional risks with beneficiaries, colleagues, and partners. Risk Management"

- Training "On the road: how to develop yourself, helping others?"

- Excel Training Course

- Group supervision “Prevention of violence: new in the law on domestic violence”

- Webinar "Implementation of the PSD on Gatekeeping"

- Training "Child Protection: a family-oriented approach"

- Training on Early interventions (services for families with very young children with developmental delay or with special needs).

In 2019, for the first time, SOS UA took part in a competition for financing from the municipal budget (for FS Kyiv). We did not receive funding, but we have experience/lessons, analyzed our mistakes and plan to participate again in 2020.

To improve cooperation between partner organizations (the public sector and NGOs) that provide social services for families in Kiev, a round table was organized and held in November 2019.

Interest in case management technology and the work of FS centers in Ukraine increased. During 2019, there were more than 10 study visits to the FS centers and CV Brovary. These are NGOs and representatives of local governments from all over Ukraine.

**Family Story**

Ruslana (36 years old) met with specialists of Family Strengthening Center in 2017. In 2016, the family lost the breadwinner (the father died after a heart attack), and the woman was left alone with two children: son Timur (11 years old) and daughter Angelina (10 years). The girl has autism spectrum disorder, as well as problems with hearing and speech and problems with social adaptation and self-care (the girl goes to a specialized school for part-time students). Angelina needs constant supervision, planned treatment courses and expensive medications that will improve her quality of life and help socialization.

The family lives with the mother-in-law in her flat. Ruslana and her children are allocated in a room of eight sq.m.,since the woman does not have the financial ability to rent separate housing (she does not work, taking care of Angelina all the time, and receives only social benefits). There were conflicts between Ruslana and her mother in-law. In connection with these circumstances, Ruslana and her children are constantly at risk of loss of housing. A woman will not be able to cover the costs of separate housing and treatment for her daughter. There was a risk of placing the daughter in a boarding school.

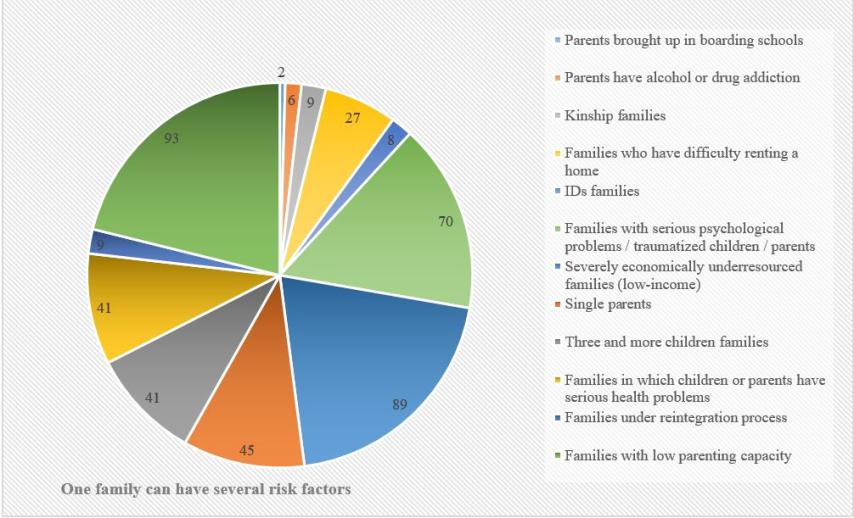
During two years Ruslana and her children are active participants of the FS services: mother attended psychologist consultations, computer literacy courses, and thematic seminars for parents, graduates from English courses (EU4Youth project); Angelina attends correctional and developmental classes for children with special needs, including in the Multi Sensory Room, Timur was studying computer programming for children (“Scratch program”) and attended recreative activities.

Now the emotional state of mother has stabilized, relations with the mother-in-law have improved; Ruslana sees the meaning of life and tries to provide children with everything they need. Mother wants to return to the profession work (lawyer), and because the break was more than 10 years, the woman needed to renew knowledge in jurisprudence. She recently graduated from the Assistant Lawyer specialization courses and is actively seeking work.

**Note.** In Ukraine, approx. 17,000 children with disabilities live in boarding schools.

**FS Brovary**

The target group, services and location of the provision of services remained without significant changes. An active partnership continues between the FS Brovary and the Center for Social Services for Family, Children and Youth, as well as the Children's Affairs Service of the Brovary City Council. During reporting period, **110 families (232 children) were under a comprehensive case management. 80%** of families with medium and high risk level. **None of the children from FS Brovary lost parental care during the year.**

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In 2019, 28 families left the FSP Brovary. 17 families left due to family’s self-reliance (61%).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Self-reliance criteria** | **Support options provided by FS Brovary** |
| Parenting capacity of caregiver | - Individual psychological consultations (20 parents)  - Psychotherapeutic consultations for parents (244 hours/18 adults)  - Classes for parents "Strong parents - strong children" (22 lessons/2 parents)  - Individual pedagogical consultations for parents (134 consultations/37 parents)  - Art therapy group for parents (50 meetings/68 adults) |
| Sufficient family resources | - Consultations on access to state social payments  - Organization and/or payment of vocational training/retraining courses (master of manicure, hairdressing etc) – 5 parents  - Computer literacy courses\*  - Purchase of special equipment that allows parents to secure employment/self-employment or to start their own business (5 parents)  EU4Youth project activities:  - 7 adults were trained on «Life Skills»  - 13 adults were trained on «Employability»  - 5 adults were trained on «Entrepreneurship»  - 8 adults took vocational training/retraining courses |
| Access to essential services for the child | - Individual psychological consultations (42 children)  - Individual psychotherapeutic consultations (7 children)  - Group art therapy for children (238 lessons / 10 children)  - Speech therapist services (328 lessons (10 children)  - Development classes for children with special needs (40 classes/3 children)  - Group lessons for children "Igromaster" (16 lessons/11 children)  - Group session for teenagers "Creative" (40 lessons/16 children)  - Group lesson for teenagers “Respect me” (10 lessons/11 children)  - Group lessons for teenagers “Way to Success” (88 lessons/12 children)  - Classes for children "Antistress" (18 lessons/12 children)  - IT training for adolescents (32 lessons/36 children)  - Matetial support: food packages, food and hygiene for newborn babies, school uniforms, household items (74 families)  -Medicines and vitamins provision (25 families) |

\* Brain Busket funding

Thanks to partners, the following services became available for the center’s beneficiaries:

- Oriflame and Ernst & Young paid internship (first job) for two young people from FS families;

- IC Consulenten Ukraine paid for college for one young person.

- 2 children attend 16 individual individual lessons in the Ukrainian language (Johnson&Johnson support).

FSP continued cooperation with «Procter and Gamble», «St. Andrey Foundation», «Coca-Cola», «Radisson Hotels», Pharmaceutical Company "Darnitsa, «Porsche».

To raise awareness of communities about the problem of the target group, posters were developed and distributed.

In 2019, work on reintegration was conducted with 9 families (16 children). In five families (8 children), the reintegration process was successful.

The program staff participated in all the trainings of FS Kyiv that were listed above.

**Family Story**

The work of FS Brovary with Natalya's family (48 years old) began in 2018. Natalya got out of prison, where she was since 2014. Two of her children at that time were placed in SOS foster family. The father of the children died in 2014, before that he abused alcohol and behaved rudely and aggressively with mother and children. Daughter Darya has espessially painful memories about father.

Specialists of the FSP, FFC and local social services have developed a plan for the reintegration of children into the biological family. FS co-workers supported the family before and after reunification. Mother received individual psychological consultations, attended group classes for parents, which are aimed at developing parental potential. Darya attends group art therapy classes for children, took a course on computer literacy, participated in recreational activities The family also received material support in the form of children's clothing, hygiene products, vitamins and medicines, bedding, furniture (sofa, chair, computer table, kitchen chairs). Now Natalya is employed, works as a merchandiser in the Education Department of the Brovary City Council. Artem is a particapant of the SOS Youth Program. FS coworkers continue postreinegration support of the family.

**CV Programme 2 (name) Luhansk Region Programme**

* **Alternative Care (please describe the different types of interventions):**

In FFC unit in 2019, there are 13 families: 10 foster families and 3 family type children’s homes, who bring up 41 children. 1 family left the program by agreement with the local government. 2 new short-term foster families, raising 7 children, were included into the program. .

The purpose of the unit during the 2019 was to ensure the quality of family upbringing and the growth of orphans and the children deprived of parental care. Considering this, the activity of specialists of the unit during the year was aimed at the solving the following tasks:

1. Raising parental potential of the foster parents integrated into the communities of Severodonetsk and Starobelsky district;

2. Identification and satisfaction of the needs of adopted children who are raised in the family forms of upbringing in Severodonetsk and Starobilsk;

3. Preparation of foster children, who are older than 14 years old, for leaving the care;

4. Strengthening the community's potential for the development and functioning of foster families and family type children’s home.

5. Capacity Building for FFC Employees

***1. The increasing of the parenting capacity*** was made using such forms of support as the professional supervisions, which were provided during the 82 hours last year. Also there were an active usage of the full-time psychologists consultations at the request of the foster parents. This year's innovation was the working of an open group "Mother`s Day", the meetings of which were held once every two months in both locations of the Program and had a thematic character. The purpose of the group's working was to create an open ground for the discussion of the most pressing issues of parenting and support for the foster children, as well as sharing experiences between the parents. During the year, there were held five meetings.

Art therapy for foster mothers of Starobelsky location

The art-therapist group for foster parents of the Starobilsk location continued to work, which has already grown into a group of mutual support for a foster parents. Meetings were held 6 times a month for two hours. Three specialists worked constantly with moms: artist, psychologist and social teacher of the Program. The artist asked a fine theme, taught various techniques of drawing and working with various materials. The psychologist and social teacher discussed with mothers their feelings and emotions that inspired their creativity, the images they worked with, referenced to their childhood experience, other periods of life, paralleled the present. As a result of these meetings, an ecological model of communication has developed, which, in addition to the therapeutic component, revealed the creative talents and abilities of our mothers.

Also the following trainings were organized for foster parents:

* Using Nonviolent Communication in Stress Management and Interaction with Teens;
* Parenting a child who survived a trauma;
* Assistance to children who have been abused;
* Prevention of emotional burnout among foster parents

With the help of these measures, all families remain resourceful for caring for foster children.

Some parents were provided with emergency medical care: medicines were purchased for a foster mom, a foster parent underwent a computer examination of the lumbar spine and received treatment for identified health issues, another foster parent was assisted in surgery and rehabilitation updated first-aid kits for all adoptive families.

The result of the work was to strengthen the capacity of parents, which allows foster parents to continue to provide quality family care services for a long time.

***Satisfaction of needs of foster children***

41 children receive psychological support; 1 child works with a psychotherapist;

34 children received medical support, including dental services;

11 children received educational services, including 1 child received preparation for admission to a higher educational institution and successfully entered the medical university;

2 children receive speech therapy services;

6 children with special needs received spa treatment;

10 children received medical support.

***Preparing children over the age of 14 to leave the foster family***

11 young people participate in a program «Grow. Lead. Change" to prepare young people for independent life. The boys and girls received theoretical information and discussed issues related to the development of social competence, social interaction, protection of the child's rights and responsibilities, leadership and active life position.

In addition, during the year young people had the opportunity to participate in trainings on the following topics:

"Aggression: how to live with it or how to escape from it";

"The personal boundaries of my Self";

"What is emotional intelligence";

«Financial Literacy»;

"First home care", etc.

From 01 to 26 July 2019, three young people completed an internship at EY Ukraine International. The internships included English language practice, training to increase motivation and new skills, mini-trainings in computer programs, communication skills, excursions at various companies (1 + 1 media, Metlife, Watsons, Winner group), practice in different departments of the company .

Another activity that is carried out with teenagers and young people is the Travel Quest program. In 2019, young people came to Lviv, got acquainted with the historical and cultural places of the city, and within the framework of a vocational program two excursions to Kharkiv were visited.

As a result of participating in the program, children learn how to plan a trip, pack their belongings, plan spending money, get acquainted with historical and cultural places, learn how to use public transport. The leisure of our youth was quite active and intense, teenagers took part in quests, laser exercises and actively participated in the preparation and holding of holidays for the small children.

***Strengthening the community's potential for the development and functioning of foster families and family type children’s home***:

Joint trainings were held for SOS specialists and government partners working with children:

“Work with children, biological families and communities in the process of reintegration of children”.The following topics were discussed during the training: the legal basis of reintegration; preparation of the child for integration; preparation of biological parents for child reintegration; activation of community resources in the process of reintegration of the child.

For foster parents of Luhansk region, trainings are held to increase parental competencies:

* Assistance to children who have experienced trauma;
* Assistance to Children with Abuse;
* How to cope with problematic behavior of the child;
* Prevention of emotional burnout among foster parents

**Strengths of the FFC unit**

* The unit provides a full range of services for families and children, based on a needs assessment and on an individual child development plan;
* The services that we provide are extremely in demand in the communities of Starobelsky district and the city of Severodonetsk;
* The necessary material and human resources available to provide quality social services to the target group;
* The qualification level of specialists meets the requirements for their functional duties;
* Professionals who work with families have a steady, positive contact with families and children, this has a significant impact on enhancing the resources of foster families;
* Families and children are actively involved in conducting a needs assessment and developing an individual development plan;
* Regular group and individual events are held to prepare young people for independent living;
* Quantitative and qualitative indicators of development are reflected in the needs assessment, IRP and reports of relevant specialists;
* All families and children are listed in the PDB.

**Challenges:**

* The FFC unit in the Luhansk program works with families established by a public partner without the participation of the SOS;
* The need for professional parents is very high in the Lugansk region.
* FBC unit does not have a psychologist, although we have a great need for this;
* Children and young people who left the care need further support from SOS, as they often lack another social support network. But in the Luhansk program, we do not have a SILP, so we are not able to fully support the youth who left the foster family.

***Success story***

In 2015 Yevheniia 's foster family was accepted into the FFC of Luhansk program SOS. When the girl entered the program, she had a lot of fears and consequences of the trauma. She was very shy and very scared to be the center of attention.

With five years of support, the girl has been given the opportunity to develop interests, social and life skills, exercise abilities, self-improvement, preparation for an independent and independent life.

Instead of a closed and shy girl, Yevheniia turned into an active and purposeful young girl. In this change, a great role was played by Yevheniia 's passion for painting.

Yevheniia studied a lot of Ukrainian, English, history, because she dreams of studying in the capital of Ukraine in one of the most prestigious educational institutions - the Kiev-Mohyla Academy. The girl also learned to paint, took part in exhibitions, held master classes for younger children.

SOS specialists worked a lot with Yevheniia: a social worker, a psychologist, educators, thanks to whom the girl was able to make an excellent speech at the Conference in Geneva dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Yevheniia spoke confidently at the Palace of Nations on behalf of all the children of Ukraine. Yevheniia’s words that children should be brought up in a family have flown around the world. The words touched many adults: «The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is 30, I am 16 and I think that children are still not a priority. It should be changed. Children need a family.”

We are very proud that the girl from the foster family of SOS Ukraine made this appeal. We also believe that this will help many children avoid institutionalization and live in a family.

* **Family Strengthening (please describe the different types of interventions):**

**FS Starobilsk**

In 2019, the Family Strengthening Centre in Starobilsk ensured support for **141 families caring for 316 children.** Among the beneficiaries, 6 parents brought up in boarding schools, 15 parents have alchol or drug addiction, 6 kinship familieіs, 11 children with special needs, 39 internally displaced families, 74 families with serious psychological problems/traumatized children or parents, 39 severely economically underresourced families (low-income), 36 single parents, 30 families with three and more children, 3 families under reintegration. There were **30%** of families with high-risk level.

Target group FS Starobilsk 2019:

During 2019, **29 families achieved self-reliance (62%)**. 18 families left FS Starobilsk without achieving a positive result (due to non-compliance with the terms of the contract, family relocation etc).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Self-reliance criteria** | **Support options provided by FS Starobilsk** |
| Parenting capacity of caregiver | - Individual psychological consultations (289 consultations for 92 parents)  - Family counselling (69 consultations)  - Individual pedagogical consultations for parents (82 consultations/19 parents)  - Psychological Club (87 parents) |
| Sufficient family resources | - Consultations on access to state social payments  - Computer literacy courses (12 parents)  - Purchase of special equipment that allows parents to secure employment/self-employment or to start their own business (4 parents)  EU4Youth project activities:  - 17 adults were trained on «Life Skills»  - 11 adults were trained on «Employability»  - 5 adults were trained on «Entrepreneurship» (2 parents were given grants to launch a business)  - 3 adults took vocational training/retraining courses |
| Access to essential services for the child | - Individual psychological consultations (348 consultations for 162 children)  - Psychological Club (105 children)  - Individual lessons of a social pedagogue (42 children)  - Social pedagogical Club (199 children)  - Speech therapist services (12 children)  - Defectologist consultation (8 children /65 hours)\*  - IT training for children (12 children)  - Tutoring in school subjects\*\*  - Matetial support: food packages, food and hygiene for newborn babies, school uniforms, household items according to individual needs  - Medicines and vitamins provision |

\*Porshe funding

\*\* Johnson&Johnson funding

Despite the efforts of the SOS team, two children were separated from the families and placed in boarding schools.

One of the main challenges is an active recruiting of children by boarding schools in the Luhansk region.

Besides, **50% staff turnover among social workers** due to non-competitive salaries. International humanitarian organizations that work in the conflict zone offer very high salaries.

Mobile teams in remote villages of the Lugansk region were highly demanded. In 2019, the coverage of villages where SOS mobile teams operate is increased (four villages).

To raise awareness communities about the problem of the target group, posters were developed and distributed.

New practices: payment for treatment for alcohol addiction of parents, involvement schools in the reintegration process, organization of children's transportation to the clinic in Lysychansk, as in the Starobelsky district there are no medical specialists of certain profiles.

To strengthen the capacity of community specialists, the FS staff organized and conducted quarterly trainings:

- «Professional burnout prevention»

- «Development of Resilience»

- «Work with a family that brings up a child with special needs»

- «Prevention of Violence in the Youth Team»

 To improve the professional level of FS coworkers, the following training were held in 2019:

- Training on Case management and needs assessment

- Workshop «Organization of Social Support System for Population in community»

-Training on social service planning for working groups in the Chmyrivska community

- Webinar «Integrated Social Services: Concept and Legal Aspects»

- Webinar «Mechanisms and technologies of organization of work on social protection of the population in community»

- Webinar «Center for Social Services and Social Work Specialist in the Community»

**Family Story**

## C:\Users\n.vinnik\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\1KC3PUBH\IMG_2928.JPGAlona (28 years old) and Anton (32 years old) are internally displaced people.They were forced to move to a safe place from non-government controlled areas of Luhansk region. They moved to Starobilsk and met each other. They gave birth to a daughter and faced serious challenges. Lack of housing, unemployment, lack of material security, poor living arrangements, lack of support, increased anxiety, lack of plans for the future - all these became a challenge for the young couple. The income of the family consisted of social payments to the displaced persons and social payments for a child. The family was on the verge of divorce. The family participated in FSP Starobilsk from 07.09.2018 to 15.10.2019.

## Parents underwent a series of family and individual psychologist consultations to help harmonize family relationships, reduce anxiety, build confidence, purposefulness and accumulate resources to overcome difficult family circumstances. The mother attended parent’s classes, where she greatly enhanced her knowledge of the child-rearing and early development. The daughter attended group lessons, which helped her to adapt to the children's group and to prepare well for attending the kindergarten. The parents participated in EU4Youth Project; they passed three training modules, received certificates, and wrote a business plan. A grant was awarded to start a family business - a small Jewelry repair shop that significantly strengthened the financial situation of the family.

## Now family members are successful, able to solve problems independently, increased parental skills, family is socially active, integrated into community.

**FS Severodonetsk**

During reporting period, the Family Strengthening Centre in Severodonetsk ensured support for **141 families caring for 293 children.** Among the beneficiaries, there were 4 parents brought up in boarding schools, 8 parents have alcohol or drug addiction, 9 kinship familieіs, 7 internally displaced families, 65 families with serious psychological problems/traumatized children or parents, 13 severely economically underresourced families, 45 single parents, 7 children with special needs, 21 families with three and more children, 7 children with disabilities, 2 families under reintegration.

**Target group FS Severodonetsk 2019:**

During 2019, **46 families achieved self-reliance (65%)**. 30 families left FS Starobilsk without achieving a positive result (due to non-compliance with the terms of the contract, family relocation etc). **None of the children from FS Brovary lost parental care during the year.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Self-reliance criteria** | **Support options provided by FS Severodonetsk** |
| Parenting capacity of caregiver | - Individual psychological consultations (257 consultations for 61 parents)  - Family counselling (11 consultations)  - Individual psychotherapeutic consultations (20 parents)  - Individual pedagogical consultations for parents (346 consultations/34 parents)  - Psychological Club (68 parents) |
| Sufficient family resources | - Consultations on access to state social payments  - Computer literacy courses (12 parents)  - Purchase of special equipment that allows parents to secure employment/self-employment or to start their own business (5 parents)  EU4Youth project activities:  - 20 adults were trained on «Life Skills»  - 16 adults were trained on «Employability»  - 4 adults were trained on «Entrepreneurship» (1 parent was given grant to launch a business)  - 11 adults took vocational training/retraining courses |
| Access to essential services for the child | - Individual psychological consultations (216 consultations for 25 children)  - Psychological Club (67children)  - Individual psychotherapeutic consultations (24 children)  - Individual lessons of a social pedagogue (34 children)  - Social pedagogical Club (146 children)  - Speech therapist services (62 consultations/29 children)  - IT training for children (15 children)  - Tutoring in school subjects (5children)\*\*  - Matetial support: food packages, food and hygiene for newborn babies, school uniforms, household items according to individual needs  -Medicines and vitamins provision |

 To improve the professional level of FS coworkers, the following training were held in 2019:

**•** Training «Help for Helpers»

• Training «Psychosocial assistance to the population affected by the conflict in Ukraine»

• Training «Organization of self-help groups»

• Training «First Aid» (Red Cross)

• Training «Loss and grief in the context of work with trauma»

• Training «Effective management in the ADGILE era»

## Family Story

## Image

## Father Vasily (37 years old), mother Inessa (35 years old) and two children Denis (4 years old) and Valentina (9 years old) moved to Severodonetsk due to the military conflict and have status internally displaced people. They rented an apartment. The situation worsened because the father was diagnosed with cancer. 6 months after he died. Relatives live far away (on non-government controlled territory), so no one could support the family.

## In February 2018, on the recommendation of friends, the family turned to FS Severodonetsk. Mother urgently needed psychotherapeutic help. While mom was visiting a therapist, Denis attended a group classes with a social pedagogue and speech therapist. Valentina attended group classes with a psychologist. Inessa participated in the EU4Youth Project. She wrote a business project and won a grant for own business. Now she rents an office with high-quality equipment, where she provides manicure, pedicure and eyelash extension services. Woman looks good, has a stable income. Mother and children are emotionally stable, children look happy.

* **Public Funding projects related to ERP**



From 01/01/2019 to 30/06/2019, SOS Childrens Villages implemented **«Ukraine Joint Response Phase Out»** Project (Dutch Relief Alliance funding).

Geographical focus - Luhansk region: government-controlled area - contact line (Popasnyansky, Novoaydarsky and Stanichno-Lugansky districts) and non-government-controlled area – the city of Luhansk

Budget: 150 120 EUR

Main results:

* 1333 beneficiaries, including 451 adults and 882 children were provided with non-food items.
* Families were provided with newborn kits (NGCA); individual NFI needs for families with children 0-3 along the contact line (diapers for children, clothing etc.); individual NFI needs for the most vulnerable families with children in Stanitsa Luhanska and Luhansk. Families were provided with building and house repair materials, boilers, electric stoves, water pumps, seasonal clothes and shoes for children, electric heaters, blankets, mattresses, furniture such as children's beds, tables for children etc.
* Support for health was provided to improve or maintain health of children and their caregivers. Provision of necessary medicines was accomplished in accordance with prescription of official clinical care.
* 513 children and 352 parents were under comprehensive support in SOS Family Strengthening Centers in Stanytsia Luhanska and Luhansk (individual case management). Special attention was paid to preventing child abuse.
* 593 parents (407 women and 186 men) received knowledge on protection issues through individual work and communication materials related to protection (“Domestic violence and its threats”, “Where to seek help”, “Traumatic stress and children: advices for parents ","Psychological trauma: how to help the child"). Parents were provided with links to self-education Internet resources: www.stopmina.com and <https://www.childhub.org/uk>. The materials contained phone numbers of hotlines of organizations that can provide emergency consulting
* 57 adults received consultations of psychologists/psycho-therapists along the contact line
* 6 adults received individual/group psychotherapy
* 50 children received services of speech therapist
* 42 adults received consultations of correction pedagogues, who motivate and educate parents on children’s early development
* 236 children attended social-pedagogues' group classes
* 133 beneficiaries were referred to Multi-Purpose Cash program realized by Dorcas;
* 275 children covered through Playbus activities
* 7 trainings were held to build capacity of local state social services for children and local NGOs; as a result, 128 specialists (social workers, psychologists, social pedagogues etc.) were reached.

All activities were based on SOS Children’s Villages Emergency Policy, SOS Child Protection Policy, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and CHS.

At the end of the project, an independent audit and evaluation was successfully completed.

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Project **«Continuation of the Crisis Response in Ukraine»**

Geographical focus: Luhansk, Staytisia Luhanska, Stanychno-Luhansky, Novoaydarsky, Popasnyansky districts of Luhansk region

Duration: July – December 2019

Budgeе: 155 296 UAH

Main results:

- 509 children/ 240 families were under comprehensive support in SOS Family Strengthening Centers in Stanytsia Luhanska and Luhansk

- 1236 children, 461 adults received PSS services (mobile teams along the contact line)

- 890 children were reached through PlayBus activities.

**Family Story**

Anastasia is a single 21-year-old mother, brings up two children - son Oleh (3 years) and daughter Anna (1 year). The family lives in the front line zone of the Luhansk region - in the small village Valuyske (located within 10 km zone from the contact line).

In February 2019, Anastasia addressed to ERP center of SOS Children's Villages Ukraine in Stanytsa Luhanska. She was concerned with the development of children and needed material support.  In March 2019, Anastasia's mother committed suicide. There are no other relatives who could support the family. Anastasia's father left the family when she was a child. Another tragic incident for the family was a fire in a rented house in which the family lived (April 2019). Due to fire, the dwelling and property were completely destroyed.

Today, the family lives in a small abandoned house that is in disrepair. Living conditions threaten the life and health of children and there is a risk that children will be separated from their mother by municipal social services. There is no crisis center for mothers with children in the Luhansk region. The family lives on government payments for children.

Within the framework of the ERP project, Anastasia's family receives comprehensive case management support, SOS specialists provide social-pedagogical, psychological, material and other support in accordance with the needs of children and the mother identified during the core assessment. However, constant future insecurity due to lack of housing adversely affects the psycho-emotional state of the mother.

In December SOS team initiated a fundraising campaign to purchase housing for the family. The nationwide media were involved (please see the link  <https://www.facebook.com/sos.cv.ua/videos/464269694293971/UzpfSTEwMDAwMTMxMzA0Mzg4NToyNTM1NTU4ODQ5ODMxMTky/>

The required amount has been collected in 3 weeks.

Currently, real estate offers are being monitored. In the near future it is planned to buy a house.

Lesson learned: In the conflict zone, it is difficult to find suitable housing with the necessary documents for the purchase contract (Anastasia is afraid to move far from current place of residence).

## Capacity building for partners

*Which capacity building measures and technical assistance for government or other service providers were provided, e.g. trainings for social workers or foster carers?*

During the implementation of this task specialists of educational establishments, in which children from SOS Children's Village study, were trained on the following topics:

1. Bulling at school: why children are bullying each other ”(25 participants).

2. Generation theory or how to communicate with a modern teenager. (23 participants of the training).

3. Prevention of self-harm and suicidal behavior: what to do for parents (20 training participants).

4. Parent-child relationships: diagnosis and correction (20 specialists).

5. SIC (separation, independence, creation)- (19 participants of the training).

6. Organization of inclusive education (31 participants of the training).

7. Travel to the magical world of the child (use of art therapy methods in working with children) (20 participants of the training).

8. Coaching technologies in education (20 students of training).

9. Correction of aggressive behavior of younger students (18 participants of the training)

As a result of the training specialists from educational institutions in Brovary and Brovary district have improved their level of knowledge in the problems of children’s upbringing, understand the behavioral characteristics of orphans and children deprived of parental care and have skills in dealing with traumatized children. This helped to build close contacts and strengthen the potential of community partners.

It should also be noted that in this area all new partners of the organization are familiar with the activities and standards of SOS Children's Village.

Implementation of **the project “Together. Social Services for Families in the Community",** implemented by the United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF Ukraine and the Luhansk Regional Branch “SOS Children's Village” within the Consortium of Partnerships with the financial support of the German Government and the German Development Bank (KfW)  German Embassy in Kiev / Deutsche Botscha Kiew was started in August 2019. The project aims to strengthen the social protection system in the community through the prevention, early detection and response to difficult life circumstances of families with children, which should be the key of bringing up children in biological families and preventing them from entering residential care.

From the beginning of the project until December 2019 about 250 people from the heads and deputies of communities, heads and specialists of community executive committees, managers, social work professionals, social educators, service providers psychologists were trained in case management, community needs assessment in social services, planning and budgeting of social services, development of protocols of interagency interaction. Work has been completed to assess the needs of the three target communities in social services.

## 4. Progress in Advocacy

*What were main achievements and challenges in implementation of advocacy projects and activities? What progress was made towards changes in national policies & practice?*

In 2019, the SOS Children's Village Ukraine team worked in the following advocacy areas: participating in advocacy for the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution on Children's Rights 2019, with a focus on children deprived of parental care; ensuring participation of young people from the SOS Ukraine programs in the formulation of the state policy on protection of children's rights; participation in the implementation of the De-Institutionalization (De-I) Strategy in Kyiv and Luhansk regions, as well as expert participation at the national level; promoting the implementation of the social ordering mechanism in Ukraine; development of cooperation with state authorities towards providing state subsidies for the Organization's activities.

***Advocate for the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution on Children’s rights 2019, with a focus on children deprived of parental care.***

In 2019, SOS Ukraine actively joined the global advocacy campaign of SOS Children's Villages International in order to adopt a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly (UN General Assembly) on Children’s rights to protect the rights of children deprived of parental care. Thus, in support of the Key Recommendations Key Recommendations to the Resolution, a roundtable was held on October 30, 2019 in cooperation with UNICEF ​​and Hope and Homes for Children, to motivate the Ukraine's delegation at UN General Assembly to support the Resolution on Children’s rights 2019, with a focus on children deprived of parental care. Representatives of central agencies and civil society organizations working in the field of children's rights took part in the round table.

During the roundtable there was presented the key recommendations for the UNGA Resolution on Children’s Rights 2019 with a focus on children deprived of parental care, an overview of the alternative care system in Ukraine, the role of NGOs in monitoring children’s rights compliance in the alternative care system, urgent issues protection of children's rights in various forms of alternative care.

According to the results of the SOS Roundtable, Ukraine appealed to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine to support the main provisions of the Resolution proposed by SOS Children's Villages International. In response to the request of the SOS of Ukraine, the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the UN in New York appealed to the United Nations to support the UN General Assembly Resolution on Children's Rights 2019, with a focus on children deprived of parental care.

In the first half of 2020, the SOS Ukraine and its partners plan to hold a second public event, which will present key provisions of the accepted Resolution and provide clear recommendations to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the need to implement the Resolution in the current Ukrainian legislation. In particular, Ukrainian legislation should provide for the concept of "alternative care" and what qualitative forms of alternative care the state should encourage and develop; recognize the detrimental nature of institutional child care; to provide for the development of services for children and families with children under decentralization in the priorities of the state policy in order to prevent the removal of children from families in difficult circumstances.

In 2019, with the participation of SOS Ukraine experts in cooperation with the Ukrainian Network for Child’s Rights, the work on the preparation of the Alternative Report on the Implementation by Ukraine of the regulations of the UN Convention on Children’s rights was completed. The report has been sent to the UN Committee on Children’s rights, which is expected to be reviewed in 2020. While working on the preparation of the Alternative Report, a Tracking progress tool was conducted. Ukraine is the first country in Europe to test this instrument, and that was positively reflected in the Report of UN General Secretary in July 2019.

In 2019, SOS Ukraine in collaboration with the Ukrainian Network for Child’s Rights and Unicef, was involved in advocating implementation of the current legislation of the AC UN Guidelines. As part of the project, an analytical report “Monitoring the Respect for Children’s rights in the Alternative Care System” was prepared. The report outlines the results of monitoring the implementation of children’s rights within the pilot project and the recommendations for improving child protection policies, taking into account the specifics of transformational changes.

Collaboration on the project began in 2018, a multilateral Memorandum of Understanding and cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF in Ukraine and the Ukrainian Child Rights, which established monitoring of the rights of the child in the context of the development of the alternative care system in Ukraine. In the context of cooperation under the Memorandum, an inclusive process of discussing the tasks, methodological approaches and practices of monitoring the rights of the child in the alternative care system at regional level continued in 2018–2019. According to the tried and tested methodology, the parties of the Memorandum jointly carried out monitoring work in five pilot regions of Ukraine: Kyiv, Odessa, Lviv, Donetsk (in the territory controlled by the Government of Ukraine) and Kharkiv. During the project implementation a conference and roundtables were held, the results of which were sent to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine for consideration in the implementation of the state policy in the field of protection of children's rights.

***Ensuring the participation of young people from the SOS Ukraine programs in participation in the formulation of the state policy on the protection of child’s rights***

Pursuant to the SOS Children's Villages International 2030 Strategy and the Federation's Global Advocacy Strategy, member organizations must ensure that children and young people are actively involved in advocacy, developing the internal capacity of youth to successfully develop and run advocacy campaigns with children and youth, for children to be the voice of our advocacy campaigns and to strengthen our contribution to advocacy for the De-I Strategy.

In order to fulfill the objectives of the Strategy, in 2019 the youth of SOS Ukraine continued to participate in the activities of the National Council of Children and Youth, which is an advisory body under the Ombudsman of the President of Ukraine. The Council is called to create conditions for self-realization of children and young people, to form in them an active public position, to involve them in participation in the reform of Ukraine. By participating in the activities of the National Council, young people have the opportunity to express their opinions and to be heard at the national level in the formulation of state policy in the field of protection of children's rights. The Board includes graduates of boarding schools from all regions of Ukraine and youth from SOS Ukraine programs.

On April 8-9, 2019 our representatives participated in the Strategic Session of the Working Group on Bullying and School Violence. The experts from the National Council for Children and Youth worked with the expert on bullying, family and child psychologist. Within two days, drafts of 9 bullying projects were drafted, including trainings for children and adults, organization of a thematic photo exhibition, development of a bulking counter stickers package, provisions on the School Psychological Support Service, posters, posters, etc. The event was joined by a representative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine (Head of the Regional Youth Policy and Youth Initiatives Support Unit), Member of Parliament of the 8th convocation.

Our beneficiary Yevgeniya Yershova, 16 y.o., during the International Bullying Week, held lessons in bullying in his own school for children. During the lessons, Yevgeniya told about the essence of the phenomenon of bullying, its differences from violence, ways of identification and ways of counteraction; outlined a list of techniques and techniques for countering bullying at school level.

Also, on September 18, 2019, with the assistance of SOS Ukraine, together with the Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights Mykola Kuleba, a public event "Challenging Bulling" was held with the participation of the world-famous musician Wordsmith, who creates and performs hip-hop compositions with a positive effort and unites local communities with the help of his music and through his rap calls people to resist violence. Wordsmith conducts motivational matches with young people from crisis families, inspiring them to make positive changes. The purpose of the event was to encourage children and young people to counteract school bullying in all its manifestations, to take a leadership position to involve other children in uniting around bullying, to help those in need of support and protection.

During the event, representatives of the National Council of Children and Youth spoke with the musician, discussed issues that were painful for them, shared their stories, told about the anti-bullying programs they already knew about and the trainings they were already implementing in their schools.

 On May 7-8, 2019, a strategic session of the Working Group on DI Reform for National Council members took place. Within the Session, the participants independently developed tools to advance the reform of DI and plan their follow-up activities, as representatives of the National Council of Children and Youth at national and regional levels. The event was joined by the Head of Adoption and Family Education Department of the Kyiv Children's Service, Global Marketing team, deputy director of CANADEM, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine for European Integration, Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports of Ukraine.

On May 16-19, 2019, in order to study the successful experience of implementing the De-I reform, the first foreign visit to Moldova by members of the National Council was attended by Elizabeth Bondarenko of the SOS Ukraine program. The theme of the visit was participation of children and young people in decision-making processes, reform of DI in Moldova, creation of social services for orphans, children deprived of parental care, graduates of care institutions. During the visit, the participants visited: Small Group Home - Inclusive Gymnasium. Petre Stefanouke - Special Educational Unit and Gymnasium Inclusive Resource Center - Resource Center for Graduates - Youth Advisory Board of Lumos.

In 2019, 30 years have passed since the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and therefore, this year, in conjunction with the Presidential Commissioner for Child's Rights, Save the Children, Lumos and other partners, the Second All-Ukrainian Forum of the National Council was held on November 20-21 and young people with the slogan "Ukraine is growing up with me" with the participation of young people from SOS Ukraine programs.

The purpose of the All-Ukrainian Forum of the National Council of Children and Youth was to ensure the participation of youth SOS Ukraine in the National Council of Children and Youth under the Ombudsman next year and to increase children's knowledge on topics such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, Children and Youth Participation in decision making, international trends of participation of children and youth, self-development, leadership, time management, SMM-technologies, social entrepreneurship, innovations, in line with the Strategy of the International Association and SOS Ukraine, which introduce that 10 SOS children Ukraine have until 2020 to become the voice of our advocacy campaigns.

 According to the results of the Youth Forum from the SOS Ukraine will be active participants in advising representatives of the authorities on the protection of children's rights and participation in the promotion of the Organization's activities.

Within the framework of the Forum, children and youth presented their work during the year in four strategic areas of the Council's activities (counteraction to bullying and violence, DI reform in Ukraine, inclusion, volunteerism), agreed priority areas and planned activities for 2020.

The Forum was attended by the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, the Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine, the Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine and other motivational speakers. One of the major advocacy achievements in 2019 towards ensuring youth participation in SOS Ukraine programs in participating in the formulation of a state policy on the protection of children's rights was the address of the SOS Ukraine Yevhenia Yershova during the Forum to the President of Ukraine and the First Lady from Geneva, where Zhenya at the time participated in the CRC30 International Conference “What future for children and their rights? State of play and perspective” in her speech, Yevgeny stressed that care institutions are scary and that more foster families should be created instead of boarding schools and called on her to hear the voice that is the voice of all children of Ukraine.

Simultaneously with the Second All-Ukrainian Forum of the National Council of Children and Youth, the international conference CRC30 was held on November 18-20, “What future for children and their rights? State of play and perspective” in the city of Geneva, attended by the young person of the SOS Ukraine - Yevgenya Ershova. Yevgenya spoke during Session 5: Ensuring the full participation of children without parental or family care, and spoke about the role of youth in pushing for reform towards deinstitutionalization and the difficulty of doing so in the context of armed conflict in Ukraine. It should be noted that Eugene's main messages were cited by UN representatives in New York when considering the adoption of the UN General Assembly Resolution on the Rights of the Child 2019, with a focus on children left without parental care.

**Participation in the implementation of the De-I Strategy**

The SOS Ukraine has been actively involved in the implementation of the National Strategy for Reforming the Institutional Care and Child-Rearing System for 2017-2026 (De-I Strategies) at the national level and in the Luhansk and Kyiv regions.

In order to participate in the implementation of the De-I Strategy in 2019, SOS Ukraine took an active role in advocating the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for the Reform of the Institutional Care and Child Care System for 2018-2026 in the Luhansk region.

The Director of the Luhansk SOS Program Ukraine actively participates in the meetings of the Regional Working Group on the Implementation of the DI Strategy in Luhansk region. Implementation of the cooperation agreement between the Luhansk Oblast State Administration and the International Charitable Foundation SOS Ukraine and implementation of the De-I Regional Plan, in April - May 2019 in cooperation with the regional state administration for the implementation of the De-I Strategy and preventing children from entering boarding schools, preparing candidates for short term care. The need for this was because, in accordance with the Regional Plan of the DI Strategy, SOS Ukraine joins the process of selecting, preparing and further supporting the families of short term care. The Regional Plan for 2019 envisaged the creation of four families of short term care, therefore, together with the state partners, five candidates for short term care and five of their assistants were selected for training. The training was held under the state program "Preparation of candidates for short term care". As a result of the training, five families of short term care in the Belokurakin District, Belokurakin OTG, Trinity District, Trinity OTG and Stanichno-Luhansk District were trained. That is, the result of this module was that in the territory of Lugansk region, with the assistance of the SOS Ukraine, 5 families of short term care appeared and are functioning, which work to prevent children from entering residential care.

As early as 2018, in cooperation with the implementation of the De-I Strategy, a study was conducted at two boarding institutions in the Luhansk region: the Severodonetsk Regional Boarding School and the Novoaidar Regional Boarding School. The study was conducted to fulfill the terms of the cooperation agreement with the Luhansk Oblast State Administration to participate in the reform of the institutional care and upbringing of children in the Luhansk region for the period 2018-2026.

The main purpose of the contract is to ensure that children are protected over their rights to live, spy and whisper in SIM, and in minds as close as possible to family, and access to social and social services.

The research found that most of the children in the institution were trapped in a period of military conflict in eastern Ukraine. In addition, it revealed the lack of an extensive system of social services in the communities of the region for families with children and, as a consequence, the increase of children in boarding schools. In order to further implement the results of the research and reform planning of the respective institutions, a training “Planning and managing the residential care institutions: values, goals, main steps” was held in the Luhansk region for heads of oblast departments, social services, social workers, and educators. Employees of guardianships, care institutions. The main purpose of the training is to familiarize the representatives of the bodies dealing with child protection at the regional and local levels with technical tools for the transformation of residential care institutions, to share the experience gained in different countries and regions of the world. The acquired knowledge at the training will be used to plan the transformation of residential care institutions in the Luhansk region.

Within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement with the Luhansk Oblast State Administration and SOS Ukraine also envisages the development of a network of foster families in line with the National De-I Strategy. In this regard, a training seminar for foster parents of the Luhansk region was held in Severodonetsk. The main purpose of this training seminar was to develop in foster parents and caregivers of the Luhansk region the ability to provide assistance and support to orphans and children deprived of parental care in order to develop alternative care in the region.

In March 2019, in order to participate in the implementation of the National De-I Strategy and the territory of the Kyiv region, a cooperation agreement was signed to explore the possibility of reforming the care institutions the «Nadiya» located in the Kyiv region in order to submit proposals for its further development transformation.

Within the framework of this agreement, cooperation was carried out in carrying out the assessment of this institution and the needs assessment of each child in the institution; SOS Ukraine representatives are included in the multidisciplinary team established to evaluate the «Nadiya». According to the results of the research, it was found that there are almost no services for families with children in the communities from which the children are in institutions, which causes a permanent replenishment of the institution. As a result of the research, advocacy activities were carried out and a series of meetings were held with the Brovarsky District State Administration and the united territorial communities from which the children are in the institution about the need for reforming the orphanage and development of services in the district and these communities in order to prevent the continued incarceration of children in institution. In addition, written proposals were sent to the Brovarsky District State Administration of the proposal to the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Reforming the Institutional Care and upbringing of Children of Brovarsky District of Kyiv Region.

The proposals for the plan were designed to consistently reform the current child rights system in the Brovarsky district and to create a system that will provide for the child's home, care and upbringing in a family or in a family-friendly setting to implement the National De-I Strategy. We plan that in 2020 SOS Ukraine will provide expert and advisory support in the implementation of these proposals in the Kiev region.

***Promoting the implementation of the social contracting mechanism in Ukraine***

On January 17, 2019, with the active advocacy of SOS Ukraine, a new Law of Ukraine "On Social Services" was adopted, which comes into force on January 1, 2020. This law is important for the success of further implementation of the De-I reform, since it involves the active involvement of charitable organizations in providing social services to families in difficult circumstances at the expense of local budget funds.

 The law provides for the timely identification of vulnerable categories of people and the provision of quality social services, which is essential for the successful implementation of the DI Strategy. Timely social support for families in difficult life circumstances, helping to maintain a biological family for the child, as well as involving non-profit organizations in the provision of social services at the expense of the local budget.

The law provides for the creation of a single base of providers and recipients of social services in Ukraine - the Register of providers and recipients of social services, which will be registered with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine. Information on the Organization's inclusion in the Register was submitted to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

In order to implement the adopted law, SOS Ukraine was involved in the work on the new draft CMU Resolution "On Some Issues of Social Services through Social Order" and other normative legal acts that enable the involvement of non-state entities in the provision of social services. Our suggestions for mechanisms for purchasing social services from nonprofit organizations.

Due to the fact that the new Law on Social Services was adopted in 2019 and the normative acts implementing the law will be adopted in 2020, the round table on the mechanisms of social order implementation will be postponed to 2020.

***Development of cooperation with state authorities in the direction of providing state subsidies for the activities of the Organization.***

During April - June 2019, the SOS Ukraine attempted to submit a draft to the Kyiv City Public Budget in order to obtain funding from the local budget for the maintenance of the Family Strengthening Center in Kyiv. However, the condition for receiving this funding was the collection of electronic voices of Kyiv residents. Due to the fact that the awareness of the SOS Ukraine brand is not high enough, it was not possible to get the required number of votes.

According to the current legislation of Ukraine, one of the types of cooperation with the authorities is a public-private partnership that can implement and modernize the existing social infrastructure and provide social services on its basis.

According to the current legislation of Ukraine, public-private partnership is a cooperation between the state, territorial communities in the person of the relevant state bodies, which, in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Management of State Property Objects", administers state property objects, local self-government bodies (state partners) and legal entities, except for state and communal enterprises, institutions, organizations (private partners), which is carried out on the basis of the contract and meets the signs of public-private First partnership. As a result of the possible implementation of public-private partnerships in the implementation of the deinstitutionalization reform with the SOS Ukraine may reform one or more institutions in conjunction with the development of social services in relevant communities, or create new services that are not available in the region but are needed.

In this regard, the SOS Ukraine in 2019 met with the Luhansk Oblast State Administration and representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture. During the meeting, the prospects of implementation of this type of cooperation agreements with the state were discussed and the plan for development of cooperation for 2020 was outlined.

In order to develop and establish cooperation with local authorities in the provision of social services at the expense of local budget funds, at the end of 2019 an agreement was reached with the Brovar city state administration and the united territorial community of Lugansk region on the provision of local budget expenditures social services within the Organization to provide social support services for children being raised in foster families of the Organization and families in difficult life circumstances. Currently, a mechanism is being developed to purchase social services at SOS Ukraine and implement the mechanism.

The study on the possibility of supporting the Youth Center from the local budget revealed that, to date, the current legislation provides direct financial support for only those youth-owned state-owned centers. Given that the Youth Center of SOS Ukraine is privately owned, we are continuing to investigate indirect mechanisms for supporting the work of the Center at the expense of the local budget.

Legislation was amended in 2019 and child benefits were increased. From now on the maintenance of children in foster families is paid monthly social assistance for the child about 5255 UAH. (approximately € 193). Payments for state caregivers from the state have been raised to one subsistence minimum for an able-bodied child for each child and foster child.

SOS Children's Villages Ukraine is a part of a constant inter-agency commission on protection of childhood that operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Social Policy. Participating actively in the meetings of the Commission, SOS Ukraine continuously reports on the current situation on the territory of an armed conflict in the East of Ukraine and gives recommendations for draft decisions of the Ministry of Social Policy regarding the rights of children.

SOS Children's Villages Ukraine actively cooperates with the Supreme Council of Ukraine, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, Office of Ombudsman for Children's Rights, NGO Forum and the Child Protection Sub-cluster, the Education Cluster in the drafting of legislation and regulations relating to the rights children rights in Ukraine.

## 5. Monitoring & Evaluation

*What were key activities to monitor and evaluate programmes; obstacles faced and solutions found? What is functioning well/not well in M&E on different levels (national, programme, programme unit)?*

**National level:** In 2019, as part of the cooperation of the Ukrainian Child Rights Network for the rights, UNICEF, the Ministry of Social Policy, the Commissioner for Human Rights monitoring of child rights in alternative care were conducted in 7 regions of Ukraine. Reports published and presented to all stakeholders in the sector.

**Programme level:** In 2019, Needs Assessment was conducted in Starobilsk and Severodonetsk locations. Regular visits in the locations in terms of monitoring the implementation of plans of work were carried out by the Programme Department. Self-assesments were carried out in both CVPs. PDB was a critical component of monitoring. ERP monitoring visit carried out by NFSA.

**Programme unit level:** 4 times a year (quarterly), an advisor, together with the coordinators of the unit, analyzes the implementation of the implementation plan of the unit. Quarterly monitoring of implementation of the implementation plan establishes the correspondence between the planned and actually implemented measures. In addition, during the quarterly monitoring, an impact assessment is carried out at the program level and corrective action is taken.

Monthly (if necessary more often) monitoring of database maintenance and quality of information included in the PDB.

Program director and unit coordinator at the FBC sub-division conduct development talks with each specialist, including foster parents (coordinated by the coordinator);

- self-assessment and development plan of each specialist's (annually);

- assessment of the efficiency of foster families functioning (annually);

- reports of the involved specialists (quarterly);

Specialists in social work with families / youth 1 time per quarter (if necessary more often) monitor and evaluate the impact of the individual development plans of the child / young person. Children and young people as well as foster parents are involved in this process. If necessary, changes are made to the plan. This allows us to quickly track the qualitative changes in the dynamics of the family, the development of the child / young person, and respond quickly to them.

Within the planning process, based on project management, implementation plans were developed in all facilities. Clear indicators for all interventions were determined.

**6. Progress towards financial sustainability of programme work**

General progress and challenges in getting public funds, governmental subsidies, etc.

In 2019, recalculating according to the average annual exchange rate of the National Bank of Ukraine in 2019, we received fundraising income in the amount of 86,885 EUR (including 33,001 EUR of donations in kind).

The cash income decrease comparing to 2018 can be explained by staff gap in the first half of the year and also the fact that one of the largest money donations - $14,250 from P&G through SOS USA - was due in 2019, but the actual transfer was delayed to 2020.

Our biggest corporate donors in 2019 was J&J, which invested 17,122 EUR in the educational project, and KFC, which gathered 13,296 EUR from selling charity stickers in their restaurants. LR Global Kids Fund donated 9,789 EUR within the framework of the regional project, used mainly to cover psychological therapy and youth care. Our new partner FM logistic donated 3,454 EUR for psychological services within our programmes. Porcshe Ukraine provided a charitable donation in the amount of 3,230 EUR for the acute needs on-top of the budget, and also have made additional donation for the equipment of the gym for children in the CV Brovary in the end of the year – these expenses will be done in 2020 on-top of the budget. Memory Project donated 2,035 EUR. iC consulenten have been continuing to finance higher education of a young beneficiary of FS Programme (342 EUR per year).

We received donations in kind from Darnytsa farmacy company (medicines) and P&G (hygiene goods) and private donations. P&G makes donations of its products regularly, which is positive. However, one out of the two company's warehouses is located in a small city remote from our both locations and none of our logistics partners has the possibility to deliver it to us. For this reason, we had to refuse to receive some parties of goods. In addition to documented donations, one of the rooms in the CV Brovary was reconstructed into the Toys Library by Hasbro. In addition, Hasbro donated toys for Kiev and Lugansk programs. Radisson Blu Hotel, in addition to collecting cash for the customers in the donation boxes, provided a free-of-charge conference hall for celebrating the 70th anniversary of SOS Children’s Villages, on which we reported to corporate and government partners and other guests of the event, shared achievements and plans for the future.

New major partnerships were launched as a result of the negotiations in 2019: Auchan Rive Gauche (hypermarket of 15 square meters, attendance - 13 million people per year, audience - families, purchases - the highest check on the trading network), Hyatt Regency Kiev (5 star superior hotel), - we expect to develop these partnerships in 2020.

Sporadic contributions from individuals through donation boxes, web-site, SMS-charity amounted to 4,616 EUR. Included in this amount, there was money gathered during FR campaign Kindrdorfrun, raised about 850 EUR for medical needs of CV Brovary.

Preparation for IFR launch (individual committed giving) started in 2019 with IF4C. The test face-to-face campaign planned for spring 2020.

On the side of institutional partnerships, cooperation with UNICEF is continuing and developing. At the moment, SOS Ukraine is implementing 2 projects started in 2019: one is a continuation of emergency and recovery activities in Luhansk, and the second is a project on the development of social services in several territorial communities of Luhansk region, coordinated by the Ukrainian Child Rights Network - an NGO association created by SOS Ukraine and other child protection NGOs, united for strengthening of their advocacy efforts. 185,126 EUR allocated in 2019 from UNICEF, including through Ukrainian Child Rights Network. DARE capacity building project in Ukraine, Moldova and Romania was finished in 2019 (10,736 EUR allocated from Caritas Austria in 2019). In addition to this, SOS Ukraine is continuing to implement PSA-led grant project EU4Youth: Employability and Stability, which is strengthening our Youth Care and FS work.

SOS Ukraine is constantly working on developing its SPO work, with the number of international sponsors increased up to 2400. The new digital product is preparing for launch in 2020 for both villages: Kiev Region-Brovary and Lugansk.

## 7. HR/HRD

*Which trainings, networking and knowledge sharing activities for programmes were organized by national PD team?*

There were different activities during the year 2019, organized by national PD team for programs in both locations.

The Child Safeguarding trainings were held for the whole staff in the programs. The training for SOS parents was organized according to the “Life Book” methodology. The “Care promise” webinar was held for FFC, FS, YC professionals, as well as the PDB webinar for FS professionals. Also, the capacity building trainings and supporting meetings were organized by the national PD team on the regular basis.

For the networking and efficient cooperation, national PD team organized few round tables with the program colleagues and the local centers of social services for family, children and youth. Also they organized the round table devoted to the analysis of the work of the Youth Center and potential further partnership.

The knowledge sharing seminar on reintegration was held by our colleagues for the united territorial communities from different locations.

The national PD colleagues and the program colleagues actively participated in working groups at the Ministry of Social Policy, workshops and roundtables with local authorities and partner organizations. They shared our knowledge, experience, built the partnership relations for successful cooperation.

## 9. Other

• Other:

EU4Youth: Employability and Stability in Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine project is funded by European Union and Austrian Development Agency and implemented in Ukraine by SOS CV Ukraine in partnership with “Alliance for Civil Rights”. The project is implemented in Kyiv and Luhansk regions and aims at creating better prospects for employment and entrepreneurship for disadvantaged youth and increasing their active participation in the labour market (overall project objective). Project duration is 3 years (01 February 2018 – 31 January 2021).

In 2019, the key project activities were focused on:

- selecting young beneficiaries (Cycles 2 and 3);

- training youth in Life Skills and Employability (Entrepreneurship);

- selection of VET providers and directing beneficiaries to vocational and other courses that would raise their employability;

- development of partner relations with organizations on supporting young beneficiaries employability through signing MoUs (provision of internships/apprenticeships);

- having meetings with VET provides and partner companies on raising their awareness regarding peculiarities of disadvantaged youth;

- monitoring beneficiaries vocational training and working progress;

- providing support through introduction of series of peer-to-peer meetings;

- providing support to young entrepreneurs in developing of their business plans as well as mentoring them on their way to set up new businesses;

- having meetings (round tables) with project stakeholders (VET providers, partner companies, state organizations and NGOs working with disadvantaged youth) to inform on the project progress and discuss measures to support youth in getting decent jobs;

- training local specialists who work in the area of employment of disadvantaged youth to innovative Life Skills and Employability Training Programme (2nd National ToT; International ToT for Coaches)

As the consequence of carrying out of the above-mentioned activities in the reported period, the following results were achieved:

- The total number of disadvantaged youth selected to participate in the project in both regions grew up to 275 (134 – in Kyiv region, 141 – in Luhansk region) with the target value of 240 for Ukraine. Among 275 beneficiaries, 216 are women (79%, project target is at least 60% of women).

- All 275 beneficiaries successfully completed Life Skills module of the Training programme for youth; 141 young men and women completed Employability module and 28 beneficiaries will take it in 2020. 51 beneficiaries finished the course in Entrepreneurship and 35 beneficiaries will take the course in 2020.

- 49 beneficiaries completed VET courses in the following professionals areas: accounting, visage, English, sewing, hairdressing, massage, graphic design, manicure and driving; 38 beneficiaries are currently taking their courses.

- 5 mous were signed with organizations that provide project beneficiaries with internships/apprenticeships; 6 beneficiaries took internships in 2019.

- 47 got official jobs, 41 – have jobs with less privileged conditions; 15 project beneficiaries developed their business plans and launched new businesses.

- 6 peer-to-peer meetings were held with project beneficiaries to raise their motivation for professional development and stability; 12 beneficiaries who succeeded at labor market acted a mentors to other beneficiaries at peer-to-peer meetings.

- Throughout the whole period of participation in the project beneficiaries receive support from trainers and coaches who monitor beneficiaries outcomes while staying contact with trainer from VET courses and employers.

- 2 round tables were conducted in June 2019 (Kyiv) and in August 2019 (Sievierodonetsk) that gathered representatives of state, businesses and NGO sectors engaged in field of youth employability to join efforts in supporting disadvantaged youth of the project to raise their employability and get decent jobs.

- 22 local specialists from Luhansk region working with disadvantaged youth participated in the 2nd National ToT in September 2019 and were certified as trainers to work with the Training Program for Youth. 9 specialists developed their skills in coaching while completing International ToT for Coaches conducted in Kyiv on November 26-27, 2019.