



A family for all children

IMPACT REPORT

2022

A YEAR OF CHALLENGES AND TRANSFORMATION

Welcome to our 2022 Impact Report

See how your contributions are making a difference at Lumos.

In a world which continues to be volatile and uncertain, with heightened conflict, economic crises and the ongoing impact of Covid-19, Lumos's mission to protect children from family separation and institutionalisation has never been more vital.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine brought to light for many the harrowing cost of conflict for children and families. While Lumos has been able to reunite many children with their families, others – many with disabilities - remain trapped in institutions or at risk from the conflict as refugees. But through these traumatic developments and other challenges to its programmes, operations and fundraising, Lumos has continued to pursue its vision and mission to fight for every child's right to a family by transforming care systems around the world.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed to our impact in 2022. In the face of an incredibly challenging year, we're proud of all that we've achieved and we stand ready and more determined than ever to further our mission for every child's right to a safe and loving family.

Here we give a snapshot of some of our milestone achievements during the year.



KEY STATS



13,925

In early 2022, we rapidly pivoted our work in Ukraine to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to enable vulnerable children and families to stay together. Throughout the year, we provided 13,925 children and 5,971 families with emergency aid.



2,200

In Moldova, we developed tools to enable local authorities to conduct rapid needs assessments for more than 2,200 Ukrainian refugees. Following these assessments, we distributed a total of 2,025 humanitarian aid packages including food, medicine, hygiene supplies, clothing and school items. We also supported 1,302 refugee children to access education, social and health services.



177

In Colombia, as part of our work supporting the Michín Foundation to reunite families, we conducted 177 home visits and provided psycho-social support to 53 children and 76 care-givers.

10,958

10,958 children and 3,582 parents and carers have benefited from psycho-social support delivered in Ukraine. Our 'training of trainers' programme saw us train 95 mental health practitioners and 380 community social workers from all 25 regions of Ukraine to provide effective support.

7,451

The war in Ukraine has disrupted the daily lives of children and families. In Ukraine, we delivered education kits to 7,451 children, as well as donating £22,000 worth of specialist equipment to 28 Inclusive Resource Centres, to support the learning of children with special educational needs.

10,549

In the Florești district in Moldova, 268 children under 5 years old were reached by early intervention programmes, with 10,549 individual assistance sessions conducted (including occupational, speech and physical therapy sessions).

58

In Kenya, as part of our mission to support the implementation of the National Care Reform Strategy, we provided training to the directors of 58 residential institutions that host over 3,000 children, as well as delivering awareness training on care reform to 30 organisations.

36

Lumos continued to support the deinstitutionalisation of Jordan's care system for children and adults with disabilities, and trained 36 practitioners to assess the needs of such individuals, and to develop individual transition plans so they can move into family or community-based care.



17

We work hard to amplify the voices of young people, supporting their fundamental right to play an active role in care reform. We developed a new manual on this topic in collaboration with Lumos self-advocates and partners, with the online launch being attended by young people and practitioners from 17 countries.

200

As well as having an on-the-ground presence in a number of countries, we also provide training and technical support. Nearly 200 public officials and civil society practitioners from 14 countries completed our online training programme about care reform in the diverse contexts of Latin America and the Caribbean.



OUR VISION

Our vision is a world in which all children grow up in safe and loving families.

OUR MISSION

To fight for every child's right to a family by transforming care systems around the world.

OUR VALUES

Children are at the heart of everything we do. They drive us forward in our vision and underpin every aspect of our work and strategy, helping us bring about the very best outcomes for the children we serve.

At Lumos, we fight for every child's right to a family by preventing family separation, protecting children and promoting the transformation of care systems around the world. We do this without discrimination, upholding the rights of every child. The children we work with are disproportionately likely to experience inequality and exclusion, so it is vital that our work be rooted in anti-discriminatory practice. This means ensuring that no child is deprived of help regardless of age, sex, disability, gender identity or expression, race, religion, sexual orientation, or economic status.

We strive to create an inclusive environment where all our staff feel safe, heard and valued. We respect and value the diverse perspectives of our colleagues and we ensure the freedom of expression of all individuals. This provides the foundation for delivering on our vision of ensuring that all children have a safe and loving family.

WHAT WE DO FOR CHILDREN

Lumos is fighting for every child's right to a family by transforming care systems around the world. We are an international charity striving for a future where every child is raised in a safe, loving home, supported by family to help them thrive. On average more than **80%** of children in orphanages have a living parent, and research proves that these institutions can harm a child's growth and development. Yet there are still an estimated **5.4 million** children trapped in institutions globally. Lumos sheds light on the root causes of family separation – poverty, conflict and discrimination – and demonstrates that children can safely be united with families. By pressing governments to reform care systems, and by building global expertise and capacity with partners, we ensure no child is forgotten.

Founded by author J.K. Rowling, we are lighting a path to a brighter future where all children can grow up in a safe and loving family. We believe in a family for all children.

CHANGING THE SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN

Thanks to the efforts of Lumos and our partners, the harms of institutionalisation are now more widely understood. Backed by better evidence, there's growing consensus that no child belongs in an institution. Separated from their families and communities, children living in institutions are deprived of the love, attention and opportunities they need to thrive. In diverse countries and contexts, we've worked hard to prove change is possible. With careful planning and management, child protection systems can be transformed to ensure all children enjoy their right to grow up in a safe and loving family. Our strategy builds on our rich heritage to ensure thousands more children and families can benefit from our work and that we achieve an impact greater than the sum of our parts. The children trapped in institutions are deprived of their basic rights, their liberty and the chance to reach their full potential. Every child taken away from their family and consigned to an institution tears the very fabric of a happy and healthy society.

We cannot afford to lose another generation of children to institutions.

INTERNAL CHANGES

2022 was a challenging year for Lumos. The implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 organisational review was delayed by the Covid pandemic. These organisational change recommendations were reviewed and recalibrated in 2022. This review led to several major changes to the organisation: downsizing, the consolidation of the three programme areas into one group, accelerating the closeout of programmes and offices in the Czech Republic, Haiti, Brussels and Bulgaria, an organisation-wide systems and processes review and a simplification of the organisation's governance mechanisms.

Notwithstanding the challenges of the reorganisation, and the loss of long-standing staff members due to the restructuring, much was achieved in 2022.

The simplification of the organisation's governance continued in 2022, to reflect the changed priorities and size of the organisation. Three longstanding Trustees rotated off the Board, and three new Trustees were recruited. The Board committee structure was altered with the formal Programme and Fundraising and Engagement Committees changed to become advisory groups from January 2023. A move towards dashboard reporting is underway with the intent of reducing narrative reports and making Board reporting shorter and sharper, with a stronger emphasis on impact and accountability.

The war in Ukraine required Lumos to rapidly scale up its emergency programmes in response in both Ukraine and Moldova. 2022 saw the development of multi-year strategic frameworks for our country programmes in Moldova, Kenya and Colombia and continued provision of the new model of remote support in Jordan and Panama. Lumos focused on improving the quality, effectiveness and implementation of our programme work and strengthened programme management, monitoring, and reporting. Added emphasis was given to increasing our collaborative work with partners and increasing our global and country level advocacy work.

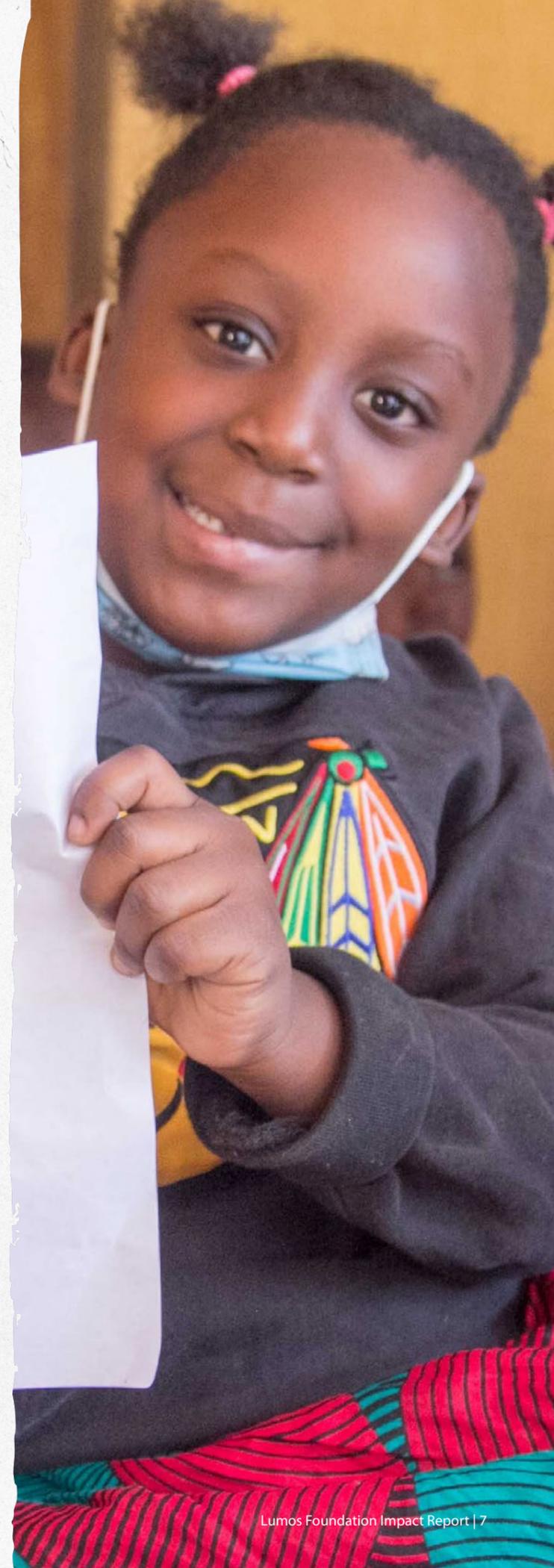
Staff recruitment, retention and wellbeing remain a challenge given the post-Covid context, global financial situation, work overload and recent downsizing. Lumos's progressive policy on working from home, flexible work arrangements and core mission provide some mitigation. A critical focus was to recruit, retain and nurture a thriving workforce committed and aligned to the organisation's values, principles, and culture.

In addition, given the challenging global financial crisis, Lumos sought to diversify its income streams with a focus on institutional funding. This process is underway; several proposals have been submitted which have seen some initial success.

In conclusion, though much has been achieved in 2022, much remains to be done and there are significant risks ahead. However, 2023 provides an opportunity to stabilise the organisation, consolidate the changes made in 2022 and create an organisation that is smaller, more agile, and more purposeful and effective in its mission to prevent children being separated from their families and reuniting them when they are.

EMBEDDING A SAFEGUARDING CULTURE

Lumos prioritises safeguarding in all activities, helping ensure children, adults at risk and the wider community are protected, wherever we work. During 2022, Lumos continued its work advancing the organisational understanding of safeguarding, embedding safeguarding practice as an essential element of our culture and values, and addressing identified gaps to safely support strategic shifts in direction and delivery. We developed and implemented a safeguarding strategy and framework for our Ukraine Emergency Response, delivered refresher training and targeted workshops for all staff, worked with Designated Safeguarding Leads and the Executive Leadership Team to support and monitor safeguarding awareness and implementation, and developed an Implementing Safeguarding Toolkit for staff and partners. We also conducted targeted work with delivery partners to strengthen safeguarding approaches, ensure timely reporting and escalation, and to improve the quality of identification and response to safeguarding incidents. Our annual update of the Safeguarding Policy and training materials reflected our work in humanitarian settings, including strengthening focus on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, accountability to communities and reporting and feedback mechanisms.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

RESPONDING TO URGENT NEED IN UKRAINE AND MOLDOVA

Within days of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, we launched an urgent fundraising appeal to help us deliver emergency aid to Ukrainian children and families affected by the war, including refugees arriving in Moldova. We were overwhelmed by the generous response from our supporters, from individuals and communities to partners including Comic Relief UK, Comic Relief Red Nose Day and UBS Optimus Foundation. Our supporters have been really inspiring in their fundraising efforts, from creating beautiful artwork, to bake sales and dance-a-thons – it's been fantastic hearing your fundraising stories and seeing your pictures. We are also extremely grateful to our Founder and Life President J.K. Rowling for matching the fundraising of our emergency appeal up to £1 million, making every penny raised go further towards protecting the children and families of Ukraine.

AN INCREDIBLE £2.3M WAS RAISED IN TOTAL, INCLUDING THE MATCH FUNDING

All donations to Lumos are backed by our 100% pledge, which means that every penny from public donations goes towards our vital work supporting children around the world and not to administrative costs.

Find out more about our 100% pledge

“TODAY I SEE A FAMILY THAT HAS ADAPTED TO A NEW LIFE AND IS DOING WELL. THAT'S WHAT OUR GOAL IS: TO GET FAMILIES INTO A POSITION WHERE THEY'RE OKAY ON THEIR OWN”

NATALIE, PSYCHOLOGIST SUPPORT FERNANDA AND LUISA

***NAMES CHANGED.**

RAISING AWARENESS IN COLOMBIA

We are dedicated to raising awareness of the harms of institutions and the benefits of family and community-based care around the world. In 2022 we partnered with the BBC World Service for an episode of their 'Raising Awareness on Colombia' podcast series called 'Demonstrating and Advocating for Change' which featured our work in Colombia. Sisters Fernanda* (11) and Luisa* (13) shared their story of how Lumos helped to reunite them with their mother and how we're continuing to support them, like so many other families around the world, to thrive together where they belong – at home. We're grateful to Latin America Children's Trust and Comic Relief Red Nose Day who are key funders for our Colombia programme.

DEMONSTRATING AND ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Lumos was a key partner in developing the National Care Reform Strategy launched by the Kenyan Government in June 2022, and we will continue to support local and national authorities with its implementation. As well as beginning our pilot programme in Embu County, we have continued high-level national advocacy and contributed to key legislation including the Children's Act 2022. Our programme of advocacy, training and technical support plays a key role in creating lasting, sustainable change to the children's care system in Kenya and beyond. Part of this work was generously supported by the Jaspur Foundation and others.

AMPLIFYING YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES

We worked with Lumos self-advocates to create our new manual, 'Putting Children and Youth Participation at the Heart of Care Reform'. The manual sets out how children can and should be involved in care reform, from making decisions about their own care, through to having a say in global policy. The voices of young people are at the heart of all we do, and we are working on a new child and youth participation strategy that will build on our work with young people around the world in 2023 and beyond.

WHAT WE DO FOR CHILDREN

At Lumos we work to protect children, to prevent the separation of families, and to promote the transformation of care systems. In 2022 we shared a new short film that explains our mission and vision for every child to live in a safe and loving family.

[Watch the film here](#)

CHILDREN AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING

“I THINK IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO LEARN HOW TO BE PART OF THE DECISIONS THAT ARE GOING TO AFFECT US. OFTEN PSYCHOLOGISTS AND SOCIAL WORKERS BELIEVE THEY ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING, BUT MANY TIMES THEY DO NOT ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER WE FEEL COMFORTABLE OR NOT. SO, IT'S IMPORTANT TO INVOLVE US SO THAT WE CAN DIRECTLY INFLUENCE THE PROCESS AND NOT TO SIMPLY INFORM YOUNG PEOPLE WHEN IT IS ALREADY DONE.”

MARIO, YOUTH ADVOCATE, BOLIVIA

Children and young people don't just have a right to be included in decisions that affect their lives – they are the experts on their own lives, and care reform is more successful with their involvement.

That's why we put children and young people with lived experience of institutions and care systems at the heart of our work, including them in decision-making and supporting young self-advocates and youth networks to play a central role in our advocacy and campaigns.

'PUTTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION AT THE HEART OF CARE REFORM'

Our new manual, Putting Children and Youth Participation at the Heart of Care Reform, was published in May 2022, with young people and practitioners from 17 countries attending the online launch. The manual, which was co-produced by Lumos's international child and youth participation team, partners and Lumos self-advocates and is available in four languages, sets out how children and young people can and should be involved in care reform, from making decisions about their own care, through to having a say in global policy. It aims to challenge practitioners worldwide to give children and young people a leading role in identifying and delivering the changes that they want to see in care policy and practice.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO LEAD THE WAY

During the year we set up a new Youth Advisory Group with participants from Moldova, Kenya and Colombia, and worked with them to raise awareness of two main areas: redirecting funding away from institutional care into family care and foster care, and tackling institution-related trafficking. We developed our alumni scheme for self-advocates to encourage networking and enable us to continue to draw on their experience and expertise, and worked with former self-advocates to create a bridge between them and young people currently involved in Lumos's work. During the year, we carried out a comprehensive internal audit of our approach to children and young people's participation, bringing together staff members and self-advocates to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. Insights and learning from the audit will inform a new Lumos strategy and underpin a strengthened organisational commitment to child and youth participation in 2023 and beyond.

WORKING DIRECTLY WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

We ensure meaningful participation in our country programmes by working directly with young people. In 2022 we worked closely with Ukrainian refugee and host children in Moldova and learned from young care leavers in Kenya about their experiences and views on orphanage trafficking and exploitation, supporting them to produce advocacy posters for their peers around the world. In Colombia we ran workshops on participation skills for children and young people from our partner the Michín Foundation's family integration programme. Participants shared that they enjoyed connecting with other young people and learning new ways of expressing themselves, with one young participant adding that the activities “**help us strengthen ourselves as people in society**”. We also held a number of meetings with children and young people to discuss their concerns and priorities, and carried out a mapping exercise of child and youth participation groups with a view to strengthening the network of voices advocating for transformation of the childcare system across Colombia.





CASE STUDY

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

“Since Lumos started to work with [Ukrainian] refugees in Moldova,” says Eugenia Godoroja, Child and Youth Participation Advisor, **“refugee children and young people have been involved in participatory activities both locally and nationally, as well as within Lumos initiatives.”** This included organising events for refugee and host children to encourage social cohesion, such as trips to the National Museum and circus, an International Children’s Day event in June, and a summer school for children aged between 12 and 15 years old.

The summer school was an opportunity for children to get to know each other, learn about using their voices to advocate, get involved in various activities, and make new friends. Former Lumos Youth Advisory Board members acted as trainers and moderators, supported by Lumos staff. **“The Moldovan children could speak no Ukrainian, and the Ukrainian children no Romanian, but they found ways to communicate,”** explains Marcel Straton, Communication and Advocacy Specialist.

The young people participated in various trust and team-building exercises, and were also introduced to ‘mobile journalism’, learning how to become news reporters using smartphones. Split into groups, they were tasked with making a video on any subject they chose. Without consultation, each group chose the same topic: together we are stronger. As one of the participants said during the closing feedback session: **“We understood that no matter the language we speak and the country we come from, together we are strong and can overcome any barriers!”**



INFLUENCING CARE REFORM

DEINSTITUTIONALISATION IS NOT ONLY ABOUT CLOSING INSTITUTIONS AND MOVING CHILDREN OUT OF THEM, BUT IT IS ALSO ABOUT TRANSFORMATION OF THE CARE SYSTEM: REDUCING ITS DEPENDENCE ON RESIDENTIAL CARE CENTRES AND DESIGNING SERVICES WHICH SUPPORT CHILDREN TO LIVE IN FAMILIES AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

BISSER SPIROV, SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR

Lumos draws on knowledge and experience from our country programmes to influence and support the much-needed reform of care systems around the world. We work with governments and partners to transform care systems, using proven evidence-based approaches, and provide technical support and training for policymakers and practitioners to design and implement reform. Throughout the process, we draw on the opinions and ideas of young people with lived experience of institutionalisation, and support local care reform champions to advocate for change and lead the way to care systems that put children's rights first.

PROVIDING TRAINING FOR POLICYMAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS

In partnership with the Inter-American Children's Institute, we developed an online training programme tailored to the diverse contexts of Latin America and the Caribbean, where more than 350,000 children live in institutional care and thousands more live in boarding schools. The course aims to raise awareness among policymakers and practitioners of the importance of meaningful child and youth participation in care reform and the delivery of support services. Videos and other course materials were developed by youth advocates from the Latin American Care Leavers Network, and Maicol and Tatiana, two young people from the network, also served as presenters, guiding participants through the course and sharing their perspectives on different areas of reform. Nearly 200 public officials and civil society practitioners from 14 countries completed the programme.

TRANSFORMING FOSTER CARE SYSTEMS

Lumos has been working with UNICEF in Panama since 2018 to reform the child protection system and to promote the rights of children in Panama to live in a family. During the last year, we supported the National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents and Family (SENNIAF) to develop and transform the government's approach to foster care. Following a review of Panama's protection system, analysis of foster care models from Colombia, Uruguay and Costa Rica as well as consultations with children, young people and families involved in foster care in Panama, the government has now designed and published a new foster care programme. Representatives of national and regional government bodies, SENNIAF protection officers and NGOs involved in the provision of institutional care received training on technical guidelines alongside analysis of case examples and practical exercises on specific activities involved in the foster care programme. A pilot project particularly focusing on supporting unaccompanied migrant children is now being implemented in the province of Chiriquí to demonstrate how the programme will work in practice, and based on learning from the pilot, the programme will then be rolled out to other provinces.

STRENGTHENING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE SERVICES

Lumos works in Colombia to strengthen family and community-based care services with the aim of preventing children from being placed in residential institutions, and supporting those already in institutions to move back to living with families. Our approach involves advocacy to promote children's rights and instigate long-term change; collaborating with government and civil society organisations on practical reforms, such as for including a family strengthening programme to reduce the risk of children being separated from families and entering the child protection system; and developing strategies to enable children who have been under protective measures to effectively reintegrate back into their families. In 2022 we worked with the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, other government ministries and regional authorities that offer social services to implement an evidence-based Action Plan for holistic care reform in Colombia. We conducted a needs assessment to understand the gaps in the foster care system and identify opportunities to strengthen it. We undertook a comprehensive strategic review of the childcare and protection system, which included collecting and analysing data on the experiences of 1,580 children in Cundinamarca and Bogotá. A training programme was developed to strengthen the capacities of government professionals and foster care service providers to recruit and support foster families. Training was also delivered to 52 foster mothers and 75 government professionals and private service providers from four regions: Bogotá, Cundinamarca, Antioquia and Tolima. One foster mother reported that the training helped her to put herself in the place of the children and **"to improve me role as a foster mother"**, while one of the officials who attended said that the training should be conducted for all professionals: **"I learned to improve my communication with foster parents and to guide them in developing secure attachments."**

PUTTING PARTNERSHIP INTO PRACTICE

In Colombia, we also continued to work with the Michín Foundation, supporting their transition from institutional care provider to being the operator of a foster care programme. In order to prevent children from entering or re-entering institutional care, we worked with Michín to develop a prevention programme for families at high risk, including providing training and guidance to 215 children and 167 caregivers on topics such as resilience, life skills, emotion management, parenting skills and access to services. To support children's reintegration with their families, 177 home visits were carried out, and psycho-social support was provided to 53 children and 76 family carers. Data collected showed a 51% increase in positive family interactions six months after family reintegration. A reintegration strategy was developed and shared with local government and private operators, and training on family reintegration was delivered to 32 practitioners from Bogotá's Social Integration Secretariat. A new recruitment strategy led to the successful recruitment of 23 new foster families who are being supported to care for 74 children. Sandra, who attended the Michín Foundation's foster care training programme and now provides foster care for three children aged six and under, says: **"For me this is a vocation and I do it from the heart."**



CASE STUDY

THE WARMTH OF A HOME

You can feel the warmth of Viviana's home the minute you see her face. She lives in a house in the west of Bogotá, Colombia with her husband, her three adult children, a number of pets and, more recently, three young children whom she took into her care as a foster mother.

Lumos is supporting the Michín Foundation's Foster Home Programme, where children are placed in temporary foster care so they can experience the care and love of a family environment while arrangements are made for them to be safely reintegrated into their birth family. Viviana learned about the programme through a friend and decided to join. Her children were grown, she spent a lot of time alone, and she missed caring for others.

"BEING ABLE TO HELP A CHILD WHO IS IN A VULNERABLE SITUATION AND WHO NEEDS CARE IS VERY GRATIFYING TO ME," SHE SAYS. "I THOUGHT THAT IF I HAVE THE TIME, THE DISPOSITION AND THE WILL, WHY NOT?"



It has been a steep learning curve. Sofia* (6 months), Carlos* (12 months) and Sebastian* (3 years) all require different types of care and routines. But the days are filled with laughter and games as well as nursery rhymes such as 'La Vaca Lola and El Sapo Pepe' – with a musical accompaniment from the family cats and dog!

For Viviana, the most rewarding part of being a foster mother is knowing that the children will one day return to their own families. She says she is motivated by knowing that her role is temporary while the children's own home is being transformed into a safe place where they will feel loved and protected.

THERE ARE MANY CHILDREN WHO NEED THE WARMTH OF A HOME, SAYS VIVIANA. "FAMILY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD. EVERYONE NEEDS A PARENT, TO KNOW THAT THEY HAVE SOMEWHERE TO GO AND SOMEONE TO TALK TO."

*** CHILDREN'S NAMES CHANGED.**



INFLUENCING CARE REFORM

Building foundations for change

June 2022 saw Lumos's two five-year programmes in Haiti come to a close: the joint Building Enduring Systems to End Trafficking (BEST) programme with USAID on the prevention of trafficking into and out of institutions, and our deinstitutionalisation project reuniting children with their families and communities. The deteriorating security situation in the country, exacerbated in 2021 by the assassination of the President and a 7.2 magnitude earthquake, significantly impacted our Programme delivery and prevented Lumos from conducting meaningful work aligned with our mission. Following a comprehensive analysis of all options, the Lumos Board of Trustees made the decision in December 2021 to responsibly exit from Haiti in 2022.

The deinstitutionalisation project was concluded by the end of April 2022, with the live caseload of 208 children securely handed over to the Government, while the closure of the BEST project was completed by the end of June. Since we began working in Haiti in 2015, we have supported the Government to carry out assessments of 571 institutions and to document 25,723 children across the country, as well as to develop and implement a five-year strategy tackling trafficking in persons. We've also assisted with the closure of 15 orphanages and placed 331 children in family and community care. We've delivered training on deinstitutionalisation to 215 stakeholders, as well as training 291 stakeholders on issues related to trafficking and victim support. We've also provided direct support to 297 survivors of trafficking and persons at risk of trafficking, as well as supporting the creation of 13 anti-trafficking taskforces or sub-committees across the country. During our time in Haiti we have produced many reports, organised national conferences, participated in international advocacy and influenced US donors to allocate \$6 million to fund the institutionalisation process in the country.

SUPPORTING A NATIONAL CARE REFORM PROCESS

Nearly half of Kenya's population of 47.6 million is made up of children. Approximately 3.6 million children are classified as orphans or vulnerable children, and around 9.5 million children are deprived of more than three basic rights. Kenya is overly reliant on institutional care, with around 45,000 children living in more than 850, mostly privately funded, residential institutions. However, government and civil society share a commitment to reform the care system, and Lumos is supporting the development and implementation of care reform through advocacy, training and technical support. In June 2022, the Kenyan Government launched the National Care Reform Strategy, in which Lumos played a key developmental role and the implementation of which we are supporting. Over the last year, we have reviewed and contributed to national legislation, regulations and policies – including the Children's Act 2022 - Children's Act 2022 - supported the drafting of a National Parenting Manual; provided awareness training on care reform to 30 organisations; and provided training to the directors of 58 residential institutions which currently host over 3,000 children. We are also implementing a pilot care reform project in Embu County, where we have begun an assessment and mapping of services to support the development of county-level action plans so that children can transition safely from institutions into the community. Grace Mwangi, Senior Technical Advisor, said: **"This [pilot project] is important because we will be able to drill down and develop a proof-of-concept to show how care reform can be carried out in a holistic, safe and systematic way."**

REFORMING CARE FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

During 2022, Lumos continued to support the deinstitutionalisation of Jordan's care system for children and adults with disabilities, working with our partner NI-CO. The aim is to move people from long-stay care centres into family or community-based care through the provision of community services such as day care, family support, small group homes, alternative family services, and respite care services. Around 580 children and adults currently living in care centres will be moved out of the centres and placed back in their families or in alternative community-based services. In 2022, Lumos provided bespoke training, workshops and consultations, as well as developing tools, delivering technical guidance and mentoring national teams on the deinstitutionalisation process. This included providing technical support to Al Amal and Karak Care Centres and training 36 practitioners to assess the needs of children and young people with disabilities and develop individual transition plans. In addition, 18 'champions' across Jordan were trained to support the transformation of the care system for children with disabilities and their families. As Bisser Spirov, Senior Technical Advisor explains: **"System reform is a long-term process that depends not only on the experience of foreign experts, but also, to a very large extent, on the activity and expertise of local champions and experts."**



PREVENTING FAMILY SEPARATION THROUGH EARLY INTERVENTION

Preventing family separation through early intervention

In Moldova, Lumos is demonstrating an innovative model of care with the aim of preventing family separation. The model is designed to identify vulnerable young children and provide targeted support to them and their family to address their health, social and educational needs. In 2022, we created five new ECD/EI centres, bringing the national total to 11, enabling more than a thousand additional children and their families (including Ukrainian refugees) to benefit from inclusive, early intervention support. In the Florești district, 268 children under 5 years old were reached, with 10,549 individual assistance sessions conducted (including speech and physical therapy sessions), and training was provided to 1,835 parents or carers of children under 5 years old. One parent said: **"We learn from professionals, exchange experiences and opinions with other parents and learn interesting and useful things."**

Following an assessment of their gaps and needs, we conducted training sessions for 1,321 professionals. In October we organised a national conference, 'Early Intervention: Evolutions, Challenges and Perspectives' with participation from health and social sector professionals from across the country. Building on this momentum, we held meetings with representatives from Parliament and other NGOs regarding the development of early intervention services. We supported the Ministry of Health to collect and analyse data on the mapping of ECI/ECD services across the country, using the results for targeted advocacy and the development of a National Plan to increase ECI/ECD services, based on Lumos's model, in 2023-2027.

Domnica Ginu, Moldova Country Director, says: **"The importance of these activities and results is that they ensure the creation of a regulatory framework for the countrywide development of the integrated system of ECD/EI services based on the model created by Lumos."**

CASE STUDY



ADRIANA'S STORY

At the age of three-and-a-half, Adriana*, a little girl living in the Florești region of Moldova, could hardly walk. To even conquer just a few steps, she relied on her mother. Adriana was born with cerebral palsy, and in addition to her physical needs, she also has trouble communicating. Without the right support, at this age Adriana's vocabulary matched that of a 16-month-old, and she was unable to pronounce words correctly.

Lumos supported Adriana and her family to seek assistance from the Lumos-supported Early Childhood Intervention Centre in Florești, where after only a few sessions with the speech and physical therapists, Adriana showed great signs of improvement. Specialists from the Centre also supported Adriana's mother, teaching her how to conduct exercises at home.

Today, Adriana is able to walk by herself, and can climb up and down stairs independently. She is even attempting to run! Her speech has also significantly improved; her vocabulary now corresponds to that of a 3-year-old, and she is able to communicate with people outside her immediate family.



“WE DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO TO HELP OUR CHILD – TRAVELLING TO CHISINAU FOR A CONSULTATION OR TREATMENT WAS NOT AN AFFORDABLE OPTION,” SAYS ADRIANA’S MOTHER. “WE ARE SO FORTUNATE TO BE ABLE TO VISIT THE CENTRE HERE, AND TO SEE SUCH IMPROVEMENTS IN ADRIANA. TO SEE OUR CHILD SPEAKING AND WALKING ON HER OWN SHOWS THAT THERE IS HOPE FOR ANY CHILD WITH A DISABILITY. WE WISH THAT THESE SERVICES EXISTED IN EVERY REGION OF THE COUNTRY SO THAT ALL FAMILIES CAN GET THE HELP THEY NEED, AS WE HAVE DONE.”

***NAME CHANGED**

GLOBAL CHALLENGES

“LUMOS HAS BIG AMBITIONS TO TRANSFORM CARE SYSTEMS AROUND THE WORLD. TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN, WE NEED TO KEEP OUR EYES ON THE BIGGER PICTURE: THAT INCLUDES BUILDING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF OTHER ISSUES WHICH RELATE TO INSTITUTIONALISATION, AS WELL AS WORKING WITH NEW AND DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS – SUCH AS PHILANTHROPISTS – TO MAKE REAL CHANGE FOR CHILDREN.”

- LUCY HALTON, ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNS MANAGER

Through our research, advocacy and campaigning, we aim to build evidence on the global drivers of institutional care – and promote the changes needed in policies, practices and priorities so that every child can grow up with the love and support of a family.

Global Thematic Review on Education and Institutionalisation

Lack of access to education in the community is one of the main drivers of the institutionalisation of children around the world. Following the publication of our report on institution-related trafficking, “Cycles of Exploitation”, at the end of 2021, this Global Thematic Review seeks to build global evidence on the links between institutional care and education, in order to contribute to much-needed policy and practice change in the education and care sectors. In 2022, we conducted three focus groups with 27 participants and completed four case studies (from Moldova, Colombia, the European Union, and, supported by partner organisation Perkins International, Indonesia) to gather concrete and authentic examples of the real-life implications of current education and institutional care policies and practices. A Working Paper, providing an overview of the research covering 30 countries was presented at a launch event in February 2023, with a further pack of information and tools to come later in 2023. We will be holding roundtables with government representatives and education NGOs, as well as holding an event in Moldova. By engaging with a range of relevant actors, including our peers in the care reform sector along with new partners in the global education sectors, and supporting them to consider the ways that this issue relates to their own work, we hope to ensure the longevity of this piece of work and prevent the project from being simply a report that sits on a shelf unused.



Redirecting Funding campaign

One of the biggest challenges hindering care reform is the funding that flows into institutions and from all over the world – much of it private funding (including philanthropic spending). This campaign aims to see existing funding, as well as new funding, redirected towards family and community-based services, in order to keep families together and instigate global care reform. To help guide the campaign, Lumos established a Youth Advisory Board with representatives from Colombia, Kenya and Moldova. As Lucy Halton, Advocacy and Campaign Manager, says: **“The participation of young people with lived experience of institutional care is at the heart of this campaigns.”** In November 2022, a microsite was launched at a collaborative session with a small group of philanthropists, to seek their input and better understand their experiences. The campaign aims to take high net-worth individuals on a ‘learning journey’ by questioning the view that orphanages and similar institutions are a social good, raising awareness about the harms of institutionalisation, and supporting them to make a public pledge not to fund institutions and to safely and sustainably support family and community-based alternatives. In 2023, the campaign will begin targeted engagement with stakeholders from the wider funding environment to empower them to better facilitate care reform.



UKRAINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

“THE WAR HAS SUDDENLY BROUGHT AN INCREDIBLY TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE TO ALL OF US, BUT ONE THAT IS ESPECIALLY TRAUMATIC FOR CHILDREN.”

IRINA, PARTICIPANT IN THE LUMOS ‘TRAINING OF TRAINERS’ PROGRAMME

The war in Ukraine has had a catastrophic impact on Ukraine’s people – and especially on children. It is estimated that more than half of Ukraine’s children have been displaced by the ongoing hostilities, and education, health and child protection services have been severely disrupted. During 2022, as well as providing humanitarian aid to children and families, we worked with partners to ensure protection and support for some of the most vulnerable children in the Zhytomyr and Odesa regions of Ukraine, and provided practical and psycho-social support to Ukrainian refugees in Moldova.

Providing humanitarian aid

Before the war, Ukraine had one of the highest proportions of children in institutions in Europe, with an ingrained institutional system often viewed as the only solution for children with disabilities and other vulnerabilities. Lumos has been working in Ukraine since 2013 to change this. Following the invasion by Russia in February 2022, Lumos quickly adapted our programme to provide emergency support to children and families in Zhytomyr, and thanks to our new partnership with local NGO Peace Manifest, we later extended our aid programme to Odesa, providing food, hygiene, medical items, education kits, and trauma support. In 2022, we supported 13,925 children (939 with disabilities) and 5,971 families with food and non-food goods. 7,451 children received education kits, and 531 children were supported by educational materials designed to help them – particularly those with special needs – to deal with the emotional impact of the conflict. In addition, we donated educational equipment designed for multisensory learning to 28 Inclusive Resource Centres to support children with additional needs.

Working to protect vulnerable children

During 2022, we worked with partners to ensure vulnerable children (especially children with disabilities, those trapped in institutions, and those who were evacuated rapidly from institutions without proper assessment) do not become the invisible victims of this crisis. We created a coalition of local children’s NGOs to strengthen the capacity of civil society to participate in humanitarian actions while continuing to contribute to the care reform process, for example by raising awareness and building international support for child welfare and protection at all levels, including at a UK Parliamentary Briefing we organised in collaboration with the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute. We maintained partnerships with and provided technical support to government bodies and participated in working groups and networks including the National Child Protection Coordination Committee, contributing to several strategic papers and developing practical guidance on child protection. Despite the disruption caused by the war, we continued our work to transform the residential care system in Zhytomyr to prevent the re-institutionalisation of children who had been returned to their families at the onset of the conflict. An assessment of the situation of 1,300 children found that more than a third of families would not be returning their children to an institution, and one baby home was closed altogether.

Meeting children’s mental health needs

The crisis has generated unimaginable traumas (loss of parents, relatives and friends; loss of homes and schools) that children on their own are not able to cope with. At the request of the Ministry of Education and Science, we developed a mental health ‘training of trainers’ programme and during 2022 trained 95 practitioners (from all 25 regions) to train others in providing effective psycho-social support. Inna, a participant in the training, said: **“I’ve acquired priceless knowledge and practice for my work with children and parents. I will train hundreds of specialists in my region so that they will be able to help thousands of children who need urgent psycho-social support.”** A total of 380 community social workers were trained to provide psycho-social support and case management; benefiting 10,958 children and 3,582 parents and carers. Additionally, 160 foster carers were trained on psycho-social support and communication with children during the crisis. Galina Bulat, Lumos Ukraine Country Director, said: **“The psycho-social support is vital for children’s wellbeing and safety. It is essential for caregivers too – they must be healthy to provide appropriate care to their children.”**

CASE STUDY

EDUCATION NEEDS SAFETY

Sofiya* (17) likes playing sports and reading.

“MY YOUNGER SISTERS ARE MORE CREATIVE,” SHE SAYS. “THEY LIKE TO DRAW, TO SING, AND THEY ALSO LIKE KNITTING AND EMBROIDERY. THE BOYS PLAY FOOTBALL – AND MY YOUNGEST BROTHER LIKES LEGO, PLAYING WITH CARS, AND READING ABOUT DINOSAURS.”

Sofiya is the oldest of five children, and lives with her family in Ukraine in the same home they lived in before the war began. **“We didn’t want to move,”** her mother Vira*, who works in the local hospital, explains.

Before the war, things were calmer. **“Children could play in peace, could go camping, visit friends and relatives, but now... For me as a mother, it is very difficult to let them go to school. When rockets fly, we don’t know where they will fall. I’m afraid.”**

For Sofiya, her education is crucial. She is interested in virology and genetic engineering. **“I would like to study at the University and learn Biology,”** she says. **“I could work in a school. If I get a PhD I can teach at the University; I could even work in a laboratory. But I don’t know my future.”**

Many of Sofiya’s friends left Ukraine when the war started. Some have since returned, but many have stayed abroad – one has gone as far as Australia.



The war has seen prices greatly increase, and the family is struggling. Vira earns a low salary, and her husband, who lost his job when the war began, is still out of work. Lumos has been supporting the family by providing the educational resources Sofiya and her siblings need to continue their learning, as well as vital supplies including food and hygiene items. When we visit the family to deliver these packages, we also give them information about additional help that’s available, including psychological support.

“WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO LUMOS FOR THE CONSTANT SUPPORT, IT HELPS US VERY MUCH,” VIRA SAYS. “BECAUSE OF LUMOS’S SUPPORT, WE CAN SURVIVE.”

*** NAMES CHANGED.**



UKRAINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Supporting self-advocates

Prior to the war, Lumos worked with a network of self-advocates in Ukraine - young people who draw on their lived experience of the care system to advocate for children's rights and care reform. Throughout 2022, we continued to provide regular support to our Ukrainian self-advocates, including financial support for food, evacuation and accommodation as well as psycho-social support. We also supported self-advocates to develop and disseminate advocacy materials (including leaflets, video messages and social media posts) reflecting their attitude to the crisis. Due to the challenges presented by the ongoing conflict, we have had to pause our participatory work with these young people for now, but hope to resume when circumstances allow.

Supporting refugee children and families in Moldova

When the war began in February 2022, Lumos immediately began supporting authorities in the Ialoveni and Florești districts to respond to the needs of refugee children and families entering Moldova. The large flow of refugees has increased the number of children at risk in the country, and we have been extending ECD/ECI services to this population. We developed tools to enable local authorities to conduct rapid needs assessments for more than 2,200 Ukrainian refugees. These assessments formed the basis of provision of humanitarian aid and referrals to community services. We distributed a total of 2,025 humanitarian aid packages (to 497 families with 965 children) including food, medicine, hygiene supplies, clothing and school items. We supported 1,302 refugee children to access education, social and health services, including supporting the enrolment of 178 children in local schools, referring 36 refugee children with special educational needs to support services, providing psycho-social support to 277 children and 91 parents, and setting up Romanian language classes for children and families. We also ran 69 training sessions for child protection, education and health professionals on topics including protection of children against any form of violence, protection of the rights of unaccompanied refugee children, and the educational inclusion of refugee children.



CASE STUDY

A NEW LIFE FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES



Elena*, who was heavily pregnant, was initially reluctant to leave her home in Ukraine. When it became clear that her home city of Odesa was going to be attacked, she and her husband Vasili* made the difficult decision that she would flee to Moldova with their four daughters. Vasili* stayed behind to look after an elderly family member.

Shortly after arriving in Moldova, Elena gave birth to a little boy, Bogdan*. The family initially stayed in a placement centre with around 40 other refugees. The children were able to make some friends, but they missed their home terribly.

“We miss our house, our dad, our cats, our dogs, our friends,” said Roxolana* (15), the eldest child. **“We’re glad we managed to flee before the bombing of Odesa started. We’ve met children who are not that lucky – whenever they hear any loud sound now, they run away looking for a safe place to hide.”**

The family fled Ukraine with just the clothes on their backs. Along with food, hygiene items and other emergency aid, Lumos has provided the family with clothes for different seasons, as well as a pram for little Bogdan.

The family stayed in Moldova, supported by Lumos, for three months, before Vasili* was able to be reunited with his family – and meet his son for the first time. The family have now relocated to another European country, where Vasili* has found work and the children are going to school once again.

The family is safe, but they think of home every day. **“No matter how good it is, I really want to go back to my hometown,”** Elena says. **“I’m eagerly anticipating the end of the war so we can return home. Even if our house is destroyed and we have to rebuild it - I dream of being at home and living in peace.”**

“WE’D LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED AND WHO CARE ABOUT US, AND SPECIFICALLY LUMOS FOR ALL THEIR SUPPORT. MYSELF AND MY CHILDREN ARE VERY GRATEFUL, AND AS SOON AS THE WAR ENDS AND PEACE IS RESTORED, WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU VISITING US IN UKRAINE.”

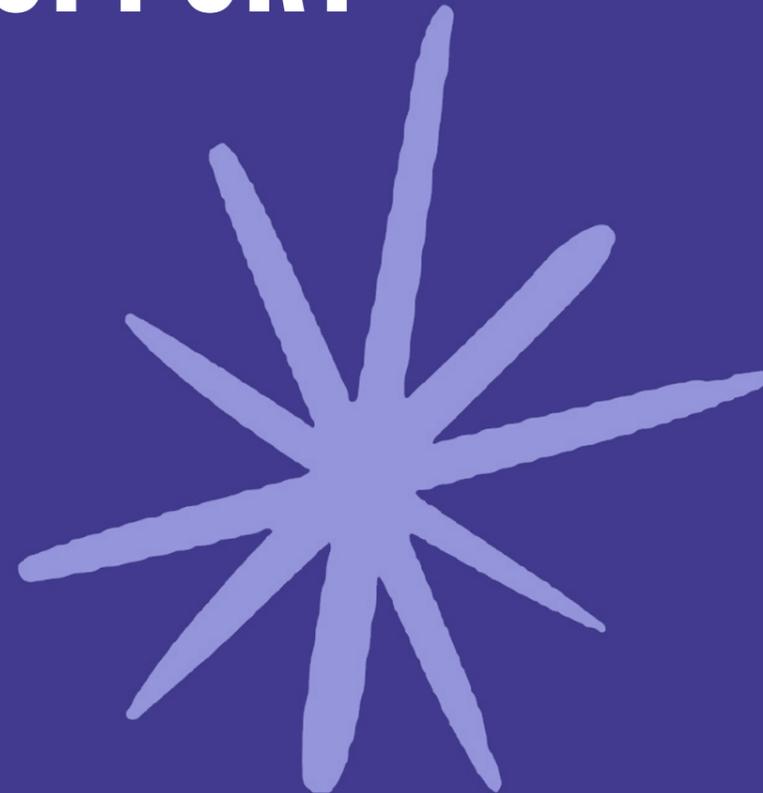


We thank all of our supporters for joining Lumos in the fight for every child's right to a family. In particular, we would like to thank the following organisations and individuals who, alongside many other generous donors, have provided funding during this last year.

LUMOS DONORS

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



OUR WORK WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROSITY OF OTHERS, AND WE'RE GRATEFUL TO ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2022





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