

# IMPACT SUMMARY 2018





EVERY CHILD  
NEEDS  
A FAMILY  
ENVIRONMENT.  
IT'S SO SIMPLE...

INSTITUTIONS  
ARE HARMFUL  
FOR CHILDREN.

MIHAELA, CARE LEAVER AND SELF-ADVOCATE

Having spent time in an institution herself, Mihaela is now in her mid-20s and advocates for children's rights to family-based care, inclusive education and youth participation. A passionate speaker and activist, she has influenced policymakers, professionals and NGOs. In 2018 we helped 76 self-advocates like Mihaela to take the lead on decisions that affect their lives, and supported many advocates to speak at events around the world. The powerful testimonies of those who have experienced institutions first-hand are central to our advocacy work, shedding light on the impact of separation and the importance of growing up in a loving family.

## FOREWORD

Imagine a world where millions of children are separated from their families, because of poverty and disability, and placed in institutions where they are vulnerable to abuse, neglect or trafficking. Where unaccompanied refugee children are locked up with hundreds of adults. And where huge sums of money are spent keeping the system going. This is the care system in the 21st century and it is the world Lumos was established to change.

For over a decade, our programmes have demonstrated that another way is possible. That, with the right support, most children can live in families, where they can recover dramatically from the violence and trauma they experienced. We have used this evidence to persuade donors and decision-makers to redirect their resources away from orphanages, investing instead in families and communities.

And in 2018, the shift was clear. With Lumos' support, service providers like Catholic Relief Services are changing the way they care. Governments like Ukraine's are learning from care transformation elsewhere in Europe. Evidence from Haiti and Colombia is accelerating change across Latin America and the Caribbean. With our guidance, Jordan, Kenya and Malaysia are enacting national action plans. The European Commission is prioritising transforming care in international aid. And Australia became the first country to legislate against 'orphanage trafficking'.

Together with our many partners, we are building an unstoppable movement for irrevocable change. As the movement grows, we must ensure no child is left behind, developing the right support for the hardest-to-reach children: those with complex disabilities or living with HIV, refugee children, trafficked children and those in conflict with the law. In the coming years, we will demonstrate that even in the most complex circumstances, institutions are unnecessary.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary generosity of our supporters. Thank you for helping us change the way the world cares.



**Neil Blair**  
Chair of Trustees, Lumos Foundation



# 2050

We have a bold yet achievable mission: **to end institutionalisation of children worldwide by 2050**



## WHY IT MATTERS

# 80%

80% OF CHILDREN IN ORPHANAGES HAVE A LIVING PARENT.

# 8M

8 MILLION CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE IN ORPHANAGES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS WORLDWIDE.

# 80 YEARS

80 YEARS OF RESEARCH PROVES INSTITUTIONS SEVERELY HARM CHILDREN AND ARE AN EXPENSIVE FORM OF CARE.

## CHILDREN NEED A LOVING HOME

Institutionalisation has a devastating effect on children.

### WHY INSTITUTIONALISATION HAPPENS

Children end up in institutions and orphanages for a variety of reasons – none of them good.

**POVERTY** is one of the most common reasons children are placed in institutions. The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child says poverty should never be a reason to separate children from their families.

**DISABILITY:** Children with disabilities face stigma around the world and are often placed in institutions because their parents cannot afford, or access, support services such as inclusive education.

**DISCRIMINATION:** Historically, children from minority ethnic communities are more likely to be institutionalised, and are still over-represented in institutions around the world.

**TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION:** Illicit profit-making institutions actively recruit children in many countries, often using false promises of education and food. Institutionalised children face increased risk of trafficking – and rescued children placed in institutions may be trafficked again.

**WAR OR NATURAL DISASTER** often result in family separation, driving children towards institutions. Refugee children or those from migrant families can find themselves alone in detention centres, police stations and 'protective custody'.

**CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT** mean some children cannot live with their parents. But alternative family-based care is a better solution than neglectful or abusive institutions.

Orphanages, reception centres for unaccompanied children, residential special schools, juvenile justice facilities: residential institutions come in different shapes and sizes, but they can all damage children. Often isolated from the community and forced to live with strangers, these children do not have control over their lives because the needs of the institution take precedence over their individual needs.

There may be too many children for staff to remember their names – never mind their birthdays, likes and dislikes, fears and wishes – so the institution invents systems to cope. Mealtimes, changing times and bedtimes are strictly ordered and children must fall into line. Running an institution 24/7 is expensive (far more expensive, in fact, than family-based care) with never enough staff to provide individualised care. Instead, carers may have no option but to operate like security guards – controlling behaviours and making sure children do not escape.

Studies show that growing up in an institution can damage children's health and physical, emotional and cognitive development. Children in institutions are more likely to be victims of neglect, abuse and trafficking. As young adults, it's harder to find employment, and behavioural, physical and mental health problems are more common, affecting their prospects and resulting in high social and economic costs to society. Institutional care, however well run or well intentioned, can never replace the care and support of a family. Put simply, children don't thrive without the unconditional love only a family can provide.



THIS PAGE: © Chris Leslie / Lumos; INSET © Home Box Office, Inc / Brendan Bannon



# OUR APPROACH

Children deserve better than being placed in institutions. We're transforming care systems so all children can grow up in a loving environment.

We believe there's an alternative to institutionalisation. Even in challenging contexts, children do better in families. We work to prevent family separation in the first place, find alternative family-based care when children can't remain with their birth family, and redirect resources from institutions into community-based health, education and social services.

## DEMONSTRATION

Around the world, we're demonstrating it's possible to transform care systems. We assist governments and communities to address the drivers of institutionalisation and support groups of children that are commonly left behind.

# 9,560

In Moldova, we developed models of inclusive education and supported teachers and staff with continuous professional development and resource centres. The number of children with special educational needs accessing community schooling has increased by 663% from 1,253 in 2010 to 9,560 in 2018.

## FIELD-BUILDING

Our training and guidance equip professionals and policymakers with the skills, knowledge and evidence-based approaches needed to transform care. We form effective partnerships and support others to undertake reform.

# 5,815

In 2018, we trained 5,815 professionals in the skills needed to transform care in their country or region, and showcased successful family and community-based care systems on study visits in the UK, Bulgaria and Moldova. We also developed an online training course, and gave technical advice to 51 organisations and governments from 22 countries.

## EVIDENCE

Our high-quality research shows the harm that institutions cause to children, building the global case for change. We make the case for prevention and prove that better alternatives always exist.

# RESEARCH

Alongside Harvard, Tulane University and the University of Maryland, we launched an awareness and fundraising campaign for the Early Institutionalisation Intervention Impact Project. It will measure children's development through neuroimaging and video feedback, and analyse the cost-effectiveness of different forms of care. It's likely to provide compelling evidence that institutional care is harmful and economically unsound.

## INFLUENCING

We encourage shifts away from institutional care towards a family-based approach. We influence international policy, redirecting money, commitment and practice to bring about lasting change at scale.

# €2.7B

The European Commission publicly committed to preventing EU funds being used for institutions and prioritising care reform across the world. Over the last five years, nearly €2.7 billion has been allocated to family and community-based care across the EU – thanks in part to our advocacy, showing that most children can live with families for a fraction of the cost of institutional care.



# GLOBAL IMPACT: OUR BIG WINS IN 2018

## PUBLIC COMMITMENT

Following advocacy by Lumos and partners, the UK government publicly recognised the harm institutions cause to children. The Secretary of State for International Development committed to a long-term process of global care transformation.

## DETENTION

When more than 2,600 children were separated from their parents at the US/Mexico border, we quickly mobilised to share our experience and expertise with partner organisations, helping reunite hundreds of children with their families.

## HIV-AIDS

Around 50,000 children live in Colombia's institutions and boarding schools due to factors including war, poverty, child abuse and neglect, disability and HIV. We helped Fundamor, an institution in Colombia, to improve the lives of young residents living with HIV and AIDS, and return them to their families.

**571**

In Haiti, we worked with government and partners to evaluate 571 institutions which housed 25,344 children. Most orphanages were operating illegally. As a result, the government banned new orphanages and asked donors to support family-based care instead.

**220**

In Ukraine, where more than 104,000 children live in institutions, we trained 220 professionals in the skills needed to transform care and helped to implement a national strategy. Thanks to inclusive education training in one region, 640 children with special educational needs are now included in community schools.

## UNRESTRAINED

In Greece, we provided emergency support in an institution where many residents had spent their lives in restraints, including caged beds and tied limbs. The government has promised – and has allocated funding – to replace the institution with community services.

## REFUGEES

We helped recruit emergency foster families for unaccompanied child refugees in Ethiopia, proving family care is possible even in refugee camps.

**€2.7 BILLION**

After Lumos and partners influenced EU regulations, €2.7 billion of European structural and investment funds have been allocated to transforming care in Europe since 2014.

**10,415**

Since Lumos began working in Moldova in 2006, the number of children in institutions has fallen by 10,415 (90%) and thousands have been reunited with their families. Our focus is now on ensuring the remaining 1,129 children are not left behind.

**90%**

In Bulgaria, the number of children in institutions has dropped by 90% since 2009. We're working to find family and community-based care for the remaining 633 children, ensuring no child is left behind.

**45,000**

In Kenya, 45,000 children live in registered institutions, but many more live in unregistered and uncounted facilities. We hosted a high-level training event with the Kenyan government and developed guidance on transforming care and redirecting resources to help families stay together.

**38:1**

Our research on the cost of care in the Czech Republic showed that, for the amount spent annually per child in a baby institution, 38 children could be supported in the community. The research is supporting the closure of baby institutions and the move to family-based care – better for children and much cheaper.

## ACTION PLAN

We supported the Jordanian government to draft a 10-year National Action Plan on transforming care for children and adults with disabilities, enabling them to live with families or in family-like settings.

## MALAYSIA

We supported the Malaysian government to develop a care transformation plan in one state. This will generate evidence, experience and expertise to reform systems at a national level.

**1ST**

Australia became the first country in the world to prohibit 'orphanage trafficking' in its modern slavery legislation. We worked with partners to influence this landmark move, and are encouraging other countries to follow suit.





## OUR STORY SO FAR

Here are some of the positive results we've achieved since Lumos was founded in 2005:



40,815

We've trained 40,815 professionals in the skills needed to transform care.



4,776

We've supported governments and partners to save the lives of 4,776 children through medical and social interventions (since 2009).



40,000

By working with partners to strengthen systems, we've kept over 40,000 children with their families – either by preventing them from being separated or reuniting them (since 2007).



18,776

Since Lumos began supporting the governments of Moldova, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic to transform their care systems, the number of children in institutions has reduced by 18,776, or 68%.

## BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES

**Our work wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our supporters. This year, we raised over £7 million to help fund our work around the world. Thanks to all of you who supported us. We're also grateful to our founder J.K. Rowling and other supporters from the Wizarding World family who cover Lumos' administrative costs – meaning that 100% of all other donations go directly towards our work to end the institutionalisation of children.**

Thanks too to the thousands of you who have shared our campaigns over social media. We reached tens of thousands more people in 2018, helping raise awareness of the harmful effects of institutional care on children, the better alternatives that exist and the negative consequences of volunteering in orphanages. This public engagement is vital in changing the hearts and minds of policymakers, politicians and potential volunteers.

Thanks to the work of Lumos and partners, growing recognition about the harm of institutionalisation has moved us closer to a global tipping point.

As a result of advocacy by Lumos and others, most countries in Europe now have strategies or plans in place to transform systems of care. On a global level, political will for change is growing, donors and politicians are listening, and many governments are developing care transformation plans.

Change is coming rapidly – but it's vital that this complex process is carefully managed, and that children are listened to and included. Developing the professional and managerial capacity of others to transform care is a top priority for us, along with ensuring that care transformation doesn't exclude the hardest to reach. No child must be left behind.

While the underlying causes of family separation may be similar in some parts of the world, there are also key differences and new challenges. We'll continue to focus our work in the places we're most needed – advocating, collecting evidence, building capacity and demonstrating better ways of caring for children, so they can achieve their full potential.

Find out more at [wearelumos.org](http://wearelumos.org)



*Lumos youth advocates Veliko and Mihaela with Lumos ambassador Mama Bee (centre)*



# ABOUT LUMOS

At Lumos we are fighting for a world without orphanages and institutions.

A world where families can stay together and children have the loving care and protection they need. Lumos is a force for change. We demonstrate the dramatic harm to healthy childhood development caused by institutionalisation and the overwhelming benefits of the alternative: community and family care.

We tackle the root causes of family separation – poverty, trafficking and discrimination – and reunite families. We speak up on behalf of the eight million children trapped in orphanages and other institutions worldwide to transform care, so every child can thrive in families and communities. 80% of these hidden children are not orphans and we prove that, with the right support, they can stay with their families.

Named after the light-giving spell in Harry Potter, Lumos was founded by J.K. Rowling in 2005.



For more information visit our website [wearelumos.org](https://wearelumos.org)



@lumos.at.work



@lumos



weare@lumos



Lumos

Lumos Foundation, founded by J.K. Rowling, is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no. 5611912. Registered charity no. 1112575.

© Lumos 2019. All rights reserved.



COVER IMAGE: © Home Box Office, Inc / Brendan Bannon