Lumos in 2017

Relocated **599 children** from institutions to loving families, family-like settings or independent living.

Prevented **3,272 children** from entering institutions, supporting governments to strengthen families and provide inclusive community services.

Provided **493 life-saving medical and social interventions** to children and families at risk of illness, malnutrition or abuse.

Trained **3,902 practitioners and policy makers** in the skills needed to move from an institutional model of care to supporting families.

Involving **608 children** in youth participation programmes and set up youth advisory boards in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Moldova.

Hosted study visits for **21 organisations** to educate, inspire and motivate professionals from countries seeking to close institutions, giving them a model to influence their own services.

Advised **39 organisations in 34 countries** on how to transform care, develop legislation and implement national action plans.
Why it matters

Children in institutions – the scale of the problem

80% of children in orphanages have a living parent\(^3\)

80 years of research proves that orphanages severely harm children\(^2\)

8 million children and young people live in institutions worldwide\(^1\)

2050

Lumos has a bold yet achievable mission: to create a world where all children will grow up in loving and supportive families by 2050.

Over the last decade, Lumos has shown that it is possible to transform care systems, close institutions and safely reunite families.

Working alongside governments and other partners, Lumos’ approach seeks to transform the systems that support children and families, so that institutions can be closed.

“Nobody was interested in our opinions. They put the same clothes on us, cut our hair and cut our hope that we would ever leave that place. When we cried to go home, they beat us. We did not even have the right to our tears.”

Olga, Moldova
Key achievements in 2017 – a global snapshot

US and Latin America and the Caribbean

US
Lumos, with partners Catholic Relief Services and Maestral International, was selected as a Finalist in the prestigious MacArthur 100&Change competition, which recognises the importance of ‘solving a critical problem of our time’. To reach the final four out of 2,000 entries was a huge achievement and an opportunity for the harm of orphanages to be exposed on a global platform. This achieved a $15 million grant to support Changing the Way We Care, a global movement to ensure that every child realises their right to a family.

Haiti
Lumos supported the closure of three institutions, enabling 46 children to be reunited with their families. Working closely with the National Anti-Trafficking Committee, Lumos co-hosted the first national anti-trafficking conference. This conference represented a significant turning point as the governments of Haiti and the United States, together with the European Union, acknowledged the problem of ‘orphanage trafficking’ in the country for the first time.

Colombia
Lumos supported Fundamor, an institution for children and young people living with HIV and AIDS, to support all children to be reunited with their families, or to move to family-based care. In one of the first examples of ‘deinstitutionalisation’ in the country, 43 children left the institution in 2017.
Greece
Lumos provided emergency support in an institution where many residents had spent their whole lives in restraints. Lumos’ support enabled many children and adults with disabilities to be released from physical restraints, including caged beds or ties that bound their limbs. Advocacy by Lumos and others led to the government commitment to fund the closure of the institution, in addition to allocating resources to reform children’s services in the Attica region.

Russia
Lumos is working with the Karelian regional authority to support the transformation of their child care and protection system. Lumos trained over 150 practitioners, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to develop new services. Alongside the local government, Lumos initiated a comprehensive analysis of the care system in the region that will be used as a basis to plan future reform.

Czech Republic
Lumos supported the Czech government to prevent 831 children from entering institutions in 2017. In Lumos’ demonstration region in Pardubice, Lumos worked with the local government to develop plans to reduce the number of children in large residential institutions by 75% by the end of 2020.

Ukraine
Ukraine has an estimated 104,000 children in institutions, one of the highest numbers in Europe. With support from Lumos, the government approved a National Deinstitutionalisation Strategy to transform children’s services and allocated over €15 million of government funding to the programme. In 2017, Lumos trained 696 practitioners from all regions in the country in how to transition from institutional to family and community-based care.

Moldova
Alongside the Moldovan government, Lumos has supported the development of an inclusive education system that has returned thousands of children from segregated residential institutions to their families. Since 2010, there has been a 685% increase in children with special educational needs in community schooling, from 1,253 in 2010 to 9,840 in 2017.

Bulgaria
Lumos’ support and advocacy efforts resulted in 644 children being reunited with their families across the country. Since 2010, the number of children in institutions in Bulgaria has reduced by 86%, and a national plan is in place to ensure the closure of all institutions by 2025.
East and South-East Asia

Malaysia
With Lumos’ support, Malaysia is now one of the first countries in South East Asia to have developed a national action plan to transform care services for children. Lumos supported a local organisation to carry out analysis on the current care system which was used as a basis to inform national level planning. This resulted in a comprehensive national plan.

Japan
Guidance and advice from Lumos has enabled Japan to embark on a transformation process towards family-based care. In August 2017, the Japanese government created a New Vision of Children in Care, which set targets to ensure that children who cannot live in their birth families are placed in foster care instead of institutions. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare in Japan named Lumos as a key influencing partner in this process.

Middle-East

Jordan
Lumos’ support to the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD), headed by His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein of Jordan, led to the parliament approving a new law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which includes an article specifically calling for the transition from institutions to community-based services. This law will drive reform to ensure that children and adults with disabilities live with their families and in their communities.

Australasia

Australia
Lumos provided evidence to the Australian parliamentary inquiry into establishing a Modern Slavery Act. As a result of the inquiry, Australia became the first nation to recommend that ‘orphanage trafficking’ should be included in any definition of modern slavery. Orphanage ‘voluntourism’ is increasingly being recognised as detrimental to children, and orphanage trafficking as a form of modern slavery. In 2017, three of the world’s largest volunteering and travel companies committed to stop sending volunteers to orphanages.
Financial overview

**Lumos’ income in 2017 totalled £8,503,346**
(2016 – £9,149,009)

- £4,342,864 - Grants received by Lumos including a grant of £3,846,057 from Comic Relief
- £2,658,801 - Income from royalties
- £959,185 - Funds from individual giving including Gift Aid and pro bono support
- £314,291 - Investment income
- £228,205 - Other income

**Lumos’ total expenditure in 2017 totalled £7,969,219**
(2016 – £6,463,089)

- £6,793,452 - Expenditure on charitable activities
- £1,074,812 - Costs of raising donations and donor communication costs
- £100,955 - Funds from investments

**Lumos’ 100% pledge**

Thanks to the generous support of J.K. Rowling and other funders, 100% of the money given to Lumos will go directly to Lumos projects and not to overhead or administrative costs.

**References**


4. Ombudsman for Children with the President of Ukraine. (20 Feb 2016). Monitoring research of functioning of system of boarding schools and institutions of child protection (institutions of social care). On file with Lumos.


About Lumos

At Lumos we are fighting for a world without orphanages and other residential 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. We transform care, so every child can thrive in a family and a community. 80% of these hidden children are not orphans. 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.