



Protecting Children. Providing Solutions.

CHILDREN IN ORPHANAGES: A HIDDEN GLOBAL PROBLEM

An estimated 8 million children worldwide live in orphanages or residential institutions.

Shockingly, 80% of these children are not orphans.

Most people see orphanages as a social good - or at least necessary - when in fact they often harm the very children they are supposed to protect. Most children are institutionalized because their parents are poor and cannot adequately provide for them. And while many institutions are established with good intentions, more than 80 years of research proves that raising children in orphanages harms their health and development, increases their exposure to abuse and puts them at risk of future criminal activity.

Children need families, not orphanages.



WHY CHILDREN LIVE IN ORPHANAGES WHEN MANY HAVE FAMILIES

A spectrum of institutionalization exists - from well-intentioned, committed organizations to those that see an opportunity to make a profit right through to those managed by organized criminals who traffic children. In some countries, orphanages prey on families in vulnerable situations, actively recruiting them with promises of free education and healthcare. Circumstances such as war or natural disaster, discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity or disability, or simply extreme poverty make desperate parents seek help.

But the only support they are offered is a place for their child in the orphanage. And once the decision is made, parents are often discouraged from visiting or maintaining a relationship with their child. Over time relationships break down. Families come to believe their children are better off without them. Children may not even remember their family, or where they come from.

This outdated system of care can and must change.

“Eight million voiceless children are currently suffering globally under a system that, according to all credible research, is indefensible. We owe them far, far better. We owe them families.” - J.K. Rowling

THIS IS A SOLVABLE PROBLEM

Lumos has demonstrated time and again that, no matter what challenges are facing industrialized or developing nations, it is less expensive and more beneficial for children to be cared for by their families rather than in orphanages. When children remain with their families, and get the support they so desperately need, the outcome is far better for them, for their families, and for society.

Economic and political instability are not obstacles to transforming care systems for children.

But the process of change is complex. It requires a coordinated effort, investment, knowledge, expertise, and a long-term commitment. It requires your support.

We know we can end the institutionalization of children worldwide by the year 2050.

LUMOS: BRINGING LIGHT TO THE DARKEST OF PLACES

Lumos is a non-profit organization committed to making family care for all children a global reality by 2050. Founded by J.K. Rowling and named after her spell in the Harry Potter books that brings light to the darkest of places, Lumos provides hope, solutions and better futures to some of the world's most vulnerable children.

We achieve this by:

TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS. Lumos works with governments, communities, families, caregivers and, most importantly, children, to transform outdated systems of care and protection. We help funders redirect money from orphanages to health, education and social services that meet the needs of all children.

CHANGING GLOBAL TRENDS. Lumos successfully advocates for change at the highest level of global decision-makers, to ensure that the UN, European Union and other regional political bodies are aware of the 8 million children hidden in orphanages and prioritize them in global actions to improve children's rights and child protection across the world. This shift in policy leads to action and impact on a massive scale.

SHIFTING DONOR FUNDING. Lumos works with the world's biggest funders of humanitarian aid and development to ensure that donor funding is diverted away from orphanages and is used to develop the services and systems needed to ensure children can be raised in families.

SHARING EXPERTISE. Lumos trains and shares knowledge with many organizations and governments. We document good practice, train professionals, politicians and community leaders, so that many other countries can also begin to bring children safely out of institutions, back to families.

CHANGING CHILDREN'S LIVES. Lumos works directly on the ground to rescue children from harmful orphanages and make sure they have access to all the help and support they need to grow up safely in families and develop to their full potential. This direct case work helps to demonstrate that change is possible and gives governments and communities the confidence they need to implement the larger-scale changes required.



By diverting existing financial support and donations away from orphanages and toward community-based services, it is possible to create a world where every child can live in a safe and caring family setting.

STORIES FROM OUR WORK

When Sonya's baby was born in 2015, she was told by doctors that he would not be able to walk and that he should be placed in an institution 100 miles away from her home in order to get medical treatment. But she was determined to keep her child, no matter what the doctors advised. Lumos worked tirelessly with social workers and the authorities for three months to successfully get her baby out of the institution and back home with Sonya, where they are now getting the support they needed, as a family, within their community.

She said **"So far, his development is just as it should be... and my dream is that he will walk. And I will do my best to make this happen."** No-one will fight for a child the way a parent will. Because of Lumos, Sonya and her son have a chance at a normal life.

Watch Sonya's story: wearelumos.org/content/sonyas-story



LUMOS' INTERNATIONAL REACH

Lumos has worked in 12 countries, from Moldova to Bulgaria to Haiti. We are currently advising governments and foundations in Malaysia, Jordan, Japan and Ukraine and providing training in Russia.

We have trained decision-makers and practitioners across five continents.

Our advocacy teams operate in Washington DC, Brussels and London, influencing the European Union, US government and senior international development decision-makers.



OUR IMPACT: SINCE 2009, LUMOS HAS



Provided 1,418 interventions to help save the lives of children suffering from malnutrition, severe neglect or a lack of access to medical treatment.



Helped move more than 17,000 children from harmful institutions to families, family-style settings or supported independent living.



Prevented almost 15,000 children from being admitted to institutions.



Trained more than 27,000 social workers, medical professionals, teachers, caregivers, civil servants and policy makers.



Provided training, expert advice or technical support to 34 countries from every part of the globe.



Helped redirect almost \$500 million of donor funds from orphanages toward creating community-based services.



Influenced policy, legislation and funding regulations that will ensure better futures for generations of children.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION: HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Orphanages can often be set up with the best of intentions and funded by well-meaning donors. However, children need families, not orphanages. Join us in building awareness and understanding around this problem. Help us return children to their families and communities.

To get involved or make a donation, go to wearelumos.org today or email assist@wearelumos.org.

OUR 100% PLEDGE

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

Charity registration details:

Lumos Foundation USA Inc. (Lumos USA), a 501(c)(3) non profit organization Registered Office: 557 Broadway, New York, 10012, USA EIN: 47-2301085

Find out more: wearelumos.org | Twitter: @lumos
Facebook: /lumos.at.work | YouTube: /lumoscharity
Instagram: @wearelumos