

“IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE EVERY CHILD IS RAISED IN A LOVING FAMILY WITH THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO THRIVE.”

J.K. Rowling

Founder and Life President of Lumos

These are uncertain times. With the spectre of COVID-19 casting a shadow that few of us could ever have imagined, we all look to and lean on our families as a vital safety net and source of comfort. As the global community seeks to rebuild and strengthen economies, services and communities, now is the time for a fundamental rethink about the kind of society we want to live in.

An estimated 5.4 million children around the world live in institutions, 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, healthy and resilient society.

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

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT.

This is a call to join forces to fight for every child's right to a family.

For more information visit our website
wearelumos.org



@lumos.at.work



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Lumos

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**ALL CHILDREN
GROW UP IN SAFE AND
LOVING FAMILIES.**

Lumos exists to light a path to a brighter future for children. Founded by author J.K. Rowling, we fight to tackle the causes of family separation and transform systems of care that take children away from their families and communities. We're committed to ending the institutionalisation of children, so every child enjoys the right to grow up in a loving family where they can thrive.

Our vision

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 COLLECTIVE GOAL:

TO ENABLE COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY CARE SYSTEMS FOR CHILDREN.

WHY WE'RE FIGHTING FOR EVERY CHILD

Around the world, millions of children continue to live in orphanages and other harmful institutions. Separated from their families and communities, these children are deprived of the love, attention and the opportunities they need to thrive.

Despite clear evidence of the harms of institutionalisation, an estimated 5.4 million children worldwide continue to live in institutions. We've made important progress in closing harmful ones, reuniting children with their families and finding new, loving homes for them. But we've never focused exclusively on individual institutions. It's not enough. We need to tackle the broader issues that drive children into institutions in the first place and inspire others to do what's needed on a bigger scale.

To achieve the lasting transformation that children need, we work with governments and local partners to reform and strengthen care systems so that all children can enjoy the right to grow up in safe and loving families.

Thanks to the efforts of Lumos and many other champions of care reform, the harms of institutionalisation are now more widely understood. The UN, the EU and some large development agencies have joined individual countries in pledging to change how they care for vulnerable children. But progress in reform has been piecemeal and sometimes poorly implemented. A lack of know-how and accountability have hindered progress, and funds still flow into institutional care.

The COVID-19 pandemic compounds these problems, exposing dangerous weaknesses in systems of child protection, welfare and education, while placing an unprecedented strain on families. This has left thousands more children at risk of being placed in institutions.

HOW WE'LL DELIVER FOR CHILDREN

We'll galvanise others to translate global commitments into local action, leading to lasting change for vulnerable children.

Over the next three years, we'll support governments, civil society and other influential organisations to translate global policy intentions and commitments into action around the world. By sharing our learning and expertise, we'll support locally led efforts that lead to lasting change and safe, quality care for vulnerable children.

OUR NEW STRATEGY HAS THREE PRIORITIES

1 BUILDING GLOBAL EXPERTISE

We'll use our knowledge and experience to support those responsible for reforming care systems in their own countries. This will include learning exchanges where they can share experiences and challenges, and providing technical support, evidence and guidance to help design and run better care systems. Importantly, we'll make sure that people with lived experience of institutionalisation are included throughout the process.



2 CATALYSING CHANGE

We know that ending institutionalisation benefits children and society – and we'll use this evidence to motivate and press governments to reform the way they care for children. This will involve leading targeted research and advocacy campaigns to identify and tackle the drivers of institutionalisation, promoting accountability by tracking and highlighting progress, and influencing international funding, programmes and policy.



3 DEMONSTRATING & INNOVATING

Building on our heritage of successful programmes demonstrating how care systems can be reformed, we'll use what we've learnt to support partners with their own reform efforts. Over the next two years, as we complete our current country demonstration work in Eastern Europe, we'll identify country demonstration programmes in new regions – building expertise and evidence of what good care reform looks like in challenging contexts, particularly for those children that typically get left behind.



OUR THREE PRIORITIES WILL BE SUPPORTED BY A RANGE OF INITIATIVES:

Systems design: Even where commitment and momentum towards national care reform is strong, success can falter without sound strategic planning and careful design. We'll support governments and partners to design effective care systems, using proven evidence-based approaches, and monitor progress so we can keep learning and improving.

Remote support and strategic partnerships: Building on the success of our remote programmes in Jordan, Russia, Ukraine and elsewhere, we'll provide targeted support to governments and other key stakeholders. We'll continue to cultivate local care reform champions, focusing on regionally influential countries, new contexts, and those with potential to make a major difference globally.

Learning exchange: Countries learn best from peers who share similar experiences and challenges. With partners, we'll build a community for people working in care reform, providing online tools, training resources, virtual study visits and other opportunities to share experiences and learn from each other.

Participation of people with lived experience: 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. We'll continue to work with "self advocates" and youth networks – and guide governments and other partners to ensure children's voices are heard.

Global and national monitoring: We'll promote accountability among national governments by developing and supporting tools and resources to track progress and highlight inaction. And we'll work with intergovernmental organisations and donors to apply pressure on governments to deliver.

Influencing international funding and action: Building on past successes, we'll influence funding and action through targeted campaigns. With our partners, we'll press influential bodies like the EU to promote investment in family and community-based care for children and create opportunities for reform.

Mainstreaming care reform: Through research and advocacy, we'll make care reform a key issue for related sectors like health, education, early childhood development or those working to end violence against children. This will foster vital collaboration and holistic approaches, and channel new sources of funding towards care reform.

Innovative demonstration programmes: Some countries, systems and contexts are very different from those where care reform has taken place before. We'll establish innovative demonstration programmes in contexts where it's still necessary to show reform is possible and how it can be achieved, focusing on projects that we can learn the most from and with the potential to be replicated in other countries.