



**FIGHTING  
FOR  
EVERY  
CHILD'S  
RIGHT TO  
A FAMILY**

**IMPACT REPORT 2019**





**VISION**

**ALL CHILDREN  
WILL GROW UP  
IN LOVING, NURTURING,  
PROTECTIVE FAMILIES**

**MISSION**

**TO END  
INSTITUTIONALISATION  
OF CHILDREN  
GLOBALLY BY 2050**



*Supported by Lumos, Dima is now Isus's foster parent. After years in Bulgaria's notorious Krushari institution, he now has a mother and a loving home.*

# FOREWORD

With over 80 years of research that demonstrates the harm to children's physical and mental health, and their cognitive and social development, we know that they can suffer deeply when trapped in institutional care. It is clearer than ever that this remains a global problem – with an estimated 5.4 million children living in institutions worldwide.

The drive to help vulnerable children and return or place them in loving families sits right at the heart of the Lumos mission, and in 2019 the efforts of our dedicated supporters and staff fulfilling this mission gave us much to celebrate.

Transforming care is no simple task, so seeing our coordinated and global work to promote family strengthening, family-based care and the progressive closure of institutions this year has been truly inspiring. Around the world, positive examples of care reform show that change is possible.

There should be a clear path to transformation, yet there remains vested interests and resistance to change. In 2019, our advocacy work continued to persuade those policy makers who believe institutional care is the most appropriate and cost-effective way to meet children's needs that there is a better way.

We helped the Jordanian government launch a pioneering 10-year national deinstitutionalisation strategy for people with disabilities – the first of its kind in the Middle East. And our first online training course marked an exciting new phase in our efforts to build the capacity of others to safely undertake care reform. We also secured a major partnership in Haiti, which will work to tackle child trafficking and exploitation, and began work with Comic Relief USA to strengthen foster care and services to prevent family separation in Colombia.

2020 sees us embarking on a global change programme which will transform Lumos into the strongest and most effective organisation we can be to meet the needs of vulnerable children trapped in orphanages and other institutions. We want to guide the way for children to be united with loving families rather than kept in institutions.

With you by our side, we'll continue to develop innovative and evidence-based interventions to transform care for children in different contexts; build on our work to tackle the drivers of family separation and trafficking; support partners to develop family and community-based services; and continue to ensure that reform efforts around the world leave no child behind.



**Neil Blair**  
Chair of Trustees



**Roger Singleton**  
CEO



## WE'RE PROTECTING CHILDREN

The current COVID-19 pandemic, and the accompanying measures put in place to control it, are having a dramatic impact on some of the world's most vulnerable children, families and communities, compounding structural weaknesses in child protection and welfare systems.

In the long-term, the economic impact of the crisis, coupled with strained services, will test the capacity of vulnerable families to care for their children. Ultimately the number of children at risk of separation, in need of additional support, or in alternative care is likely to increase.

The situation of children living in institutions or at risk of institutionalisation is precarious. Institutional environments, with residents in close quarters, often in very poor conditions, expose children and workers to a high risk of virus transmission. This is compounded by the fact that many institutions house children with disabilities.

Children in at-risk families are also being strongly impacted. Increased poverty, stress, access to food and medical care and the impact on health places strain on vulnerable families, putting them at greater risk of breakdown.

In some cases, children have been immediately removed from institutions without the necessary steps of assessment, preparation, support and monitoring. While overall a shift from institutional to family-based care is a priority, these transitions need to be carefully planned or may put children at risk of greater harm.

We're working hard to ensure that governments invest in child protection systems and measures to support families as part of the immediate COVID-19 response. Because it's time to invest in family and community-based services, and not in the establishment of new institutions.

Donate today at [wearelumos.org/covidappeal](https://wearelumos.org/covidappeal)

*During the COVID-19 pandemic, we've been working with families in Haiti's Cite Soleil and Canaan communes, in and around the capital Port-au-Prince. We've distributed hygiene kits to families such as Franciade's (pictured), to help protect them from coronavirus infection.*

## WE'RE TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S LIVES

By tackling some of the causes of family separation that cast a shadow over children's lives – poverty, abuse, violence, and discrimination – we work to unite children with loving families, so they can thrive and reach their full potential.

We work to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their parents, to redirect resources to family and community-based services, and to mobilise resources and influence to support families, promote family-based care and the progressive elimination of institutional care.

### PIONEERING EVIDENCE



We're building the evidence for care transformation; generating new insights about key drivers of institutionalisation and opportunities for prevention; and highlighting the scale, costs and harms of institutionalisation.

### INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMES



We're delivering cutting-edge, time-limited demonstration programmes designed to ensure we learn from best practice, generate original evidence and demonstrate that transformation is possible.

### POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS



We're delivering reform at scale through targeted strategic partnerships, offering to share our experience with organisations which have similar goals and exploring different routes to build capacity of the sector.

### TARGETED ADVOCACY



Together with partners, we're ensuring care transformation is prioritised and enabled through policy and guidance; and that resources are redirected away from institutions to family and community services.

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

# 2019 IN NUMBERS

## 510 CHILDREN

**Bulgaria** has made significant progress in care transformation for vulnerable children over the past 10 years. Thanks to interventions from Lumos, government and partners, children living in institutions in Bulgaria reduced from 6,730 in 2009 to 510 in 2019.

## 80 ORGANISATIONS

More than 80 child protection and anti-trafficking organisations from 44 countries responded to our call for evidence on the links between children's institutions and human trafficking. Our **global thematic review** into trafficking and institutions will be an essential tool for future advocacy work on this topic.

## 45 BOARDING SCHOOLS

In **Guaviare, Colombia**, our action research collected information about the 2,255 children residing in 45 boarding schools – including those living far from their home communities in challenging conditions. Our research will feed into future policies to promote education and family care for the 35,345 children currently living in boarding schools in Colombia.

## 67 FAMILIES

In **Haiti**, we helped provide 139 children and young people with medical and psychosocial assistance, and tracing and preparation support for family reunification. As a result, 14 children were safely reunited with families, and 67 families received support as part of family strengthening/prevention work.

## 30 STAKEHOLDERS

Building on our partnership in the global **Changing the Way We Care** initiative, we helped increase commitment to, and understanding of, care reform by delivering national training and an international study visit involving over 30 Kenyan national stakeholders, including influential senior government representatives.

## 1,281 REFUGEES

Our work with partners in **Ethiopia's** refugee camps helped to train 903 stakeholders, including refugee social workers and foster families within the camps; and reached 1,281 adult refugees through community campaigns to raise their awareness on the importance of family-based care. We also supported participation of 404 members of Child Parliament – a youth organisation within the camps.

## 44 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

In regions such as Pardubice county in the **Czech Republic**, we continued our support to regional authorities to transition children into community or family-based care. As a result, 44 children and young people were supported including 30 children who were successfully transitioned into community-based care.

## 250 INDIVIDUALS

In February 2019, we launched **A Short Introduction to Transforming Care**, a pilot online training programme highlighting the considerations needed to transform care systems away from institutional care, towards family and community-based services. Aimed at a global audience of policymakers and practitioners, the pilot benefitted over 250 individuals.

## 500 STAKEHOLDERS

We supported the transformation of a residential institution in **Karelia, Russia**, alongside our local partner NGO Vozrojdenie. We also provided deinstitutionalisation training to 103 stakeholders and helped to engage around 500 stakeholders on the topics of care reform and child rights through a number of conferences and high-level initiatives.

## 1st SERVICES

We supported the government of **Moldova** with creation of the first services for care leavers in the country. The services in Chisinau now provide young care leavers with legal and professional training, and essential life-skills and housing support necessary to leave care and move onto independent living.

## 25 REGIONS

In 2019, we supported 56 young members of **Ukraine's** National Children and Youth Council from 25 regions in the country, including care leavers from residential institutions. Through provision of training and participation opportunities, we helped them raise their voice to the national government stakeholders, most notably the President of Ukraine.

## 10 YEARS

We supported the Jordanian government to develop a pioneering **10-year national Deinstitutionalisation Strategy** for Persons with Disabilities – the first of its kind in the Middle East. The strategy will transform the lives of the 1,471 people with disabilities who are currently in institutions and many others who might have otherwise entered institutional care.



## DIEGO'S STORY: A MOTHER AND SON REUNITED

Diego's family were the kind Haiti's orphanage industry preys on. His mother, Gertrude, had four children to feed, with no income or support. "After my mother died, I had no one to help me," says Gertrude. "I couldn't even keep up with school fees."

When a man offered help, Gertrude listened. He said he was from a school seeking students in the capital, Port-au-Prince. The school could take one of her children and provide him with an education.

"They said it was a nice place, the kids will have everything they need," Gertrude explains. Education was Diego's path out of poverty. Diego would receive food and schooling to help his future prospects. Wouldn't any parent want this?

When Diego accompanied the man back to Port-au-Prince he was just six years old. Unknown to Diego, or his family, the man was a "child-finder", with a mission to boost the orphanage's numbers. The promises of care and education were lies.

The orphanage was a bleak and scary place. There were too few beds, so some children slept on a concrete floor. The roof leaked. Food was scarce and Diego spent his nights shivering from cold.

When Lumos found Diego, he was underweight and anaemic. He had grown closed and shy in his year at the orphanage, falling behind both academically and developmentally. Reuniting him with his family became a top priority.

So our team visited Diego's hometown. Through the efforts of dedicated social workers and strong community networks, they found Gertrude that same day. Within days, she was reunited with her son. "Where he was living was completely awful. If it was not for Lumos's intervention, my child might have died."

The process of family reunification takes time, patience and lots of support. Lumos has helped provide school fees, uniforms and supplies, as well as parenting and business skills training, giving Gertrude the foundation to keep her family together.

"I love my mum," Diego says. "It feels good to be home."

*Diego's story was featured in HBO's documentary film Finding the Way Home in 2019. The film was inspired by our work, telling the stories of children who returned to loving homes after experiencing the traumas of child trafficking and institutionalisation.*



**"IF IT WAS NOT FOR LUMOS'  
INTERVENTION, MY CHILD  
MIGHT HAVE DIED."**

**GERTRUDE, DIEGO'S MOTHER**

# 2019 IN ACTION



## ENDING ORPHANAGE TOURISM

We launched our #HelpingNotHelping campaign against orphanage tourism and volunteering at the One Young World Summit with help from J.K. Rowling, self-advocates Ruth Wacuka and Eluxon Tassy, and ambassador Ade Adepitan. In addition to influencing young people to make smarter volunteering choices, our advocacy team also secured a change in advice from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, warning travellers of the “serious and unintended consequences” of orphanage tourism.



## HELPING CHILD REFUGEES

With the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Ethiopian government and partners, we have been providing safe family care for unaccompanied children entering four refugee camps near the Ethiopian/Eritrean border. We introduced temporary foster care in the camps and trained partners to help move unaccompanied children to family-based care. As a result, 274 Eritrean unaccompanied or separated refugee children were placed with foster families.

## SUPPORTING SEPARATED FAMILIES

Our work with families separated at the Southwest US border continued to provide vital support to families in the US and Guatemala. We worked with the American Bar Association, Immigrant Families Together and International Social Service USA to help trace, reunify and build the resilience of affected families to prevent children entering institutional care. Through these partnerships, we assisted more than 200 children and their families with medical care, psychosocial support, nutrition, and legal services. This included supporting the reunification of over 130 children with their families after many months apart.



## TRANSFORMING CARE

In Greece, an estimated 3,000 children and vulnerable adults live in institutions. Following three years of intervention at an institution in Western Greece, we worked with partners to safely remove long-term restraints – including caged beds – for 30 residents. It helped demonstrate that change is possible for children and adults with severe and complex needs. During 2018-2019, we also helped to train over 300 social workers in Greece who undertake the assessment of vulnerable children and families.



## TACKLING CHILD TRAFFICKING

We secured a partnership with USAID (United States Agency for International Development) on the Building Enduring Systems to End Trafficking in Persons (BEST) programme in Haiti. This project helped the government launch its National Action Plan Against Trafficking with 121 high-level stakeholders present. It trained 64 anti-trafficking leaders and stakeholders including immigration officers, officials and journalists. We also helped set up an anti-trafficking task force in Port-au-Prince to undertake the investigation and prosecution of traffickers.



## ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

Youth advocate Veliko from Bulgaria brought the global problem of the institutionalisation of children – and the potential solutions – to the attention of world leaders at the UN summit in New York in September 2019. He was chosen from over 800 applicants to speak about care reform at a side event to the high-level SDG Summit and participated in our Twitter takeover. We're so grateful for all the youth advocates' invaluable contributions throughout 2019.

Since we started work in Colombia in 2017, we've seen real progress. The government has fully committed to transforming the child protection system, and we're working closely with the Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) and other partners to promote family-based care and help more children like Diana.

**"I WANT THEM TO STUDY,  
TO GET AHEAD, TO GIVE  
THEM WHAT I CAN"**

**DIANA'S GRANDMOTHER**

## **DIANA'S STORY: RETURNING TO A LOVING HOME**

Diana dreams of helping other children like her who have experienced life without a family or a home. In 2018, Diana (pictured) and her younger sister Alicia were sent to an institution because their mother was unable to care for them. They stayed there for a year.

Diana and Alicia aren't alone. In Bogotá, many children are sent to institutions in similar circumstances. Child maltreatment and vulnerability are some of the most common causes of children being placed under protective care. And although institutions in Colombia provide housing and meals, the children don't receive the nurturing attention, love and affection a family provides.

But we know that with the right support, many families can overcome these difficulties and stay together. Thanks to our work with our partner organisation Club Michín in Colombia, sisters Diana and Alicia are now living happily with their grandparents.

From her grandparents' house on the top of a mountain in Bogotá, Diana can see houses and tall buildings, but also some wetlands and green spaces. For her, the main difference between living in the institution and being with her grandparents is the joy she feels in the house and the love and care she experiences. She loves playing with her younger sister and talking with her grandmother.

"What I like the most about living with my grandparents is that I share a lot with them. We treat each other well and we spend time together," says Diana with a broad smile. Thanks to the support and loving care Diana now receives from her grandparents, she can dream about her future.

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

## OUR SUPPORTERS

We want to shine a light on the incredible donors and community fundraisers who make our vital work possible.

The financial and non-financial support we receive from our many supporters enables us to deliver groundbreaking solutions to help the hidden children trapped in orphanages and other institutions around the world.

None of our achievements would happen without the generosity of our donors, fundraisers, our many partners and the dedicated efforts from Lumos' ambassadors and influencers.

We're inspired by the efforts of all our supporters, which mean we can help even more children around the world. Fundraisers such as Bryan from Mississippi, who achieved a Herculean feat for our work. Bryan reached Uhuru Peak on Mount Kilimanjaro in October 2019, unfurling his Lumos banner at 5,895m – the highest point in Africa.

As we look back on this year, we extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you, as well as to our dedicated staff and voluntary trustees.

**We couldn't do it without you.**

Discover more fundraising ideas at [wearelumos.org/fundraise](http://wearelumos.org/fundraise)



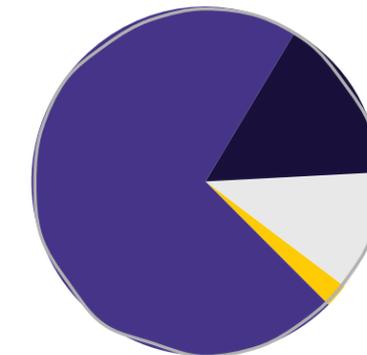
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## OUR FINANCES

A summary of our income and expenditure for the year ending 31 December 2019.

### INCOME IN 2019

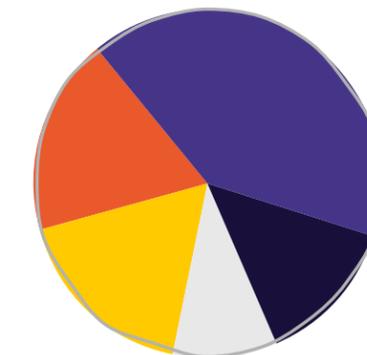
Lumos' income totalled **£9,960,000**



- £7,085,000**  
Funds from individual giving
- £1,553,000**  
Grant income
- £1,101,000**  
Income from royalties
- £221,000**  
Investment and other income

### EXPENDITURE IN 2019

Lumos' expenditure totalled **£12,739,000**



- £5,227,000**  
Deinstitutionalisation activities
- £1,709,000**  
Global Training
- £1,243,000**  
Research
- £2,239,000**  
Advocacy and Campaigns
- £2,321,000**  
Cost of raising funds

*Note: These numbers are based on preliminary unaudited accounts.*

Expenditure increased during the financial year 2019 to £12,739k (2018: £11,934k) as we continued to invest in our international expansion and our work on diversifying income, focusing on stable long-term streams, rather than short-term opportunities. The excess of expenditure over income was met from Lumos' reserves.

**Lumos' overhead and administrative costs are met by the generous support of J.K. Rowling and other donors. 100% of other donated funds directly support our projects and programmes.**

## ABOUT LUMOS

At Lumos we are fighting for a world without orphanages and institutions. A world where families can stay together and children everywhere have the love they need and the futures they deserve.

To achieve this, we work in partnership with governments, United Nations agencies, European Union institutions, civil society, communities, families, children, and caregivers to transform outdated and ineffective systems that separate families.

We speak up on behalf of the millions of hidden children trapped in orphanages and other institutions worldwide. To transform care, we deliver a combination of country programmes; sharing expertise and provision of technical assistance; research and documentation of best practices; plus powerful advocacy and policy influencing that drives positive change for children.

We tackle the root causes of family separation and replace institutions with family and community-based services that provide children with access to vital health, education, and social care. Because we know that with the right support, every child can thrive in families and communities.

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)



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Lumos

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