



Protecting Children. Providing Solutions.

**Lumos is an international children's charity, founded by J.K. Rowling, committed to ending the institutionalisation of children around the world by 2050.**

- **8 million** children and young people live in orphanages and other institutions worldwide.
- **80% of children** in orphanages have a living parent, and have been separated from their families because of poverty, discrimination, disability, natural disasters, migration or trafficking.
- **80 years** of research proves that orphanages severely harm children's development and exposes them to abuse and exploitation.

### **Transforming care systems and changing lives**

We work with governments, civil society organisations and other partners to:

- **demonstrate** that change is possible, by closing orphanages and developing new services
- **redirect funding** that goes to orphanages to support families and communities
- **enshrine** reform in relevant policies and legislation
- **strengthen capacity** of practitioners through training and technical support
- **document** the case for reform
- **change behaviour** through targeted campaigns
- **give children a voice** and a say in their future.

Once systems are in place that ensure children and their families have the health, education and care services they need in the community, it prevents more children growing up in orphanages. Orphanages can be closed, staff can be retrained and children can be given the loving care and support they need to thrive. In cases where children can't live with their family, we ensure appropriate alternative care is in place to meet the needs of the child.

### **We have:**

- **provided** technical advice and support to 49 countries
- **helped** over 18,500 children move from institutions to loving families and family-based care in the community
- **prevented** more than 23,000 children from entering harmful institutions
- **trained** more than 36,000 professionals in the skills needed to plan and implement the reform process
- **influenced** the redirection of €642 million towards strengthening communities and keeping families together, in partnership with other organisations.

**By 2050, all children will grow up in loving, nurturing and protective families.  
Because children belong in families, not orphanages.**



## The European Union is a champion of children's rights worldwide

Children's rights are human rights, and the European Union (EU) is determined to be a global champion for their promotion and protection. **There cannot be sustainable development if any girls and boys are left behind**, trapped in poverty, suffering discrimination and violence, lacking access to quality education or healthcare, unheard and unseen, or trapped in institutions where their basic needs and rights are unmet. Investing in girls and boys from early childhood to adolescence, and giving them control over their own destiny, is the right thing to do, the smart thing to do – in short, the only thing to do.

The EU's commitment is reaffirmed in the **European Consensus on Development** and the **2017 Guidelines for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of the Child: Leave no Child Behind** in line with international standards and treaties. These guidelines provide practical support to all EU actors to champion children's rights by helping partner countries to strengthen their own child protection systems. They recognise institutionalisation as one of the risks facing vulnerable children, highlighting the importance of appropriate alternative care, which allows children to participate in family and community life, in line with their best interest.

Together with UNICEF, the EU also released the **Toolkit: Integrating Child Rights in Development Cooperation** to guide all EU development actors on how to mainstream children's rights in budgeting, policymaking, law-making and programming, in areas such as infrastructure, energy, health, education, water and sanitation, and justice. This practical tool aims to ensure that development programmes are not 'child blind,' but that the needs and rights of all girls and boys are systematically taken into consideration.

The EU is one of the main providers of funding for children's survival and development, protection and participation. **From 2007-2013, the EU supported over 4,000 actions for children across 142 countries, with EUR 8.5 billion.** Sub-Saharan Africa was the largest recipient, followed by Asia and Latin America. These actions supported all categories of children's rights and needs, particularly education, health, sanitation, hygiene and nutrition. The EU is also fully committed to protecting children from all forms of violence, including harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation, and early and forced marriage.

**In 2018 the EU launched a first specific EUR 13 million call for proposals on quality alternative care and de-institutionalisation**, in line with UN guidelines. The European Commission is currently evaluating the applications received.

On the ground, the EU is providing long-term practical support to countries like Zimbabwe, which have been seriously affected by the HIV-AIDS crisis. These efforts support the Government's National Action Plan for orphans and vulnerable children, including through training on the reunification and de-institutionalisation of children, and cash transfers to allow children to remain within families. **By 2010 the programme had already united over 5,400 children with their families.**

In Haiti and Mozambique we are improving the lives of orphans and vulnerable children, promoting the reunification of children with their families. In Tajikistan, we are promoting de-institutionalisation and support to safe and sustainable families both in rural and urban areas.