

# Keeping families together

Protecting vulnerable children and their caregivers, **Ukraine**

War shatters families and endangers children. Lumos protects vulnerable children and their caregivers in Ukraine trapped in orphanages by providing emergency food, hygiene and medical kits and supporting the evacuation of children, particularly those with physical or mental disabilities.

## The problem

War has been steadily waging over the last eight years in Ukraine, leaving more than 850,000 people internally displaced and almost 3 million people in need of humanitarian aid. The current escalation in conflict will have devastating consequences for the civilian population and humanitarian needs are expected to rise. The invasion by Russian forces means more children are now in danger and threatens to undo years of work to prevent family separation and protect children.

## The partner

Lumos was established by J.K. Rowling in 2006 with a vision for all children to grow up in safe and loving families. It's work focuses on building global expertise, catalyzing change, and demonstrating innovation and innovating, with the goal of ending the institutionalization of children worldwide.

Lumos has been working extensively in the Zhytomyr region of Ukraine, which lies between an invading force and the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv. There are over 100,000 children trapped in orphanages across Ukraine, and 1,500 in Zhytomyr alone. As a result of the conflict, thousands more children are now at risk of displacement and family separation.

## The philanthropic solution

Lumos' emergency response is an agile, phased approach focused on:

- Emergency support in Ukraine to children without parental care including food, hygiene and medical items.
- Emergency support in Moldova to meet the immediate needs of refugee children and children separated from their families.
- Strengthening care reform in Moldova, leveraging existing expertise and programming in early childhood intervention, inclusive education, child and youth participation and psychosocial support.
- Targeted influencing and strategic engagement at national, regional, and international levels to ensure no child is left behind.
- Ensuring meaningful participation of children and young people in the response; and
- Strengthening internal capacity to respond.

## The evidence

Lumos' response is based on their longstanding presence in the country. The organization has been supporting the government in Ukraine to reform the care system to better protect vulnerable children and prevent family separation.

## The impact

Lumos will be able to ensure reunification of children with their families, provide emergency aid, and allow its team to advocate for children and ensure they aren't forgotten in this time of crisis.

## How it's helping

"Children always suffer greatly during times of war, and we are deeply concerned for the most vulnerable, and those children trapped in institutions in Ukraine. Emergency food, medicine and evacuation support is desperately needed to protect these children", Irina Malanciuc, Lumos Director of Programmes.

Source: Lumos (2022). <https://www.wearelumos.org/get-involved/ukraine-appeal/>

All programmatic data provided by Lumos. The UBS Optimus Foundation is a grant-making foundation that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that improve children's health, education and protection, ones that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable as well as programs tackling environmental and climate issues.

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