

“Leaving No-one Behind: What role can regional NGOs play in encouraging best international practice?”



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Introduction to Lumos

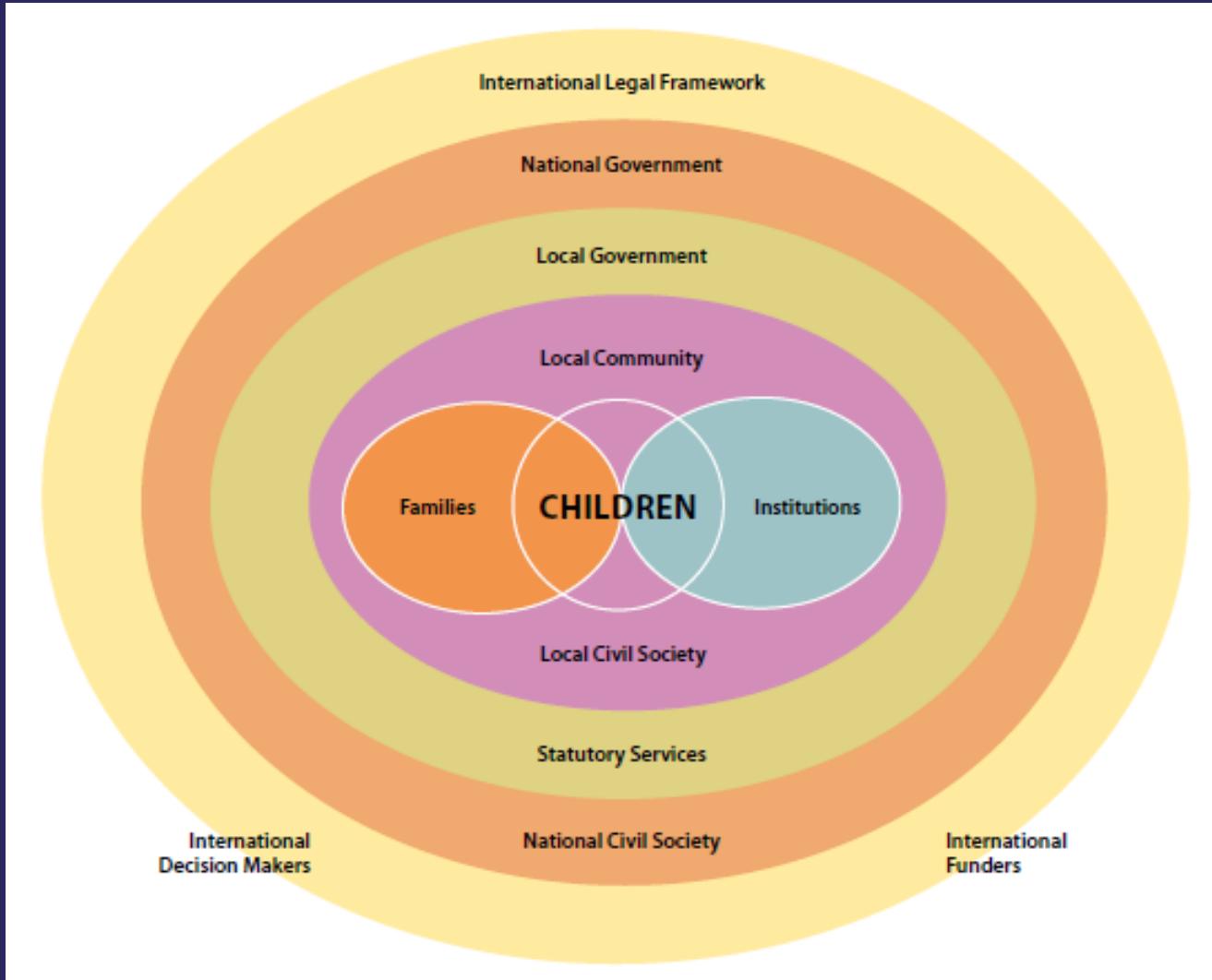
Our mission is to end the institutionalisation of children worldwide by 2050.

Our vision is a world in which all children have the opportunity to grow up and thrive in a safe and caring family or, where there is no alternative, in specialist placements that meet all their needs, respect their rights and ensure they can fulfill their potential.

Our programmes: Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Moldova with new initiatives in Serbia, Greece, Ukraine and Haiti + **International Advocacy**

The Lumos approach

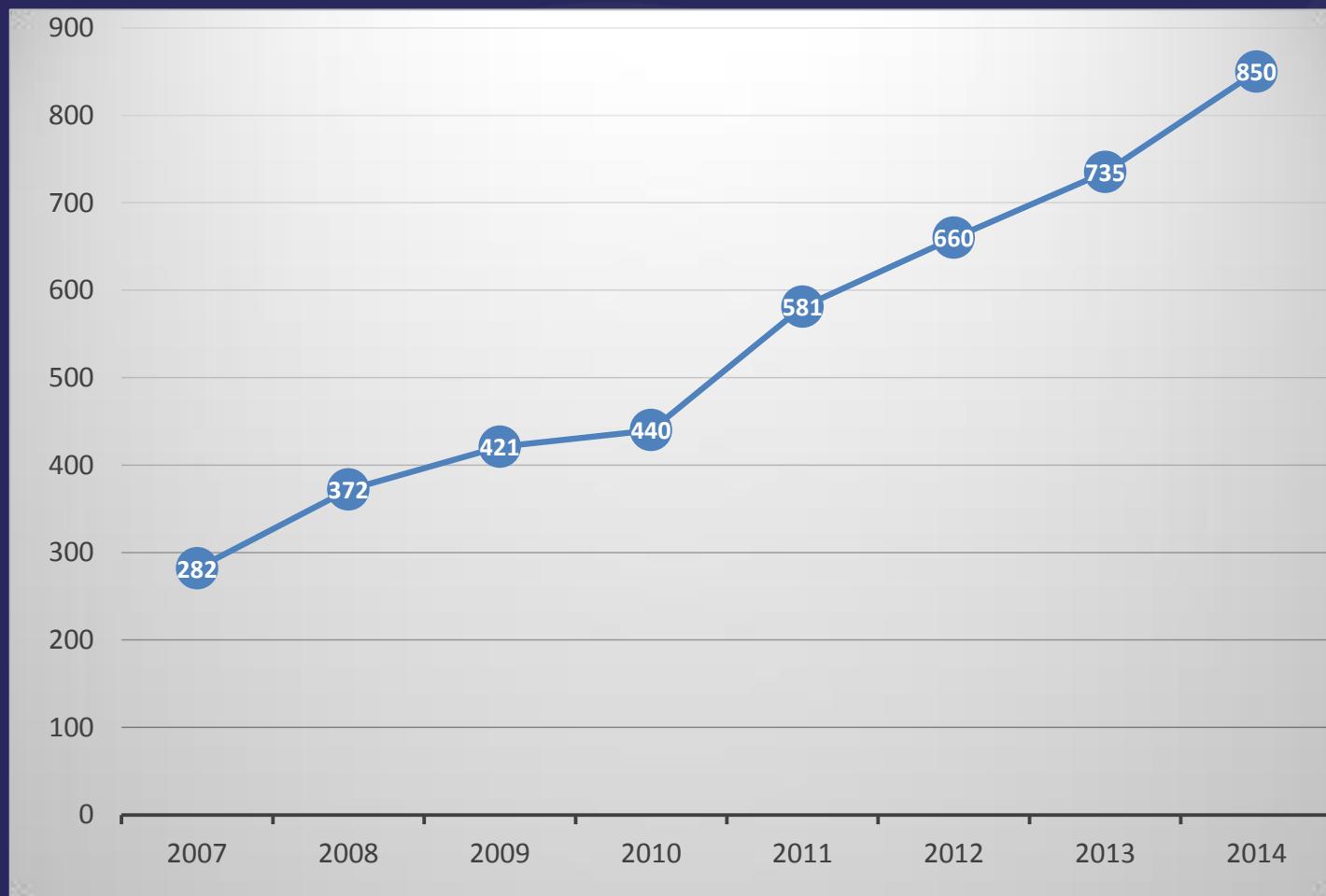
To secure lasting changes for future generations, Lumos works at 7 levels



Number of children in institutions in Moldova 2007-2014



Number of children in foster care in Moldova



What is an institution?

- A definition accepted in the EU: “Institutional care is any residential care where an institutional culture prevails.”
- The size of the institution matters but is not the only deciding factor.
- Children are separated from their parents and are not able to form attachments which are essential for healthy development.
- Children are isolated from their community and are compelled to live with strangers.
- Children do not have enough control over their own lives and what happens to them.
- The organisation’s requirements take precedence over the children’s individual needs

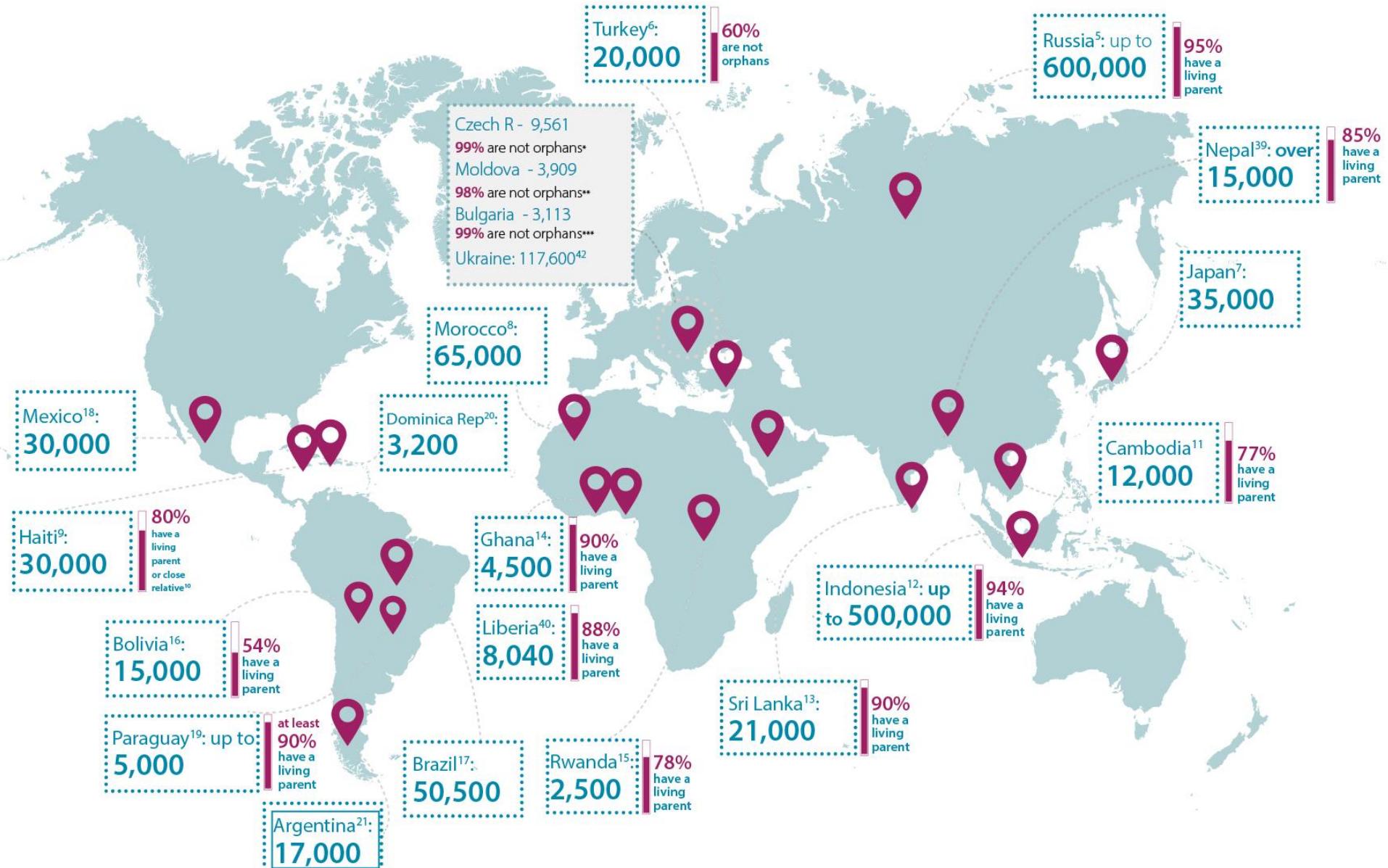
Institutionalisation of children: a global problem

There are at least 8 million children around the world living in institutions or “orphanages”.

We must not leave them behind



Global picture in numbers



Universal human rights – and institutions

- Parents are responsible to care for their children (CRC Art.18)
- State must support parents to do this (CRC Art.27)
- This is for all children including with disabilities (CRC Art.2)
- Children should be cared for by their birth family (CRC Art. 7)
- Children should be protected from harm and abuse (CRC Art.19)
- Children have a right to participate in decisions (CRC Art.12)
- Children with disabilities have a right to be included in their community (CRPD Art.19)
- Children with disabilities have a right to live with their families (CRPD Art.23)
- Children with disabilities have the right to be educated with their peers (CRPD Art.24)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs contain strong commitments to end violence against children, to address discrimination, health inequalities and provide education for all. They promise to “leave no one behind”

- [All adults and children to] “live decent lives free from poverty, hunger and inequality, with all men and women, girls and boys able to develop their full potential”
- [States] “to provide children and youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, helping our countries to reap the demographic dividend including through safe schools and cohesive communities and families.”
- The SDGs present an opportunity to ensure countries measure and count children outside family care and prioritise programmes to ensure all children can be raised in families.
- Children and young people hold the key to the success of the SDGs.

What impact can
these global
developments have
on the ground?



International developments can provide a clear framework or a catalyst for national reform



The prioritisation of “leaving no one behind” should influence the focus of global funding bodies and financial institutions and promote new partnerships

A National-Global partnership - Moldova

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and Global Alliance for Children (October 2014)

3 core objectives – reduce the number of:

- children under-5 not meeting key developmental milestones
- children living outside of family care
- children who experience violence, exploitation, and abuse





Positive developments elsewhere can encourage countries to align their international (and national) aid/funding with new commitments.
[For example, EU Structural and Investment Funds will hopefully influence EU Neighbourhood priorities]



The direct participation of marginalised groups in international policy formation can empower children and families to take a lead role in changing attitudes and practices back home

Ce este participarea copiilor?

- atunci cind primii au admirare
- și chemă elev
- atunci cind are nevoie bani
- chemă elev
- îl căreia nu are nevoie
- să cheltui
- Maiu Sandu se chemă la mese reale
- potrivit să ia decizii împreună
- Idei noi
- activitate
- drepturi
- colaborare

- Opiniile noastre sunt corecte

Atunci când particip eu mă dezvolt

atunci cind îl particip și îl cego eu îmi îmbandăte și lucru, și eu să am multă

FACTIE

morală că turița

✓



atunci cind primii
au admirare

și chemă elev

atunci cind
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Idei noi

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Opiniile noastre

sunt corecte

✓



**International social media trends can accelerate
attitudinal change among engaged youth**



International human rights processes provide opportunities for NGOs to share their experiences and perspectives

Ukrainian delegates supported by the Disability Rights Fund at the CRPD Committee 2015



The added value that
NGOs in CEE-CIS can
bring

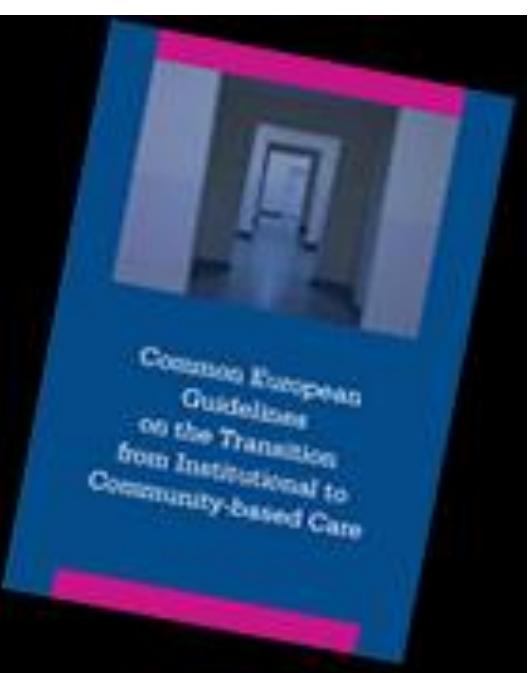


NGOs are key to changing attitudes,
polices and practices at all levels





NGOs form networks /coalitions &
share practice from elsewhere and
highlight the need for policy change



Common European
Guidelines
on the Transition
from Institutional to
Community-based Care

OPENING DOORS
FOR EUROPE'S CHILDREN

DEINSTITUTIONALISATION AND
QUALITY ALTERNATIVE CARE
FOR CHILDREN IN EUROPE

LESSONS LEARNED AND THE WAY FORWARD
WORKING PAPER



ALL CHILDREN COUNT
BUT NOT ALL CHILDREN ARE COUNTED



**NGOs are often best-placed to change attitudes
and stigma in communities**



lumos.org

Totul s-a schimbat spre bine când
mi-am întors acasă. Aici eu mă
simt binevenită, îngrijită și iubită.
Dinții sănătoși încearcă să-și apere dinți.



Punem înțept
înștiințarea și
îngrijirea copiilor

Reunim familiile
Păstrăm sănătatea
de înțelegere

Desvoltăm servicii
comunitare și de
cogniție

Wearelumos.org





NGOs often demonstrate and promote an innovative approach to partnership, financing and community engagement which can inspire and build the capacities of professionals and policy-makers alike.



NGOs can act as incubators of innovation [e.g pilot projects] and drivers of change

NGOs bring the voices of the marginalised from this region to the world



Some young people from Moldova share their message with the world

- <https://vimeo.com/119964307>

Challenges for NGOs in responding to the international context

Challenges and questions facing NGOs in CEE-CIS region

- NGOs need sustainable funding sources (national and international)
- A culture of local/national giving and philanthropy is still in its infancy
- Long-term planning can be difficult when funding is linked to delivering according to project cycles
- Working in advocacy coalitions whilst competing for funding is challenging
- NGOs and their plans are exposed to global and regional geo-political and economic shifts
- There is an ongoing need for capacity-building and training to ensure that local NGOs can develop and be sustained

Thank y

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