

Why **Funding** for Orphanages is **Harming the Children** it Aims to Help

Private philanthropic support for vulnerable or orphaned children often has a strong focus on the funding of orphanages.

Despite powerful evidence of the negative impact of orphanage care, private donors continue to provide large amounts of funding to orphanages through donations, volunteer tourism, mission trips and other forms of fundraising – **adding to the pull factors drawing more vulnerable children into institutional care and away from family or community care.**



“Orphanages have since become the go-to international response to child vulnerability, undermining national-level efforts to create a broader child protection and social welfare system.”

– Lumos Foundation

Funding Sources



ORPHANAGES

- Expose children to serious harm, neglect and abuse¹
- Children have a lack of access to health, sanitation, nutrition and education²
- Can seriously impact a child's physical and psychological development³
- Lead to higher rates of homelessness, suicide and crime⁴
- Greatly increase the mortality rate of children with disabilities⁵
- Are often much more expensive than family or community-based care⁶
- Recruitment for orphanages can often involve removing children from families or even result in trafficking⁷

Why does this keep happening?



Donations give orphanage owners **financial incentives** to stay open and to find new residents



Many people still believe that **orphanages are necessary** and provide adequate care for children



Local systems are **slow to change** in response to new studies on the harm of institutions

We can make better investments to help vulnerable children

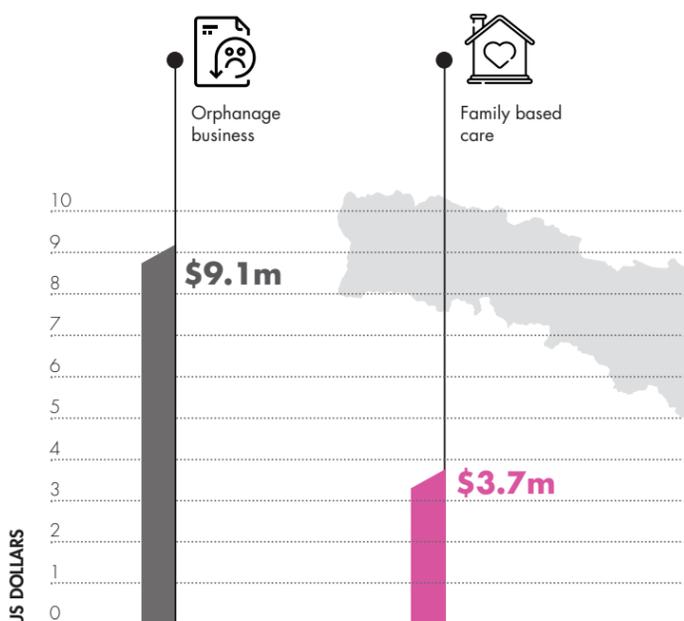
BI- & MULTILATERAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERS FOUNDATIONS



FAMILY & COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

- Have been shown to cost less money per child while achieving better outcomes
- Prevent family separation and protect vulnerable families
- Provide children with a loving home and continuous care from an adult caregiver
- Address barriers and stigma that affect the care of children with special needs
- Moving children from institutions and into family care before age 2, resulted in dramatic developmental gains.

Case Study: **NEPAL**⁶



An additional **\$4.1m** in funding was recorded for alternative care projects but it was not possible to identify how much of this funding had gone to family care and how much to residential care. Funding for other projects, such as health, education or children's rights reached **\$6.3m**.

90% of orphanages receive funding solely **from outside Nepal**.

When investment goes into orphanages, the result can be a **lack of funding** for developing family-based alternatives and preventing separation.⁷

Research shows the cost of orphanages can be

11x the cost of social services provided to vulnerable families and

3x the cost of professional foster care.⁸

Donors and policymakers can do more to help vulnerable children by investing in family and community support programs rather than institutional care.



¹ Csáky, C. Keeping Children Out of Harmful Institutions: Why We Should Be Investing in Family-Based Care. London, UK: Save the Children, 2009 https://www.crin.org/en/docs/Keeping_Children_Out_of_Harmful_Institutions_Final_20.11.09.pdf ² Pinheiro, P.S. (2006). World report on violence against children. Geneva: United Nations ³ Berens & Nelson. The science of early adversity: is there a role for large institutions in the care of vulnerable children? The Lancet. 2015. Available from: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(14\)61131-4/abstract](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(14)61131-4/abstract) ⁴ Holm-Hansen, J., Kristofersen, L., Myrvold, T., Orphans in Russia. Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research, 2003:1. ⁵ Tobis, D., Moving from Residential Institutions to Community Based Social Services in Central and Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, World Bank, p33, 2000. ⁶ Browne, Kevin, C. E. & Hamilton-Giachritsis, R., Mapping the number and characteristics of children under three in institutions across Europe at risk of harm. Birmingham: Birmingham University Press (in collaboration with EU/WHO), p22, 2005 ⁷ Swales, Diane. Applying the Standards: Improving quality Childcare Provision in East and Central Africa, Save the Children, pg 110, 2006 http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/ApplyingTheStandards_1.pdf. Ending Institutionalisation: An analysis of the financing of the deinstitutionalisation process in Bulgaria www.wearlumos.org/sites/default/files/Bulgarian%20Outcomes%20Report%20ENG%20Final_0.pdf ⁸ Lumos, Out of the Shadows, 2017 ⁹ Browne, K. The risk of harm to young children in institutional care. Save the Children, 2009.