



LUMOS ANNUAL REVIEW 2010



**Working to transform the lives
of disadvantaged children**

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Thank you also to our partners:

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Labour and Social Policy in Bulgaria

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of
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the Czech Republic

Government of the Republic of Moldova

UNICEF Montenegro and Government of Montenegro

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British Association for Adoption and Fostering,
Change, Parents Consortium, The Enable Group

***Thank you for helping us make a difference to
children’s lives.***

A message from our Chair



“2010 was a milestone year for Lumos. Not only because we marked our 5th anniversary, but because it was a year that saw us expand our programmes of work; cement agreements with policy makers during a time of constant economic and political uncertainty; and make a demonstrable impact with our pilot projects, reuniting children with their families. The process of transforming entire care systems for children - from international advocacy to identifying and creating new family and community-based services in local counties to assessing individual children and moving them out of institutions - takes time. It is strategic and requires extensive planning and preparation. I’m delighted, therefore, that this report outlines the impressive progress we made in 2010 and shows that our work really is changing children’s lives. Thank you for supporting Lumos and helping us move towards our goal of ending the systematic institutionalisation of children across Europe for good.” **JK Rowling**

Introduction from our Chief Executive, Georgette Mulheir



Welcome to our annual report. We hope that this short overview of our outcomes and achievements in 2010 will give you a useful insight into the work of the charity.

2010 was a busy year which saw us expand our programme work into Bulgaria and establish a full-time team there. We made some great progress on our pilot projects in three counties in Moldova. We supported the Czech Government team responsible for establishing pilot counties for Deinstitutionalisation programmes there and continued to support UNICEF and the Government of Montenegro on work with children in institutions.

Our Remote Expert Support Service provided more assistance to our growing programme teams and the specialist workers with whom we work within each country. We also continued our series of study visits, arranging for delegations of policy makers and practitioners to visit a range of integrated children’s care services in the UK, to enable them to see family and community-based alternative and specialist care services in action.

Finally, we made a significant impact with our EU and international advocacy work; moving deinstitutionalisation higher up the European Commission’s agenda and ensuring the appropriate funds are allocated to it.

Our vision, mission and values



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

Lumos' mission is to end the systematic institutionalisation of disadvantaged children across Europe.

Lumos' purpose is to ensure that, by 2030, all children in Europe will be living in family settings or specialised placements that meet all their needs, respect their rights and ensure they can develop to their full potential.

Lumos' key considerations

All NGOs have limited resources and capacity. Lumos' mission is focused and achievable, but requires significant mobilisation of resources to translate our aims into real change for children. With this in mind, we take account of five key considerations in planning and executing all our work.

Impact We ensure that everything we do has a direct impact on children in institutions or at risk of institutionalisation. From assessing individual children, to chairing expert groups, to lobbying the European Commission, we ensure that our actions are making positive change happen for children.

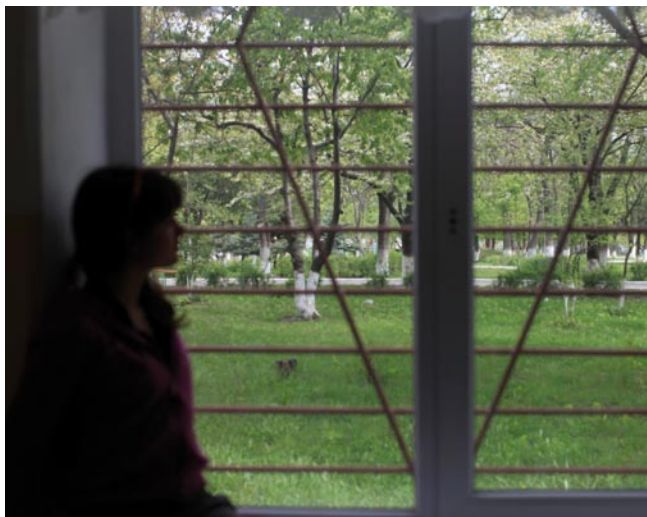
Quality We work with senior professionals in a wide range of fields to ensure high quality in all our programmes, and particularly in the development of services for vulnerable children and their families.

Scale We develop strategic partnerships and influence the efforts of others to ensure resources are directed towards deinstitutionalisation. This makes it possible to bring examples of good practice to scale, engendering lasting change for thousands of children at local, national and international levels.

Sustainability We build exit strategies into all our work. We do not replace the function of the State authorities or local NGOs. Our support and guidance assists local actors to make change happen and to take ownership of that change.

Value for money We make every effort to deploy our finances strategically – influencing other donors and supporting governments to find innovative ways to release resources and direct them towards improved services for vulnerable children.

Deinstitutionalisation



“The process of deinstitutionalisation is not simply about closing buildings or even developing new services. Most importantly it is a medium through which children in care are given the opportunity to reclaim their identities and to express their individuality.”

Georgette Mulheir, Lumos Chief Executive

Residential care institutions are often called ‘orphanages’, but in reality only a tiny percentage of the million children in the European region living in these large facilities are orphans; the majority have at least one living parent. Poverty is the primary reason for children being separated from their families. But many children from ethnic minorities (particularly Roma families) and those with physical, sensory or intellectual disabilities are systematically institutionalised.

Institutions are established with good intentions, in the belief that they are the best way to look after children. However, over 60 years’ research and practice has demonstrated that growing up in

institutions harms children’s health, development and future life chances. The evidence shows that family and community based forms of care are more likely to meet the needs of children. Deinstitutionalisation is the process of transforming the system: moving children out of large institutions, shutting them down and providing a range of alternative, integrated family and community-based services.

Lumos works alongside governments, policy-makers and practitioners to assist in restructuring the care systems for children, to ensure that they receive the health, education and social care they need.



A brief overview of our key achievements in 2010, by country programme

Moldova

Lumos has been working closely with local authorities to plan a major programme of change:

Three institutions were prioritised for closure in three pilot counties

405 children living in institutions were assessed individually

Of these, nearly 100 were identified who could be reintegrated with a little support to the families

91 children were reunited with their families, after international and local experts worked together to develop preparation programmes for children and families

A further 16 children were prevented from entering the institutions

Many children (assessed as having disabilities) were supported to enter mainstream schools in their communities and training was provided for a large number of professionals (e.g. social workers, doctors) to support the reintegration of children into the community

Czech Republic

Lumos was instrumental in the creation of the National Centre for Transformation, which was established by the Government as the body charged with managing the deinstitutionalisation of the system of care for children and adults with disabilities:

As a result of awareness-raising on the particular vulnerability of children in social care homes (where children with disabilities live together with adults), the Government decided to prioritise these children and ensure they would be the first to be removed from institutions and provided with appropriate community based services

We have provided support and guidance in the development and implementation of deinstitutionalisation plans for 33 social care homes

Four pilot counties have been established, with the team responsible for implementing the Government's 'National action plan for the transformation and unification of the system of care for children in need'

We provided the tools, methodological framework and training for the Government's strategic review of the system of looking after children in the pilot counties

Montenegro

Lumos entered into a formal partnership with UNICEF, to provide technical advice and support in the agency's role of implementing deinstitutionalisation in the country:

We provided guidance on the completion of UNICEF and the Government's successful application for EC funding to support the deinstitutionalisation process

.....

Our advice on the care of children with severe disabilities influenced a reorganisation of the institution in which they live, ensuring greater protection, as well as access to education and therapeutic support that they had not received previously

.....

We co-facilitated a Strategic Review of the system of caring for children, together with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and UNICEF

.....

Lumos' work resulted in closer inter-ministerial cooperation between the Ministries of Labour and Social Welfare, Education and Health, who agreed to work together on the Strategic Review and planning reform

Bulgaria

Lumos was asked by the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP) of the Bulgarian Government to provide technical assistance to their reform programme. We set up a country office and team during 2010 and rapid progress has been made since:

We facilitated an action-planning workshop; using Lumos methodology, an inter-ministerial working group developed a comprehensive action plan for the closure of 137 institutions over 15 years, through the development of family and community based health, education and social services

.....

We provided technical advice and support to the Government on the closure of 28 institutions for children with severe and complex disabilities

.....

We supported the Government in responding to the needs of a large number of institutionalised children with severe malnutrition; providing emergency and medium-term support to improve the level of care for children with eating and drinking difficulties

.....

Further to Lumos' advocacy, deinstitutionalisation plans in Bulgaria will now remove approximately 7,500 children from institutions and should prevent at least 10,000 other children from entering institutions

.....

Our international advocacy has also helped deliver an increase of EC funding allocated to deinstitutionalisation, from €20m to €110m

Inclusive Education

“Inclusive education changes children’s lives, because it ensures all children have a chance to experience mainstream education, regardless of their physical or intellectual abilities or financial difficulties. Children enjoy being part of the life of their families, mainstream schools, and communities. They are not ‘invisible’ any more, closed in residential institutions, far away from real life. Inclusive education is also helping to change the mindsets of parents, teachers, people in the community by building a more understanding and integrated society.”

Galina Bulat, *Inclusive Education Project Manager, Lumos Moldova*

Of the one million children in institutions across the European region approximately half are living in residential special schools. A lack of inclusive education within the community results in children with special educational needs being separated from their families in order to be provided with an education. Therefore, the development and practical implementation of inclusive education policies and practices is a key pillar of our deinstitutionalisation work.

In 2010, Lumos Moldova started piloting an inclusive education programme, which combined the development of national policy with direct implementation at the local level.



41 children with disabilities who were living in residential special schools were reintegrated into 16 mainstream schools

We supported the Ministry of Education in Moldova to develop an Inclusive Education policy and action plan, which was approved by the Government

Lumos raised awareness and delivered training to local politicians, service managers, hundreds of teachers, social workers, health professionals and parents in 80 schools across the country in order to support the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools

Monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes demonstrated considerable success across all these schools



Infant Mortality

The analysis of the infant mortality rate in the Republic of Moldova reported a significant drop to 11.8 deaths per 1000 live births in 2010, compared with 20.2 in 1996. In spite of this decrease, the infant mortality rate in Moldova is still almost three times the European average. The Moldovan Government has committed itself to the task of reducing infant and under-five mortality by two-thirds between 1990 and 2015.

The Ministry of Health asked Lumos to help develop an integrated approach where community health professionals work in close cooperation with social workers to prevent mortality of young children, who die at home, because of lack of access to services, lack of education or, sadly, child abuse and neglect.

In 2009 Lumos and the Moldovan Government carried out research on infant mortality in the home. This research formed the basis of a new National Regulation on the prevention of infant mortality, developed with Lumos' support. The Government of Moldova passed this landmark decision in December 2010.

The implementation of this Regulation is essential, because it will prevent the deaths of young children from vulnerable families who are dying at home, without medical care. It will also ensure cooperation among health and social sectors at all levels.

Doctors, health visitors and social workers were trained on social service assessment and early intervention. Lumos and the Government will be monitoring closely the results.



“There is no children’s right more important than the right to life, survival and development. Yet, across Europe, children’s chances of survival vary dramatically, dependent on the country and community they are born into. Lumos is striving to reduce these inequalities and ensure as many children as possible have a real chance of a future.”

Georgette Mulheir, Lumos Chief Executive

Lumos' Remote Expert Support Service (RESS)

"The most enjoyable and rewarding aspect of our work is seeing the positive outcomes for children. Lumos is making it possible for vulnerable children to live with their families. It is a pleasure to share expertise with social workers, teachers and health professionals. Due to their dedication and resourcefulness many thousands of children will receive the care and support they need."

Kerry Hall, coordinator of RESS

At Lumos we aim to ensure that all professionals working with children have access to high quality training and tools to help them do their jobs as well as possible. RESS provides direct support to personnel in the field who are transforming institutions and developing new services, preparing children to move to their families and preventing harm and abuse of children. This crucial work is provided at a distance, using technology to bring together professionals from many countries.

In 2010, the RESS team was involved in:

Supporting training across all our country projects

Organising study visits (arranging for delegations of policy makers and practitioners from our countries of operation to experience a range of integrated children's services in the UK)

Sourcing international experts and organising their visits to our different programmes to advise on particular aspects of the deinstitutionalisation process

Developing, in cooperation with our country teams, governments and local authorities, appropriate tools, guidelines and training materials for the assessment work with children in all our countries

Preparing toolkits, training materials and other resources

RESS maintains regular contact with Lumos teams via Skype, telephone and email to respond to any issues, as well as programme visits to deliver training and support, where necessary.



Study visits

In order for the reform of children's services to be successful, politicians and decision makers need to have a clear vision and understanding of the alternative solutions to institutional care. Lumos organises a series of study visits for key decision makers and senior personnel from governments and local authorities. This involves visits to a wide range of social services for children, meetings with service providers and training by experts in deinstitutionalisation.

In 2010, we arranged seven study visits to the UK – three for decision makers at the Moldovan Ministries of Health, Education and Social Protection and four for decision makers and directors of children's homes in the Czech Republic.

The delegations visited local authorities' children's services, focusing on disability services and the prevention of separation of children from their families. These included children's centres, integrated services for children with disabilities and foster and residential care, inclusive education and monitoring and inspection systems.

"Study visits are a very useful tool in proving that it is possible to provide good care services without relying on large institutions. It is also more cost-effective. Until you see this for yourself, it is difficult to believe it. It is one thing to hear about community-based services, but another to see in reality how the system is organised around needs of children and families and involves multi-agency cooperation."

Petra Kačirková, Lumos Country Representative, Czech Republic

"I had the opportunity to acquaint myself with the highly-developed services, which are offered to vulnerable children and families in Camden. This study visit gave me confidence in the transformation processes in the Czech Republic and showed me the direction we should take."

Jakub Vavra, Head of Educational-Treatment unit in Chrudim's children's home (with school), Czech Republic



A recent study visit to Sheffield City Council

"This was a most interesting and comprehensive study trip - we visited the OFSTED Head Office in London, National Safeguarding Unit, Parents Consortium, a Surestart Centre and a range of schools providing for children with disabilities. We also attended an international conference on Disability Medicine in Bristol, which was a great opportunity for us to understand the complexities, challenges and opportunities for change, especially as Moldova was at the time in the final stage of ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities."

Natalia Simagustina, Quality Assurance Project, Lumos Moldova

Advocacy, influencing and work with the EU

Lumos expanded its international advocacy work during 2010. Our primary aim was to increase the importance and awareness of deinstitutionalisation amongst politicians and civil servants at the EU level. We focused on improving the way EU funding is used to reform systems of institutional care, including the following:

Delivered training in deinstitutionalisation to 50 desk officers from the European Commission in Brussels, who are responsible for billions of Euro of EU funds. These funds can be used to reform health, education and social services across the EU member-states

Provided advice to managers and desk officers responsible for EU funds for Bulgaria for the deinstitutionalisation process across the country

Offered advice to the Hungarian Government in relation to their planning of disability services

Lumos continued to chair and provide a secretariat to the European Expert Group (EEG) on deinstitutionalisation, which brings together umbrella organisations representing thousands of NGOs across Europe. The group lobbies the European Commission and European Parliament to improve the European approach to deinstitutionalisation

Key outcomes:

Increased involvement by key UN agencies (UNICEF and OHCHR) in the work of the EEG in Brussels. This adds significant weight to the argument for deinstitutionalisation

Deinstitutionalisation was included in the EU Disability Strategy and Anti-Poverty Strategy

Bulgarian National Action plan for deinstitutionalisation was accelerated and improved and additional EU funding was sourced

European Commission officers asked Lumos and the EEG to provide guidelines on deinstitutionalisation to assist them in making decisions about funding reform programmes



WHO Declaration on Children with Intellectual Disabilities



Declaration – Priority 3

In 2009 the World Health Organisation (WHO) Europe and Lumos hosted a successful consultation meeting on the 'European Declaration on the Health of Children and Young People with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families'. In 2010 we worked in partnership with WHO Europe to provide support towards the adoption of the Declaration by all member-state governments.

The Declaration sets out ten priorities which, if implemented, should result in the full inclusion in society of all children with intellectual disabilities in the European region.

In 2010, we:

Coordinated the input of NGOs into the Declaration and helped to modify the Declaration following consultation with NGOs and governments

Promoted the Declaration by creating, producing and disseminating regular e-Newsletters

Supported the WHO Europe in organising an international conference in Bucharest, where young people with intellectual disabilities from three countries shared their experiences and talked about the Declaration

Provided financial support for self-advocates and small NGOs from across Europe to attend the conference

We also produced easy-read posters with CHANGE (a UK-based human rights organisation) on the Declaration to empower children and adults with intellectual disabilities to take part in lobbying governments to adopt the Declaration. The poster was produced in Romanian, English and Russian. (See inside back cover for a copy of the poster).



"The Declaration is about having rights. It will help people with learning disabilities. A lot of the time we don't know we've got rights. And the Declaration was agreed by governments. If we can show people that we know about our rights, we are not vulnerable. If we know about this kind of law people have to listen to us because we have got rights to live independently, to have relationships, to have families, to have jobs and for people not to put us down."

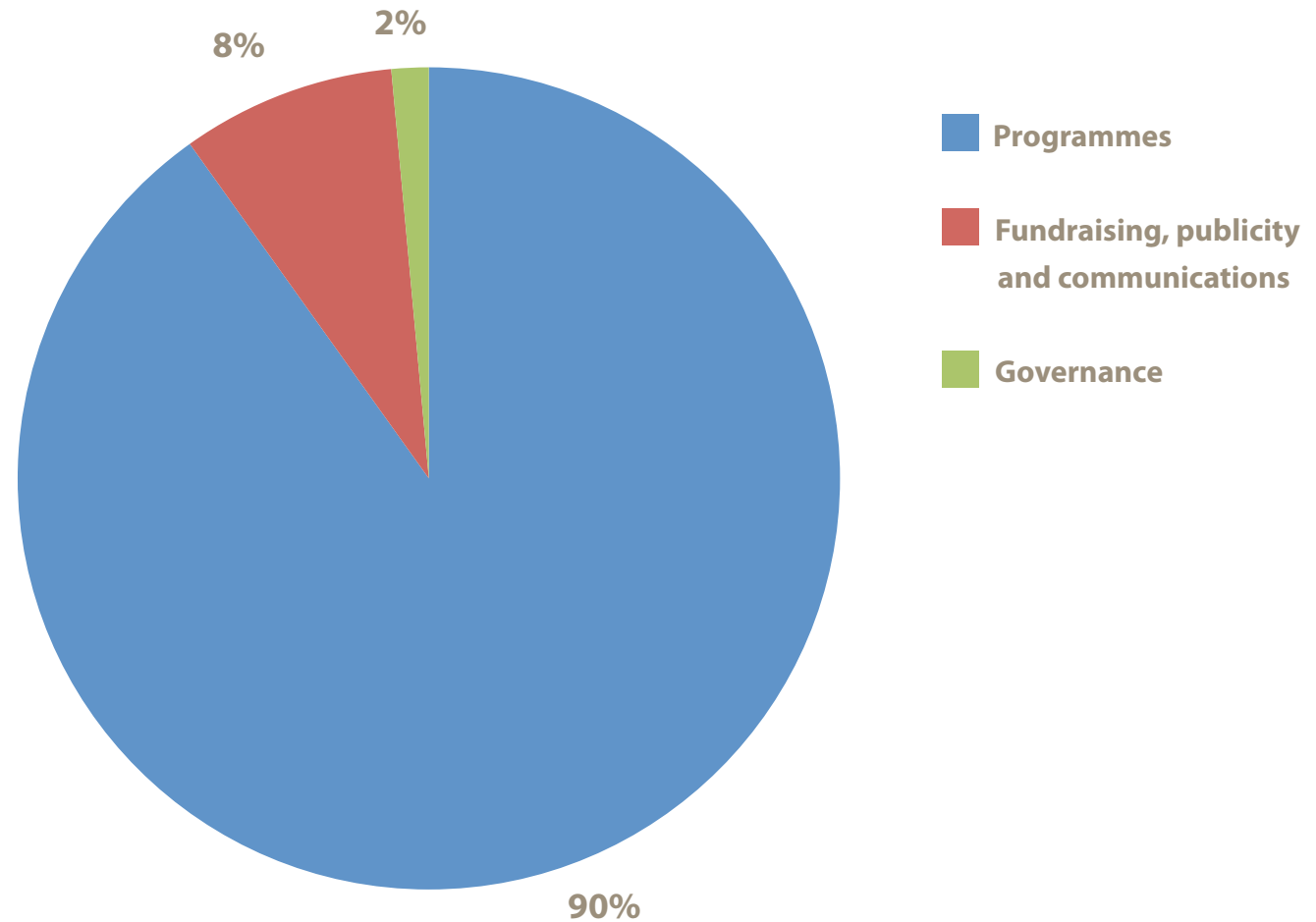
Shaun Webster, a human rights and self-advocate trainer, speaker and campaigner for CHANGE

The Declaration was signed and endorsed by all WHO Europe member-states – 53 countries

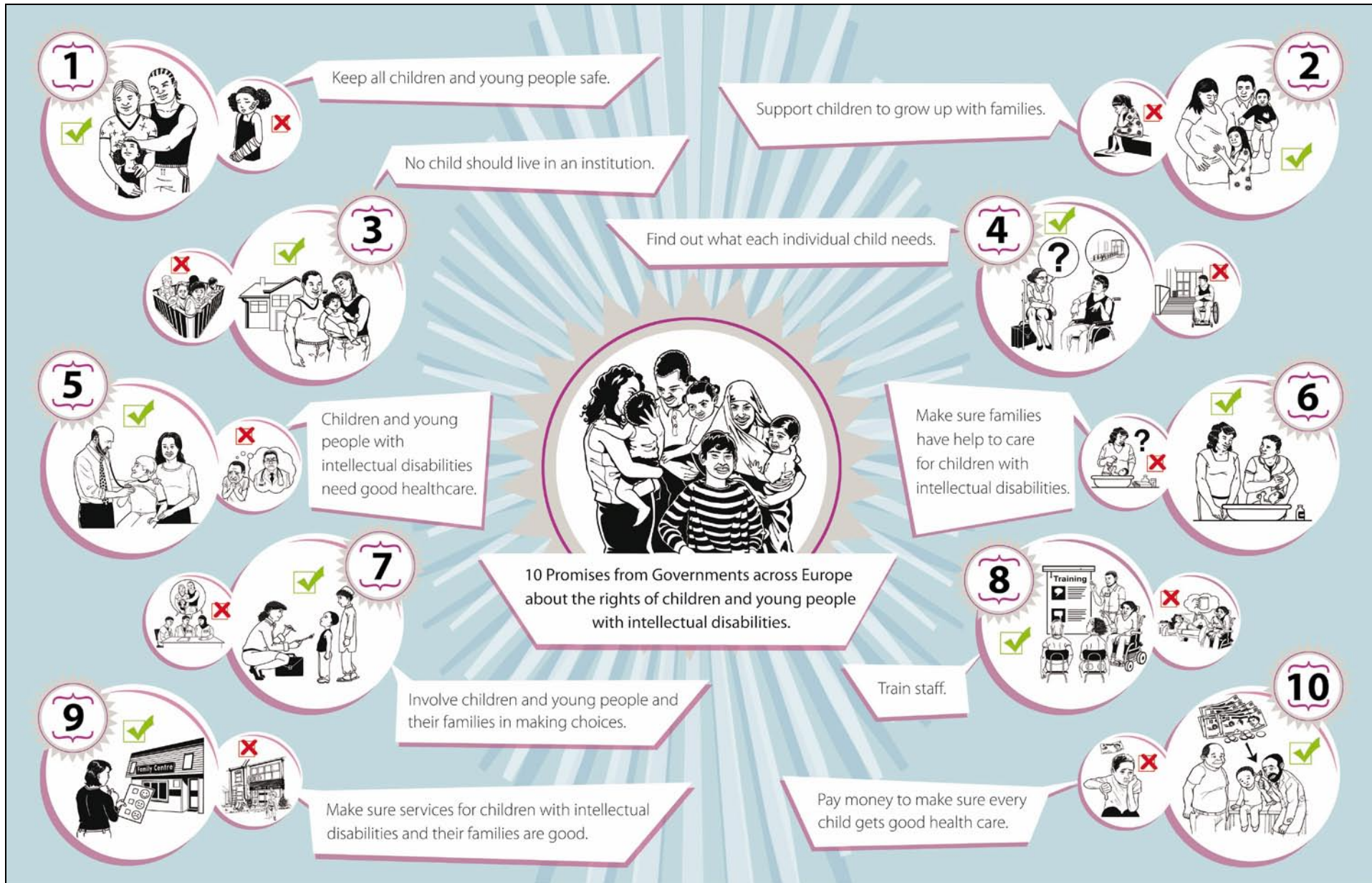
Financial Review

Lumos' incoming resources totalled £443,044*. The principal source of income arose from advances and royalties on sales of the book, "The Tales of Beedle the Bard", by J K Rowling, the rights to which Lumos acquired for a period of five years from December 2008.

Total outgoing resources for the year were £4,100,201, of which 90% was expended on charitable activities, 8% on generating income, publicity and communications and 2% on governance.



** This figure reflects the fact that much of the expected royalty income was accrued in 2009. The actual cash received from royalties in 2010 was £2,819,191.*



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