

Helping out-of-school children get back to school

THE
LUMINOS FUND 



121 million reasons to invest in The Luminos Fund



According to UNESCO 121 million children worldwide are out of school. Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for more than half of these children and has the highest out-of-school rate of all regions.

When children miss out on acquiring basic numeracy and literacy skills they are excluded from formal education for life. Lack of education puts children at a much greater risk of a lifetime of poverty and poor health, creating a cycle they will pass on to their children.

UNICEF recognises the need to help out-of-school children. However, most current interventions are based on reforming existing state-run education in countries of high prevalence and on addressing only some of the root causes. While necessary, these measures do not provide immediate impact.

The Luminos Fund

The Luminos Fund is based on the success of the Speed School programme funded by the Legatum Foundation which has helped over 100,000 children get back to school in West Africa and Ethiopia.

With the concept proven, anchor donors Legatum Foundation and fund manager, Geneva Global, have scaled the programme into a pooled funding vehicle enabling many more donors to collaborate to help out-of-school children back to class.

The Fund combines the rigour and discipline of the investment world with the purpose and passion of the philanthropic sector in order to optimise impact.



A comprehensive approach

The Luminos Fund aims to restore hope and opportunity for millions who are out of school.

The lead intervention, Speed School, is an innovative model developed in Africa and based on accelerated learning techniques which compress three years of curriculum into ten months and enables graduates to acquire the numeracy and literacy skills needed to re-enter formal education.

Helping children catch up and get back to school is just the beginning. Helping them stay in school and learn effectively is the greater goal. Offering the most comprehensive approach to the global out-of-school challenge, Speed School encompasses pedagogical innovations, economic empowerment for families, early childhood development and school readiness for preschoolers, and teacher training in mainstream schools.

The approach is designed to identify and address the reasons why children drop out of school or why they are unable to attend.

The accelerated learning model rapidly returns children to school with great effect, while the activity-based learning style introduces 'student focussed' teaching methods. With class sizes limited to 25 children, students are able to gain personal attention from their teachers.

Preschool-age children are prepared for timely enrolment into first grade through a child-to-child programme and education quality is improved in formal primary schools through local-link school development and teacher training.

Self-Help Savings Groups address the poverty barriers to attendance thereby improving families' economic capacity and helping spark attitudinal changes towards children's education.

Many Speed School Facilitators trained in active learning methods go on to obtain formal teaching qualifications and teaching positions in mainstream schools.

The Fund also provides a platform to develop and pilot quality enhancing innovations in education which have potential to scale.

Together these components have proven to be effective in increasing school attendance and increasing the likelihood of primary school completion in beneficiary communities in Ethiopia since 2011.

Highlights to date

Over 100,000 children enrolled in Speed School

96 percent of Speed School graduates continued to mainstream primary schools

More than 12,000 preschoolers enrolled in the school readiness programme in preparation for first grade enrolment

86% of Speed School graduates remain in mainstream education for more than 12 months

2,486 facilitators trained

Over 45,000 mothers benefited from self-help savings groups

The future

With the Luminos Fund now launched, the goal is to mobilise \$250m to impact six million children throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, and other countries and contexts where there are large numbers of out-of-school children. The Fund is piloting new interventions to help secondary school children, and children in conflict and refugee environments.

The Luminos Fund

Anchor donor



The **Legatum Foundation** is the development arm of the Legatum Group, a global private investment firm which allocates capital to projects, people and ideas that create sustainable prosperity. The Foundation invests in community-based organisations and projects that have impacted the lives of over 270 million people since 1999.

In addition to the Luminos Fund, Legatum has incubated and launched philanthropic investment funds such as The END Fund and The Freedom Fund to address global challenges.

To learn more visit www.legatum.org.

Fund manager



Geneva Global is an innovative social enterprise that works with clients to maximise the performance of their global philanthropic and social impact initiatives. Geneva Global provides strategic advice, independent research, and programme management. Their work on behalf of clients has directly benefited more than 60 million people through 1,500 projects in over 100 countries.

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The Luminos Fund

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Kefyalech with her daughter Tschaynesh who has recently started Speed School.

