

# Back to school for good

Preparing out-of-school kids to return to school in **Ethiopia**

The Luminos Second Chance program is a 10-month accelerated education program designed to get out-of-school children back into the formal school system.

## The problem

- The Syrian civil war has led to the greatest refugee and displacement crisis of our time (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). Among the 4.9 million refugees are 2.4 million children, as many as 700,000 of whom are out of school (UNICEF). This adds strain to an already over-burdened public school system.
- In Ethiopian Government schools, the pupil-teacher ratio is 54:1 (Worldbank)
- The fallout from two civil wars and the 2014-15 Ebola outbreak can still be felt today in Liberia's education system. In 2016, the UN reported that Liberia had the highest proportion of children missing from primary school in the world, at nearly two-thirds.

## The partner

The Luminos Fund was incubated by the Legatum Foundation and is founded on a core belief in the power of private philanthropy to drive innovation in education. The Luminos Fund's Second Chance program employs an innovative program to help out-of-school children aged 8 to 14 years old get a second chance at an education.

## The philanthropic solution

The Second Chance program utilizes an accelerated learning program, community mobilization and capacity building to identify out-of-school students, get them up to speed and prepare schools to accept them. The student-centered, activity-based learning model is radically different than the typical classroom models.

## The evidence

A six-year longitudinal evaluation conducted by the University of Sussex Centre for International Education shows:

- 75% of Second Chance students were still in school six years after graduating from the program.
- Former Second Chance students are less likely to drop out compared to government school students.

## The impact

Across the three countries, Luminos helped over 130,000 children get a second chance at education. On average, 90% of them have transitioned into formal primary schools and 75% of children show significant improvement in literacy and numeracy levels.

## UBS AG

UBS Optimus Foundation  
P.O. Box  
8098 Zurich

[ubs.com/optimus](https://ubs.com/optimus)

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