



Press release

KENYA, STILL I RISE SCHOOL BECOMES IB WORLD SCHOOL “OUR EDUCATIONAL REVOLUTION STARTS HERE”

The non-profit organization's school has officially joined the best of the planet. It is the first in the world to offer refugee and vulnerable children the International Baccalaureate free of charge inside a slum

NAIROBI, 23 April 2024 — Three years after its opening, the Still I Rise International School in Nairobi, Kenya, has been **officially recognized as an IB World School**. Joining 5,700 of the best schools on the planet, it is now officially authorized to offer the International Baccalaureate for Middle Years Programme. Still I Rise's is **the first school in the world** to offer refugee and vulnerable children an excellent education, 100% free of charge, in one of Africa's largest slums.

“This is a historic day, not just for us, but for all who believe in the power of education as a world-changing factor. We have shown that dreams can come true, if only we take them seriously enough,” said **Nicolò Govoni**, CEO of Still I Rise. “It's been a long, difficult three-year journey, but **we succeeded in what many believed impossible**, to officially offer the International Baccalaureate to the most vulnerable children on Earth free of charge, to give them the opportunity to become the leaders the world needs.”

The final inspection of Still I Rise International School Nairobi by the International Baccalaureate Organization examiners took place in **February 2024**. Every single detail was carefully analyzed; from interviewing management, teachers, students and their parents, to investigating all documents and checking on school financing. Nothing was left to chance, and no concessions were made.

“I'm glad they didn't make any,” added Nicolò Govoni. “When the letter with the positive outcome finally arrived from the IB headquarter in Geneva a few days ago, we knew we hadn't begged for anything, from anyone. **We have worked hard and conquered every centimeter of such an incredible goal** — achieved while respecting our complete independence and without the resources of millions of dollars that other schools in the same circuit rely on yearly.”

IB is one of the most prestigious, exclusive educational paths, offered by only 0.1% of schools in the world, including renowned international schools such as the American School of Milan, Italy, St. George International School in Switzerland, or Dhirubhai Ambani International School in India. Still I Rise fulfilled its aim without accessing government or multinational funds; everything was possible thanks to donations from

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individual citizens as well as companies and foundations in line with the non-profit organization's ethical code.

A SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE WITHIN A SLUM

Still I Rise International School Nairobi is located in the **Mathare slum**. It's the first school in the world to offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme specifically to refugee and vulnerable children, 100% free of charge. The goal is to train a new, international ruling class with the necessary skills and social awareness to build a better world for all.

Beside academic subjects, students are taught core values to **become responsible global citizens**. 200 male and female students aged between 10 and 15, from 10 different countries, are enrolled in the school and taught a challenging program that encourages the development of critical thinking. Classes include eight different subject groups; language and literature, foreign language learning, individuals and society, art, design, mathematics, science, physical and health education. The teacher-student ratio is 1 to 10.

Still I Rise International School Nairobi offers **100% free of charge** high quality classes, school materials, uniforms designed by Giorgio Armani, artistic and leisure activities, sports, two daily meals and psychosocial support. Moreover, all students are guaranteed medical assistance, shuttle bus service, and participation in cultural events, co-curricular trips and clubs, as well as the chance to join summer camps and international trips.

The excellence of Still I Rise International School Nairobi has already been recognized by **international awards**. Following a special mention in the International Schools Awards and the inclusion among the ten best international schools in the world for community collaboration by the World's Best Schools Awards, in 2024 the School received the **first National Diversity and Inclusion Awards & Recognition (DIAR) award**. Today, as part of the IB World School circuit, Still I Rise International School Nairobi is officially one of the best schools on the planet.

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