



**STILL  
I RISE**

# EXPANDING HORIZONS

Supporting Transitioning Students in Syria



# SUMMARY

## Topics of discussion



- 1.** Overview
- 2.** Challenges and Achievements
- 3.** Support for Transitioning Students
- 4.** Ensuring Long-Term Success
- 5.** Quotes and Testimonials
- 6.** Child Protection and Safeguarding
- 7.** Conclusion

# 1 OVERVIEW



## Overview

# INTRODUCTION

**Still I Rise Ma'an Academy in Syria** has been a transformative space for vulnerable children, **helping them transition into public and private schools** while ensuring they are well-prepared for their academic journey.

**The 2023-2024 cohort consisted of 80 students**, many of whom had limited prior education or had been out of school for years.

By providing these children with both academic and psychosocial support, **SIR facilitated their smooth enrollment into formal education systems.**



## Overview

# INTRODUCTION

On **September 21st**, 2024, most of the students from this cohort were enrolled in public schools, where their grade levels were determined based on non-governmental assessments.

For students who were unable to secure places in public schools, **12 children were accepted into private schools**, thanks to financial support and discounts arranged by SIR.



# 2 CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



## Challenges and Achievements


# EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES

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Many students entering Still I Rise Academy were **refugees or internally displaced**, with inconsistent or no prior formal education. One of the greatest challenges was the **educational gap**, which, although not exceeding two years, still posed difficulties in crowded public schools that often hesitate to accept students with significant academic delays.

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Additionally, **psychosocial challenges**, such as trauma from displacement and instability, needed to be addressed to ensure the children's mental well-being and ability to focus on their studies. SIR provided a nurturing environment where **students could develop the confidence and resilience needed to overcome these barriers.**





# 100%

**OF THE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN  
EITHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS**



## Challenges and Achievements

# ACHIEVEMENTS

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The cohort's greatest achievement is that **100% of the students were successfully enrolled in either public or private schools.**

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This is a testament to SIR's holistic approach, addressing not only academic readiness but also emotional and social development.



# 3 SUPPORT FOR TRANSITIONING STUDENTS



## Support for Transitioning Students

# NEXT STEPS FOR STUDENTS

With the new academic year underway, the 80 transitioning students will continue their journey in public or private schools. SIR will remain an integral part of their support system by maintaining communication with the schools and families. This ongoing connection ensures the students' attendance, progress, and well-being are closely monitored throughout the year.

### FURTHER SUPPORT FROM SIR

SIR will continue to support these students through various initiatives:



**School Kits:** Providing necessary supplies such as books, uniforms, and stationery to all students.



**Ongoing Engagement:** Staying in contact with the families and celebrating students' achievements at the end of each school year.



**Regular Visits to SIR:** Inviting students to return to the academy for mentorship, support, and community events throughout the year.

# 4 ENSURING LONG-TERM SUCCESS



## Ensuring Long-Term Success

# COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC PROGRESS

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SIR is dedicated to ensuring that each child remains engaged in their academic journey. By gathering data from the schools and maintaining regular communication with school principals, **the team will monitor students' attendance, academic performance, and overall well-being.**

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This data-driven approach will help identify any potential challenges early and provide tailored support as needed.



## Ensuring Long-Term Success

# PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engaging families is crucial to the success of the students. **SIR's team will work closely with the parents,** ensuring they are informed and involved in their children's education.

Community celebrations, where families are invited to celebrate their children's milestones, will help foster a sense of pride and belonging.



# 5

## QUOTES AND TESTIMONIALS



## Quotes and Testimonials **FROM STUDENTS**

“How useful has attending Still I Rise Academy been for your growth?”

**77.8%** VERY USEFUL

**3.7%**  
USEFUL

“How prepared do you feel for the next school after attending Still I Rise?”

**72.2%** VERY  
PREPARED

**16.7%**  
PREPARED



## Quotes and Testimonials **FROM STUDENTS**



# 81.5%

of students reported that attending SIR Academy was **beneficial** for their personal growth



# 88.9%

of students feel **prepared** for their next educational step after completing the program



## Quotes and Testimonials **FROM STUDENTS**

“How would you describe your life before Still I Rise?”

/ My life was almost non-existent in  
terms of ambitions and ideas



/ I didn't know how to read and write



/ Miserable life



## Quotes and Testimonials

# FROM STUDENTS

“What are the biggest changes you have noticed in yourself since you started at Still I Rise?”

/ My self-confidence has strengthened  
a lot



/ I learned to read and write properly

/ Improvement in psychological and  
educational status



## Quotes and Testimonials

# FROM TEACHERS AND STAFF

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The greatest success has been enrolling all students into schools, providing them with a new beginning in their educational journeys.

### PROUD MOMENTS

Students like Khadeeja and Muhammed, who had no prior formal schooling, were able to enroll in grades suitable to their age with ease, highlighting the effectiveness of the preparatory work done by SIR.



## Quotes and Testimonials

# KEY ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS

**The educational gap** for these students did not exceed two years, making their integration into formal schools more feasible.

Despite overcrowded schools, students were accepted because **they met the academic standards necessary** for their respective grades.

Remarkable **59% improvement** across the four main focus subjects over the year:

**ARABIC - 58%**

**ENGLISH - 57%**

**MATHS - 35%**

**IT - 86%**

# 6

## CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING



## Child Protection and Safeguarding

# GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

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Throughout the year, the children demonstrated significant growth in **responsibility**, **independence**, and **teamwork**.

Each student became aware of their duties and responsibilities within both academic and social settings.



## Child Protection and Safeguarding **CHALLENGES OVERCOME**

One of the most pressing challenges faced by SIR's Child Protection and Safeguarding team was **bullying**.

This was addressed through **awareness sessions** aimed at educating students about the harmful effects of bullying and the consequences of such behavior in school.

Additionally, challenges related to sexual education were tackled by providing safe and informed discussions to **address students' curiosities in a healthy manner**.





# 7

## CONCLUSION

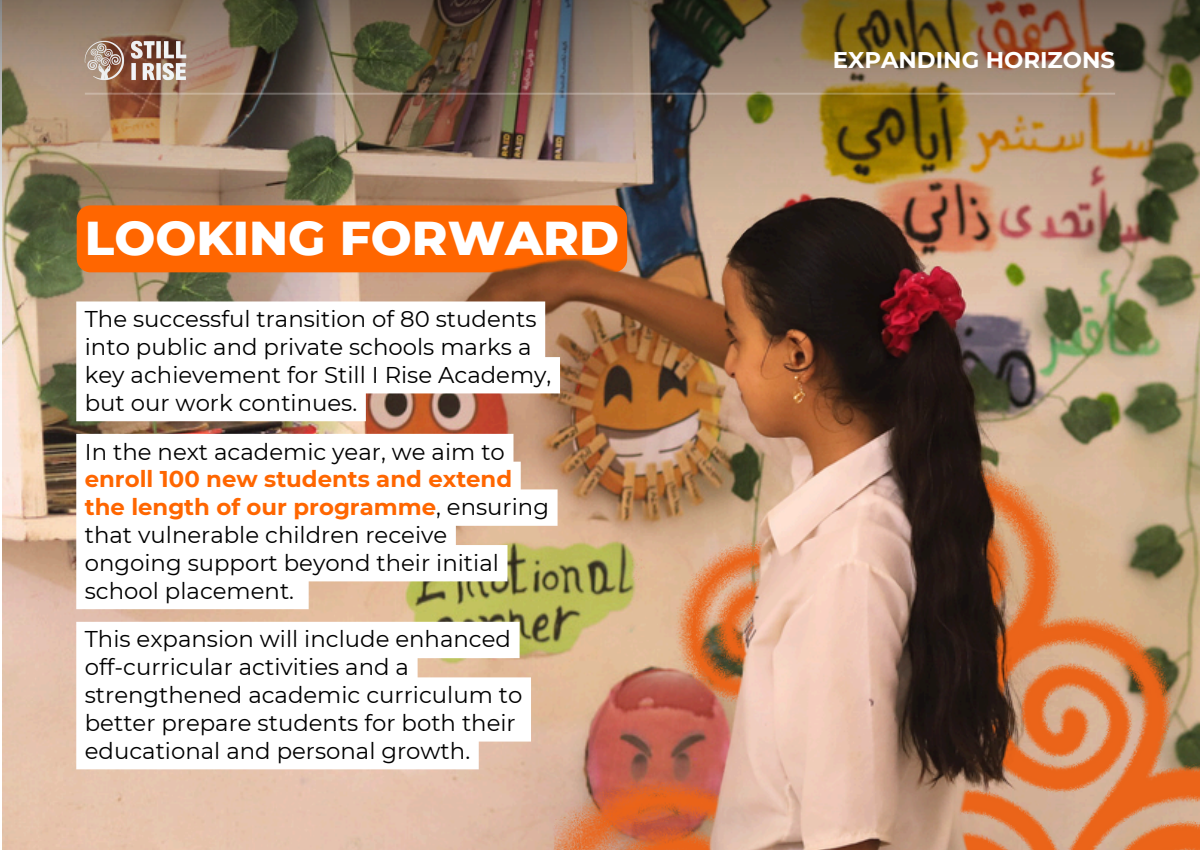


## LOOKING FORWARD

The successful transition of 80 students into public and private schools marks a key achievement for Still I Rise Academy, but our work continues.

In the next academic year, we aim to **enroll 100 new students and extend the length of our programme**, ensuring that vulnerable children receive ongoing support beyond their initial school placement.

This expansion will include enhanced off-curricular activities and a strengthened academic curriculum to better prepare students for both their educational and personal growth.





# CHANGING THE WORLD TOGETHER, ONE CHILD AT A TIME.

For more information, contact us at [schools@stillirisengo.org](mailto:schools@stillirisengo.org).

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