



Report Advocacy

UNVEILING THE PRESENT, SHAPING THE FUTURE

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CHANGES THE FUTURE ↗

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WHY DO WE DO THIS?

This report is not just a set of numbers: it is a window into the contexts in which we work.

It is the strength of stolen dreams that we reclaim. Migration, conflicts, and child labor are not abstract concepts but open wounds that mark the stories of our students and their families. We tell these stories to awaken consciences, to imagine a future where no child is left in the shadows. **Because we believe that changing the world is possible. And that change always begins—one child at a time.**

+ READ THE FULL LETTER



Imagine every desk in every primary, middle, and high school across the entire European Union—empty. A deafening silence.

This is not just an image; it is reality. Around the world, more than 250 million children are deprived of the power that only education can provide.

Now, imagine filling every football stadium on the planet three times over. That is the number of children forced to work. Try again to picture a number as vast as the combined populations of the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. These are the children surviving on less than \$2.15 a day. Think of what it would mean if the entire population of Europe had to grow up under the constant sound of explosions. This is the daily reality for millions of children living in war zones. Among them, 47.2 million children have been forced to flee their homes, becoming invisible among the endless lines of the displaced. And finally, picture 400 million children who, despite attending school, remain illiterate.

This is the heartbreaking reality we face in the places where we work—Yemen, Syria, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Colombia.

And so, we work relentlessly every day because **we are chasing a bold dream: to end the global education crisis within our lifetimes.** Ambitious, I know. But every child in the world deserves the best education possible, and we will keep fighting until it happens.

That is why we open schools of excellence in the most devastated places, providing free, high-quality education and creating safe spaces where every child can find a desk, a book, but most importantly, the certainty of being seen and loved. A place where they can begin to believe in themselves again.

We have chosen not to bow to a broken system. That is why we have created a revolutionary educational model that guarantees free, high-quality education—regardless of where a child is born.

Happy reading,
Giulia Cicoli

REPORT STRUCTURE

Each country section is divided into five key sections:

Context Analysis: the socioeconomic conditions of the communities in which we operate.

Challenges and Vulnerabilities: the main obstacles to children's education and well-being.

Interventions and Solutions: concrete actions to address these challenges.

Results and Impact: the progress achieved through our work.

Future Prospects: our Commitment for lasting change.

Through data and testimonies, we tell how education can transform lives.



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS



8-year excellence path;



Accredited by the International Baccalaureate Organization



EMERGENCY SCHOOLS



Accelerated path of excellence for reintegration into formal schooling.



duration from 1 to 3 years.

OUR METHOD



International

COLOMBIA



Candidate School

ITALY*

SYRIA

Emergency

INDIA*

YEMEN

Emergency

COURT OF LAW*

RD CONGO

Emergency

KENYA

International
World School

*COMING SOON

CONCLUSIONS



SCUOLE INTERNAZIONALI



Percorso accelerato di
6 anni.



accreditato
Baccalaureato



SCUOLE D'EMERGENZA



Percorso accelerato di
6 anni con il rientro nel
sistema formale.

6 anni



SCHOOL IS HOME



Keyword: Beauty

We believe in a beautiful school, one that makes its students feel heard and valued.



SCUOLE INTERNAZIONALI



Percorso esemplare della durata
di 8 anni.



accreditate
Baccalaureato



SCUOLE D'EMERGENZA



Percorso accelerato di
5 anni con il rientro nel
sistema formale.

5 anni



STUDENT- CENTERED



Keyword: Democracy

We believe in a
democratic school,
where
self-determination
is the key.



SCUOLE INTERNAZIONALI



Percorso accelerato di 6 anni.



accreditato
Baccalaureato



SCUOLE D'EMERGENZA



Percorso accelerato di 6 anni
con il sostegno nel
contesto formale.

6 anni



TEACHER = MENTOR



Keyword: Family

We believe in a school
that becomes a
family, where
everyone feels safe.



SCUOLE INTERNAZIONALI



Percorso esemplare della durata
di 8 anni.



accreditato
Baccalaurato



SCUOLE D'EMERGENZA



Percorso accelerato di
5 anni con il rientro nel
sistema formale.

5 anni




GLOBAL THINKING



Keyword: Freedom


We believe in a School
that liberates rather
than imprisons. A
School that changes
the world.

 Aden, Yemen

FAMILIES AND SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

School year 2023/2024

The cradle of ancient civilizations, Yemen—once a crossroads of cultures and trade—is now a country scarred by years of conflict, leading to one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. The war has destroyed essential infrastructure, fragmented the social fabric, and left millions in extreme vulnerability. Families, often displaced and trapped in overcrowded refugee camps, struggle to access basic necessities such as clean water, medical care, and education. Children, in particular, bear the heaviest burden of this crisis, living in precarious conditions that threaten their physical, emotional, and social well-being.

 Aden, Yemen

GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN AND DISPLACEMENT

KEY DATA

about our students and families

66% internally displaced persons, mainly from Hodeidah



23% refugees from Somalia



60% live in refugee camps



+ DISPLACEMENT



DISPLACEMENT

The conflict has forced tens of thousands of families to flee their homes. Refugee camps, often overcrowded and lacking essential services, have become the only option for many of them.

Since the beginning of the conflict in Yemen in 2014, Hodeidah has experienced massive displacements due to military offensives, such as the one in 2018 and the attacks in 2024. **Despite the 2018 ceasefire agreement, the city has remained dangerous, with numerous civilian casualties.**

Aden, Yemen

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND FAMILY STRUCTURE

KEY DATA

Type of housing



32%
Rent



60%
Refugees
camps

Family Structure



has at least one adult who is economically dependent on the other members



with a family member disabled due to direct or indirect causes of war

+ HOUSING CONDITIONS



CONDIZIONI ABITATIVE E STRUTTURA FAMILIARE

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Housing insecurity severely limits access to essential services such as clean water and sanitation. Refugee camps do not provide a safe and dignified environment for children to grow up in.

Aden, Yemen

ECONOMIC CONDITION AND INCOME

KEY DATA

Average monthly family income:

200-300 EUROS/MONTH

30%

however, live on 1-2 dollars a day

36%

depends entirely on humanitarian aid.



100%

of women workers are employed exclusively in the cleaning sector



ECONOMIC CONDITION



CONDIZIONE ECONOMICA

ECONOMIC CONDITION



In Yemen, an economy dominated by precarious and low-paying jobs severely affects women.

With an average income of €200-300 per month—insufficient for a large household—many families struggle to meet their basic needs.

Aden, Yemen

CHILD LABOUR AND EXPLOITATION

KEY DATA



28%

has at least one minor child involved in work activities.

Activity:



Collection of recyclable materials



Household cleaning for families



Transport of light loads

Average age of onset:

12 ANNI with cases reported as young as 8 years of age.



LAVORO MINORILE E SPERANZA

CHILD LABOR



Many children in Yemen have no choice but to work to help their families survive.

This phenomenon not only jeopardizes their health but also prevents them from accessing education.

Aden, Yemen

EDUCATION AND LIMITED ACCESS

KEY DATA

Percentages of people who have never attended school.

72%
WOMEN

39%
MEN



ACCESS TO EDUCATION,

especially for women, **is severely restricted by economic and social barriers.**

Without formal schooling, the opportunities to improve their circumstances remain minimal.



EARLY MARRIAGE AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION

KEY DATA

54%

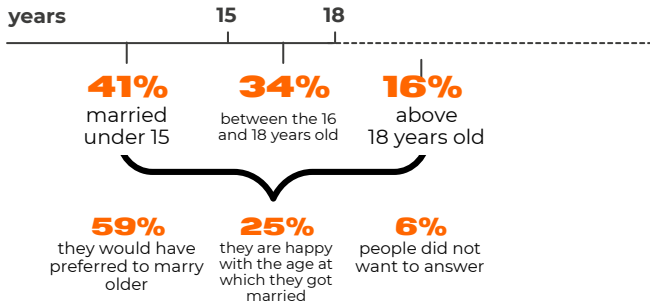
of families reported cases of early marriages.

Main reasons:

- Extreme poverty.
- Social pressures and reduction of economic burden.

+ EARLY MARRIAGE

Comparison between legal marriage age and actual age in Yemen.
31 women (3 did not want to answer)



[READ THE CONCLUSIONS](#)



EARLY MARRIAGE

It is often perceived as the only solution to extreme poverty, but it leads to the loss of educational opportunities and an uncertain future for many girls.



CONCLUSIONS

Summary of the main challenges:

- 1 Housing insecurity**
 - 2 Economic insecurity and informal work**
 - 3 Spread of child labor**
 - 4 Limited access to education**
especially female.
 - 5 Increase in early marriages**
 - 6 Prolonged conflict**
-



Aden, Yemen

BEYOND THE SCHOOL

Key interventions to build a better future

We protect our students both inside and outside of school

Click on the icons to learn more



**READ ABOUT
FUTURE
PERSPECTIVES**

**FUTURE WITHOUT
VIOLENCE**



**PREVENT TO
PROTECT**



**NOURISH
HOPE**

NOURISHING HOPE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?



17,979 meals served, providing children with the energy to study and grow healthily



205 kg of food packages and 11,517 kg of essential goods distributed, reducing hunger and the need for child labor.



Increased school attendance: meals served at school encourage families to send their children to study instead of work.

Yemen is suffering from one of the world's most severe food crises. Hunger endangers children's lives every day and hinders their ability to learn.



FUTURE WITHOUT VIOLENCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?



39 hours of individual counseling for emotional support and trauma management.



43 hours of group psychological support to strengthen resilience and community.



13 disciplinary cases managed with restorative justice to reduce conflict.



Raising awareness about bullying, anger management, and preventing domestic and school violence.



20 referrals activated to protect children from situations of abuse and neglect.

In a context marked by conflict, children grow up exposed to armed violence, bullying and punitive discipline. Many witness domestic abuse and have access to instruments of war.



PREVENT TO PROTECT

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT DO WE DO?



11 physical incidents managed with timely interventions, ensuring immediate care.



188 hygiene kits distributed to improve the sanitary conditions of students.



Partnerships with local clinics to provide access to essential medical care.



Reduction of school absences due to preventable diseases.

Lack of health facilities and poor hygiene expose children to preventable diseases, increasing infant mortality rates and school absenteeism.



Aden, Yemen

BUILDING LASTING CHANGE



Expand awareness programs to address child labor and early marriage.



Strengthening network systems with local partners to ensure timely interventions.



Greater emphasis on girls' education, fighting gender discrimination, and providing targeted support to ensure they stay in school.

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 Kolwezi, Congo

FAMILIES AND SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

School Year 2023/2024

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of the world's leading suppliers of strategic minerals, yet the wealth generated by the mining sector does not translate into significant improvements for local communities. Families living in mining areas face complex challenges, including housing insecurity, economic instability, labor exploitation, and a lack of essential services.

 Kolwezi, Congo

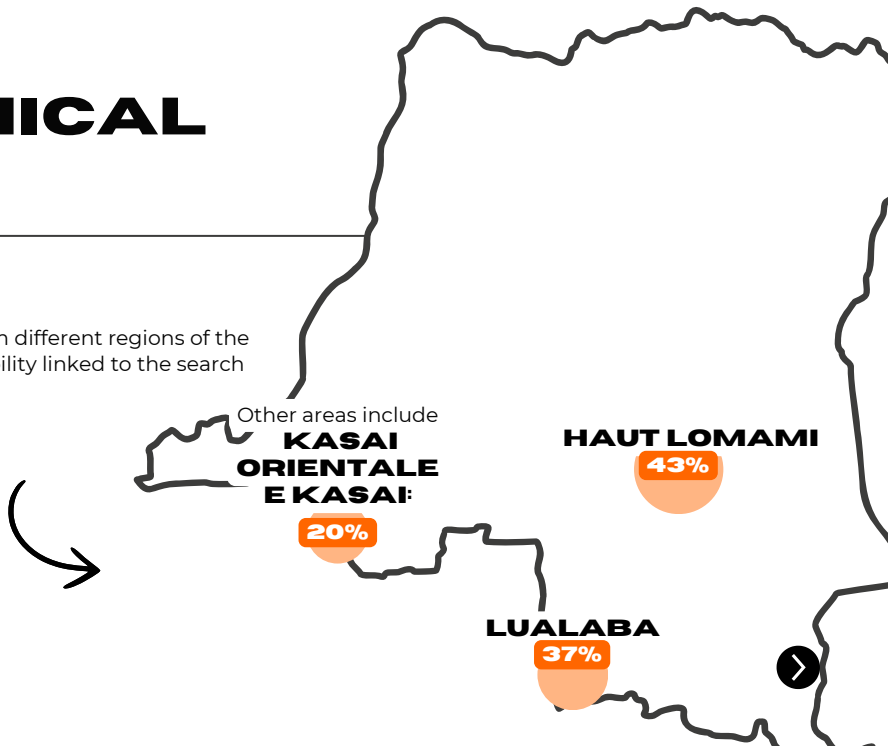
GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN

KEY DATA

The families interviewed come mainly from different regions of the DRC, highlighting significant internal mobility linked to the search for job opportunities in the mining sector.

Most of the interviewees come from:

+ MIGRATION



MIGRATION



This internal migration toward mining hubs like Kolwezi highlights **the economic centrality of these areas** while also revealing the impoverishment of the regions of origin, where opportunities are scarce due to large land concessions granted to private entities



Kolwezi, Congo

HOUSING CONTEXT

KEY DATA

Geographical distribution

Most households reside in the **Kakifuluwe** (71% households) and **Mutoshi** (27% households) neighborhoods, both located in the mining town of Kolwezi. Proximity to mining areas is a distinctive feature.

Type of housing



57%

Rent



41%

Own house



Drinking water



Stable electricity supply



Adequate sanitation

Infrastructure and services

Housing in these areas has insufficient infrastructure. Families report difficulties in accessing:



HOUSING INSECURITY



HOUSING INSECURITY

This situation reflects a certain degree of housing insecurity, especially for renters, who may face eviction if there are changes in labor dynamics or corporate policies.

70% of residents live in mining areas granted to Chemaf, a Chinese extraction company. This distribution highlights the strong connection between housing conditions and the mining industry—a common reality in many parts of the DRC—which exposes residents to the risk of forced eviction from their homes.

ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITION

KEY DATA

Main work:


 **62%**
Artisanal miners

 **19%**
Agriculture

 **19%**
Construction, trade and livestock sectors

Sources of income:

 **58%**
Sale of minerals

 **21%**
Temporary and casual work

 **15%**
Sale of food products

Financial responsibility:

91%

families have a single economic provider .



54% of these are supported by their spouse.

Only 7% of families have more than one member who contributes financially.

Economic instability:

61% of respondents do not know their monthly income.

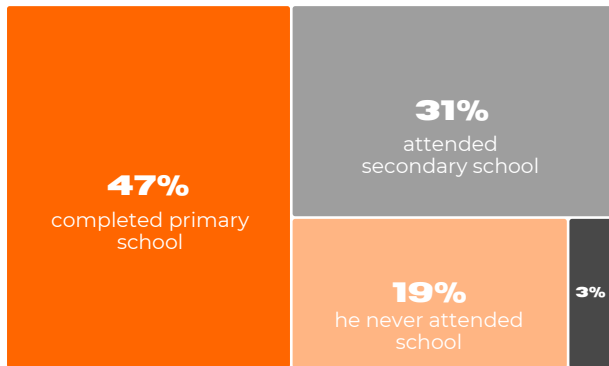
26% report having no income at all

Kolwezi, Congo

EDUCATION

KEY DATA

Education levels:



has completed
higher or
professional
education

**+ EARLY SCHOOL
DROPOUT**



EARLY SCHOOL DROPOUT



The majority of respondents dropped out of school **before the age of 17**, drastically reducing their opportunities for economic diversification.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN MINES

KEY DATA

Current activities:

70%

of the families work permanently in the mines.

Key activities include:

- Washing minerals
- Manual digging
- Selling extracted materials

Working conditions:



- Occupational diseases
- Sudden collapses
- Abuse by law enforcement or cooperatives
- Lack of social protections or sponsors

Limited access to cooperatives:



Only 4% of workers are affiliated with cooperatives.



Only 1% have health insurance.

Kolwezi, Congo

CHILD LABOUR

KEY DATA

Extent:

50%

of families declare that at least one child works in the mine.

Activities include:



Transporting heavy loads



Mineral washing



Work in confined and dangerous spaces

Early age:

On average, minors start working **at the age of 13**

Extreme cases report children as young as **1-2 years old** being involved



This reality represents a **serious violation of children's rights**, common in many areas of the DRC, driven by extreme poverty and the lack of alternatives.

 Kolwezi, Congo

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ASPECTS

KEY DATA

Early marriages:

54%

of those interviewed reported an increase in child marriages.

Power relations:

The presence of mining companies creates an imbalance of power between companies and local communities.

Residents often have no say in decisions that affect their lives.

Social tensions:

Competition for limited resources, such as water, agricultural land and health facilities, contributes **to internal conflicts and feelings of exclusion.**





Kolwezi, DRC

CONCLUSIONS

The collected data highlights a situation of economic and social vulnerability that reflects the structural issues of the DRC. The main challenges include:

- 1 Housing and working insecurity**
 - 2 Low levels of education and poor economic opportunities**
 - 3 Spread of child labor and early marriage.**
 - 4 Dangerous working conditions and absence of social protections,**
including the lack of access to medical care.
-



Kolwezi, DRC

BEYOND THE SCHOOL

Key interventions to build a better future

**We protect our
students both inside
and outside of school**

Click on the icons to learn more



**READ THE
FUTURE
PROSPECTIVES**

**A SAFER
FUTURE**



**HEALTH
PROTECTION**



**BUILDING
THE FUTURE**



**NOURISH
MIND AND
BODY**

NOURISH MIND AND BODY

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?



81,935 meals served



43,992 kg of food distributed



Increased school attendance: the attendance rate in 2024 reached over 90%.



Elimination of child labor: Food support relieves economic pressure on families, allowing children to focus on education.

Malnutrition is a major cause of poor school performance, absenteeism and dropout.



A SAFER FUTURE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?

862 hours of individual counseling.

105 hours of group PSS activities, teaching strategies for stress and emotional pain management.

106 hours with external specialists, providing professional support for the most critical cases.

Reduction of bullying and promotion of a more inclusive and respectful school environment.

Greater family awareness: the knowledge acquired in school is passed on at home, transforming harmful family dynamics and building a broader protection network.

Prevention of youth gang affiliation.

In the DRC, many children are exposed to domestic violence, exploitation and recruitment into armed groups. A safe and secure environment, inside and outside of school, is essential for their emotional and social development.



HEALTH PROTECTION FOR ALL

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?

We have opened **a school infirmary** to provide immediate medical assistance and established strong **agreements with local healthcare institutions** to ensure that all our students receive the care they need.



3,021 kg of hygiene kits distributed, drastically reducing the spread of infections.



Reducing absenteeism due to preventable illnesses, ensuring continuity in learning.

Without access to medical care and proper hygiene, the risk of infectious and chronic diseases increases dramatically, jeopardizing learning and development.



BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT DO WE DO?

We organize workshops on positive parenting, child labor prevention, and distribute aid to the most vulnerable families



3,000 new beneficiaries reached, extending the impact of Still I Rise



Increased parental involvement in the education and protection of their children.



Strengthening collective resilience by creating a strong supportive environment for children.

School alone is not enough. Sustainable change requires the active involvement of families and communities.





Kolwezi, DRC

FUTURE PROSPECTS: BUILDING A LASTING CHANGE



Expand child protection: strengthen training programs for teachers, parents and volunteers to prevent abuse, violence and discrimination.



Improve access to health and hygiene: enhance the school infirmary and expand collaborations with local health institutions.



Ensure long-term food security: develop food support programs for vulnerable families.



Support women's empowerment and combat school dropout.



Strengthen community involvement.

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Al-Dana, Syria

FAMILIES AND SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

2024 marks a turning point in Syria's history: the fall of Assad's regime has ended over a decade of conflict between the government and rebel forces. This shift, greeted with hope by the population, has left the country in a state of deep economic, social, and political uncertainty.

In the northwest of Syria, particularly in areas around Al Dana, millions of people remain displaced, without resources or access to essential services. The evolving context forced us to halt data collection due to the ongoing historical events, so our analysis is based on:

- Direct data collected from 76 students of our Academy.
- General UN and UNICEF data to understand the national impact of the crisis.

📍 Al-Dana, Syria

GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN AND DISPLACEMENT

KEY DATA

The internal displacement crisis in Syria remains one of the worst in the world:

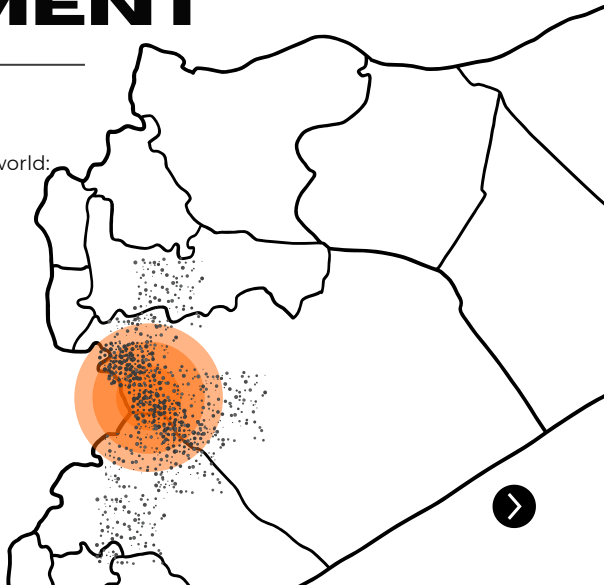
- **6.8 million internally displaced people** (UN, 2024).
- **5.5 million Syrian refugees abroad.**

96%

of our students live in refugee camps near or in Al Dana, with no immediate prospects of resettlement.



THE FALL OF THE REGIME



THE FALL OF THE REGIME



Families living in refugee camps have lost their homes and their future is uncertain.

The end of the regime did not mean a return to normality: infrastructures are destroyed and access to services remains a distant dream.

Al-Dana, Syria

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND FAMILY STRUCTURE

KEY DATA

Families in refugee camps live in extremely **precarious conditions**:



of our students **live in tents or emergency shelters**.

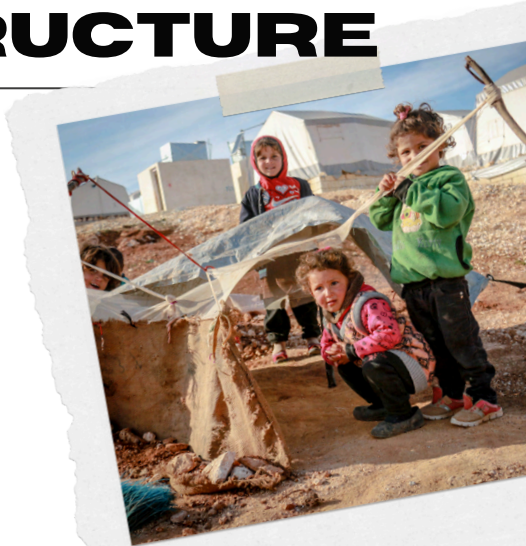


of our students are **orphans**, having lost one or both parents due to the conflict.



No family has stable access to electricity or clean water.

Nationwide, **over 70% of housing in Syria has been damaged or destroyed**, leaving millions without a safe roof over their heads



Al-Dana, Syria

ECONOMIC CONDITION AND INCOME

KEY DATA

Syria is going through **an unprecedented economic crisis:**

90%

of the population lives **below the poverty line** (UN, 2024).



The average monthly salary in Syria is **less than \$20**, insufficient to purchase basic necessities.



532%

Food prices have **increased by 532%** since 2019 (World Food Programme, 2024).

100%

of our students' families depends **from our humanitarian aid** for food and water.



Al-Dana, Syria

CHILD LABOUR AND EXPLOITATION

KEY DATA

With the lack of economic resources, many children are forced to work:



1 IN 4 CHILDREN

in Syria works to contribute to the survival of his family.

Most common jobs among minors:



Plastic and recyclable materials collection.



Work in local markets and transport of goods.



Unpaid domestic labor and agriculture.



In the context of our School, **many students have had experience of child labor**, often as the only alternative to hunger.

Al-Dana, Syria

EDUCATION AND LIMITED ACCESS

KEY DATA

The Syrian school system has been devastated by the conflict:



3.7 million children do not have access to education (UNICEF, 2024).



Girls are 50% less likely to complete primary school.

Over 3,700 schools destroyed or damaged.



CONCLUSIONS

Main challenges

Despite the end of the regime, millions of Syrians continue to live in conditions of extreme vulnerability:

- 1** Forced displacement and housing insecurity
 - 2** Economic collapse and dependence on humanitarian aid
 - 3** Increase in child labor and early marriage
 - 4** Education inaccessible for millions of children
-



Al-Dana, Syria

BEYOND THE SCHOOL

Key interventions to build a better future

We protect our students both inside and outside of school

Click on the icons to learn more



**READ THE
FUTURE
PROSPECTIVES**

**PREVENT
VIOLENCE
AND ABUSE**



**HEALTH
PROTECTION**



COMMUNITY



**RESPOND TO
HUNGER**

RESPONDING TO THE HUNGER RISK

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?



We have **served 34,282 meals** to ensure children receive adequate nutrition.



We have **distributed 20,933 kg of food packages** to support struggling families and reduce the need for child labor.

The food crisis in Syria is one of the most severe in the world. Over 60% of the population suffers from food insecurity, and in refugee camps, access to nutritious food is limited



PREVENT VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?

- **133 hours of individual counseling** to support children who have experienced traumatic experiences.
- **Workshop on bullying and violence** to strengthen conflict management skills.
- **Training for caregivers** on positive discipline and child protection.
- **Referrals and anonymous reporting channels** to ensure timely interventions in cases of abuse.
- **Handling 15 cases of sexual and domestic violence**, providing support to victims and involving protection specialists.

Children in refugee camps face the daily risks of domestic violence, bullying and community abuse.



HEALTH PROTECTION

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?



We have distributed **2,421 kg of hygiene kits** to ensure proper hygiene practices.



We organize **educational campaigns** on personal hygiene and infection prevention.



Management of **28 cases of health problems**, with reference to hospital facilities to ensure adequate care.



Collaboration with local hospitals, allowing children to access specialized treatments and urgent medical care.

In refugee camps, precarious sanitary conditions and the lack of adequate sanitation worsen the quality of life of minors and increase the risk of epidemics.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?



We organize **monthly meetings with caregivers** on child protection and positive educational strategies.



We create **support networks** between families and communities to prevent violence and abuse.



We work with local authorities to promote a shared protection model.

Child protection cannot happen only at school. It is essential to involve families and the community to create a safe and supportive environment for children's growth.



FUTURE PROSPECTS



Expansion of educational campaigns to raise awareness on hygiene and violence prevention.



Development of more accessible reporting systems to ensure quick responses to cases of abuse.



Collaboration with local authorities to improve child protection policies in internally displaced persons camps.



Expansion of agreements with healthcare facilities to improve access to specialized care.



 Mathare, Kenya

FAMILIES AND SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

School Year 2023/2024

Mathare is a complex web of dusty alleys and hopes, a place where the sun shines every day on corrugated iron roofs and fragile dreams, suspended between need and resilience. Located in the heart of Nairobi, Mathare, with over 500,000 inhabitants (World Bank, 2023), is one of the largest informal settlements in Kenya. Amid housing insecurity, crime, and limited access to essential services, families fight every day to build a better future, where school represents the only path to redemption.

 Mathare, Kenya

GEOGRAPHICAL ORIGIN AND DEMOGRAPHIC CONTEXT

KEY DATA

Total population:

OVER 500,000 INHABITANTS

between local communities, internal migrants and refugees.

Origin of students in our school:

48%

KENYOTI

52%

REFUGEES

(from Congo, Burundi,
Ethiopia, Somalia, South
Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda,
Sudan)



 Mathare, Kenya

HOUSING INSECURITY

KEY DATA

Housing conditions:



of the families live in one-room tin shacks.

80%

Access to essential services:



ONLY 20%

has access to running water (UNICEF, 2023).



70%

uses shared public latrines (Kenya Water Report, 2022).

OVER 90%

of students experience one or more of these conditions.



PRECARIETA ABITATIVA

THE HOUSES

The homes are overcrowded, often lacking electricity and proper ventilation. The lack of property titles exposes residents to forced evictions, linked to real estate speculation, climate disasters, or government-led redevelopment efforts.



Mathare, Kenya

ECONOMIC CONDITION AND INCOME

KEY DATA

Average income:



FOR 60%

of families, less than \$1 a day (World Bank, 2023).

Main sources of income:



Informal trade



Collection of recyclable materials



Daily labor

Economic condition of students:

MORE THAN 60%

lives in conditions of extreme economic precariousness.



ECONOMIC INSECURITY



Economic insecurity in Mathare **limits access to essential goods** such as food and medical care, making daily survival a constant challenge.



 Mathare, Kenya

WASTE MANAGEMENT

KEY DATA

System inefficiency:

Widespread illegal landfills due to inadequate waste management.

ONLY 15%

of waste is officially managed
(Nairobi City County, 2023).



Criminal gangs often manage waste control, imposing illegal taxes (Kenya Police Report, 2023).

DANDORA LANDFILL

The largest in East Africa, it pollutes air and water, causing serious damage to health.

(UNEP, 2022; Kenya Medical Research Institute, 2023).

+ WASTE MANAGEMENT

GESTIONE DEI RIFIUTI

WASTE MANAGEMENT



Inefficiency in waste management leads to the **accumulation of trash** in the streets and **contamination of water and air**, worsening the community's health problems.

 Mathare, Kenya

LACK OF ACCESS TO HEALTH

KEY DATA

Restricted access:

ONLY 30%

of households access basic health facilities (Kenya Health Report, 2023).

Health conditions of students:

OVER 45%

of families have **at least one member with serious health problems** related to the unhealthy conditions of the settlement.



+ LACK OF ACCESS TO HEALTH

LACK OF ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



It has serious consequences:

- loss of family income;
- increase in poverty;
- dropping out of school to care for sick relatives;

fueling the cycle of poverty.

 Mathare, Kenya

EDUCATION AND CHILD LABOUR

KEY DATA

Education rate:

ONLY 50%

of children complete primary school
(Ministry of Education Kenya, 2023).

ABOUT 8%

of our students worked before starting
school.

Prevalence of child labor:

Many children work to contribute to
the family income, taking care of:



waste
collection



work in the
markets

Girls are particularly vulnerable, often
forced to abandon their studies due to
early marriage or gender-based
violence.





Mathare, Kenya

CONCLUSIONS

The Main Challenges

- 1** Housing insecurity
 - 2** Extreme poverty
 - 3** Environmental pollution
 - 4** Low education and child labor
-



Mathare, Kenya

BEYOND THE SCHOOL

Key interventions to build a better future

We protect our students both inside and outside of school

Click on the icons to learn more

 **READ THE FUTURE PROSPECTIVES**

BUILDING RESILIENCE



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE



COMMUNITY



FIGHT HUNGER



FIGHT HUNGER

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT DO WE DO?



177,367 meals guaranteed every year to ensure proper nutrition, preventing children from facing the day on an empty stomach.



We have distributed 192 kg of food packages to help families cope with economic difficulties.



We promote nutrition education to improve the quality of available food within families.

Mathare is an area with high levels of food insecurity. Irregular access to nutritious meals impacts the physical and cognitive development of children.



BUILDING RESILIENCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?



200 hours of individual counseling to offer a safe space for listening and support.



104 hours of group psychosocial activities to help students to manage stress and develop resilience.



158 hours of thematic clubs for boys and girls to create a sense of community and strengthen peer support.

In Mathare, domestic violence, family stress, and crime are everyday problems. Children grow up in conditions that strain their mental well-being and their ability to build healthy relationships."



COMMUNITY

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?



Organizing **monthly meetings with caregivers** on positive discipline and emotion management.



Implementing safe and anonymous reporting systems to protect children from violence and abuse.



Collaboration with local authorities and community leaders to strengthen child protection



We also offer a **fully equipped residential facility to accommodate students** who, for various reasons, cannot stay with or do not have a family

Child protection in informal settlements is a complex challenge. **Many children are exposed to abuse, neglect and punitive child-rearing practices.**



ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

Access to health services in informal settings is a continuing challenge. Preventable diseases and infections related to poor hygiene affect children's health and school attendance.

WHAT WE DO?



488 kg of hygiene kits distributed to improve students' sanitary conditions, including soap, toothpaste, and personal hygiene products.



Awareness campaigns on dental hygiene and infection prevention.



Practical training to teach children the importance of good hygiene habits





Mathare, Kenya

NEXT STEPS: BUILD A STRONGER FUTURE



Expansion of psychological support with group programs focused on emotional well-being.



Active collaboration with the community to develop sustainable solutions to social and educational challenges.



Expansion of awareness campaigns on hygiene, nutrition, and child protection.



Campaign for sustainable waste management.

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Ciudad Bolívar, Colombia

SOCIO-ECONOMIC REPORT AND CONTEXT ANALYSIS

June, 2024

Colombia, located in the north-western region of South America, is a land of contrasts: with breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural diversity, it is also marked by armed conflicts, economic inequalities, and deep social challenges. In the heart of Bogotá, Ciudad Bolívar – the favela where our International School is located – is one of the most vulnerable areas, where many families face poverty, limited access to services, and the consequences of forced migrations on a daily basis.

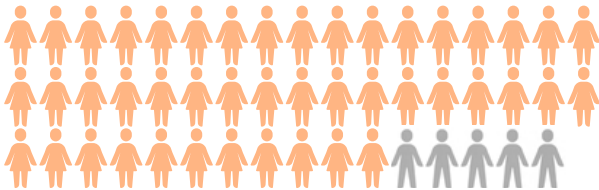
Ciudad Bolívar, Colombia

DEMOGRAPHICS AND FAMILY COMPOSITION

KEY DATA

48 Families interviewed
↳ of which **30** with minor children who do not live with them

Gender of respondents:



5 Average household size

+ **FEMINIZATION OF
POVERTY**

+ **FRAGMENTED
FAMILIES**



FEMINIZATION OF POVERTY

With **94% of households led by women**, even when a partner or husband is present



Ciudad Bolívar highlights a strong imbalance in family management, where women bear the economic burden of family management without stable support, often in conditions of social and economic vulnerability.

FRAGMENTED FAMILIES

63% of families have children who do not live in the main household. This fragmentation is symptomatic of displacement and forced migration, which disrupt family structures and limit emotional and educational support.



Ciudad Bolivar, Colombia

DISABILITY AND CHRONIC DISEASES

KEY DATA

21% Families with people with disabilities

Types:



6

CASES



2

CASES



2

CASES

8 Families with chronic illnesses

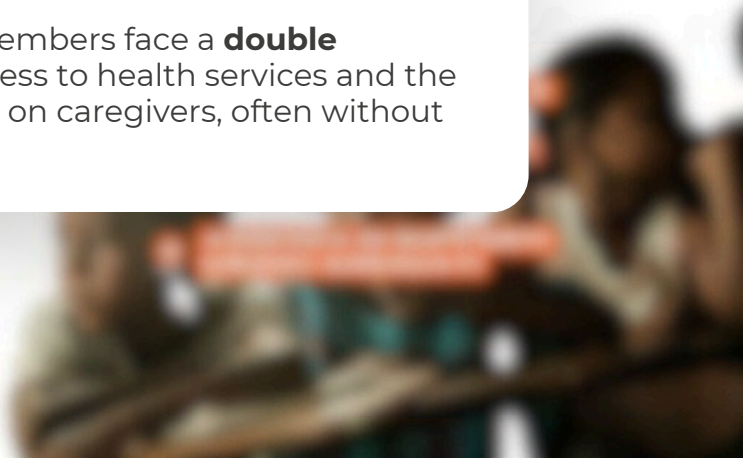


DISABILITÀ E MALATTIE CRONICHE

DISABILITY AND SOCIAL ISOLATION



Families with disabled members face a **double vulnerability**: limited access to health services and the economic burden placed on caregivers, often without any public support.



LACK OF ADEQUATE MEDICAL SUPPORT



In **4 families**, chronic diseases coincide with the presence of disabilities, reflecting inadequate access to health services and emotional and economic overload for caregivers.



HOUSING CONDITIONS AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

KEY DATA

Type of housing



77%
Rent



12%
Tin houses



17%
House in construction

Missing Essential Services



19%
Without gas



6%
Without water



60%
Without internet

+ WIDESPREAD HOUSING INSECURITY

+ LIMITED ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES



WIDESPREAD HOUSING INSECURITY

25% of families live in unfinished homes or homes built with precarious materials such as sheet metal.



This condition reduces home security, increasing health risks and vulnerability to environmental disasters.



LIMITED ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES



The lack of access to gas (19%), water (6%) and internet (60%) highlights the limited quality of life and the impossibility for children to continue their education remotely.



Ciudad Bolivar, Colombia

ECONOMIC CONDITION AND EMPLOYMENT

KEY DATA

Average income



278 euros/month

Work sectors



35% Informal and casual jobs



23% Employee contracts



23% Self-employment



**INSUFFICIENT INCOME
AND ECONOMIC
INSTABILITY**



CONDIZIONE ECONOMICA E OCCUPAZIONE

INSUFFICIENT INCOME AND ECONOMIC INSTABILITY

1x

With an **average income of 278 euros per month**, insufficient for a family of 5, many families struggle to meet basic needs.

Informal and temporary jobs do not provide economic stability or protection.

Ciudad Bolivar, Colombia

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY ISSUES

KEY DATA

Early Pregnancy

54%

of mothers became mothers under the age of 18

Drug Use

79%

families consider it common

Recruitment of Minors in bande armate (gangs)

19%

families report the phenomenon

+ EARLY PREGNANCY AND POVERTY

+ CRIME AND YOUTH RECRUITMENT

+ DRUG USE AMONG ADOLESCENTS



EARLY PREGNANCY AND POVERTY

With 54% of mothers having become **mothers in their teenage years**, early pregnancy is a widespread phenomenon, often a consequence of poverty and low education levels.

This further reduces opportunities for personal and professional development.

CRIME AND YOUTH RECRUITMENT



19% of families reported cases of child recruitment by local gangs. The lack of educational spaces and recreational activities exposes young people to the risk of involvement in illegal activities.



DRUG USE AMONG ADOLESCENTS



Substance use is considered a widespread problem by **79%** of the families interviewed.

This phenomenon is often linked to conditions of economic hardship, social pressure and lack of safe recreational alternatives.



CONCLUSIONS

and Vulnerabilities Identified

The analysis reveals profound vulnerabilities that have a transversal impact on different areas of community life:

1 Economic precariousness:

- Average incomes insufficient to support a family unit.
- Widespread informal work without protections.
- Housing insecurity

2 Housing Conditions and Limited Services:

- Limited access to essential services such as water and gas.
- Incomplete or precarious houses that do not guarantee safety.

3 Educational and Social Fragility:

- High school dropout rate.
- Early pregnancy and lack of access to continuing education.

4 Crime and Youth Recruitment:

- Increase in local crime involving minors.
 - Widespread drug use among adolescents.
-



 Bolivar City, Colombia

BEYOND THE SCHOOL

Key interventions to build a better future

We protect our students both inside and outside of school

Click on the icons to learn more



**READ THE
FUTURE
PROSPECTIVES**

**PREVENT
VIOLENCE**



**HEALTH
PROTECTION**



**EDUCATIONAL
POVERTY**



NOURISH

NOURISH

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

WHAT WE DO?



We have provided 22,671 meals to ensure that every child has the energy they need to learn.



We have distributed 325 kg of food parcels to families to reduce the need to employ children in domestic or street work.



We raise awareness among families about the importance of nutrition for physical and cognitive development.

Malnutrition is a major cause of school dropout and child labor. **Without access to food, many children must work to contribute to the family income.**



PREVENT VIOLENCE AND RECRUITMENT

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

Ciudad Bolívar is a high-risk area for youth recruitment, domestic violence and bullying.

Children grow up exposed to constant insecurity, without positive role models.

WHAT WE DO?



256 hours of individual counseling to help children process trauma and manage stress.



Prevention of youth recruitment through educational, sporting and creative activities as an alternative to crime.



Workshop on bullying and conflict management to promote empathy and peaceful resolution.



Engaging caregivers with monthly meetings to reinforce nonviolent parenting practices.



Activation of anonymous channels to report cases of abuse and intervene promptly.

HEALTH PROTECTION

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

Without proper hygiene and access to basic healthcare, **children are exposed to preventable diseases** that increase school absenteeism and put their health at risk.

WHAT WE DO?



We have distributed **115 kg of hygiene kits** to ensure adequate sanitary conditions.



We organize **educational campaigns** on personal hygiene and disease prevention.



We raise awareness among female students about menstrual hygiene and we provide dedicated kits.



EDUCATIONAL POVERTY

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

Limited access to education perpetuates poverty and increases the risk of social exclusion.

WHAT DO WE DO?



We raise awareness among families and communities about the importance of school.



We support families to ensure the educational continuity of children.





Bolivar City, Colombia

FUTURE PROSPECTS



Expanding recruitment prevention activities with the support of local organizations.



Collaboration with local authorities to implement community-wide child protection policies.



Campaigns on mental health and prevention of gender violence, involving schools and families.

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EDUCATION THAT CHANGES THE FUTURE

This report tells stories, numbers, and transformations. It speaks about our students, their families, and the daily challenges they face in the most vulnerable contexts. But it also tells the story of our response: **the Still I Rise formula**, which combines excellent education, protection, food security, and psychosocial well-being.

We do not open simple schools: we create centers of excellence to shape tomorrow's leaders, starting with today's most vulnerable.

**STILL I RISE IS NOT WELFARE:
IT'S REVOLUTION.**

Safety, education and protection are not privileges, but fundamental rights.

JOIN THE CHANGE.

[Find out more](#)

From 2018 to today:

6 SCHOOLS OPENED IN 6 COUNTRIES IN 6 YEARS

providing education and protection to thousands of students to carry on our revolution

 **+** **EXCELLENT EDUCATION**

 **+** **PROTECTION**

 **+** **FOOD SAFETY**

 **+** **PSYCHOSOCIAL WELLBEING**

WHAT DRIVES US TO CONTINUE?

EXCELLENT EDUCATION



99.141 ORE

of high-quality
education to bridge
the education gap.



PROTECTION



22.315 ORE

of psychosocial support
to help children
overcome trauma and
difficulties.



FOOD SAFETY



910,099
FOR SURE

served, ensuring
nutrition and well-being.



PSYCHOSOCIAL WELLBEING



7.286 ORE

of extracurricular activities to develop talents and confidence.



WHY WE CONTINUE...

We work every day to shape a new generation of more humane and aware leaders, capable of building a fairer future. Our dream is ambitious, but possible: to provide every child with a free and excellent education.

Because only quality education can truly change the world.

+ READ ON WHY



Now you've read it. From Yemen to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, from Colombia to the refugee camps in Syria, we see despair in the faces of our students and their families, who have little, but retain the strength to dream.

We continue because we believe education can rewrite their stories. With courage, we build schools. They are not just safe spaces, but tools through which we spread our Educational Method, ensuring quality education wherever it's needed. We provide a free education that not only teaches but restores dignity and hope to those who had lost them.

Our schools prove that change is possible: spaces that, despite emerging in contexts marked by war and poverty, generate extraordinary results. In Yemen and the DRC, 100% of our students pass the final exams, and many continue their studies thanks to scholarships to prestigious institutions. Our impact is internationally recognized: the Still I Rise International School Nairobi won the National Diversity and Inclusion Award (DIAR), rewarding our commitment to inclusion and the fight against poverty.

And as we expand our efforts, we look ahead: we are working to open schools in India, Italy, and other countries, bringing hope and opportunity where access to education is still a privilege. Our goal is not only to provide education to the most vulnerable, but to transform the global education system. **We want every school in the world to become a Still I Rise school.**

Every day we are shaping a new generation of more humane and aware leaders, capable of building a fairer future. Our dream is ambitious, but possible: to provide every child with a free and excellent education, because only knowledge can change the world.

We will continue to fight against war, child labor, and every injustice that denies children the right to grow and learn. Because every story of redemption is an act of resistance against a world that too often looks away.

**We continue because
we cannot stop.**

Because every time one of our students finds the courage to believe in themselves, the world becomes a better place. Because we want to bring our Educational Method and a school of excellence wherever it's needed. Because where there is despair, we want to bring hope.

And because we know that change is possible.

A photograph of three children running joyfully against an orange background. In the center is a girl with braids, wearing a blue school sweater with a logo and a dark skirt. To her left is a boy in a light blue shirt and jeans, and to her right is another boy in a light blue shirt. All three are smiling and appear to be in motion.

**Changing the world.
One child at a time.**