



**STILL
I RISE**

**IMPACT REPORT
2023**



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WHO WE ARE

We are an independent humanitarian organization that, since 2018, has been providing **quality education to refugee and vulnerable children worldwide**. We believe that everyone has the right to the best education possible and that this is the only way to change the world. We fight to defend their future, and in doing so, we protect our own.

MISSION & VISION

Our Mission is to end the global education crisis. We open schools to emancipate the most vulnerable and through our revolutionary educational model and our unshakeable advocacy work we aim to ensure top-quality, free schooling to all children within our lifetime. We are independent, transparent and efficient, and we make progress every single day. **We change the world one child at a time.**



VALUES

Independence

We reject funds from governments, supranational organizations, and multinational corporations that do not align with our code of ethics..

Trasparency

We allocate over 95% of donations to programs and activities, keeping administrative and fundraising costs below 5%.

Efficiency

We listen to the real needs of the communities we support. We focus on quality, not quantity.

“

*We don't
do charity.
We pursue
social justice.*

”

*Nicolò Govoni
CEO of Still I Rise*





OUR SCHOOLS

Our Schools are more than just educational institutions. They are research and development centers where we refine the Still I Rise Educational Method to bring excellent education to every child worldwide. By educating today's forgotten children, we are nurturing a new leadership class capable of reshaping the future for all of us.

EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION SCHOOLS

We establish Emergency and Rehabilitation Schools to **provide relief in the most complex humanitarian crises worldwide**. Through a holistic care approach and an innovative educational method, we address **primary needs** and **restore children's rights to childhood and freedom** before it is too late.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

We open International Schools **to transform emergencies into reconstruction efforts**. We offer top-tier education and the world's most recognized academic curriculum (IB®). We train tomorrow's leaders among today's most vulnerable children to build a better world and rewrite the future.

STILL I RISE EDUCATIONAL METHOD

To cultivate ambitious, courageous, and compassionate leaders, we have developed and implemented the Still I Rise Educational Method. This **revolutionary teaching approach** fosters creative and critical thinking while instilling a deep passion for **social justice and societal progress**.



SCHOOL IS HOME

Keyword:
Beauty



TEACHER = MENTOR

Keyword:
Family



STUDENT-CENTERED

Keyword:
Democracy



GLOBAL THINKING

Keyword:
Freedom

[➔ for more information](#)

OVERVIEW OF DONATIONS - ITALY

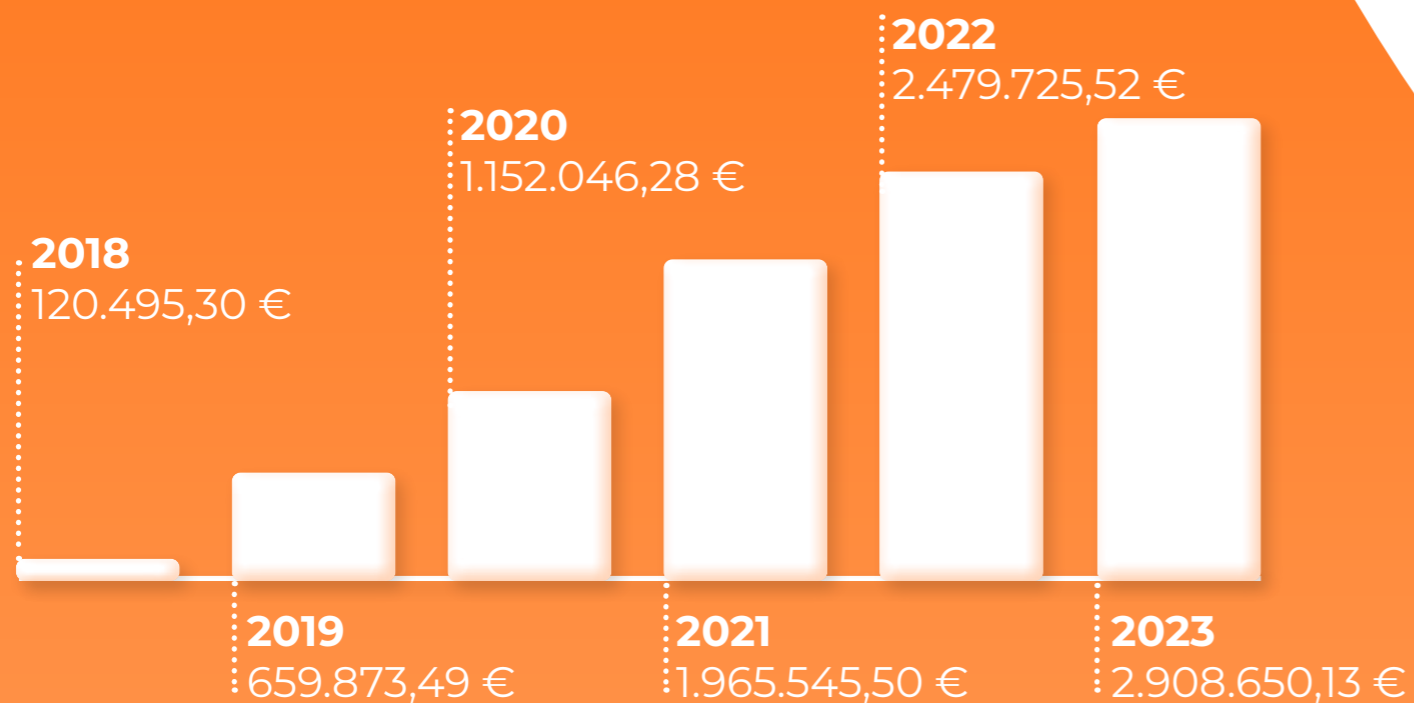
Total Donations to Still I Rise Italy

2.908.650,13 €

Individual donations	5x1000 donations
2.528.721,25 €	299.332,82 €

Operating surplus 2023	Fundraising proceeds	Total Expenses 2023
328.019,14 €	80.596,06 €	2.587.277,91 €

GROWING TOGETHER!

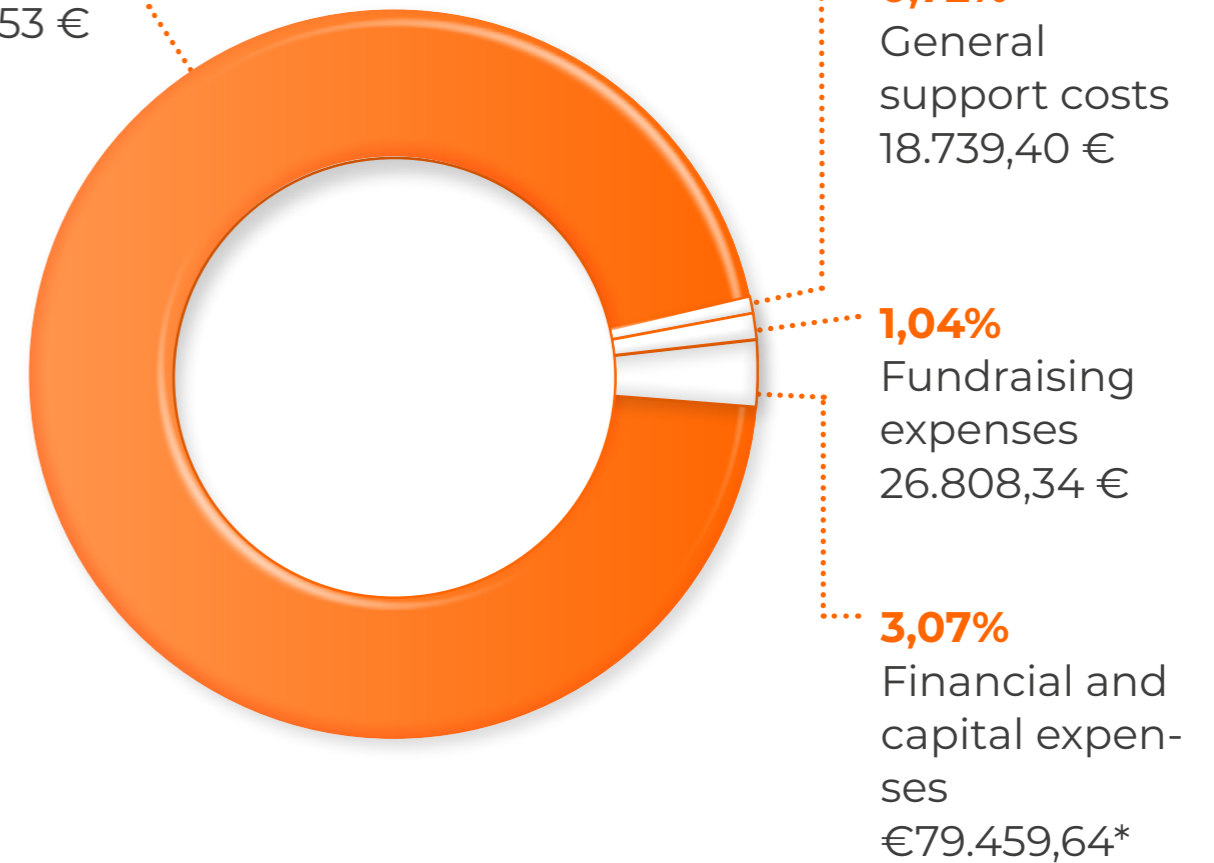


COSTS AND EXPENSES DETAILS

Programs and activities

95,17%

2.462.270,53 €



OVERVIEW OF DONATIONS - SWITZERLAND

Since 2021, Still I Rise has also been active in Italian-speaking Switzerland, focusing on **awareness and fundraising activities**.

Total Donations to Still I Rise Switzerland:

501.367,00 €



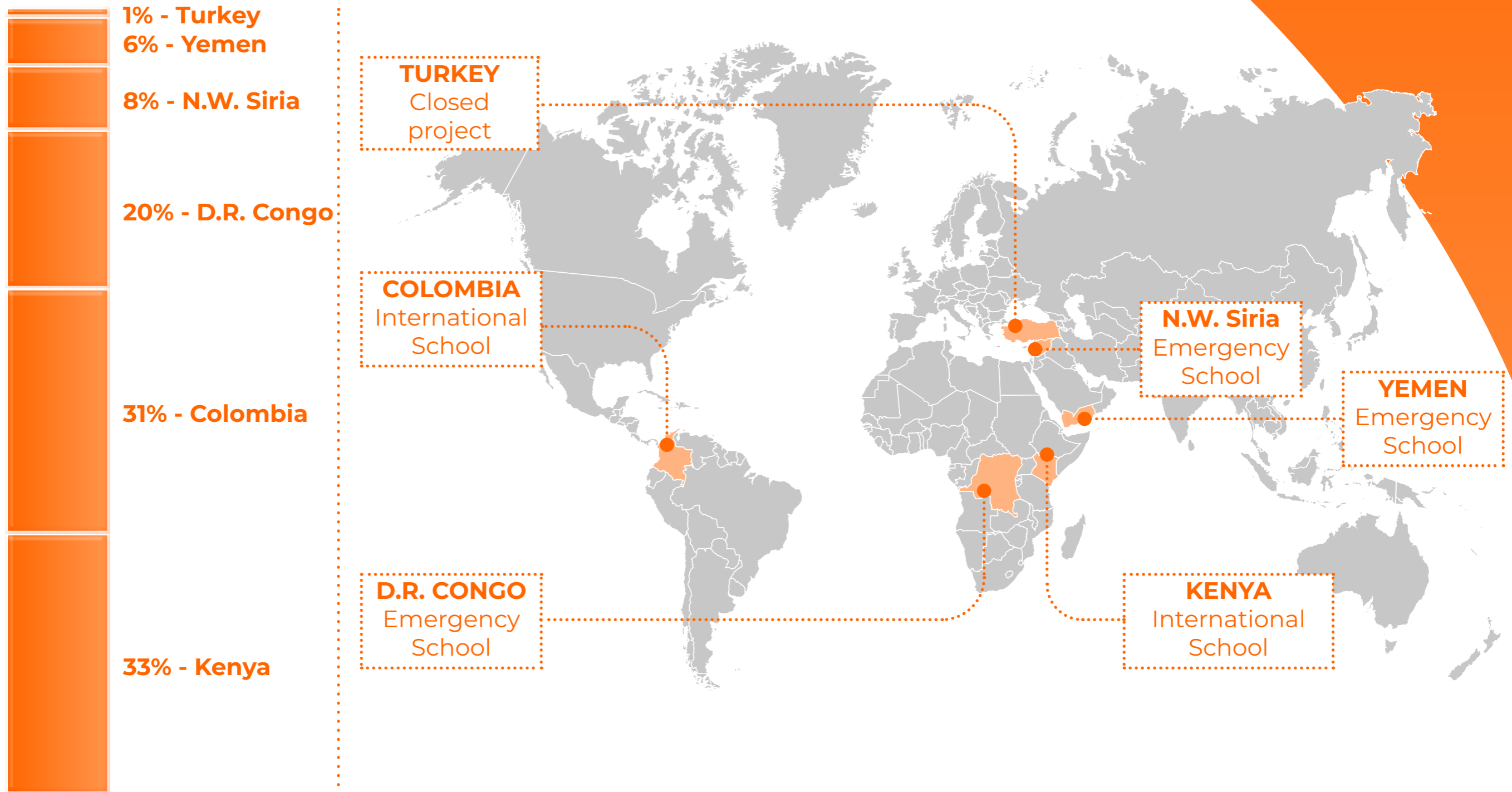
TOTAL DONATIONS

Italy
+
Switzerland

3.410.017,13 €



WHERE AND HOW WE HAVE ALLOCATED OUR EFFORTS





FIELD STORIES

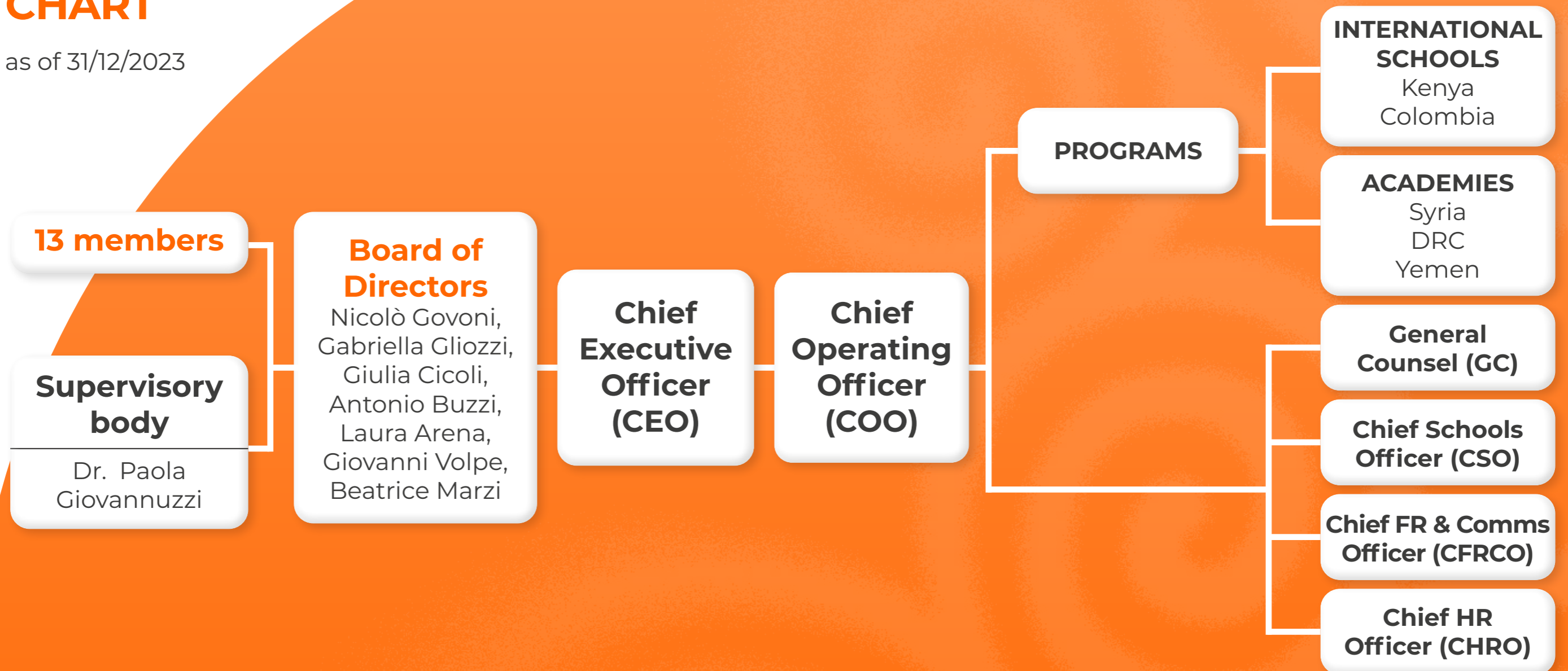
“The smile on my parents’ faces is proof of my success: for the first time, my father dreams of a future for me. And I? I dream of teaching and inspiring, because now I know that dreams can come true, even amidst difficulties. ”

LIALA, STUDENT IN YEMEN

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

as of 31/12/2023

Click on the organizational chart to view the full structure.



OUR TEAM



132

total of employees

71 women
61 men

Average age: **35**

410

Volunteers

132 colleagues worldwide. Outside of Schools, teams work entirely remotely, to ensure greater productivity and low management costs. Students are always our priority: for this reason, our CEO has chosen to receive a salary of € 400 per month.

04

PROGRAMS



N.W. SIRIA

CONTEXT

With 6 million refugees abroad and 7 million internally displaced people, Syria remains **the largest displacement crisis in the world** even after 12 years of conflict.



Over 7 million children require humanitarian assistance.



More than 4 million children are out of school or at risk of dropping out.



Over 10,000 schools have been destroyed.



Ma'an

OUR EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION SCHOOL

In 2020, in the city of Al Dana, we opened the first Emergency and Rehabilitation School in the Harem district, rescuing children from displacement camps.

Still I Rise Academy - Al Dana, nicknamed "Ma'an," provides high-quality education, targeted child protection actions, and holistic support programs for food, psychosocial, and healthcare assistance for both children and their families.





CHALLENGES FACED IN 2023

- ▶ **High inflation**, shortage of daily supplies, and skyrocketing prices on the black market;
- ▶ **Lack of international aid for the local population:** fewer and fewer NGOs are present, and available resources have drastically declined;
- ▶ **The impact of the earthquake and health issues**, such as scabies, led to the temporary closure of the School;
- ▶ **Enrollment of students in public schools at the end of the year:** we established agreements with public schools to accept our students and raised awareness among families about the importance of continuing their education.



OUR RESULTS

- ▶ **96% of our students** successfully enrolled in public schools at the end of the **2022/2023 school year**.
- ▶ **Continuous family support** through:
 - ▶ Distribution of food and clothes for Eid-al-Fitr;
 - ▶ Winter distribution of clothing and heating fuel;
 - ▶ Monthly food packages and quarterly hygiene kits for families;
 - ▶ Special assistance during the February 2023 earthquake.
- ▶ Expanded **extracurricular activities**, including clubs, sports, field trips, and community events.



FIELD STORIES

“ I believe in my dreams, in my passion for languages, and in my desire to become like my mother. And I know that here, in Ma’an, I have allies who work with me to make all of this possible. ”

GHAZAL, STUDENT IN SYRIA



THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

We have worked to:

- ▶ Promote a **reading culture** among students;
- ▶ Implement **extracurricular activities**;
- ▶ Collaborate with teachers to **improve teamwork**;
- ▶ Establish **tutoring hours** for struggling students;
- ▶ Conduct **satisfaction surveys** among teachers, students, and parents.



**3,005
HOURS OF
LESSONS**



**34 HOURS
OF TRAINING**
per teacher

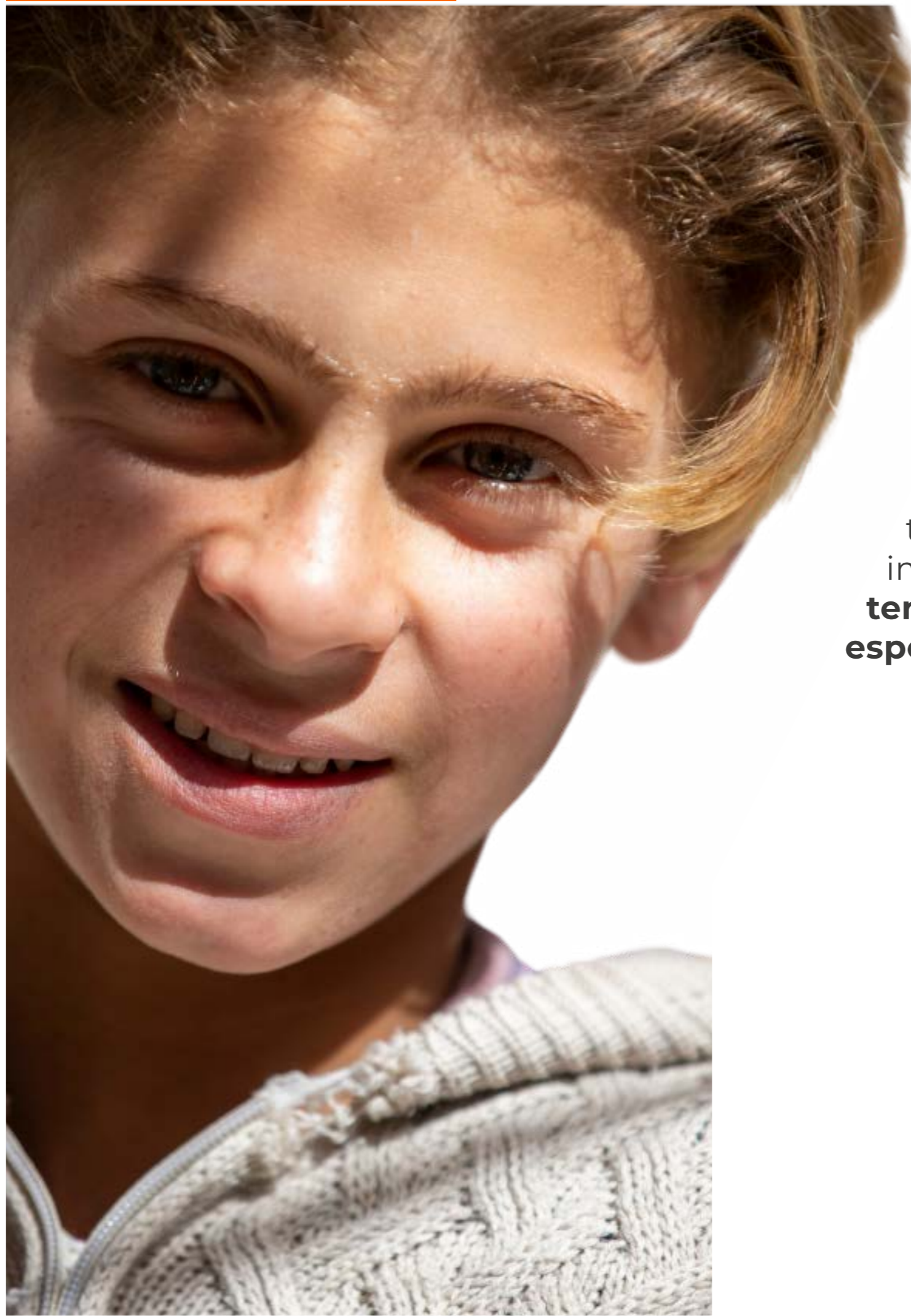


OUR ADVOCACY WORK

For Northwest Syria, our Advocacy department launched a major awareness campaign, shedding light on complex and challenging realities through first-hand information and direct testimonies from our team. The goal was to bring out stories and issues often overlooked by the media, with a focus on three crucial themes:

- ▶ The grim milestone of **twelve years of conflict**: a devastating war that has ravaged Syrian territory and is now ignored by the West;
- ▶ **Living conditions and risks on the ground**: the impact of bombings, unexploded ordnance, and the devastating consequences of the February 2023 earthquake on local communities;
- ▶ **The use of humanitarian aid as a political tool**: practices of starvation and coercion against political opponents, activists, and the civilian population by the regime.

➔ [for more information](#)



OUR ADVOCACY WORK

The earthquake that struck Northwest Syria in February was a key focus of our activities throughout 2023. We provided daily updates through videos and reports from our Program Manager on the ground.

This effort gained widespread coverage in national and international media, highlighting the importance of our commitment **to bringing attention to the needs of affected communities—especially those forgotten.**

 [for more information](#)



OUR IMPACT

Students and families

Students
involved

80

Family members
involved

513

Distribution

Meals
served

21,066

Hygiene kits
distributed

400

Food packs
distributed

7,155

Education

Teaching
hours

3,005

Psychological
support hours

955

Staff
members

12



FIELD STORIES

“ Turki is a brilliant student who attended our school after **spending his childhood working to support his family**. Unfortunately, at the end of the year he spent with us—just as he was ready to start public school—his father was injured and could no longer work. As a result, Turki had to drop out of school and return to work to support his family.

In a fragile and violent context like Northwest Syria, this is the reality for tens of thousands of children. We didn't want the same to happen to Turki. Our team on the ground immediately took action to find an alternative, and our amazing Child Protection Officer, Manal, **secured him a spot in a private school with a scholarship and a monthly family stipend. This support covers the necessary costs, allowing Turki to continue his education without worrying about his family's needs.**

We are incredibly proud of our team on the ground, who, despite facing extremely difficult conditions themselves, **always go above and beyond to ensure our students are never left behind.**

”

TURKI, STUDENT IN SYRIA

D.R. CONGO

CONTEXT

After more than thirty years of conflict, the D.R. Congo counts **over 6 million victims, 5.7 million internally displaced persons, and 60 million people living in extreme poverty**. Kolwezi is the cobalt capital of the world. Here, **we fight child labor at all costs**.



More than 14.2 million children need humanitarian assistance.



Almost one in two children drop out of school after primary education.



Tens of thousands of children work under semi-slavery conditions for as little as \$2 a day.



Pamoja

OUR EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION SCHOOL

In 2022, in the city of Kolwezi, we opened the first Emergency and Rehabilitation School in Lualaba, rescuing children from mining work.

Still I Rise Academy - Kolwezi, nicknamed "Pamoja," provides **high-quality education, targeted child protection actions, and holistic support programs for food, psychosocial, and healthcare assistance** for both children and their families. We are the only ones doing this in the entire region.





CHALLENGES FACED IN 2023

- ▶ Addressing daily **health difficulties** and **the scabies epidemic**.
- ▶ Overcoming barriers to **school attendance**, such as extreme weather conditions or long distances, by providing raincoats and modifying the school bus route.
- ▶ **Raising awareness among families and caregivers** about the importance of school attendance, as well as health and safety issues.
- ▶ **Ensuring student safety** against the threat of forced evictions by multinational companies managing the cobalt mining industry, which risks making children homeless or forcing them to relocate, endangering their education and emotional well-being.



CHALLENGES FACED IN 2023

- ▶ Identification and Recruitment Process of **40 New Students** (for a total of 100), which required:
 - ▶ Identifying cobalt mines where children are subjected to **child labor**;
 - ▶ **Interacting with children** through our field team;
 - ▶ **Assessing the vulnerability of families** through individual interviews;
 - ▶ **School visits** by parents;
 - ▶ Completing **enrollment documentation**;
 - ▶ An initial **school integration** period during our “Education Camp”.

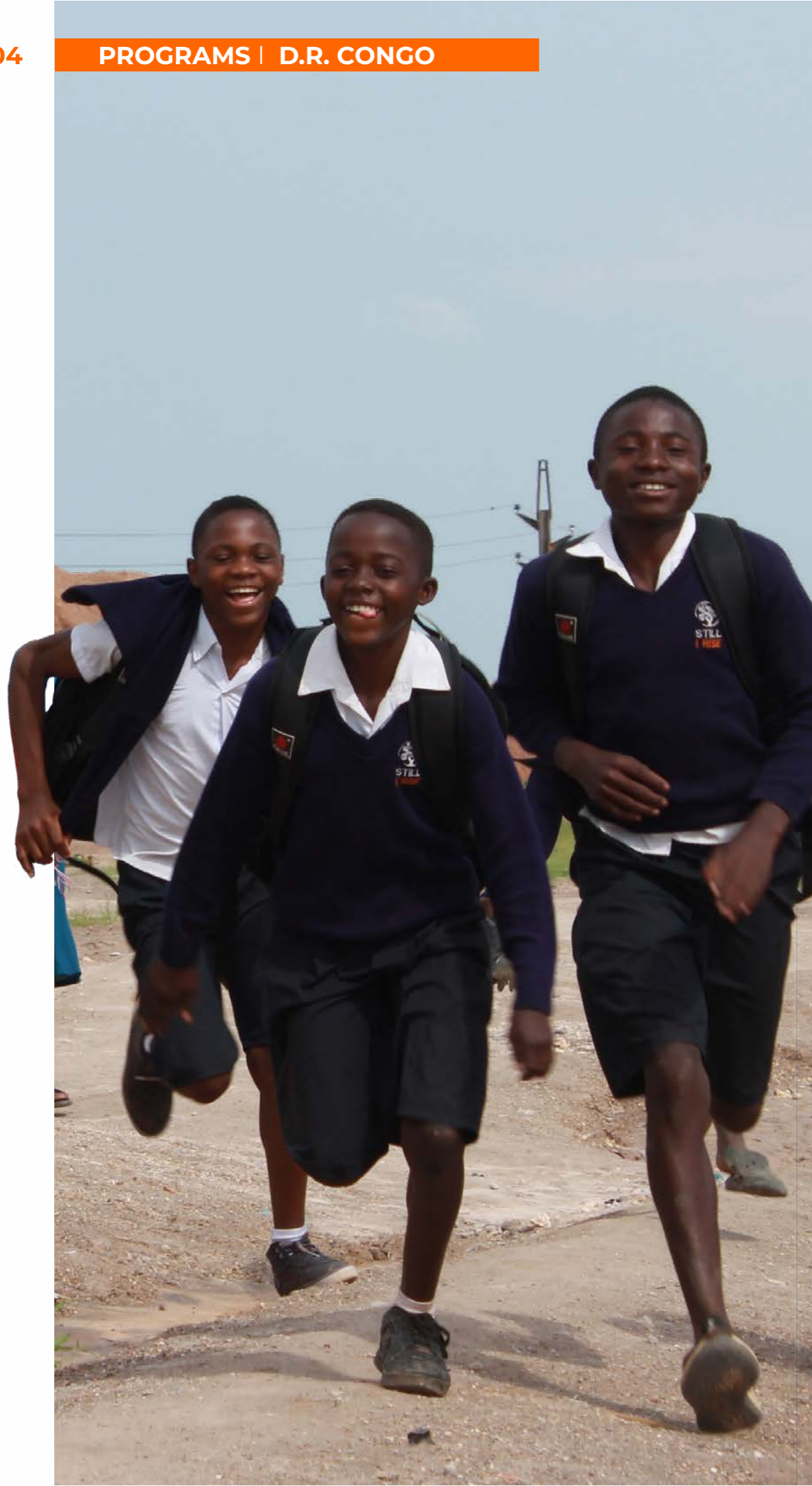


OUR RESULTS IN 2023

- ▶ Enrollment of 40 new students in March, with an **initial literacy period** in French, Kiswahili, and mathematics, followed by integration into the formal education program in September;
- ▶ Awareness sessions on **sexual education** topics for children, focusing on puberty, related changes, and personal health and hygiene;
- ▶ **Completion of annual final exams for students** in the national accelerated learning program and a school year closing ceremony on July 1, with final reports presented to parents;
- ▶ **Celebration of the International Day of the African Child:** on this occasion, parents and children expressed satisfaction with Still I Rise's mission and ongoing activities.

OUR RESULTS IN 2023

- ▶ **75,4% of students passed their final exams**—a highly positive result, reflecting the commitment of students and teachers. For the 2022-2023 academic year:
 - ▶ Average scores for level 1A: 60.25%
 - ▶ Average scores for level 1B: 63.18%
 - ▶ Average scores for level 2: 60.52%
- ▶ **External training for teachers** on national programs (PNRS) and summer activity organization, enhancing their ability to provide quality education.
- ▶ **Malte Gallée**, a Member of the European Parliament, **visited the school** to learn about Still I Rise's activities and gain insights into child rights violations in the mines.
- ▶ **Health Support Plan Approval** with the hiring of a nurse to provide daily healthcare support to students, with plans to build an infirmary in early 2024.





FIELD STORIES

“ The joy we see in children after they had lost hope of returning to school and the restoration of human dignity for families in extremely vulnerable situations give meaning to all our efforts. ”

VITAL KAMUNGU, PROJECT MANAGER IN D.R. CONGO



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

We worked to:

- ▶ **Improve school behavior** through “positive discipline,” guiding students in following school rules while considering their needs and backgrounds;
- ▶ **Develop school regulations** to ensure all Still I Rise schools follow common standards and equal rules;
- ▶ Train teachers on **new planning methods** in line with the Still I Rise Educational Method;
- ▶ **Establish academic support hours** for struggling students to provide targeted assistance;
- ▶ **Conduct satisfaction surveys** among teachers, students, and parents to gather feedback and understand their needs.



3,820 hours
of lessons



57
training hours
per teacher



75,4%
student
pass rate



OUR ADVOCACY WORK

In the coming decades, we will witness a shift from fossil fuels to an ecological transition, with the European Union aiming for climate neutrality by 2050. In 2023, European institutions discussed a **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive**, alongside other regulations to govern this transition.

Cobalt plays a central role in this shift due to its use in lithium-ion batteries. **The Democratic Republic of the Congo dominates global cobalt production**, accounting for over 70% of total supply in 2022.



OUR ADVOCACY WORK

However, the cobalt supply chain is plagued by **human rights abuses**, particularly **child labor**. To address these issues and ensure a sustainable and ethical supply chain, we undertook several actions:

- ▶ **Published position statements** and participated in public consultations;
- ▶ Updated the **“No More Child Miners” petition**, gathering nearly 50,000 signatures;
- ▶ Engaged in **follow-up and lobbying with EU and Italian parliamentarians** regarding **legislative initiatives** such as the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, Battery Regulation, and Critical Raw Materials Regulation;
- ▶ Launched the **“Through Our Voices” campaign**, sharing firsthand accounts from miners and child laborers to expose the reality of life in mining camps.

These actions demonstrate Still I Rise’s commitment to promoting ethical and sustainable cobalt production, contributing to a fair and inclusive ecological transition.

➔ [for more information](#)



OUR IMPACT

Students and families

Students
involved

100

Family members
involved

752



Distribution

Meals
served

60,416

Hygiene kits
distributed

325

Food packs
distributed

854



Education

Teaching
hours

3,820

Psychological
support hours

1,222

Staff
members

19



FIELD STORIES

Madeleine lost her father at the age of eight and had to start **working in cobalt mines to support her mother and five siblings**. Mining is grueling, dangerous, and endless. Time slips away between backbreaking shifts, earning only a few dollars—barely enough to eat and drink. At just eight years old, Madeleine's life seemed set in stone.

Our team met her in the mines, and from there, she joined our School. She started her first day barely able to speak, read, write, or count, **her eyes filled with fear and exhaustion from years in the mine's tunnels. Little by little, she began to breathe again.**

Today, Madeleine is 13, speaks fluent French, reads and writes perfectly, and loves history and geography. **She dreams of becoming a journalist to give a voice to those who have none. For Madeleine, high-quality education was the only chance to radically transform her life.**

MADELEINE, STUDENT IN D.R. CONGO

KENYA

CONTEXT

In Nairobi, among the refugee-dense neighborhoods of Pangani, Eastleigh, and Huruma, lies Mathare—one of the world's most densely populated and impoverished informal settlements. Here, we decided to open our International School.

+80,000
refugees
in Nairobi

53%
children



600,000 people
living in 5 Km²
in Mathare



INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL - NAIROBI

OUR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

On January 4, 2021, we inaugurated our Nairobi International School in Kenya, aiming to become the first school in the world to offer **the International Baccalaureate® (IB) free of charge to refugee and vulnerable children.**

We have worked tirelessly to pass the final IB inspection in 2024 and receive the title of "IB® World School," placing us among **the top 0.1% of schools worldwide.**



IB AUTHORIZATION PROCESS

The authorization process is highly selective and complex, requiring extensive team training and compliance with **exceptional quality standards**.

Our efforts have been largely focused on the actions necessary to become one of the world's best schools, ready to educate the leaders of tomorrow among today's forgotten children.





OUR WORK IN 2023

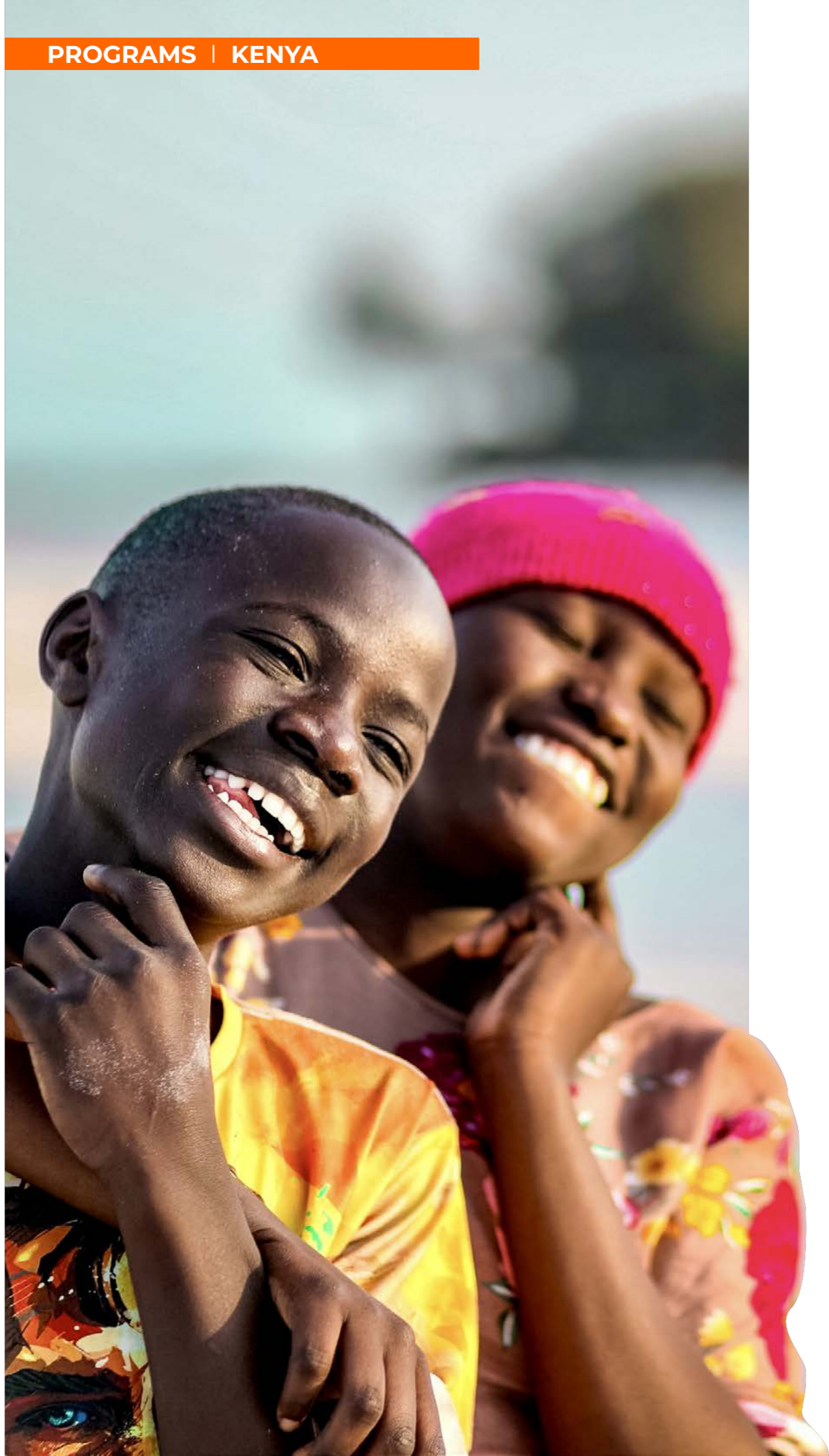
► IB® Authorization Journey

In 2023, we made extraordinary progress toward becoming an IB® World School, capable of offering the renowned International Baccalaureate® program, traditionally reserved for the children of the elite.

We underwent a consultation visit where an IB® expert virtually assessed our School, identifying areas for improvement. **Following the evaluation report, we focused on 19 improvements to align with IB® standards.** We then submitted an Authorization Application, which was followed by an authorization visit a few months later.

► Selection of New Students to Reach 200 Enrollments

After nearly 10 months of rigorous selection, our International School now hosts 200 students. We improved our selection method, focusing more on the potential of future students rather than their current performance: this reflects our School's commitment to promoting academic excellence and inclusivity.



► Expanding Growth Opportunities for Our International Students

Through Trips and Activities During July and August, our students left for **Summer Camp** and engaged in various activities designed to foster learning and enjoyment. **Between beach games, movies, readings, and challenges, students also kept a journal to reflect on their emotions and experiences.**

Our students have never experienced a real vacation—time away from school has always meant returning to an environment of fragility and potential danger. For this reason, we are committed to ensuring that all students fully enjoy their **right to childhood**, including through vacation and leisure experiences.

Our commitment to **implementing educational trips** continued with fruitful collaborations, including a partnership with the Alliance Française for cultural activities in French.

QUANTE DOBB RIALZ

► Expanding Growth Opportunities for Our International Students Through Trips and Activities

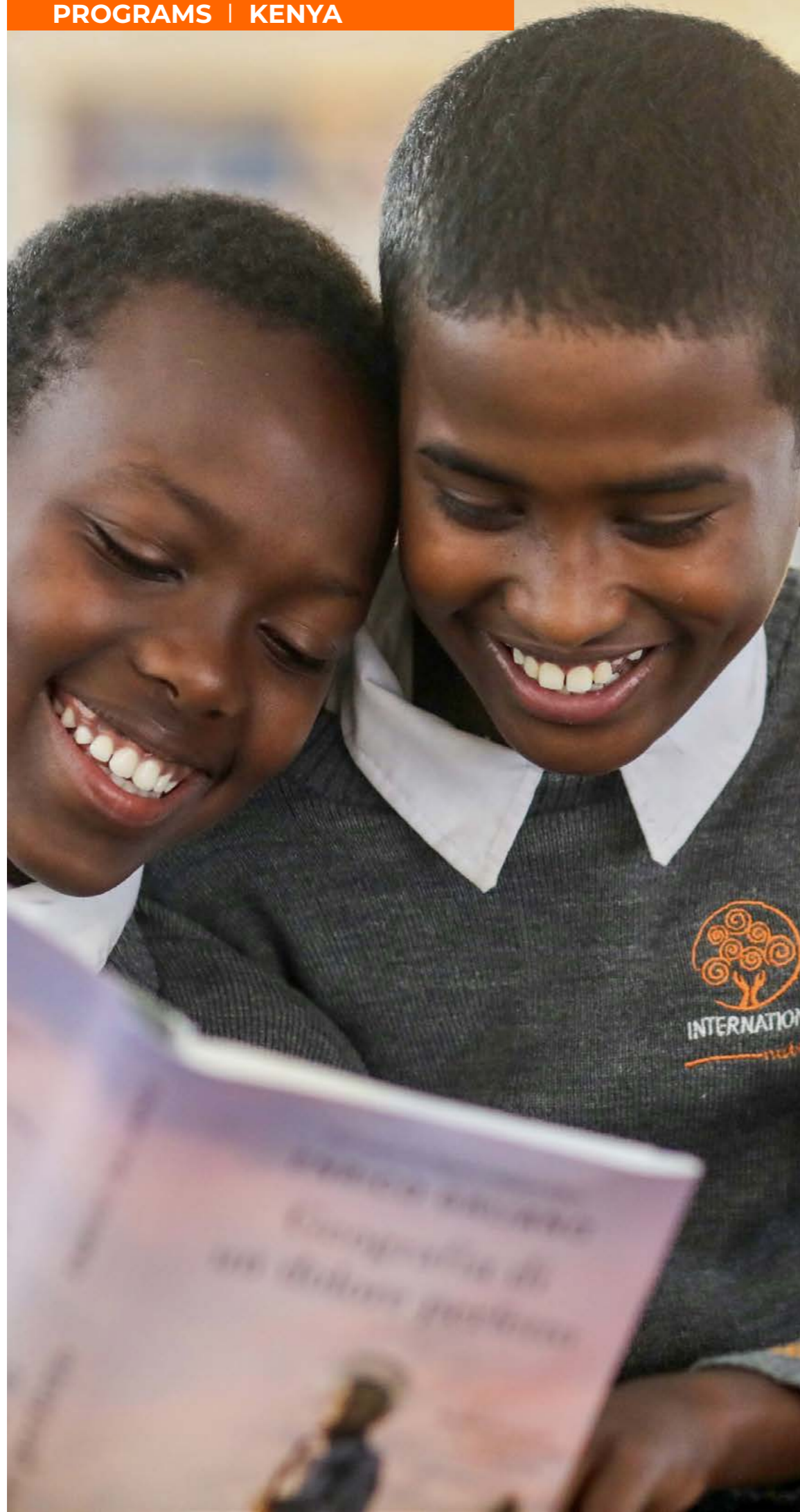
- Mohamed and Doris, two brilliant students, were selected by our International School in Nairobi to participate in the Clown & Clown Festival in the town of Monte San Giusto, Italy, where they delivered a breathtaking performance of the poem A Refund on Life, written by them. In front of 5,000 people, they narrated, sang, and danced their emotional story, demonstrating to the audience and themselves the immense value and great potential they can bring to the world. Participating in the festival taught them that talent and dedication can help achieve even the most distant dreams and offer redemption from the most forgotten places. Mohamed and Doris had never had **the opportunity to leave their country**, and the trip to Italy represented a unique moment in their lives and educational journey.

► [watch the performance](#)



► **Holistic Development of Our Students Who Participated in:**

- Numerous **international competitions**, such as the chess tournament and debate contests, achieving commendable results and earning several recognition medals;
- **Science Week**, during which they prepared a group project presented to teachers and staff;
- A **poetry competition**, where they attended a themed workshop led by an expert;
- **Clown Week**, during which the School hosted a small troupe of clowns for a week: the workshops provided students with a fun way to explore important themes such as identity and resilience. During this time, a team of dentists also visited our students.



► Spreading a Love for Reading Among Students

We launched the **“One Book a Month”** challenge, dedicating **an hour a day to reading**. Shared reading moments and focused support were provided, and all students were invited to present a report on the book once completed, demonstrating deeper comprehension.

► Partnership with Schools for Tutoring and Collaborations

We initiated a **long-term collaboration with the International School of Kenya**, which conducted workshops in mathematics and leadership skills. We established a network of mentors for our teachers from across the IB® world, both nationally and internationally.





► Evolution of Our Educational Method

We eliminated homework and introduced the Three Habits—classroom guidelines for teachers designed to maintain a rigorous approach to literacy development and assessment. The first habit ensures that reading and writing are part of every lesson; the second ensures that no more than ten minutes of teacher-student dialogue passes without active student engagement; the third ensures that an assessment is collected every two lessons.

► Development of Our Educational Method in Italy

We hosted Anna Rita, an Italian student who completed her field research in Nairobi. She observed our School, particularly the Common Hall, and conducted surveys with staff and students to explore what makes our School a home. At the end of her research, Anna Rita applied the Common Hall concept in a school in Italy.



TEACHER STORIES

“ Our work is important because of the impact it has on other lives. Our journey is not just about personal achievements but the collective impact we have on each student, each family, and our community—leaving a legacy of empowerment, growth, and positive change. ”

SUSAN IRUNGU, SCHOOL PRINCIPAL IN KENYA



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



6,486 hours
of lessons

1,957 hours
of extracurricular
activities



116 hours
of training per teacher

124 hours
of orientation per
teacher



OUR ADVOCACY WORK

In 2022, after addressing the health and environmental implications of a landfill near our School, we focused on environmental conservation.

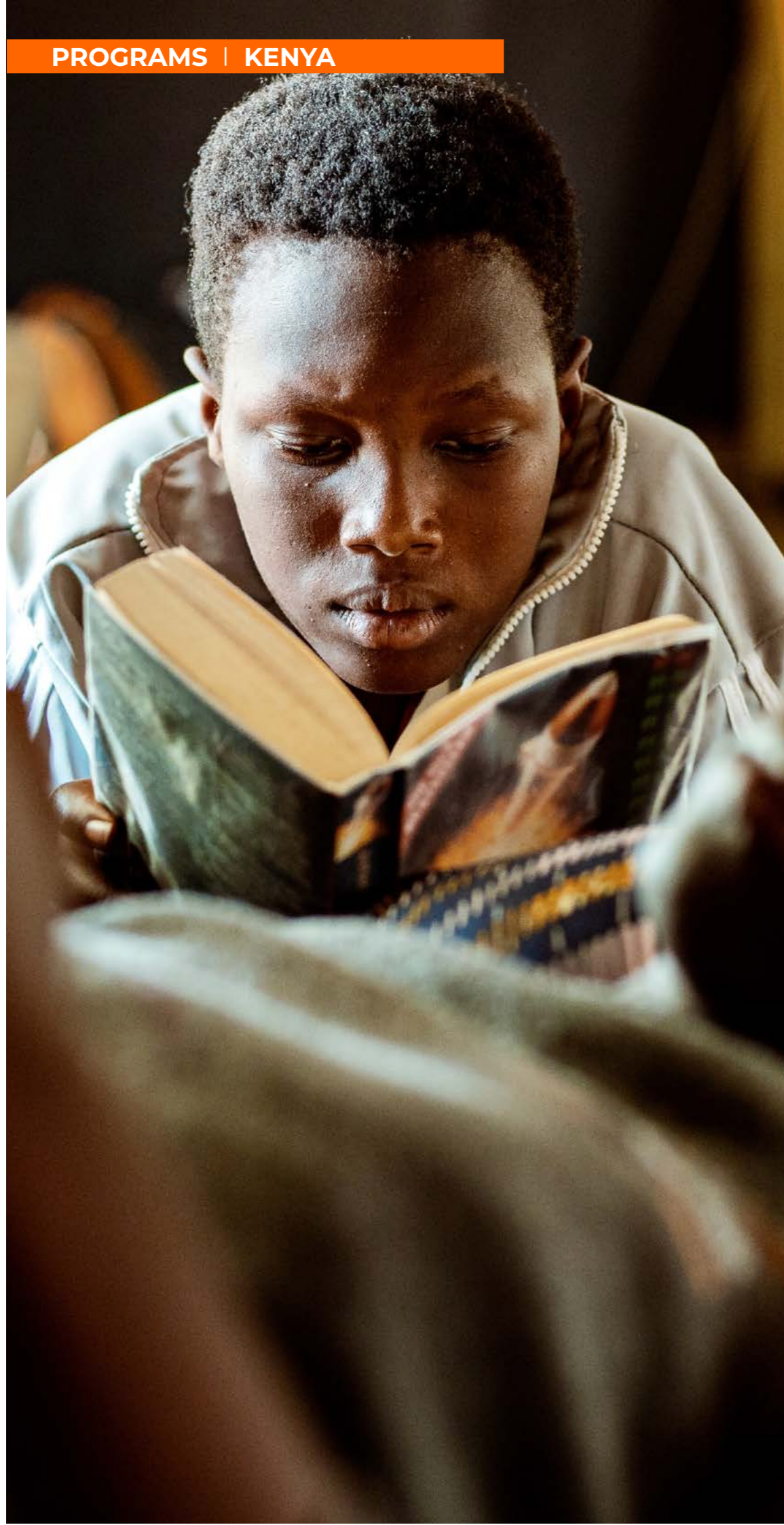
We organized large-scale cleanups across the community for World Environment Day in 2023, continuing with weekly **cleanup activities**.

At the beginning of 2023, thanks to our efforts, we successfully shut down the illegal Meta Meta landfill near our School and actively supported its rehabilitation.

We collaborated with the Mathare Sub-County government and the Furaha Community Foundation to implement the Mathare Memorial Peace Park project, where the landfill once stood.

For this purpose, we directly managed site activities, which included tree and bamboo planting, drainage installation, and sewer line construction.

We extended our commitment by involving four nearby community groups in our activities.



OUR ADVOCACY WORK

Our students became key participants in a **reading initiative for children aged 3 to 7**, with 50-60 children regularly attending weekly sessions, followed by play activities and socialization moments with their community peers.

These efforts demonstrate our commitment to promoting environmental conservation and community safety in Mathare, starting with our immediate involvement.



OUR IMPACT

Students & Families

Students
involved

176

Family members
involved

634



Distribution

Meals
served

97,090

Hygiene kits
distributed

1,101

Food packs
distributed

1,022



Education

Hours
of lessons

6,486

Psychological
support hours

898

Staff
members

38



STUDENT STORIES

“ During elementary school, I fell seriously ill. Typhoid, malaria, pneumonia, and asthma struck me all at once—it was a terrifying period. In November 2020, my father discovered Still I Rise, and my life changed forever.

The school was a revelation. I am thrilled by the **endless possibilities** Still I Rise offers.

My love for theater and singing continues to grow, and I aspire to use these talents to create positive change in my community and beyond.

Still I Rise didn't just change my life—it **gave me the power to shape a future full of purpose and meaning.** ”

DANIELLA AMANI JUMA, STUDENT IN KENYA

YEMEN

CONTEXT

The war in Yemen, ongoing since 2014, has caused an unprecedented **humanitarian crisis**: millions of children have been denied the opportunity to grow up in a safe place and build their future.



11 million children in need of immediate humanitarian aid.



18,000 airstrikes witnessed by a child in their first three years of life.



One child dies **every 10 minutes** in Yemen.



“Lana”

OUR EMERGENCY & REHABILITATION SCHOOL

In 2023, in the city of Aden, we opened the first Emergency and Rehabilitation School in Yemen, rescuing displaced children from the civil war.

Still I Rise Academy - Aden, nicknamed “Lana,” offers **high-quality education, targeted child protection actions, and holistic support programs in nutrition, psychosocial, and healthcare services** for children and their families.

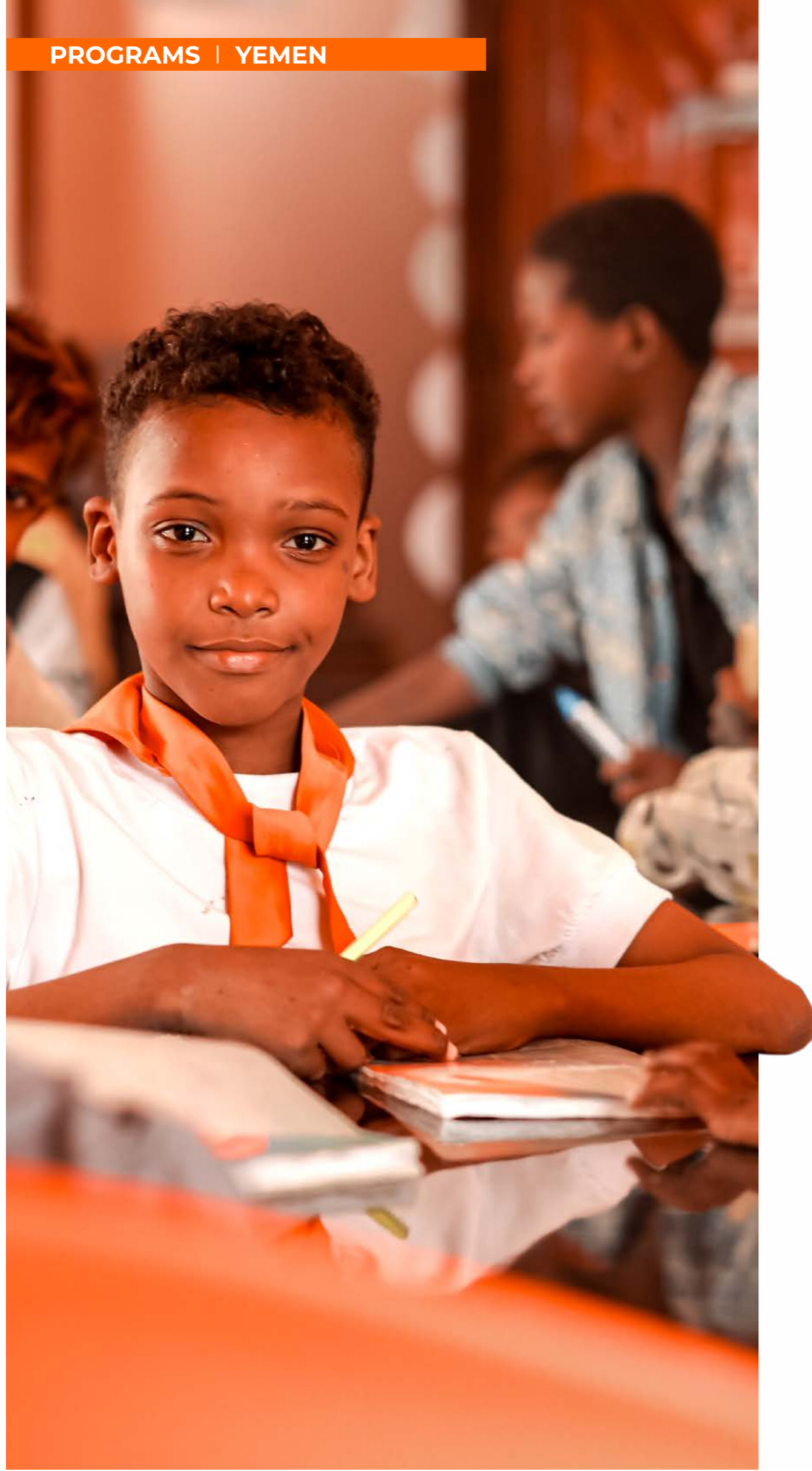




CHALLENGES FACED IN 2023

In the months leading up to the school's opening in November, we focused on setup operations, including:

- ▶ **Building the team** by selecting teachers, management, and all necessary personnel.
- ▶ **Finding and securing a school building**, renovating and furnishing it according to the "Future Classroom" design.
- ▶ Completing **legal and administrative procedures**.
- ▶ Identifying **the most vulnerable students** based on the social context.
- ▶ **Networking with local ministries and NGOs** in the region.



OUR RESULTS IN 2023

- ▶ **Recruitment** of a trained and competent team.
- ▶ **Securing and renovating a school building** in time for opening.
- ▶ Obtaining **necessary licenses**.
- ▶ **Selection of 50 students** who began attending the Education Camp in November.





TEACHER STORIES

Mohy never considered working in the humanitarian sector. He spent a long time in a commercial company, in a stable environment with no major surprises. Yet, he always felt something was missing.

During a long journey through Africa, Mohy realized he wanted to use his skills to support the most vulnerable—he decided to do so in his homeland, Yemen. When he discovered Still I Rise, he knew he had found his place: he is now on the front lines, making the school's opening possible alongside his team!

MOHY, LOGISTICS SPECIALIST IN YEMEN



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

We worked to:

- ▶ Improve the school environment following the Future Classroom model, after the successful trial in Kenya. This includes creating Reading and Emotional Corners where students can take breaks or conduct independent research.
- ▶ Obtain curriculum approval from the Ministry.
- ▶ Select more students.
- ▶ Organize the Education Camp in preparation for the school's opening.
- ▶ Implement internal regulations to enhance procedures and daily operations.



**300 hours
of lessons**



**7 hours of training
per teacher**



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Othman, 10 years old, was born and raised in a displacement camp. Orphaned of his mother, **he spent his early years scavenging through trash**, looking for metal or plastic to recycle for a few dollars to help support his two sisters and father.

School was never even a possibility for him, and when we first met him, **his eyes carried the exhaustion of an adult.**

But in the weeks following his arrival at school, **we began to see a new spark of enthusiasm.**

Recently, he told us he wants to become a doctor because **he wants to take care of others.**

We will do everything we can to support his dreams.

OTHMAN, STUDENT IN YEMEN

COLOMBIA

CONTEXT

In 2023, Colombia—a global migration hotspot—continued to experience **armed group activities**, triggering at least **12 mass emergencies** in November, leading to ongoing displacement and confinement.



8.3 million
people in need.



Over 163,000 forcibly
displaced people in 2023
(UNHCR).



**16% of Colombian
teenagers**
do not attend high
school.



OUR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN COLOMBIA

Throughout the year, we worked toward opening Bogotá's first free International School for refugee and vulnerable children in South America. In Ciudad Bolívar—one of Latin America's most overcrowded favelas—we purchased a building and transformed it into a space offering **high-quality free education to vulnerable local children**, Venezuelan refugees, and internally displaced people. The school will open in January 2024 and will provide:



A 1:10 teacher-student ratio.



Daily breakfast and lunch.



Professional psychological support.



Regular cultural events and field trips.



A free city-wide shuttle bus service.



OUR WORK IN 2023

- ▶ **Purchased the school building** and began renovation.
- ▶ **Held community meetings** to present our mission to Ciudad Bolívar families.
- ▶ **Completed a field mission** by our CEO and General Counsel.
- ▶ **Registered the official entity** with the Secretariat of Education.
- ▶ **Launched a fundraising campaign**, with a foundation matching €416,121 in donations.
 - ▶ **Implemented our Educational Method.**
 - ▶ **Hired our educational team in Colombia.**





STORIES FROM THE FIELD

“ I was born and raised in Colombia, where I quickly learned how much the place of your birth can determine your future.

*During the COVID-19 pandemic, isolated at home, I realized **I wanted to do more for my country and my people.***

When I discovered Still I Rise was assembling a new team in Colombia, I had no doubts: this was for me! The work ahead is extraordinary.

We want students in Colombia to find a school that welcomes them, restores their confidence, and gives them courage for the future.

*I am so happy to be part of this project and **truly believe we can make a difference**—right here, in my homeland, with Still I Rise. ”*

LAURA, PROGRAM MANAGER IN COLOMBIA

05

PROJECTS



GOAL: ITALY

THE SITUATION IN ITALY

The global education crisis is not just a problem for the Global South—it affects all of us. Only 0.1% of children worldwide have access to high-quality education. We want to change that.

Italy ranks 51st in the global ranking of the most effective school systems and is facing a true educational emergency. Italian **students rank among the most anxious in the world**. We are at the top of the OECD rankings for school-related stress, and **75% of Italian teachers have not attended any training courses at their school after obtaining their certification**. The OECD average is 58%, and Italy ranks 121st globally.

We are working to open a world-class International School in the coming years, where **refugee students and vulnerable Italian students can change the game and become tomorrow's leaders**. We do not aim to replace the public school system, but we strive to do our part to improve it.

In the meantime, we are actively engaged in two major initiatives at local level to spread our educational approach.

Projects with Italian schools

“INSIEME” PROJECT



We bring excellent education to students worldwide.

That is why we have decided to make our resources, knowledge, and training available by creating Insieme, **a teaching support program that allows teachers to discover and implement the Still I Rise Method in their classrooms.** This initiative is structured around three educational paths: Reading, Photography, and Active Citizenship.

In 2023:

207
schools involved

9,000+
students reached

Projects with Italian schools

TEACHER TRAINING

We organize **training and professional development** courses for teachers, educators, and anyone interested in exploring our pedagogical philosophy and school approach.

During the summer, we conducted 60-hour training courses for teachers across Italy, receiving extremely positive feedback for our innovative and engaging approach.

Participant satisfaction rates:

88% for the 1st course in Lombardy

90% for the 2nd course in Piedmont

92% for the 3rd course in Tuscany

Each training session focused on a pillar of our Educational Model, featuring live and recorded interviews with our on-site and remote staff.

After overcoming numerous challenges, we have submitted an application for **accreditation with the Italian Ministry of Education (MIUR)** so that Still I Rise can be officially recognized as a training provider for teachers.

Local Groups

OUR VOLUNTEERS

We have worked to:

- ▶ Raise awareness of our mission
- ▶ Expand connections with local organizations
- ▶ Bring our work into Italian classrooms
- ▶ Raise funds for our projects
- ▶ Strengthen relationships among local group members across the country

194
events

410
registered volunteers

€80,000+
raised

6,000 +
people learned about
our organization through
volunteer outreach

Through our eyes



OUR STUDENTS' PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

A total of **156 students** from our schools in Samos, Northwestern Syria, and Kenya created a **photography exhibit** that allows children aged 9 to 17 to tell their stories through their own eyes.

The exhibition has been showcased in over 100 cities across Europe and America, and our goal is to bring this photography project to every Still I Rise school.

In 2023 we have organized 33 exhibitions.



Press and PR

OUR MEDIA PRESENCE

In 2023, more media outlets than ever covered Still I Rise, confirming a steady growth trend seen in previous years. There were **1,151 media features** about our activities globally—a **48.5% increase** compared to 2022.

Of these publications:

- ▶ **87%** were in Italy;
- ▶ **13%** were in other countries, including the USA, San Marino, Portugal, the UK, Brazil, and France.

In terms of media format:

- ▶ **74%** of the publications were online;
- ▶ **16%** were on print media;
- ▶ **7%** were on radio and TV;
- ▶ **3%** came from news agencies.

In 2023, we also strengthened regional communications within Italy, collaborating with volunteers from Still I Rise's Local Groups.

1151
publications



+48,5%
compared
to 2022

SUPPORTS



WORLDWIDE PRESS RELEASES



Press and PR

KEY MEDIA TOPICS

The most widely covered topics in the media included:

- ▶ The earthquake in Northwestern Syria;
- ▶ The meeting between Nicolò Govoni and Pope Francis at RAI studios;
- ▶ The launch of SIR Edizioni and the book *Altrove* by Nicolò Govoni;
- ▶ The “School of the Future” tour;
- ▶ Still I Rise’s nomination for the 2023 Nobel Peace
- ▶ The development of our International School in Colombia;
- ▶ The Through Our Eyes exhibition in Chicago;
- ▶ Still I Rise’s participation in key events such as Human Rights Week, Clown&Clown Festival, Run for Inclusion, and the Festival of Rights.

**LET'S WRITE THE
FUTURE TOGETHER.
LET'S CHANGE THE
WORLD, ONE CHILD
AT A TIME.**

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SOCIAL



**STILL
I RISE**