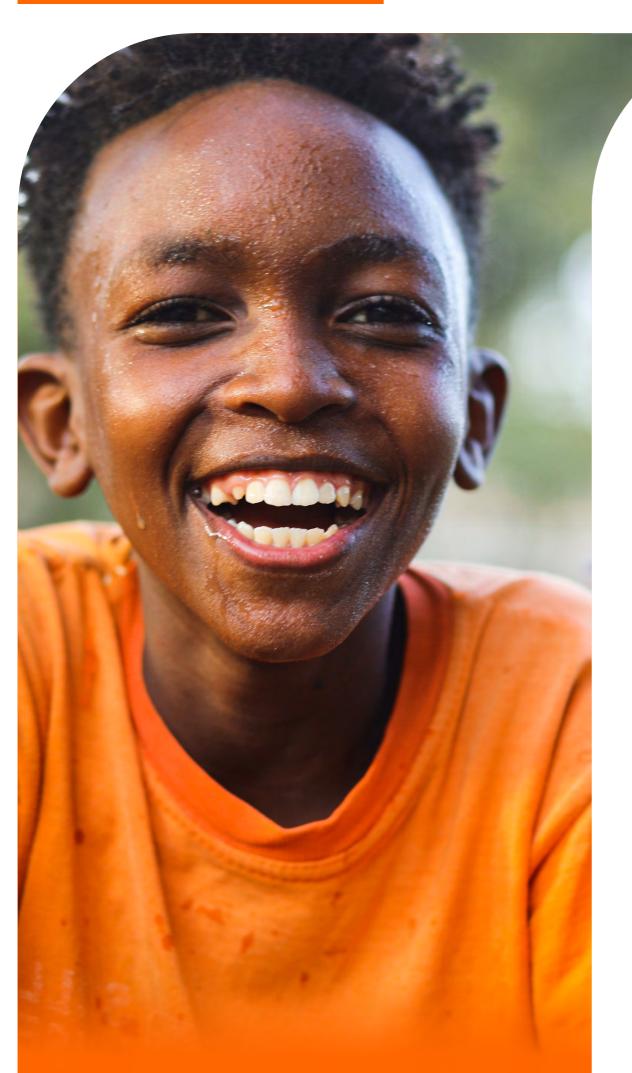


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**MISSION** 

# CHANGING THE WORLD, ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Still I Rise is an international nonprofit organization founded in 2018 with the goal of providing educational excellence, safety, and protection to refugee and vulnerable children in global migration hubs.

#### **VALUES**

# Independence

Thanks to private donations, Still I Rise is completely independent: We receive no funding from governments, the European Union, or supranational organizations.

## Transparency

We are committed to assigning as many donations as possible to our programs and activities, minimizing operating costs.

# Efficiency

We listen to the real needs expressed by the people who live in the areas of the world where we operate and our goal is to enable communities and local leaders to make an active impact on the issues that arise.

I began to believe in myself because the teachers of Still I Rise believed in me.

> Majd, ex-student





#### **OUR SCHOOLS**

#### **EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION SCHOOLS**

Our actions are implemented in volatile settings, where we offer a versatile curriculum that aims to recover and rehabilitate minors who have had no education for years. Our ultimate objective is to enroll them in the public school system.

The model also addresses basic needs like nutrition, hygiene, and child protection, as well as psycho-social support to regenerate the well-being of the child and their family unit.

#### **INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS**

Interventions take place in more stable settings, where migrant people settle on a long-term basis. We are the first nonprofit organization in the world to offer the International Baccalaureate framework dedicated to refugee and vulnerable minors. Through our International Schools, we guarantee a premium seven-year education at no cost, which can open the doors of the world's top universities to all our students.

### **DONATIONS OVERVIEW**

Total donations

2.479.725,52 €

|General | 55 | donations | donations | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € | 2.189.770,95 € |

5x1000 donations\* 289.723,57 €

Operating surplus 2021 710.275,69 €

|Fundraising |income | 28.971,44 € Expenditure

2022

1.803.741,67 €

#### **LET'S GROW TOGETHER!**



### **DETAILS COSTS AND CHARGES**

**Current missions** 

93%



0,6%

Fundraising costs 10.386,9 €

2,2%

Financing and capital costs 40.772,06 €

4,2%

Operating costs 77.468,69€

\*Includes EUR 245,990.19 from 2021 and the delayed disbursement of EUR 43,733.38 from 2019.

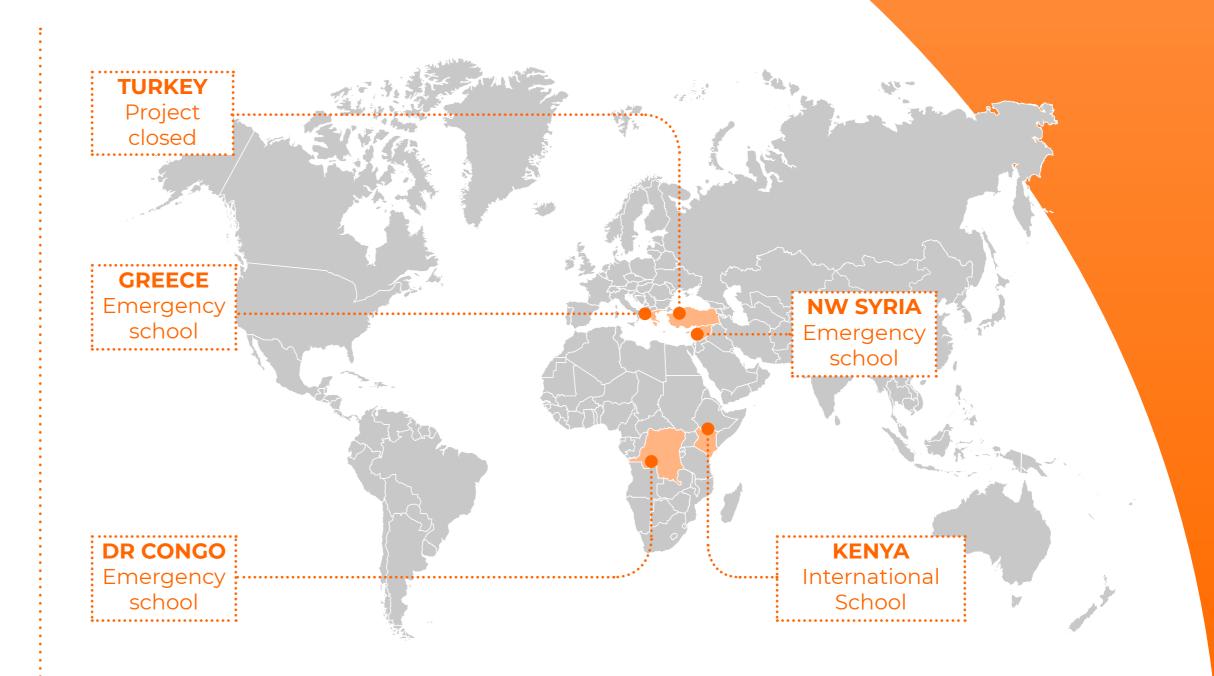
5% - Turkey

7% - Greece

12% - NW Syria

22% - DR Congo

**53% - Kenya** 



WHAT WE DO

# We received the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice

(Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice) from the Harmony Foundation in Mumbai, India.



STRUCTURE

10

### ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

at 31/12/2022

#### 14 members

#### Regulator

Paola Giovannuzzi

#### **Board**

Nicolò Govoni,
Riccardo Geminiani,
Giulia Cicoli,
Beatrice Marzi,
Antonio Buzzi,
Gabriella Gliozzi

Click on the organizational chart to view the full structure

**CEO** Nicolò Govoni

ADVOCACY	Director Giulia Cicoli	
EDUCATION	Director Michael Fisher	ŀ
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION	Manager Laura Arena	
HR	Manager Fulvia Poma	
PROGRAMS	Director Alina Akhyar	
PROGRAMS FUNDRAISING		
	Alina Akhyar Director	

- Kenya
- NW Syria
- Greece
- DR Congo
- Turkey

#### **OUR TEAM**



95
Total employees

58 women

**37** men

Average age:

35 years

Worldwide, ninety-five colleagues are engaged in growing equity, sustainability, and mutual trust. In our approach, we recognize the importance of developing a work environment that values and respects the skills and loyalty of each Still I Rise team member.



#### **OUR TEAM**

Our field teams are made up of **qualified profession-als**, led by a key Principal or Program Manager, partnered by education, child protection, logistics, and human resources/local administration managers. These figures have specific expertise and work closely with students and teachers, offering support in their specialist areas.

In synergy with all colleagues operating in the field, Still I Rise ensures ongoing remote support thanks to a results-oriented proactive team that adapts to the needs of the organization and our schools.

This flexibility allows us to reach more people and be ready to meet challenges in different contexts while maintaining a very high level of efficiency and success, ensuring our team members can rely on the opportunity for enhanced management of their personal and professional time.



Our culture is based on setting clear, measurable, and concrete goals, whose progress is monitored and adjusted over time. We support the concept of **continuous improvement**, thus we learn from mistakes and challenges to adapt and improve our future actions.

Managing our human resources — where each member is an important player in our growth — means we ensure our colleagues have fair, **satisfactory salaries**, whether they work in the field or remotely. We address this obligation promptly and thoroughly, complying with national and international contracts that define appropriate pay standards for each position. Nonetheless, we also believe in **leadership by example and the organization's mission comes first.** 

An emblematic example of our approach is that our CEO voluntarily accepts a salary of only 400 euros per month. This symbolic gesture represents our pledge to an equitable distribution of resources and demonstrates our daily commitment to our schools and to all our students.

### GREECE

Every year, hundreds of people from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia attempt the sea crossing to Europe in search of political asylum and international protection. In the Samos refugee camp, a sea mile from the coast of Turkey, children and youth lived in tents in the woods or in overcrowded containers. Food was insufficient, sanitation and hygiene inadequate, and the entire system was collapsing.

In September 2021, a new facility was opened in a remote location on the island, about fifteen kilometers from the town. All the people living in the old camp were moved to the new center and forced to live in prison-like conditions. The center is surrounded by barbed wire and is accessed only by residents who are subjected to invasive security when they enter and exit.



### Mazi

#### **PROJECT COMPLETED**

Our Mazí (the Greek word for "together") school was **our first field project:** it is where our educational method and our dream of **changing the world** were born.

In this full-time teaching facility we offered English, math, sports, and art classes, alongside various activities for psycho-social development.



### Mazi

#### **PROJECT COMPLETED**

Welcoming and sharing were the cornerstones on which the project was founded, offereding students a stable foundation upon which to build their future. A team of competent, passionate coordinators and volunteers accompanied our students and facilitated the development of positive relationships and school learning. In mid-May 2022, we completed our educational mission in Samos. After the opening of the new hotspot in September, the number of students had drastically decreased and thanks in part to our support the remaining students were finally enrolled in Greek state school. It had always been our dream that all of our students would be able to attend public school and then we would no longer be needed. At long last we achieved this goal! We closed Mazí, giving every remaining student a customized education tailored to their end destination (Greek public school, education and residence elsewhere in Europe)

#### In four years we:



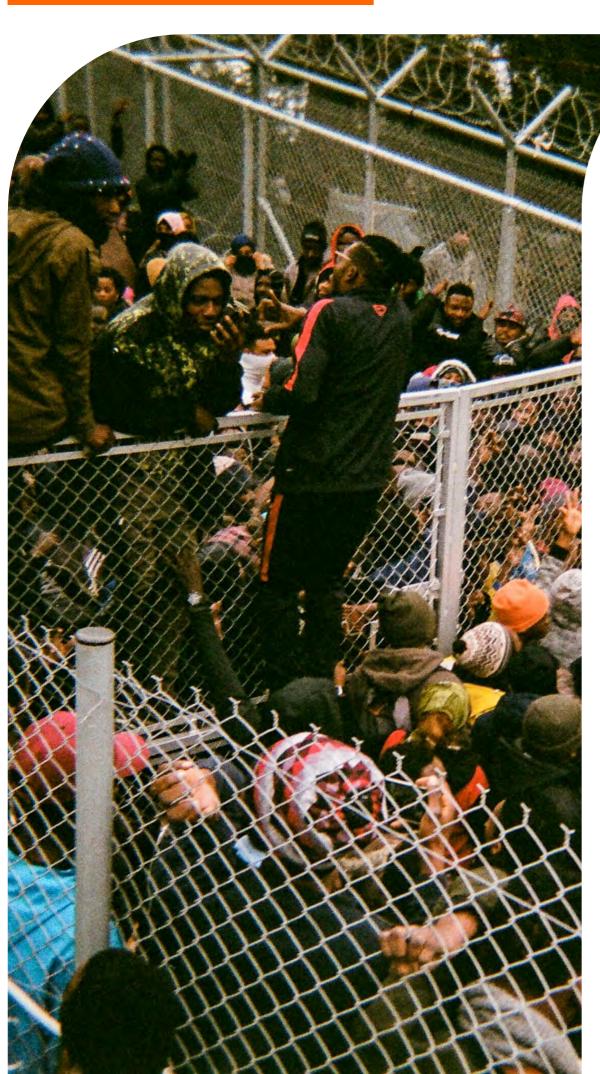
served
50 000
lunches and
breakfasts



provided 13 000 hours of lessons



welcomed
+2 000
students

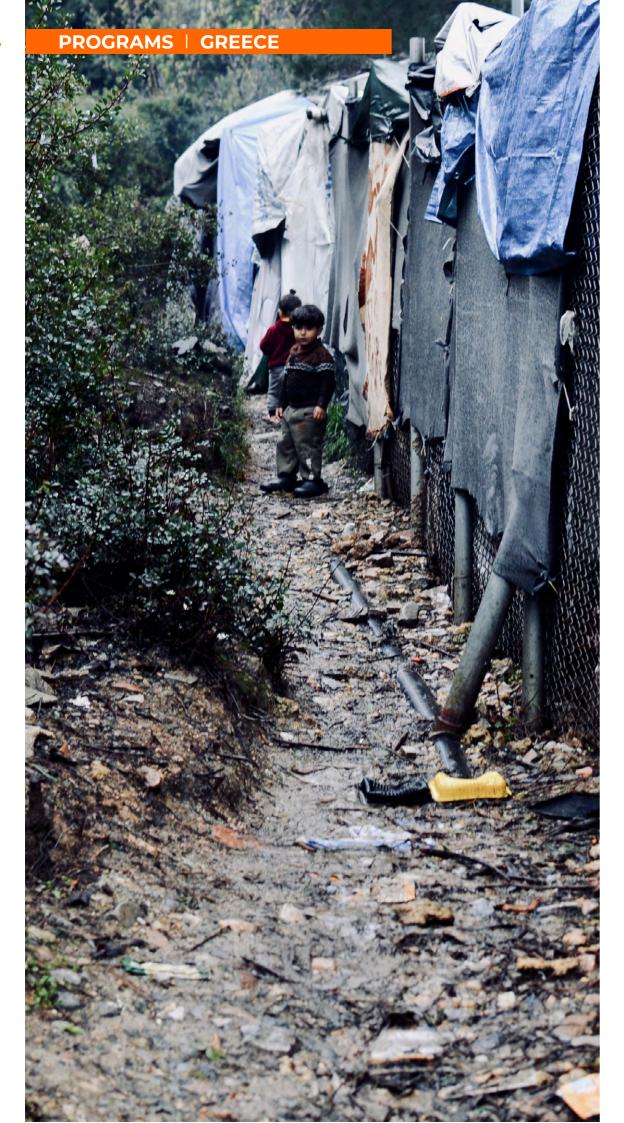


#### **ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT**

Although our educational mission has ended, our advocacy work continues. Sadly, there are few asylum seekers on Samos because **the Greek authorities brutally prevent landings and illegally send people to Turkey.** 

We have been following and supporting the <u>public</u> <u>campaign for the Samos2 case</u>, a clear example of the Greek government's hostile policy that criminalizes asylum seekers.

In May, we published the report <u>Growing behind</u> <u>barbed-wire</u>, an in-depth assessment of the impact on the mental health of children and unaccompanied minors after the opening of the new Closed Controlled Access Center in Samos, in September 2021.



#### **ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT**

In April and May, we partnered "I HAVE RIGHTS" to submit a joint report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child as part of the assessment of Greece's compliance with the UN's 1989 Convention.

Thanks in part to the evidence we provided, the UN-CRC officially acknowledged **violations of children's rights** by the Greek government and confirmed concerns about the plight of refugee children and unaccompanied minors.

In October we launched a joint campaign with several Samos-based organizations to demand the withdrawal of Frontex operations from Greece due to its failure to comply with its internal regulations on the **protection of human rights.** 



#### **OUR ACHIEVEMENTS**

2022

JAN Return to school when lockdown ended for about twenty students still on the island;

FEB Transfer to another location/building (Mazí 3);

Operational feasibility analysis performed (scenarios);

Project closure confirmation and planning of subsequent steps;

MAG Outline of closure phases;

Initiation of closure phases of the program, including drafting of a comprehensive handover document;

Consideration of possible transfer of the project to other areas in Greece;

Mazí closure process initiated

2023

Mazí was our first school and the reason we founded Still I Rise.

It was a very intense and challenging four-year period, and we know that Mazí will remain in the hearts of the many people who were part of it. Thanks to Mazí, we laid the groundwork for what Still I Rise is today, and we couldn't be prouder.

Giulia Cicoli, Advocacy Director

### **NW SYRIA**

It has been eleven years since the start of the revolution in Syria, violently suppressed by the Syrian regime, leading to a conflict that is still ongoing.

The situation is extremely critical in Northwest Syria, the largest area still outside the regime's control and where our Ma'an school is located.

+6,8

million internally displaced people

**+90%** rely on humanitarian aid to survive

44% of children are out of school

+80% are women and children



### Ma'an

We opened our Ma'an Emergency and Rehabilitation School here in 2020, with the specific objective of welcoming vulnerable children then reintegrating them into public school. Ma'an – meaning "together" in Arabic – is a school for children aged ten to fourteen. In addition to teaching English, Arabic, and math, flanking our students along their path to school reintegration, we provide all-round care for them all.

Our students play sports, enjoy recreational activities, are provided with counselling, and all their needs are taken into account. This is an effort to provide them with the best possible education despite the terrible war that has decimated their homeland for years.



### Ma'an

We build a safe place where our students can be children again, with their rights, their dreams, and the chance to grow up and change the world, teaching peace.

At our Emergency and Rehabilitation School in Northwest Syria, we welcome both internally displaced Syrians, who have left their cities to escape the bombs, and children from the local community, broken by a war that has raged for more than ten years.



### Ma'an



Despite the tragic circumstances of the Ma'an backdrop, we have managed to make a difference and restore life, creating a place where everyone can feel at home. In a location where education is still a distant dream, sitting in a classroom is often pure fantasy, a backpack is a luxury, we have been able to change things!

In Northwest Syria, the distribution of school kit, clothing, or food parcels is not just the sharing of simple items, but a symbol of dreams and hopes.

We listen to the needs of those who live where we operate so that our impact is truly effective in meeting everyone's requests.



#### **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

"Our goal is to reintegrate students in public schools. We are proud of our achievement."

Michael Fisher Education Director

94%

of our ninth grade students passed national examinations.

97%

of our students were able to enroll in public school after finishing our one-year accelerated learning program.





#### **ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT**

Our Advocacy Department in Northwest Syria has been working through a major outreach campaign to bring **complex, difficult realities** to the notice of our audience, with first-hand information and real testimonies from our teams.

The goal is to make accessible stories and topics that usually go unnoticed by the media, bringing three main issues to the public's attention:

- The terrible recurrence of the **eleven-year conflict**, a war that has destroyed Syrian territory and still seems to be invisible to the eyes of the West.
- The living conditions on the ground, the spread of cholera, the terrible cold wave, the risks posed by unexploded bombs and other devices.
- The illegal acts committed by members of the regime, with the first-ever conviction by a German court of a senior Assad government official for crimes against humanity.



#### **OUR ACHIEVEMENTS**

2022

JAN Finalization of the new library and purchase of new books;

MAR Beginning of preparations for Ramadan;

APR Special distribution for Ramadan;

MAY Start of mental health sessions with staff;

JUNE Our ninth-grade students sat national examinations with a 92% pass rate;

Eighty new students enrolled in four classes at the beginning of the school year;

NOV Distribution of coal to staff and students;

DEC Health plan for students.

2023

#### **OUR IMPACT**



#### **Distribution**

Meals served

17647

Hygiene kits distributed

225

Food parcels distributed

1013



#### **Students and families**

Students involved

80

Boys and girls

**50%** 

Family members involved

707



#### **Education**

Class hours

**3142** 

Hours of psychosocial activities

**454** 

Staff

members

11



I want to travel the world and then become an architect so I can go back to Syria and rebuild it as it has been destroyed.

Muhammad - aged 12

### **KENYA**

Our International School in Nairobi is strategically located to accommodate our students.

Mathare – one of the poorest, most densely populated shanty towns in the world – is encircled by the neighborhoods of Pangani, Eastleigh, and Huruma, areas with a high refugee population.

+80 000

refugees in Nairobi 53%

children



In Mathare,
600 000
people live in
5 Km<sup>2</sup>



### International School

We opened our International School here in 2020 and in June 2021 it became an International Baccalaureate (IB) Candidate School as part of the prestigious IB circuit, a quality designation reserved for some of the best schools on the planet!

#### WHY DID WE DO IT?

Only 0.1% of the world's children have access to elite education.

Everyone else has to make do with the crumbs.



# International School

At Still I Rise, we work every day to change this relationship through our International Schools, top-quality institutions where, for the first time ever, refugee and vulnerable children have free access to the world's most prestigious course of study: the International Baccalaureate. We believe that every child in the world should be guaranteed not only the right to education, but also the right to the best possible education. This is where we train tomorrow's leaders, enabling children for the world seems to have forgotten to build their future. In Still I Rise schools, every student is heard, valued, and supported to become the best version of themselves.

This is changing the world.

This is the future of education.



# International School

We are very proud of our achievements, which go far beyond numerical data. Our goal is to create an educational model with the student at its core and fully embracing all their needs. We are dedicated to guiding each of our students along the growth path that suits them best.

This is why we are very proud to have achieved the inclusion of our International School in the **Top 10 of T4 Education's World's Best School Prizes ranking,** within the Community Collaboration category.



### Jenga Pamoja



For the second year in a row, we organized "Jenga Pamoja", namely "Building together"

A special month in which we celebrated and learned about the cultures of each member of our school.

The idea came from the students themselves, and our staff devised a rich program of events: Students created playlists of popular folk music from all countries of origin, organizing special dances, and art sessions, as well as building models of the traditional houses of their homelands, and poems written by poets of different nationalities were read.

We all learned to say "hello" and "welcome" in all the languages spoken in our school, and we designated special days for students and staff to wear traditional costume.



#### **SUMMER CAMP**

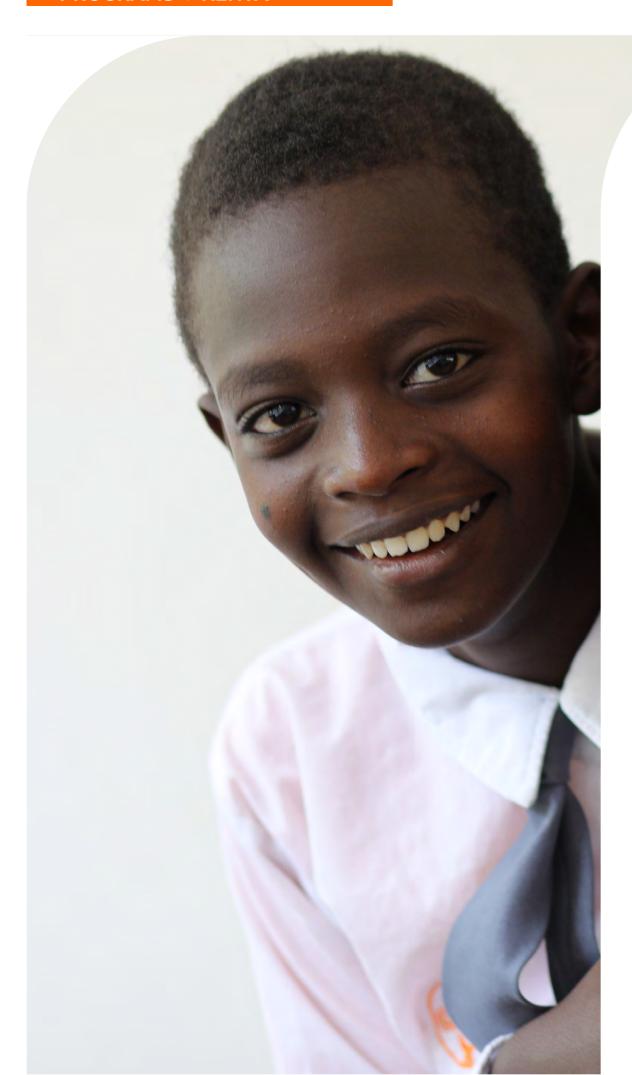
#### Nairobi to Mombasa

From 25 July 2022, Nairobi Still I Rise International School students and staff spent a month in a summer camp on the coast of Kenya.

This gave our students a great opportunity to **travel out-side their hometown for the first time.** The dates chosen were not random: 9 August 2022 was **election day in the country** and in recent years, elections were characterized by **extreme violence.** For this reason we decided to face a huge challenge and move about 150 students and staff to a much safer place.

From Monday to Friday, our students spent the morning in the classroom, continuing the same syllabus and pursuing the same objectives they would have done in Nairobi. In the afternoon, students took part in special sea-themed projects, explored rock pools, played sports in the sand, and learned to swim in the ocean.

Our school and our **holistic method** involve the student fully, not just at their desks but above all outside the classroom. We really believe it is important for our students to discover, explore, and benefit from leisure and socialization time, like all pupils the world over!



#### **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

+10800

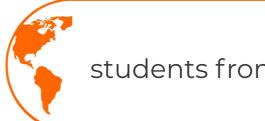
hours of classroom teaching

140 hours of teacher training 260

hours of club activities including: dance, drama, journalism, sports, art

163

hours of teacher orientation







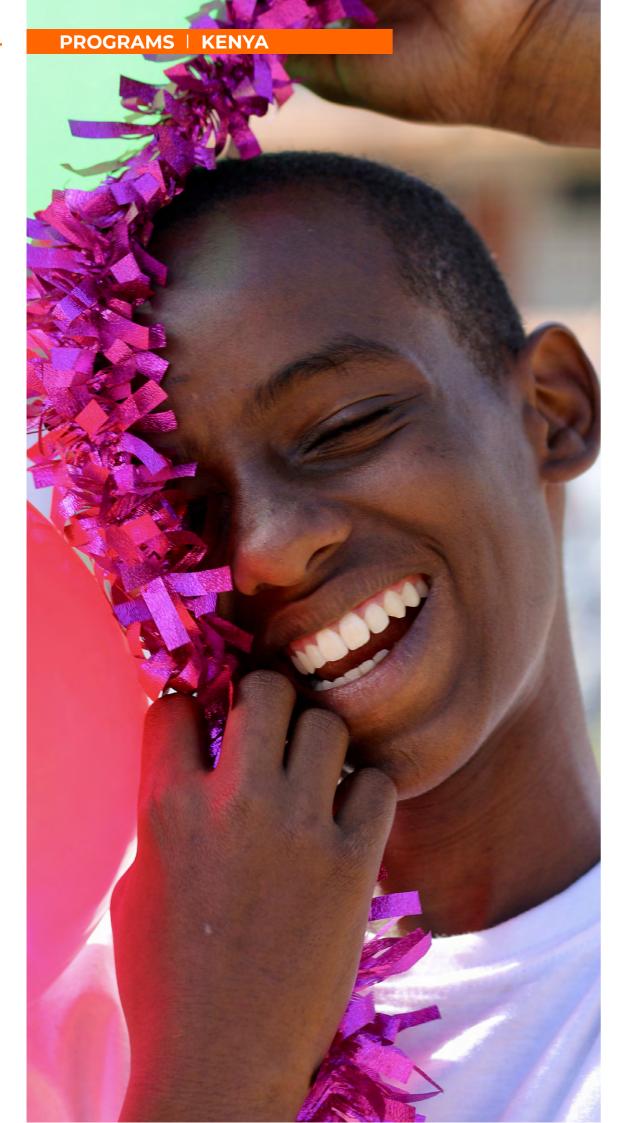
#### **ADVOCACY**

In Kenya, we gave legal support to one of our students to obtain justice for the loss of his father, who died as a result of injuries he sustained in an accident. The man was abused and mistreated in hospital because of his Burundian refugee status and we spearheaded efforts to secure justice for his son, a student at our School.

In April and May, we also activated a **community initiative to clean up and restore the illegal dumpsite near our School,** which was releasing toxic fumes from incineration of accumulated waste.

We contacted several local associations who implemented similar actions successfully in other areas of Nairobi, and we managed to coordinate a massive cleanup to commemorate World Environment Day 2022.

We also activated a social media campaign targeting the Kenyan general public to circulate a message of nonviolence during the elections but Facebook blocked our posts.



#### **OUR RESULTS**

2022

Nairobi Still I Rise International School included in the International School Awards 2021;

FEB 20 students visited the Kenyan parliament;

MAR School field trip to Karura Forest;

APR Beginning of selection of new students as well as renovation of the second building;

MAY Jenga Pamoja: a special month;

Nairobi Still I Rise International School selected for the World's Best School in Community Collaboration;

AUG Summer camp in Mombasa;

OCT A new school bus;

DEC Completion of renovations to the second building with addition of new spaces in the first building;

Celebration of the school's second birthday; Organization of the Christmas dance and the overnight camp.

2023

#### **OUR IMPACT**



#### **Distribution**

Meals served

107572

Hygiene kits distributed

156

Food parcels distributed

300



#### **Students and families**

Students involved

151

Boys and girls

77 - 74

Family members involved:

543



#### **Education**

Class hours

+10800

Hours of psycho- Staff social activities

313

members

By giving these kids the same tools available to wealthy people, we can create greater equity and maybe a world in which the next president comes from a vulnerable background.

Interview by Nicolò Govoni to K24, one of the most popular TV channels in Kenya and beyond.

### DR CONGO

The Democratic Republic of Congo is one of the richest yet poorest countries in the world.

Its natural resources are unparalleled with valuable underground minerals and much of the surface covered by rainforest, the world's second largest.

Alone, the country produces more than 3% of copper and 50% of cobalt for the world market, as well as diamonds, coltan, gold, and crude oil. Nonetheless, the Democratic Republic of Congo is left with very little of all this wealth because of extensive foreign corporate interests in the territory.



#### **CHILD LABOR**

Child labor is an infamous scourge: Although the country has announced it will stop children being used in the mining sector by 2025, minors are currently exploited without respect for their human rights.

5,2 million

internally displaced children **72**%

of people live in **extreme poverty** 

3,5 million

children out of primary school

20%
die before their
5th birthday
in the south of
the country



## Pamoja

**EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION SCHOOL** 

Pamoja is located in the Mutoshi area of Kolwezi, one of the most important mining districts in the world.

Our action aimed to remove children and adolescents from cobalt mines and rehabilitate them to make up lost education years and place them back in the state school system.

To remove them from child labor conditions we deploy strategies like outreach activities and distribution of basic necessities to families, as well as guaranteeing breakfast and lunch every day for all students.



## Pamoja

**EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION SCHOOL** 

With school enrollment and the support we provide to families, all of our students have been able to leave work in the mines, and this is an amazing achievement for us.

In Swahili, "Pamoja" means "together", which is the bedrock of Still I Rise Emergency Schools.



#### **EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**



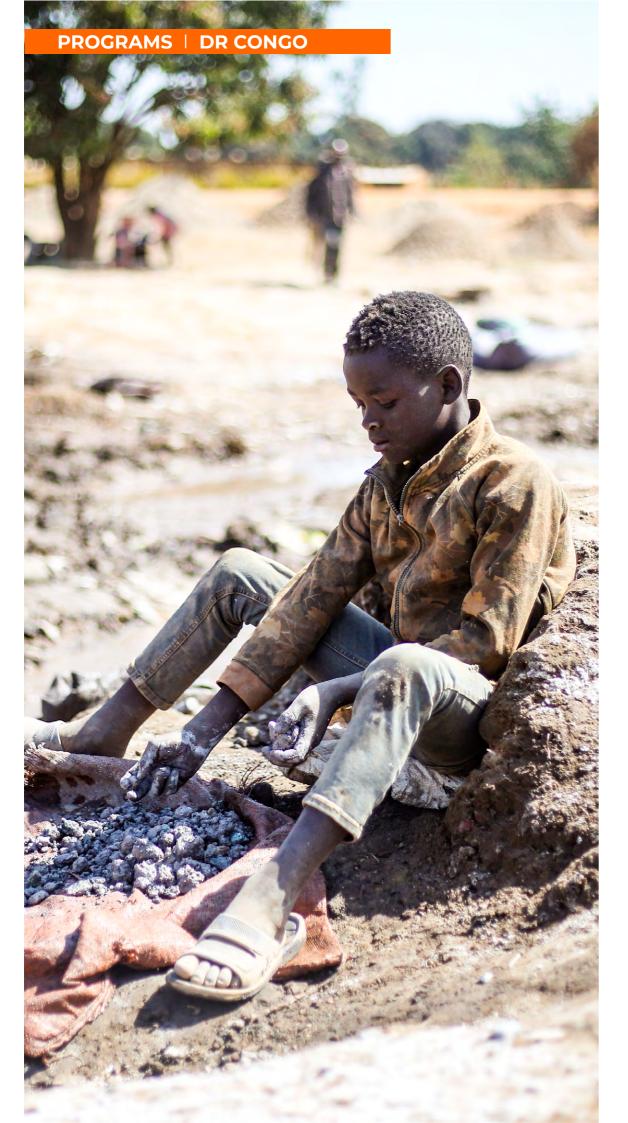
We launched the PNRS program, an accelerated three-year primary syllabus that certifies children for access to secondary education.

There was a pass rate of

90%

after the first term examinations in December 2022

teacher training hours.



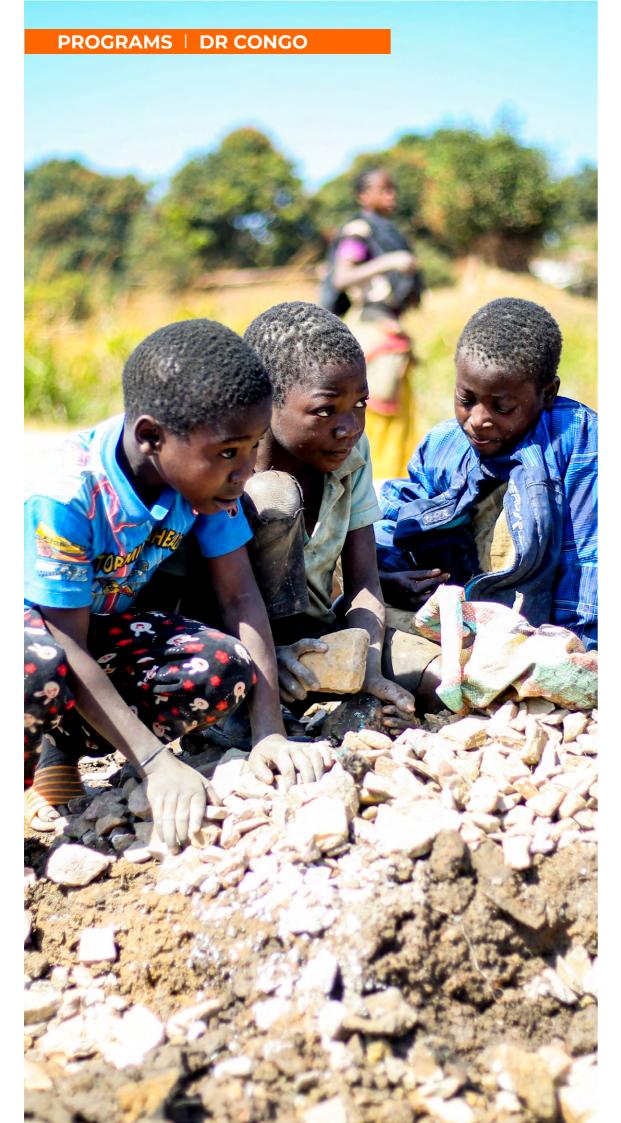
#### **ADVOCACY**

The coming decades will see a transition from fossil fuels to green energy, with the objective of achieving a climate-neutral European Union by 2050.

For this reason, European institutions are deliberating and will soon approve a directive on due diligence for corporate sustainability, along with other laws for regulation of this transition.

In this evolution, cobalt as a raw material plays a key role because of its use in lithium-ion batteries.

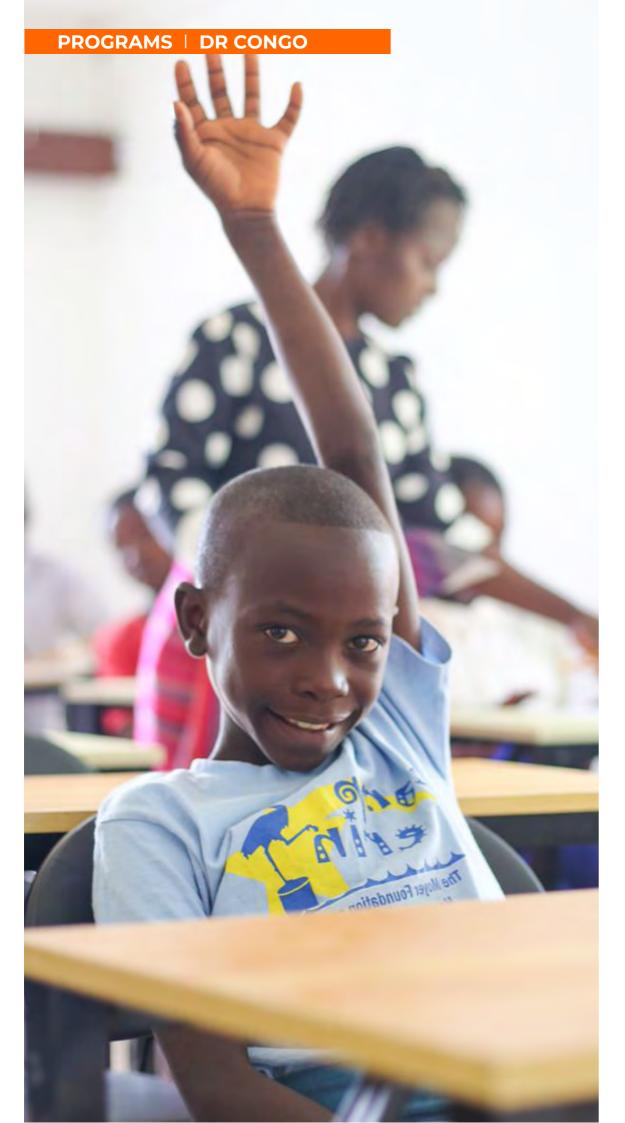
Global cobalt production is dominated by the DRC, which supplied more than 70% in 2022.



#### THE COBALT CHAIN

The cobalt chain is, however, characterized by **human rights abuse**, particularly in the ambit of **child labor.** To address these problems and ensure a sustainable and ethical value chain, Still I Rise:

- Published a position paper calling for a robust, comprehensive mandatory **due diligence policy** for companies in the EU market that handle products containing cobalt.
- Launched the "**No more child miners**" petition, which garnered over 43,000 signatures.
- Conducted **follow-up and lobbied eleven MEPs** in relation to various European legislative initiatives including: Due Diligence Directive of Corporate Sustainability, Regulation on Batteries, and Critical Raw Materials Regulation.
- Participated in two public feedback consultations on the new European Critical Raw Materials Act.



#### **OUR RESULTS**

#### 2022

JAN Start of school renovations;

Opening of a bank account and creation of an operating team;

Start of student identification and recruitment process with new selection criteria;

Major renovations completion;

Purchase of SIR's first asset: the bus; Inauguration day with 60 registered students and their families;

Launch of psycho-social activities;

MAR Start of classes for enrolled students;

Visit of CEO and GC to Kolwezi for formal launch of Pamoja and first school field trip;

Intensive teacher training for "national accelerated learning program";

SEP Start of one-year ALP (accelerated learning program); Completion of outdoor classroom renovation;

OCT Project TOE DRC: photography course;

NOV 99% success rate of our students in the first term tests;

**DEC** Quality monitoring visit by CEO and GC.

2023

#### **OUR IMPACT**



#### **Distribution**

Meals served

distributed

Hygiene kits

Food parcels distributed

29132

225

**333** 



#### **Students and families**

Students involved

Boys and girls Family members involved

**60** 

28 - 32

338



#### **Education**

Classroom hours

Hours of psychosocial activities

Staff members

1290

**558** 

12

In our educational model, mine and school are mutually exclusive.

The moment the child becomes a student, they will no longer go into child labor.

Giovanni Volpe, Still I Rise Operations Manager, ANSA Voice Stories podcast

### **TURKEY**

#### **PROJECT CLOSED**

Millions of people have fled the war in Syria and sought asylum in Turkey. Gaziantep, a city near the Turkish–Syrian border, has become the **escape route** for refugees heading for safety. This is where we tried to build our first International School for refugee and neglected children.

Unfortunately, we did not succeed because the only way ahead would have been to compromise and we preferred to hold on to our freedom and independence.

Our work in Turkey started in 2019 and ended three years later. After a series of complications and obstacles described in *more detail here,* in 2021–22 we continued to try and reopen our School, never losing hope, even in the face of threatening opposition.



### TURKEY

#### **PROJECT CLOSED**

We hired one of the top international cooperation experts in Turkey with the aim of overcoming the main obstacle: the continuous request for bribes, even from the Ministry of Education itself. With our international cooperation we contacted more than twenty of the best law firms in the country, in order to find a legitimate way to overcome rampant corruption and achieve our objective.

Despite our best efforts, the Ministry of Education never issued the permits we requested, parking our applications in an endless bureaucratic limbo.

Finally, in May 2022, we hired one last team of lawyers, this time on the direct advice of the Italian Ambassador to Turkey.



### **TURKEY**

#### **PROJECT CLOSED**



It was the Italian Mission's own legal counsel who took charge of our case, re-examined all our documents, assessing the harassment and abuse we suffered. In July 2022, they produced the report that put an end to our efforts, our fight, our hopes. Opening an International School that would offer the International Baccalaureate course would be impossible unless we were willing to make unacceptable compromises. In September 2022, three long years after this incredible dream took shape, we had to accept defeat and admit failure. We tried. We tried as hard as we could and many times over. We did not succeed. One day, when Turkey is a country that vaunts more freedom, perhaps we will try again.

But for the moment we must abandon the mission and admit with the honesty that has always distinguished us that we fought to the last breath. And we lost.

Losing in Turkey, however, allowed us to win elsewhere.



It is precisely thanks to Turkey's geographical position that we met the exceptional colleagues with whom we opened in Northwest Syria.

It is precisely thanks to the lessons learned in Turkey that we were able to defend ourselves right from the start in Kenya and in the DR Congo, without being trodden underfoot again. So we could open the schools we promised to open.

And this is the greatest truth we have learned in the last three years: Defeat is not the opposite of victory. It is an integral part of it.

Our story does not end here.

# Projects with italian schools



A **teacher-friendly kit**, including video statements and academic documents on how to recognize and manage trauma, both from the point of view of the teacher and the student.

881

teachers registered between March and May 2022



# Projects with italian schools



"Insieme" (Together) is an **educational format** conceived for schools, educational institutions, and all youth associations interested in raising awareness of issues related to **migration**, **reception**, **child labor**, **and the right to education**.

After the first phase of Information and Awareness, during which we explore our Educational Method, you can choose from three different projects: reading, photography, citizenship.

In 2022:

**97** 

registered teachers:

4460

students involved





## **EXHIBITION OF PHOTOS TAKEN BY OUR STUDENTS**

A **photo exhibition** was produced by one hundred and fifty-six students in our Samos, Northwest Syria, and Kenya schools. For the first time, minors aged between nine and seventeen described the world as they see it.

The exhibition toured over one hundred cities in Europe and North America, and our goal is to take the photography project to every Still I Rise School.

In 2022 we:

Organized

34 exhibitions

in 13 Italian regions and 2 European countries

Participated in

6 events

meeting hundreds of students Started **phase** 

4

in DR Congo, involving 20 students **PROJECTS** 

## Local groups

#### **OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Territorial Groups comprise volunteers who vary in age and geographical origin, and represent the beating heart of Still I Rise in the area.

The groups mainly deal with:

- organizing events, presentations and demonstrations;
- managing markets and promotional opportunities;
- presenting our projects in schools;
- making the organization known in your community;
- promoting the "Through Our Eyes" project.

Monthly training events are dedicated to the groups with the aim of coordinating volunteer activities and staying updated on Still I Rise initiatives and programs.

34022773totalterritorialterritorialEuropeanvolunteersgroupseventsstates

**78 652€** collected in donations

# Press office and PR

#### **OUR MEDIA PRESENCE**

In 2022, Still I Rise's media presence grew steadily. Over the year, the Press Office and PR department sent **fifty-eight press releases**, of which 68% in Italy and 32% abroad. There was a focus on communications for the Italian local target, accounting for 41% of press launches nationwide.

Global releases reached 775 publications, including interviews, focus on Still I Rise or one of its members, quotes, reports of events and initiatives, with 10.8% growth in 2021. Of these, 90% were recorded in Italy, the remaining 10% overseas, including Kenya, UK, Italian-speaking Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, Australia, Republic of San Marino, and India.

7775
publications

+10,8%
compared to 2021

SUPPORTS

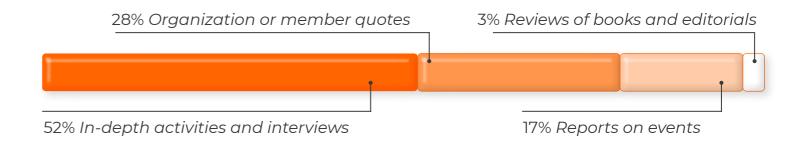
GLOBAL PRESS RELEASE

81% online
publications

90% National
10% Foreign

# Press office and PR

#### **TOPICS ADDRESSED**



#### The topics that aroused most interest:

- The opening of the Emergency and Rehabilitation School in Kolwezi, DR Congo;
- The photo exhibition "Through Our Eyes";
- Still I Rise International School of Nairobi in the Top 10 of the World's Best Schools Awards;
- The "Insieme" project;
- The "No More Child Miners" campaign;

- The book and tour "Ogni cambiamento è un grande cambiamento;
- Violations of children's human rights in Samos and the United Nations Committee for Children's condemnation;
- Frontex negligence in reporting human rights violations in Samos;
- The Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice to Still I Rise.

For me, Still I Rise is my family, my school, my whole being.

99

Alex Ilunga Wa Banze, DRC student

# CHANGE THE WORLD TOGETHER, ONE CHILD AT A TIME





