



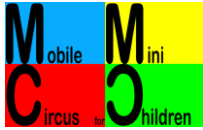
MMCC

Mobile Mini Circus for Children

Annual Report 2019



www.MMCCglobal.org



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Mobile Mini Circus for Children

Once again we are so delighted and proud of bringing you this testament of effectiveness and hope for our joyful humanitarian, social and educational work. Thank you for being part of our team and supporting us in so many different ways.

Since 2002 we have come a very long way and developed ourselves in various ways. This year we have had additional focus on both climate & environment and the youth. The new activities of the youth in our "Urban Challenge" and also the climate & environment activities of the "Oxygen Team" have been some of the most inspiring works MMCC has ever done. These activities are structured in innovative ways for mobilizing the youth to take action and lead their communities.

Our Educational shows have now reached over 4 million audience and our daily simultaneous activities in 6 regions of Afghanistan has 1800 participant children. MMCC has become a treasure of hope, fun, joy as well as trauma therapy, psychosocial help and community building and activism for so many youth and children.

The main success element of our work is improvisation and creativity which has its roots in our pedagogy itself. We never had any fix formula of a project to impose to any community, but kept listening to the children and youth and adjusting to the ever-changing reality and environment on the ground including security, financial, political, and social realities.

MMCC has now entered into a new era of its international contribution to serve many more children in need. We are now gradually becoming more and more global and are making the required frames and infrastructures to bring our capacities to many more children in different countries.

All the circus and children activities in Afghanistan are now fully implemented by MMCC's local partner AECC. AECC was established in 2009 with exactly this goal – to ensure the activities initiated by MMCC can continue for many years to come. The AECC programs in Afghanistan continues to be both supervised and financially supported by MMCC. In addition and while looking into expanding to more parts of the world, we are now also looking for ways to sustain the successful 'Oxygen' and 'Urban Challenge' – climate, environment and youth programs initiated by MMCC in Afghanistan.

Thank you for being with us and looking forward to bringing much more fun, joy and hope and to the children and youth who deserve it the most.

Berit Muhlhausen & David Mason
Directors



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The Strategy in brief*:

By 2022 MMCC will:

- Be recognized and active in 3 of the world's biggest refugee camps
- Have reached 1 million children by shows
- Have engaged 4,000 children and youth in social circus
- Have developed a movement with people with contacts and good hearts - but also doers and those who are not afraid of moving fast.

The Priority

Our 1st priority is **vulnerable children in developing countries**, especially those with **traumas from war and conflict**, in **refugee camps** with **sparse resources and few alternatives**.

**2019-2021 strategy – to be updated end of 2020*

Into the future – Strategy

MMCC has been strengthening its capacities for expanding to other countries. With support of Mustard Seed Trust we have made following activities:

- Research on possibilities and the needs in Africa for our expansion.
- Research and preparation for establishing an actual headquarter in Europe.
- Employing new MMCC global staffs which includes developing manager & fundraiser.
- Developing new promotional material
- Approaching new resources for our expansion

Going Global – Step by Step Progress

Following last year's strategy developed for our expansion and the earlier pilot project in Bangladesh for Rohingya refugees we are now getting step by step closer to achieving our goals. By generous support from Mustard Seed Trust we this year started preparation for the planned expansion of the MMCC-Global. This includes employment of new international staffs, making the initial researches for expansion in Africa, numerous orientation meetings, development of new publication material etc.

Now we are in the process of identifying and reaching the potential donors and partners for our expansion and for providing our services to other frontiers. This is a great work in progress and we are all excited to follow how MMCC is developing itself.

Our approach:

We aim for a way to scale – to reach big numbers of children and youth, not small while still keeping a tight focus on quality. By doing, using multiplication strategies and not under-estimating children.

We work through partners and hosts as multipliers of the impact of their messages (e.g. UNHCR, Hygiene shows) AND make a remarkable positive difference for children directly.

We have created the new concept of social circus. Advocacy, pedagogy and development. Our focus is conversion of traditional ways of engaging children and youth to the MMCC way.

We spread the pedagogy we've learnt from 18 years of practical work in Afghanistan

We see many other organizations tackling the same needs, but lacking our insights and way to be productive, effective and low cost.

The Cornerstone Programs

MMCC Global reaches large numbers of children and youth through the flag-ship foundation program for Social Circus for Children and through additional add-on programs targeting youth and tackling environmental & climate change issues.

Social Circus for Children:



This program is at the heart of MMCC work and the foundation for all activities. It is targeting children (<18) and is focusing on their empowerment and active participation in their communities through educational and fun activities while supporting their coping mechanism, resilience and/or trauma recovery. Social circus activities are teaching children physical, emotional, social and cognitive skills, They

place children in a key position in their communities, allowing children to perform educational performances and pass socially important messages and raise awareness on topics such as landmines, health & hygiene or polio vaccinations. Social Circus activities have the power to reach large numbers of individuals within a very short time, making it a powerful awareness raising method particularly in refugee/IDP camp settings.

Youth Program:

Youth (age 18-30) can reach community members in areas where children cannot safely perform. This includes urban context (i.e. street campaigns), areas with security risks (noting that these are still to be considered as safe for activities) and performances/activities with longer travel distance. Youth can also raise awareness on life-saving matters such as land-mine awareness and other topics providing more detailed information. MMCC's goal is to empower youth to become positive change-makers and give them a voice and choice to make a difference. The Youth program facilitates short and long-term activities and classes boosting their social skills, leadership skills while giving a key position as awareness raisers in their society. Like the social circus activities for children, the youth program also assist the youth in healing, trauma recovery and resilience to thrive even in challenging conditions. Learning is mostly based on practical and visual learning modalities.



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Climate Change and Environmental Program:

This add-on program is suitable for both youth and children and focused on global environmental challenges and their local responses. Many outreach and awareness raising methods describe in the programs 1 and 2 can be applied and additional activities will cover peaceful demonstrations such as the global Friday For Future movement (inspired by Greta Thunberg) and campaigns to protect the planet Earth. The program will give the children and youth a voice and places them in position to influence positive change.



MMCC is committed to promote Children's Rights and all MMCC activities and staff are obliged to follow MMCC Principles of Practice and Code of Conduct when working with children, youth and people of any gender, religion, origins, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability or ethnic background. MMCC has a zero-tolerance for any form of child abuse, sexual abuse or corruption.

Afghanistan National Program



The National Program in Afghanistan is a corner-stone of MMCC. It is developed to be very easy to both manage and implement, enabling children and youth to take and be the lead of all activities.

A unique feature of the activities in Afghanistan is that they are designed to reach and include very large numbers of children for a relatively very low cost while keeping a high quality.

1800 children in 35 locations in 8 provinces of Afghanistan practice social circus every day.

43% are girls:

The National Program in Afghanistan follows a schedule of regular activities where the children meet and practice circus for a couple of hours every day. These children then perform for many more in their local schools and communities. The



performances encourage the children to learn and ensure MANY benefit from all efforts.

The National Program in Afghanistan includes:

- Daily Social circus for many children
- Networks & capacity building of selected kids and youth
- Performances by the children in local schools
- Performances by the children in events and television
- Annual Circus Festivals – street parades and public shows
- Child Right focused activities (Shura and Fanoos)
- Educational Summer and Winter programs
- Funtainers – modified containers serving as activity bases



In 2019 the Afghan circus kids made over 200 school and public performances for more than 120,000 audiences:



After several years focus on capacity building, MMCC by end of 2019 handed over all responsibilities for implementing the National Program to its local partner, AECC, Afghan Educational Children Circus.

We consider it a very big success that the activities in Afghanistan is thereby now sustained on local hands for hopefully many years to come. MMCC continue to supervise and support the National Program.

With their Shows & annual Festivals the Afghan Circus kids are providers of joy and hope for the whole country:



The National Program in Afghanistan is implemented by MMCCs local partner, AECC. MMCC is supervising and overseeing the program that is financed by MMCC, mainly with private donations. Circus Festivals in Kabul and the provinces were in 2019 enabled with financial support from Linda Norgrove Foundation.

Urban Challenge – A Hope Incubator

Urban Challenge started as an experiment of delegating more of the good works we did or could do to the youth themselves. Simply by support them to be in charge of dreaming and conceptualizing their dreams into practical actions and realize them. This has transformed the youth to be the main actors and leaders of the activities with Urban Challenge as an incubator.

Urban challenge which is located in Gol-e-Sang Center in Kabul has been supported by GIZ to develop the physical frame and facilitate the workshops and capacity building for the youth groups. The youth groups have all the office, network and communication facilities to form and develop themselves into civil society groups with different social, cultural humanitarian or environmental interests.

To further support such more than 10 groups and teams of youth, UC grants small project budgets for practically submitting and implementing social projects. So far tens of such projects have been implemented with themes such as: peace building, Parkour, photography, rap music, bicycling, cleaning the city, gastronomy, pedagogy, and entertainment for refugee kids, climate action and many more. Various workshops, events, competitions, exhibitions, campaigns, music concerts, publications and presentations etc. have been created by these youth group of Urban Challenge in 2019.

To read more about Urban Challenge and get the news updates please visit:

www.facebook.com/UrbanChallengeAfg



Urban Challenge, UC, is established by MMCC with financial support from GIZ

Environment, Climate Actions & Fridays For Future



More of the youth projects supported by Urban Challenge in our Kabul center since 2019 focus on environmental activities. There is an emergency need for awareness and action for both climate change as well as pollution in Afghanistan which is becoming an increasing problem. In 2019 MMCC in its Kabul center conducted numerous workshops and educated the youth about the climate and environment. Then the youth started organizing various activities, campaigns, demonstrations, etc. to promote green and clean environment and reducing harmful wastes such as plastic.

These activities are implemented by our Oxygen Team and program. The Oxygen Team is comprised of volunteer youth who carry out environmental activities and awareness-raising (air pollution, global warming, and environmental protection) and other activities for youth environmental education workshops and programs. Greta Thunberg, the Swedish climate activist has been a role model and source of inspiration for our youth who took over the Fridays For Future activities in Afghan too.

Following initial pilot activities, MMCC by end of 2019 started an actual environmental project and program supported by SGP in partnership with UNDP and NEPA (National Environmental Protection Agency)



Sophia's Garden Concert



Sophia made her 6th fundraising for MMCC in 14th September 2019 in the residential garden of the Dutch ambassador in Luxembourg. A day full of music (4 national and international music bands), art auction, play, photo exhibition, circus shows and workshop, food, drinks and a good laughter. Minister of Foreign and European Affairs & Minister of Immigration and Asylum Jean Asselborn attended the event and talked with Sophia about her amazing work and the importance of play, laughter and joy for children in war zone. The event became a platform for many MMCC enthusiasts to get together and meet.



Sophia met Rabia our Afghan star in January in Germany at Bad Nauheim where she was performing and presenting Afghanistan for a full month. It was a great opportunity for them both to see each other for the first time in person, play and learn more about each other.



Sophia is 13 years old and started her impressing work of supporting MMCC by her fundraising events as well as her lectures already when she was 7 years old. To read more about her you can visit her webpage: www.SophiasGardenConcert.org

MMCC in Netherlands

MMCC-Global now has a support sister organization in Netherlands which is representing us and mobilizing local sources for our activities. Thijs Broekkamp is the founder of this new sister organization. Their first activity is together with Capriol Circus to collect and send equipment for our activities in Afghanistan and our future center in Africa. Capriol Circus is donating us all its big top and many precious technical equipment.



Having a Dutch sister organization has been a dream for many years. In 2014 a Dutch TV documentary by Floortje Dessing made us popular in Netherlands. So many passionate and generous people were touched by our work and contacted us and wanted to help. Now MMCCNetherlands has started to mobilize and organize these great resources and facilitate a more active support for MMCCGlobal from Netherlands.

To see and read more about MMCCNetherlands please visit their webpage: www.MMCCNetherlands.org

Educational Performances

MMCC started in Afghanistan in 2002 with its popular Hand-washing **Hygiene Show** which continues to be one of our most essential shows, valid anywhere in the world. The educational shows are part of most performances. They always include big visual props easy to understand.

The following are some of the popular MMCC's EDU-Performances developed and performed in different provinces of Afghanistan as well as in Bangladesh for and with the Rohingya refugees:

- Landmine Awareness
- Hand Washing (Hygiene)
- Peace Education
- Back to School (importance of Education)
- Drug Abuse
- Child Labor
- Malaria Prevention
- Polio Vaccination
- Nutrition and Mother's Milk

International Exchange

This year is started with a month of fascinating German audience and presenting a young, talented, dynamic and joyful Afghanistan by our Afghan junior artist. OVAG the organizer of this New Year's Variety Show has now invited even a bigger team of our juggling girls and trainers for coming years.

Our Bamyan Team was invited to an exchange tour in September in China to get new inspirations and learn new circus techniques. The tour was sponsored by the Chinese embassy in Afghanistan and was in Gansu Province of China where the Gansu Acrobatic Troupe taught our team more acrobatic skills. This was their first trip out of Afghanistan which opened up their horizon and made them experience belonging to a much bigger world.

Each year organizations around the world celebrate joy and fun on the global **Social Circus Day**. In 2019 the Social Circus Day celebration events were made in over 50 countries. Among them of course MMCC's many teams in Afghanistan.

The Social Circus Day is organized by ASCA. MMCC is one of 5 funding organizations of the Asian Social Circus Association (ASCA) www.SocialCircus.org that connects and empowers youth art-based organizations in Asia. It has members spanning from Kabul to Canberra.



Money & Donors

We are thankful to all our global friends who show trust in what we do by donating and making all these to happen. In addition to the individual donations, MMCC highly appreciate private sector support such as this year provided by Euromonitor.

We have successfully made a very cost effective and thereby long term sustainable model for continuing all activities initiated by MMCC in Afghanistan. With support from our large network of international friends, MMCC's activities in Afghanistan is thereby now sustained on local hands.

MMCC continues to supervise and support AECC and the social circus and youth activities in Afghanistan. Financially MMCC also continues to have tight bonds with AECC. An agreement is signed between the two organizations by which MMCC financially secures the basic needs of AECC's National Program, mainly with money collected from private donations. In 2019 MMCC besides this paid for service and facilities provided by AECC for MMCC's own activities in Afghanistan.

Some of the larger supporters of MMCC this year are: Mustard Seed Trust, Euromonitor, Culture-Of-Resistance, Fight4Sight and Linda-Norgrove-Foundation.

MMCC's fiscal year is January-December. Its financial accounts are audited annually by certified external auditors.

A few key figures from the audited financial statement 2019:

Total Income: 201,975 USD

Total expenses: 264,640 USD

Income generated from Donations: 62%

Volunteers and Equipment

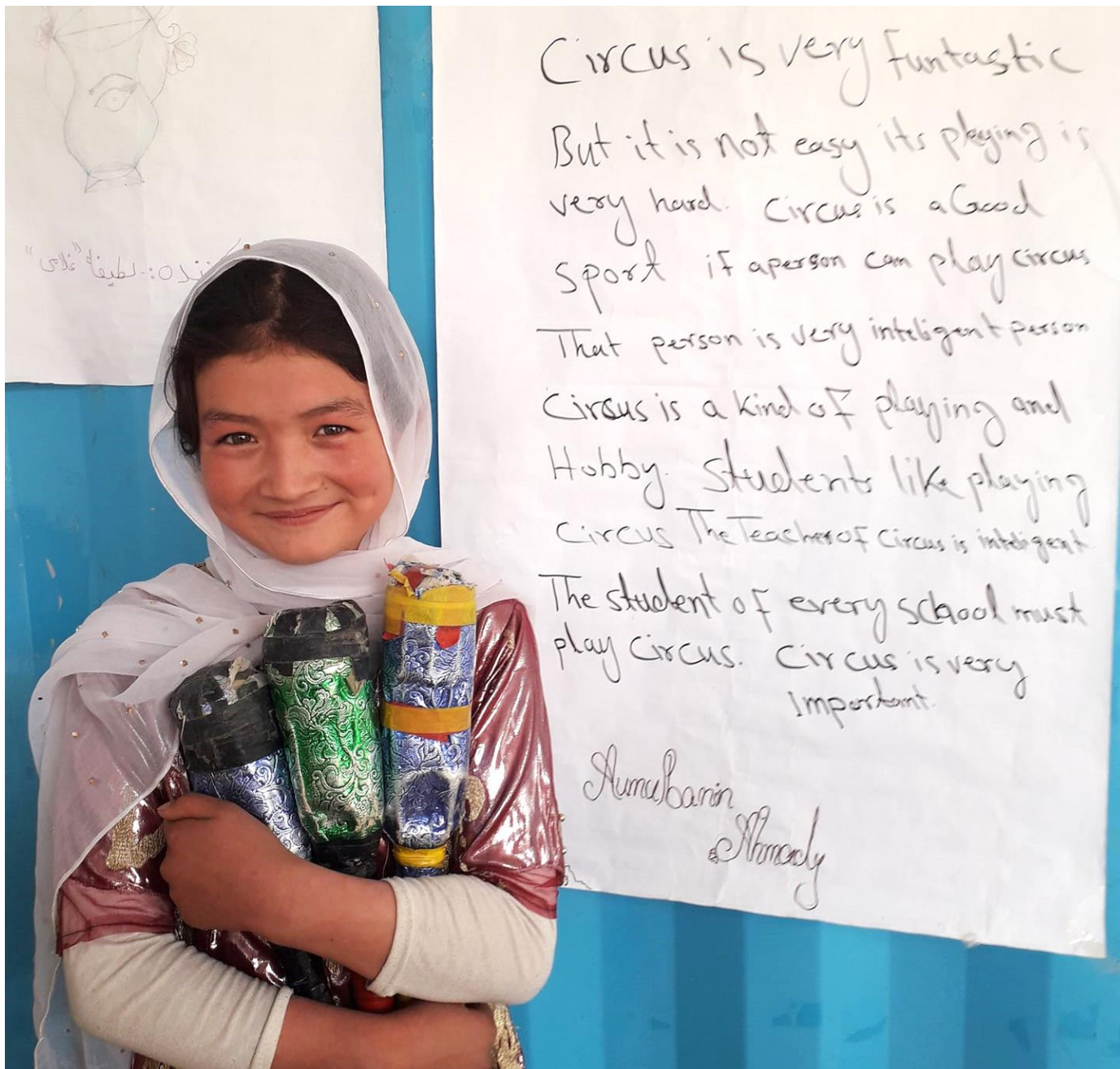
Across the world people are helping us to make MMCC happen by donating money, collecting circus equipment and connecting us to their networks.

A special thanks to Erin Stephens for supporting MMCC by collecting equipment and organizing international juggling championships in Afghanistan and thanks to Taylor Glenn for inspirational capacity building workshops.



Join the Journey

Transforming victims to leaders by bringing hope and peace through laughter and art. All these and much more can only be happening with your support, especially in the time when many of the resources are leaving Afghanistan. Please join us: www.globalgiving.org/projects/MMCCglobal  GlobalGiving



Social Media:

General Activities' Instagram: www.Instagram.com/MMCCglobal
General Activities' Twitter: www.Twitter.com/MMCCglobal
General Activities' Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/AfghanMMCC
General Activities' FB: www.facebook.com/MMCCglobal

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