



**MMCC**

**Mobile Mini Circus for Children**

**Annual Report 2018**





# Annual Report 2018

## Mobile Mini Circus for Children

We are so extremely delighted and proud of bringing you this testament of effectiveness and hope for our joyful humanitarian, educational work. Thank you for being part of our team and supporting us in so many different ways in all these years.

In 2002 when it all started we could never imagine that MMCC could be growing to such a global capacity and network and achieve so much of progress. We even didn't have proper terminologies and names for the work we were doing. Now after 17 years of hard work on the field with a very close contact with the local communities, schools, parents and children as well as officials we are transformed to a game-changer organization. We have not only accumulated experiences and information but developed systems and a unique pedagogy which is perfectly functioning successfully in some of the harshest and ever-changing unstable environments.

Our Educational shows alone have reached over 3.8 million live 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 and psychosocial help for so many children.

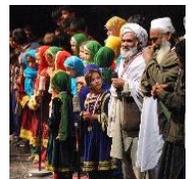
The main success element of our work is improvisation and creativity which actually has its roots in our pedagogy itself. We never had any fix formula of a project to impose to any community, but kept listening to the children and adjusting to the ever-changing reality and environment on the ground including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

These 17 years of development in Afghanistan has transformed MMCC to a world leading organization in Social Circus with a great pedagogy and a unique expertise in warzones. That is why MMCC has now entered into a new era of its international contribution to serve many more children in need. Starting with a very successful project in Bangladesh in the biggest Rohingya refugee camp and now with a 3 year strategy of expanding to Africa we are bringing more fun and educational entertainment to the world.

By end of 2018 the circus and children activities in Afghanistan are now fully implemented by MMCC's local partner, AECC. It was established in 2009 with exactly this goal – to ensure the activities initiated by MMCC can continue for many years to come. The program in Afghanistan is the corner-stone of MMCC, who therefore also continue to both supervise and financially secure the basic needs of AECC's National Program by donations.

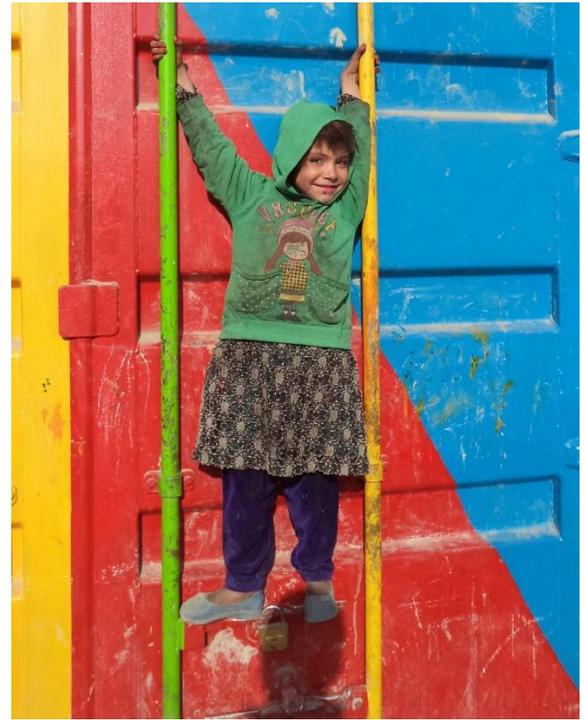
Thank you for being with us and looking forward to bringing much more fun and joy to the children who deserve it the most.

Berit Muhlhausen & David Mason  
Directors



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## **Urban Challenge – a new Youth Initiative**

A core value of MMCC is to facilitate, rather than teach, children and youth to be lead in their own learning and development. Youth who grow up in the environment of MMCC learn the values of contributing to their society. With these values and small support, the youth can become positive change-makers.

With this goal, MMCC in 2018 established and started a new Youth initiative, named Urban Challenge, UC.

Urban Challenge is a place and platform to capacity build, motivate, inspire and support youth to develop and achieve their goals in life. It is established by MMCC in Afghanistan and located inside the Gol-e-Sang Center in Kabul. Besides supporting youth to develop their personal and social skills, Urban Challenge is organizing positive civil society activities and monthly open Tea@3 gatherings where youth can meet and exchange ideas.



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

## Afghanistan – The cornerstone of MMCC



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 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 2018 the Afghan circus kids made 212 school and public performances for 126,193 audiences**

After several years focus on capacity building, MMCC by end of 2018 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 show & annual Festival; the Afghan Circus kids are providers of joy and hope for the whole country**



*The National Program in Afghanistan is implemented by MMCC's 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 2018 enabled with financial support from Linda Norgrove Foundation.*

## 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.

In beginning of 2018 the Afghan team successfully performed the hygiene show for the Rohingya refugees in **Bangladesh**.

In Afghanistan the same show was performed as part of a partnership with Solidarites International in **Kunar province**.

The following are some of the popular MMCC's Edu-Performances developed and performed in different provinces of Afghanistan:

- 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



### Polio Awareness – UNICEF cooperation

Afghanistan is one of the last countries in the world where polio continues to be a problem.

2 drops of vaccination – every time, for children up to 5 years can prevent the disease.

To create awareness about the importance of vaccination MMCC developed an educational show where two evil polio 'snakes' is killed by the vaccinator.

In 2017-2018 MMCC's mobile team of artists made 150 Polio shows and conducted 100 Polio Awareness workshops

**The Polio Awareness activities reached total 80,702 children, youth and community members in 10 provinces of Afghanistan**

Where security allowed it, a team of the AECC Circus kids made an entertaining circus show as part of the full performances. The combination of fun and polio awareness is very popular and effective



*The Polio Awareness Shows and Workshops were implemented in cooperation with Unicef*



## MMCC in Bangladesh



1 million Rohingya refugees - 600,000 children. The world's biggest refugee camp. Rohingya muslims from Myanmar, in Cox Bazar, Bangladesh. THIS needs a circus to bring some smiles and fun.

In February 2018, MMCC with a team of four Afghan circus trainers performed, trained a local Circus team and introduced and initiated Social Circus for more than 10,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

To enable the activities to continue we also build a Circus Dome next to the school run by our host and local partner, Moonlight Development Foundation, MDF

The Bangladesh initiative served as a pilot for MMCC's plans for expanding activities to more countries by using the methodology and strategies developed in Afghanistan over the past 15 years. MMCC's new strategy was thereby developed based on the success and lessons learned in Bangladesh.



*The activities in Bangladesh were implemented in partnership with Moonlight Development Foundation, MDF  
Financially the Bangladesh initiative was enabled thanks to support from Mustard Seed Trust Fund*

## Circus Effect

Spread Joy with Social Circus

'We are a continuous part of children's life, who are affected by war. We are established within the local communities and our implementation is not temporary, we are always there as a companion'

In 2016-2018 MMCC with more partners organized a project focusing on how to spread social circus to many more children and youth affected by war and conflict.

In the war-zone social circus is a good vehicle for healing war traumas and discharging the energy that builds up in young people forced to live in dangerous overpopulated camp space.

### Circus Effect partners:

**MMCC** : Mobile Mini Circus for Children, Denmark  
**AECC** : Afghan Educational Children Circus, Afghanistan  
**HVSD** : Art Anywhere, Social Circus NGO, Turkey  
**ARTEYE** : Media development org, Poland  
**Nomadway** : Social organization, France  
**Die Stelzer**: Art and social organization, Germany  
**Goethe Institute** : Cultural Institute, Turkey

To learn more about Circus Effect:  
[www.CircusEffect.com](http://www.CircusEffect.com)



*Circus Effect was a strategic partnership initiative funded by Erasmus+ Program of the European Union*

## Presentation; and Promotion;

We are committed to engage, share and collaborate with international communities and organizations, to expand, improve and enrich the methods of social circus pedagogy and its use around the world. In 2018 we had “Social Circus in Warzone” presentations, lectures, roundtables and photo exhibitions in Belgium, France and Spain.

Following are the organizations we have collaborated for these events:

- Photo Exhibition in Belgium in “Molen Beek 1080” [www.molenbeek.irisnet.be](http://www.molenbeek.irisnet.be)
- 2 lectures in Alicante Spain in “Universidad de Alicante” [www.ua.es](http://www.ua.es)
- Round table in Barcelona in “Ateneu Popular 9 Barris” [www.ateneu9b.net](http://www.ateneu9b.net)
- Presentation in Paris in “39e FESTIVAL MONDIAL DU CIRQUE DE DEMAIN” [www.cirquededemain.paris](http://www.cirquededemain.paris)

We look forward to more opportunities for presenting our work and sharing our stories and pedagogy with the world.



## Our Youngest Activist

Sophia, MMCC's 12 year old ambassador in Luxemburg, in 2018 made her 5<sup>th</sup> annual fundraising garden concert for MMCC. Top Musicians voluntarily performed in her event to support children of Afghanistan.

5 years ago Sophia's mother sent us an email telling about Sophia's determination and brilliant idea when she was only 7 years old. Since then Sophia has been talking about children of Afghanistan in her school and other venues and has raised and sent many thousands of EUR for Afghan kids. To read more about this inspiring young girl supporting educational entertainment for Afghan kids check her webpage: [www.SophiasGardenConcert.org](http://www.SophiasGardenConcert.org)

## MMCC in the Global Press

International Media presence means the world for an organization like MMCC. Each time the media print or broadcast anything about our work, our network of friends and donations for MMCC's activities increase.

In 2018 two larger tv documentaries were produced and broadcasted about MMCC and our activities in Afghanistan. Thank you **Arte TV, France** and **RTD, Russia** for helping us to bring good news from Afghanistan to the world. To see the documentaries please visit the following links:

-  Documentary, Cirque de Kabul: [www.rtd.rt.com/films/cirque-de-kabul](http://www.rtd.rt.com/films/cirque-de-kabul)
-  Documentary, Acrobats for Reconciliation: [www.arte.tv/en/videos/083769-000-A/afghanistan-acrobats-for-reconciliation](http://www.arte.tv/en/videos/083769-000-A/afghanistan-acrobats-for-reconciliation)



## The Money

A respected financial consultant in 2018 told MMCC, that we should be proud of our achievements in Afghanistan. We ARE proud – and we are very thankful to all our global friends, who show trust in what we do by donating to make it all happen. In addition to the individual donations, MMCC highly appreciate private sector support such as this year provided by Euromonitor, Dubai.

We have successfully made a very cost effective and thereby long term sustainable model for continuing all activities initiated by MMCC in Afghanistan. By end of the year we handed over all responsibilities for the National Program to our local partner, AECC. With support from our large network of international friends, MMCC's cornerstone in Afghanistan is thereby now sustained on local hands. Leaving space for MMCC to look into new horizons.

MMCC continues to supervise and support AECC and the circus 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 secure the basic needs of AECC's National Program, mainly with money collected from private donations. In 2018 MMCC besides this paid for service and facilities provided by AECC for MMCC's own activities in Afghanistan, which among more included a larger partnership project with UNICEF.

2018 also included two exiting new MMCC initiatives:

**1. Bangladesh:** Support from Mustard Seeds Trust, enabled us to provide smiles to more than 10,000 Rohingya refugee children in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh visit and activities served as a pilot for what later in 2018 became MMCC's strategy and thereby plans for expansion to more of the world's biggest refugee camps within the coming years.

**2. Youth:** While the Children Circus activities in Afghanistan following above is now considered sustained, MMCC in the end of the year decided to invest both some money and more importantly energy in a new initiative for Youth in Afghanistan. The base for these activities is Urban Challenge, a new facility in the Gol-e-Sang Center in Kabul, which was enabled with financial support from GIZ. The new Youth focused activities are expected to grow and expand in the coming year, while MMCC same time starts to reach to more parts of the world with Social Circus.

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 2018:

Total Income: 333,973 USD

Total expenses: 226,388 USD

Income generated from Donations: 37%

## 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 Die Steltzer and Wolfgang Hauk and Sonia for visiting Kabul and making a workshop - and to Erin Stephens for collecting hundreds of juggling clubs from amazing jugglers around the globe.

## 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](http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/MMCCglobal)  GlobalGiving





*Photo by Ahmad Valy Niazi*

**Social Media:**

General Activities' Instagram: [www.Instagram.com/MMCCglobal](http://www.Instagram.com/MMCCglobal)

General Activities' Twitter: [www.Twitter.com/MMCCglobal](http://www.Twitter.com/MMCCglobal)

General Activities' Youtube: [www.youtube.com/user/AfghanMMCC](http://www.youtube.com/user/AfghanMMCC)

General Activities' FB: [www.facebook.com/MMCCglobal](http://www.facebook.com/MMCCglobal)

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