



AECC
Afghan Educational Children Circus
Annual Report 1397
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www.AfghanMMCC.org



Annual Report 2018 (1397) Afghan Educational Children Circus

Thanks and congratulation to all of you who supported us in so many different ways and to Afghans who have now a unique, strong, dynamic and integrated Afghan organization to continue all these amazing activities. We are so delighted to say that 16 years of fun and educational entertainment started by MMCC (Mobile Mini Circus for Children), is now fully taken over and continued by AECC (Afghan Educational Children Circus).

MMCC was established in 2002 and its progress and sustainability of the activities required creating an Afghan local NGO "AECC" to keep serving children of Afghanistan. With support and supervision of MMCC, AECC was created and officially registered in 2009. Since then it has been continuously capacity built and supported by MMCC to ensure that activities continue for hopefully many years to come.

2018 (1397 of Afghan Calendar) was another year of hard working for the resilient team of AECC. Regardless of all the difficulties including deterioration of the security we could achieve all our goals and now are even more independent than ever. Thanks to our mother/partner organization MMCC, and all its capacity building, system developing and skill increasing activities now we feel confident and looking forward to a more sustainable future. AECC has become a unique source of educational entertainment and its National Program keeps maintaining, developing, progressing and sustaining its activities in all the regions.

Security: 2018 was one of the most difficult years in Afghanistan, and our old working structures could not be efficient with new deteriorating security in Afghanistan. AECC used to have a centralized structure limited and dependent on the mobile teams and central Kabul headquarter administration. We have gradually decentralized our structure and capacity built all our regional centers to independently and autonomously manage, admin and implement their activities. This means radically reduction of transports expenses and unnecessary risks of the movements plus integration in the local communities which together have immensely improved our security and given the authorities to assess and act in the regions. This new structure gives a better ownership and authority to the regional offices to develop and as well compete.

Finance: AECC in November of 2018 finished its longer cooperation with WHH as its latest project. MMCC is committed to fully support AECC for 2019. This means instead of AECC being worried about financial survival now it can focus on developing itself to fully managing its National Program by only Afghan local team. However soon AECC should have its own new projects to run and gradually take over the financing of its National Program.

Festivals & Competitions: This year for the 13th time with no interruption we made the national championship with a very active participation of young artists from provinces. The annual festivals, juggling championships and international IJA championship in Kabul and the provinces have become a tradition which brings all the regions together. This is a great opportunity for the youth from different background, cultures, and regions to come together, exchange and create beautiful performances and show their talents and unity.

We wish peace for Afghanistan and hope together with all our Afghan colleagues to bring joy, fun and educational entertainment to many more children in Afghanistan.

David Mason,
Director



The National Program

The National Program is the cornerstone of all AECCs activities. Coordinated from Kabul the regional centers in Bamyan, Mazar-e-Sharif, Nangarhar, Herat and Khost all follow similar activities and each support more teams of children and youth.

1800 children across Afghanistan practice circus every day

The National Program activities includes:

- Daily Social circus for many children
- Monthly Network activities for selected children and youth – average 40 in each region
- Performances by the children in local schools
- Performances by the children at national and regional events
- Annual Circus Festivals
- Children Shura activities where the children meet and discuss their problems
- Educational Winter programs in Kabul, Bamyan, Herat, Mazar and Khost plus a summer program in Nangarhar (6-8 weeks in each regions with a mix of education, circus and fun for hundreds of children)

The National Program activities follow a schedule of regular daily activities where the children meet and practice circus for a couple of hours every day. Majority of all activities are organized by children and youth with support from a regional manager and a young (circus) technical teacher. Equipment for the activities are provided from AECC's national center in Kabul.



In 2018/1397 the AECC circus kids made 212 school and public performances for 126,193 audiences



The AECC National Program is financially supported and supervised by MMCC

IDP kids – Social Circus for the most vulnerable

Since 2012, AECC is working with some of the most vulnerable children living in Kabul's many IDP camps and informal settlements. Thousands of kids in the camps have over the years had so much fun and learned valuable social skills from being part of the activities. Social circus is also organized in an IDP camp in Herat.

The extensive work with IDP children (internally displaced) are among AECC's most successful works. The living conditions in the camps are very hard for children, who therefore also needs extra support. In Kabul it has been made possible due to more very positive partnership projects with WHH, Welthungerhilfe.

Over the years more of the IDP kids and youth has become very well integrated to the whole AECC team and 'family'. When the latest WHH supported project ended in November 2018, AECC therefore decided to select and invite total 7 of the most active camps to become part of its National Program. The social circus activities thereby continue in these camps, currently fully financially supported by private donations collected by and through MMCC.

The needs in the IDP camps is more than other places. The wish and longer term goal is therefore to find new partners for an actual new project to enable more activities such as for example school activities for girls combined with social circus.



In 2018 total 845 children from 22 IDP camps and hosting communities participated in regular weekly social circus activities organized by AECC

What is a good life for Children?

To mark the end of AECC's long corporation with WHH in the Kabul IDP camps, AECC in October 1397/2018 organized a very successful Children Right Conference with participation of CPAN (Child Protection Afghanistan Network) and more VIPs.

The conference was the result of a week long campaign with community meetings in the IDP camps – all organized by a Fanoos team of children, who had been part of comprehensive speak training organized by AECC. In both the meetings in the camps and the conference, children and youth from the Fanoos team talked about and discussed 'What is a good life for Children?'

The issues raised and discussed by the children included:

- 1: What is a good life for afghan children?
- 2: Fun, Play.
- 3: Child marriage.
- 4: Child labor.
- 5: Beating children.
- 6: School and education for the children.
- 7: Household work on the children.
- 8: What can you do for children to have a good life?



The activities for & with IDP children in Kabul were until November 2018 supported by a German funded partnership with Welthungerhilfe, WHH. Since November activities continue in 7 camps with support of MMCC

Winter programs

During the winter when schools are closed, AECC invite children to join its Winter programs. The programs last for 8 weeks and include both educational classes such as English, Computer and Math among more plus of course lots of circus and fun.

This year winter programs were implemented in total 6 locations in 5 provinces including a successful winter program in Khost province for the first time. A similar planned summer program in Nangarhar was though unfortunately cancelled due to bad security in this region almost the full year.

By the end of the winter the children's families were invited to a final event in all regions to see their children perform and show what they have learned during the winter.

Total 900 children joined AECC's Winter programs in January-March 2019 in Kabul, Bamyan, Herat, Mazar and Khost



Mazar-e-Sharif



Herat



Khost



Bamyan



Kabul

The Educational Winter programs were this year financially supported by private donations collected by MMCC.

A new circus team in Balkh region – and many more girls

AECC always give a high priority to girls where and when possible. Overall 40% of the circus kids are girls. The girls are especially very good jugglers and they are good at inspiring each other to learn. By their performances the girls become role models and bring hope and joy to many more girls.

In 2018 AECC expanded its activities to one more school in Mazar-e-Sharif. The school has both boys and girls in two shift but especially the girls soon became very active in the circus. More than 200 girls in this school now practice several days weekly. With more girl teams in Samangan province as well, the northern Balkh region thereby now has the highest number of circus girls.



The new circus team in Mazar is part of the AECC National Program supported and supervised by MMCC

Regions and Festivals

National Centre - Kabul

Kabul is the main base for AECC's National Program. Besides daily activities for 60-80 children, the team in Kabul support and organize social circus for hundreds of children in more IDP camps. A Taban team of the most active kids and youth meet in the Gol-e-Sang Centre in Kabul 2 times monthly. The Kabul centre also has a very strong team of circus girls, who often perform in TV and at VIP events. Among more the Kabul team in 2018 also made a team-building workshop for the World Banks staff.

Besides the regular activities the Kabul Gol-e-Sang centre most importantly also host AECC's national events such as a big annual **National Circus Festival** and IRC (international juggling competition, see page 8). In 2018 a Stilt Workshop was also organized in Kabul for all AECC's young technical teachers by the German Stilt Master, Wolfgang Hauck and his assistant Ms. Sonia.



South-East - Khost

The Khost Circus is a relatively new team of AECC's National Program. The team was established after the end of a successful UNHCR supported project with social circus in Gulan Camp and more districts of Khost province. In 2018 the Khost team among more also joined the national juggling competition – and won a friendship cricket match with AECC's Nangarhar and Kabul IDP circus teams.



Eastern Region – Nangarhar & Laghman

Nangarhar and the east is one of AECC's biggest regions. Almost 400 children and youth practice circus several times weekly in total 4 locations in the region, which also covers a team in Laghman province. The Nangarhar boys are especially active acrobats but also very good jugglers. As the security in the eastern region was very bad almost the full year both the planned annual festival and summer program was unfortunately cancelled.



Regions incl Festivals

Western Region - Herat

After opening a new center in Herat last year, the activities in Herat in 2018 grew very positive and has become very successful with more especially girls enrolled in daily activities. In the summer the new Herat team made a successful festival and during the winter the team organized a winter program with more girls than ever before in this region. Besides the circus activities the Herat team also started a nice tradition with the children celebrating each other's birthdays.



Central Region - Bamyan

The Bamyan Circus is located in a school with shifts of both boys and girls. Next to the school is an orphanage where a team of children also have regular social circus sessions. The central region also includes a circus team in Yakawlang district, where the girls are very active. In the Bamyan Festival the children made street parades and shows in both Bamyan city and more districts.



Northern Region – Balkh & Samangan

The Balkh Circus includes teams in both Mazar-e-Sharif and 3 girl schools in Samangan. In 2018 a new team was added in a mix boys and girl school in Mazar. In the Festival the children made street parades and 7 public performances in both Mazar and Samangan.



The circus festivals in all regions were enabled by support from Linda Norgrove Foundation

National and International Juggling Competition, IRC

Afghanistan's National Juggling Championship is each year part of the summer festival in Kabul. Prior to the final competitions in Kabul, competitions are held in all regions to find the local and regional winners. The winners from the regional competitions then travel to Kabul for the final.

Following the National Juggling competition, AECC in 2018 for the second time proudly hosted IRC, the International Regional Competition organized around the world by IJA, International Juggling Association. With major support of Erin Stephens from IJA, the performance level has increased a lot. The 2018 competition was won by Mujtaba and Suraica from Kabul. For more info about the competitions please visit: www.juggle.org/programs/irc/south-asia

Juggling Record, 2018
4 club; juggling: 14 minutes
5 club; juggling: 2 minutes



The National and IRC Juggling competitions 2018 were financially supported and supervised by MMCC

The circus help to make awareness about Polio

Afghanistan is one of the few countries left in the world, where polio is still a problem.

In 2017-2018 the AECC circus teams assisted to make public awareness about the importance of polio vaccination. As part of educational polio awareness shows, organized and performed by MMCC as part of a partnership with UNICEF, the AECC teams added circus to the shows in regions and places where available and security allowed.

The audience love to see the circus, which thereby helped to get attention for the more serious message about polio performed by adult MMCC artists.



The Polio Awareness shows with 'added circus and fun' was a corporation between MMCC and AECC

The Money

AECC is an independent local Afghan NGO. It was established and registered in 2009 by its founding mother organization, MMCC, Mobile Mini Circus for Children. The two organizations have jointly developed all programs and activities that are now fully implemented by AECC.

The goal has from day one been to build up and sustain AECC to become a strong local NGO that can and will continue the activities for hopefully many years to come. 2018 is a mile-stone for both AECC and MMCC in this regard. After years with focus on capacity building and developing a lasting sustainable and easy to implement and manage-model for AECC, all activities in AECC and its National Program is by end of the year now fully locally managed

Financially AECC continues to have tight bonds with MMCC. An agreement is signed between the two organizations by which MMCC financially secure the basic needs of AECC's National Program, mainly through and by donations.

AECC'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: 234,605

Total expenses: 262,444

Income generated from own projects and activities: 63%

The Team

AECC's biggest asset is its highly dedicated team of children, youth and staff, who each contributes with a unique enthusiasm to inspire, teach, engage, facilitate and organize the activities. The success of AECC is to be found in the energy and family-like atmosphere that strikes any visitor once they enter any of the AECC centers.

The recipe for this is simple: AECC consider children and youth the best to know what makes children happy. The AECC organization and the adult staff's role is to facilitate them to make it happen.

In 2018/1397 the AECC team included:

Trainer (the most active children and young volunteers, who teach and train many more children) Nelofar, Bahwdin, Zlikha, Qudrat Zaman, Arshedullah, Khalid, Ahmad Tofan, Farkhundah, Zainab, Lamah, Ramziah, Sabrina, Nabila, Naweed, Bilal, Hasib, Alham, AbdulWahed, Rahmaullah, Hawad, Mobin, Ali Mohammad, Sharifah, Marzia, Zahra, Sharifah, Shabana, Shazia, Shafiqa, Farima, Razia, Najia, Nadia, Samahullah, Khibar, Shams, Raziq, Nor Mohamad, Niaz Wali, Faqir, Amer khan, Zabi, Maimona, Noor Mohammad, Ekram, Saima, Humira, Sangar, Mir Afzal, Khled, Reshad, Bilal, Mustafa, Atifah. Hazrat. Sadiq

Mobilizers (community focal points assisting the children and looking after Funtainers) Gulbudin, Sabirah, Soraia, Rabia, Asadullah Qamargul, Taiba, Fowzia, Hasina, Nafisah, Ajum, Omid, Monir, Qare Khaled, AbdulHabib, Ahmad Shah, Nasir Parsayi, Abdul Hadi, Masomah, Gul Zali Khan, Bader Monir, Asadullah, Saed Rahman, Abdul Hai, M. Esmail, M. Amin, Q. Ahmad Khan, Fawad, Ejaz, Feda Mohamad, Marzia, Zabet, Khair Mohamad, Haji Gul Khan, Allah Dad, Mirwais, Qaher, Fazil Khan, Shireen, Shuhab Malali

Staff Khalilullah Hamid, Fahim Fayaz, Abdul Shafi Faizi, Shaima Shamim, Bereshna Akbari, Haroon Sherzad, Abdul Jalil Nowrozi, Asadullah Khaksar, Mohibullah Hamidi, Fardeen Barekzai, LutfulAhmad, Hameedullah, Mohamad Azem, Murtaza, Zubair, Mujtaba Madadi, Rahim Karimi. Wahed Rahman, Aziz Rahman, Suraj, Qasim, Semin, Rahmatullah, Qudratullah Frotan, Bakhtawer, Masihullah, David Mason, Berit Muhlhausen Ahmad Vali Toba. Gulali

Rabia – an Afghan Peace Ambassador

In January, Rabia, our 14 years old trainer, presented Afghanistan in Germany for tens of thousands of audience with her astonishing skills of juggling. As part of a big annual New Year Variete in Bad Nauheim she performed for 34,000 audience and made interviews with many local and national TVs and newspapers, giving them an absolutely different impression of Afghanistan. Rabia was the youngest among all the artists who came from 11 countries and performed in Dolce, Bad Nauheim in Frankfurt.

Rabia is champion of juggling competition of 2018 and one of our best trainers who teaches other children including children in the IDP refugee camps in Kabul besides attending her school. Thanks to our host organizer OVAG and Afghan Embassy in Germany who did a great job in inviting, organizing, supporting us and giving a chance of showing the world the real face of Afghanistan. Link: RTL video: https://youtu.be/_2-BImo3GGo



AECC - 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

Western Region, Herat Province FB:

www.facebook.com/HeratCircus

tel: 0728674371

Eastern Region, Nangarhar Province FB:

www.facebook.com/NangarharCircus

tel: 0728674369

South-East Region, Khost Province FB:

www.facebook.com/KhostCircus

tel: 0728674366

Capital Region, Kabul Province FB:

www.facebook.com/AfghanCircus

tel: 0728674366

Northern Region, Balkh Province FB:

www.facebook.com/BalkhCircus

tel: 0728674368

Central Region, Bamyán Province FB:

www.facebook.com/BamyánCircus

tel: 0728674362