



MMCC Global Annual Report 2023

www.MMCCglobal.org



2023

Another productive hopeful and joyful year

Dear MMCC Friends and Supporters,

It is our pleasure to present the annual report for MMCC for the year 2023. As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the strides in our mission to bring social circus to all corners of the world and let children lead the change. This year has been pivotal in expanding our reach and deepening our impact, thanks to your unwavering support and the dedication of our team.



We are thrilled to share some of our key achievements from the past year:

- In 2023, we initiated our first expansion to **Ethiopia**, marking our entry into Africa.
- Additionally, 2023 was the year we prepared for our second expansion destination: **Bangladesh**. These new projects are highly significant as they represent our very first steps in building a global network, in which our activities in **Afghanistan** serve as the foundation for our **expansion to other countries**
- We implemented **social circus as a core methodology** into any project, program, initiative and action
- We facilitated **youth to youth dialogue** within and between youth in the countries and with youth in Europe

We are pleased to report that MMCC maintains a robust financial position. Our prudent financial management has allowed us to direct the majority of our funds to program activities, maximizing the impact of every contribution we receive.

In Afghanistan, we have successfully matured and sustained our Social Network system despite significant challenges posed by international sanctions on financial transfers. We established a closer relationship with "Dignity for Children," which has become our fiscal partner. Our team's dedication has allowed us to maintain crucial support for local communities and ensured uninterrupted delivery of our programs. Our Afghanistan programs were also independently evaluated by Samuel Hall and found to be of outstanding quality.

As we look in the future, we are streamlining our structures, administration, and systems to ensure they are compatible and ready for any scaling up and modifications that we plan. As we reflect on the milestones achieved in 2023, we are filled with optimism for the future. This report will detail our accomplishments, and the strategies that guided us. Together, we are building a brighter future, one step at a time.

Berit Muhlhausen & David Mason
Directors

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MMCC in Ethiopia

Circus of Hope, our first social circus in Africa

In April we visited Ethiopia and partnered with Bright Star, a well-established local NGO, to start social circus activities based on the MMCC pedagogy and model. Within two highly effective weeks in the country, we got to know the local team, selected team leaders, made workshops, and introduced the activities, which since then have been supervised online from abroad.

As a result... MMCC successfully created with our local partner three Social Circus teams in the Chencha region of southern Ethiopia in less than 4 months. The teams comprise all together over 100 junior artists and 9 youth trainers who have already performed 18 times for thousands of local spectators. In Bright Star, they have been especially excited to learn how the shows, besides entertaining, are effective tools for spreading important messages to communities. While the actual shows included a small message about child labor, an obvious next step would be to introduce and teach MMCCs original educational shows. The activities in Ethiopia were a pilot project to test the expansion strategy and learn to work through and with a local partner. It proved overwhelmingly successful with so much potential. Together with Bright Star, our local partner, we are now in the process of looking into how the social circus can continue and further grow in Ethiopia. To see more photos click here: www.MMCCglobal.org/Ethiopia



Evaluation Report by Samuel Hall:

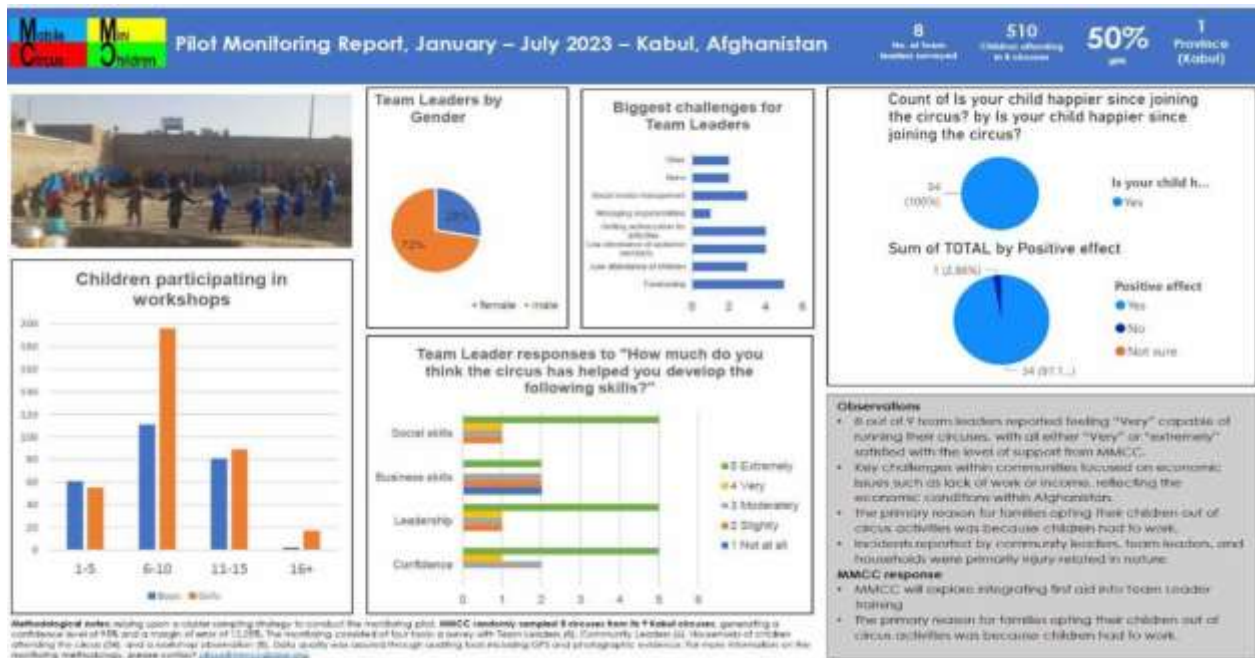
Our strategy for expansion naturally leads to some changes in how we work to ensure the quality and brand of MMCC. We are very excited that we just received an exceedingly positive evaluation conducted and contributed pro-bono by Samuel Hall (www.samuelhall.org). The findings by the independent evaluation team conclude for example that "MMCC's children and youth learn to become responsible citizens. They feel more confident, show signs of leadership, and mental health improvements such as learning to regulate their emotions and decreasing their stress levels while improving their physical health, hygiene, happiness, hopes, and aspirations".

The full 29-page evaluation report is accessible through this link: www.mmccglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Samuel-Hall-Evaluation-of-MMCC-240923.pdf



Advanced Monitoring:

With the assistance of Andrea Garcia-Ochoa Lee, a dear and highly qualified volunteer, we implemented a test run in Afghanistan of our new monitoring system. The monitoring encompasses a comprehensive range of subjects and involves numerous questions directed toward children, families, and community leaders. We use kobotoolbox.org to collect the data. We will thereby be able to integrate a global monitoring system into all our activities no matter where in the world.



Emergency Response Social Circus Programs:

One of our developing skills and capacities is our social and humanitarian support by our team leaders in emergency situations in Afghanistan. This includes youth mobilization, facilitation of emergency packages-distribution, and Social Circus-based trauma Intervention activities in the early stages before it becomes too late for children's recovery. It is essential to bring hope and fun to the children in their most fragile moments before the trauma deepens its roots in their hearts. These activities such as performances, workshops and collective games are improvised and developed by our local teams with our supervision. For the food and emergency packages we have teamed up with ASEEL a local organization that together with our donor provides the packages and MMCC facilitates distribution and make it all a celebration of fun and joy for the children and families. Here are two of the examples:

1-Emergency Response for Earthquake in Herat:

A 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck Herat province in Afghanistan followed by repeated aftershakes. In response, we accommodated a number of the families affected by the earthquake to sleep in our center which is very safe and earthquake-resistant. Then our 4 teams in Herat made performances, workshops social games, and soft entertainment activities for the children who moved with their families to the



open-air areas to be safe from partially damaged houses and from all the aftershocks: The teams also managed to distribute food packages in partnership with Aseel Foundation for hundreds of families.

2- Emergency Response for the Forced Deportation:

1.7 million Afghans, including 60% children, faced deportation from Pakistan. One of our teams in the region voluntarily made workshops and performances to support the traumatized children in this emergency situation and cheered them up. Bilal Circus brought joy and fun to these refugee kids at the border in coordination with Aseel Foundation creating a warm welcome home together with food distribution.



Movement of Hope – Our Youth Network Model:

Two challenging years have passed since the crucial change of power in Afghanistan. In MMCC we are both happy and proud that we have managed not only to continue but also to grow and expand our social circus under the new circumstances. As a result of our new decentralized model, in which the role of MMCC has changed to host, facilitate and support a network and movement of youth with each their own circus team. By the end of 2023 MMCC in Afghanistan thereby consists of 26 Social Circus teams in 10 provinces. Each team, with its own unique identity, self-made logos, and Facebook pages, includes 30+ children and a youth leader who trains them and organizes public performances and workshops for other children as well. Six of the teams are led by female team leaders, and one team is led by a disabled team leader who from his wheelchair empowers children with diverse abilities to juggle and have fun. After each 4-month cycle or 'batch' of activities, we invite new team leaders to join the network. What makes us extra happy is that in 2023 more than 50% of the children in the activities were girls. Link to the network www.mmccglobal.org/acn



Festivals and Juggling Championships in Afghanistan:

Now more than ever children and youth in Afghanistan need to have fun. In September 67 children and youth from 18 different circus teams across the country gathered in Kabul for our annual festival. Inspired by creating and making shows in streets and parks for thousands of audiences in Kabul, the teams returned to their provinces and organized local festivals with public shows in Ghor, Mazar-e-Sharif, Nangarhar, Helmand, Noristan, Badakhshan, Herat and

Laghman. More than 7,000 audiences participated in the festivals and fun. In October the teams with their best jugglers returned to Kabul for the 2023 National Juggling Championship and once again made remarkable results. To see a video clip of the championship click here: www.instagram.com/p/Cy3w5j0PJNH

Due to the new restrictions we prepared a separate festival and championship in our Herat center for the girls by inviting all our female team leaders and their best students. Our Herat center especially as it has daily activities for up to 300 girls is a perfect venue for any girls' competition and festivals.

The Herat Center – an Oasis of Fun & Education:

Besides social games and collective joyful social circus activities, the activities in the Herat center include both school subject classes and lunch for the most vulnerable. Many of the students are becoming young artists and have already performed and are looking forward to



performing more and keeping the hope and joy with educational entertainment and enriching a peaceful happy culture for more children. The Herat center is an oasis of fun and joy, and laughter with warm nutritious meals and most importantly, an opportunity for the girls to meet and play outside of their homes.

The Flute – Remote Backpacking An Erasmus+ youth project:



As part of MMCC Global's strategy for engaging European youth in our activities, MMCC in 2022 and 2023 has been lead organizer for an Erasmus+ funded project "The Flute". The Flute project was a youth exchange project that offered online travel to Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, and Ethiopia, where young peers

introduced them to their countries and cultures. The project was supported by the European Union's Erasmus Plus program and managed by MMCC in partnership with two German organizations Dignity for Children, and dieKunstBauStelle, plus MMCC-Netherlands. The project provides European youth with opportunities to learn and connect with the Global South through virtual backpacking experiences. The project aimed to develop a network of resilient young people who can connect digitally for productive humanitarian interaction. To see some of their countries representation please visit: <https://theflute.org>

Finances & Supporters

We are thankful to all our global friends who show trust in what we do by donating and making all these to become possible. The private donations along with our sponsor's supports, enabled our activities in Afghanistan to continue and grow while we are same time expanding to Ethiopia and soon Bangladesh.

MMCC continues to supervise and support the social circus and youth activities in Afghanistan. The aim remains to localize what is so far an Afghan branch of MMCC Global. Due to the challenging environment, this though still needs a bit more both time and considerations to ensure a handover without any impact on the activities and infrastructure. By end of the year, the financial situation was relatively stable though with a clear decrease in funding due to the global financial crises and as Afghanistan has clearly moved away from both the news and donors attention.

MMCC's fiscal year is January-December. The 2023's annual financial accounts, compiled by Danish certified external audit company "Aaen & Co", is available upon request.

A few key figures from the financial statement 2023:

- Private/Individual Donations: \$ 96.845,80
- Institutional Donations: \$ 190.853,03
- Expenditure (projects and overheads): \$ -73.871,68
- Expenditure to projects: \$-174.267,98
- Brought to reserve: \$ 39.559,17
- Reserve as of 31 December 2023 \$ 260.230,00

Become a Member:

MMCC Global is a membership-based organization. More of our funding is conditioned that we have a minimum of 300 paying members based in an EU or EØS country + 100 EU/EØS supporters. A membership is therefore a much greater help than the actual amount it cost. If you are not already signed up, we will be very happy if you do. The annual membership fee is 15 Euro/15 USD/100 DKK. To become a member, please click



here: <http://buy.stripe.com/7sl3fl6C26F0aTm7sD>

For other support please visit: www.MMCCglobal.org/donation

Join the Journey:

We thank all our friends and volunteers who each in different ways contribute to MMCC. This October fx. Carel Schutte visited our activities in Kabul IDP camps and took some amazing photos as the one you see in our annual report cover.

There are many ways you can join us in our journey of making the world a much better place for and with children and youth of war. Here are some suggestions:

1. **Promotion: Sharing this report, our webpage & social media to let the world learn about our work.**
2. **Connecting: There are resources you are aware of, then you can introduce us to them.**
3. **Fundraising: Create a fundraising on www.globalgiving.org/fundraisers It is made so easy, just register and find any of our projects and start fundraising.**
4. **Donation: On our webpage or www.globalgiving.org/projects/BackToLife**

Social Media:

Instagram:	www.instagram.com/MMCCglobal
Twitter:	www.twitter.com/MMCCglobal
Youtube:	https://www.youtube.com/@MMCCglobal
Face Book:	www.facebook.com/MMCCglobal
LinkedIn	www.linkedin.com/company/MMCCGlobal
Tiktok:	www.tiktok.com/@MMCCGlobal

Contact:

Website:	www.MMCCglobal.org
Email:	info@MMCCglobal.org
Tell:	(+34) 6122 07727
	(+45) 2715 4164