

MMCC Global

Annual Report 2022





2002-2022 20 Years in Afghanistan

2022 marked MMCCs 20 year anniversary, and thereby also 20 years of fun, colors, smiles, social circus and educational entertainment in Afghanistan.

When in 2002 the first kids participated in our workshops and shows in Kabul, we could never imagine that MMCC would grow into such an amazing organization.

We spent all our resources in the last 20 years to bring fun, laughter, joy, and social circus, not only to the over 4 million direct audiences reached in 28 provinces of Afghanistan but also to the entire nation who has been in different ways enjoying and benefiting our work. We keep introducing new arts and skills, setting new standards, and inspiring other organizations to create a dynamic and peaceful culture for children in this war-battered country.



20 year is a long time. Thank you for being with us in all the ups and downs of this journey. In August we marked it in Denmark, where MMCC was born and has its administrative base, with a lovely event together with old and new friends and supporters of MMCC. This was a great opportunity and a special pleasure to see and reconnect with many of our Danish supporters, who have been with us since the very beginning in 2002.

MMCC's Family, Values & Pedagogy:

MMCC is not only an organization but first of all a big family of all who experienced the healing power of laughter, educational entertainment, and social engagement in the most difficult circumstances. MMCC's family consists of the children, youth, team leaders, colleagues, volunteers, and our global network of friends who keep believing in our work and supporting us in various ways. Regardless of MMCC's own organizational capacities and possibilities for implementing any activities as we aim to expand, we would always be committed and stand by our family in Afghanistan with our values, pedagogy, approach, and accumulated knowledge and experiences of healing joy and your support.

Berit Muhlhausen & David Mason
Directors



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A new strategy – expanding MMCC to more countries

Inspired by the successful network model in Afghanistan, MMCC's 2023-2025 strategy aims to take our social circus pedagogy and model to several new countries. The model with individual team leaders who take full ownership of organizing activities with children in their own local community has proved both very organic and cost-efficient. It cultivates a very dynamic and competitive environment for the best to be discovered, inspired, and developed for bringing joy and fun with educational entertainment to as many children as possible. While the circus network in Afghanistan, due to MMCCs history of literally being born in the country, will remain the heart and core of MMCC-Global as we expand, the strategy for new countries is to work through and with existing local partners.

Our Driver:

We work primarily with the youth in countries and communities affected by war and conflict. We believe in the power of youth, in their capacity to take ownership and action for improving the lives of all children and their communities. We build capacity, supervise, support, and facilitate local youth to work for and with children and communities. We believe that European youth have much to learn from youth in countries affected by conflict and war.

We thrive to scale to spread everything we have developed, through productive communication and exchange of capacities. MMCC Global acts as an enabler through partners, networks, DAOs, and online tools.



Our strategy:

- The social circus is our primary offering, an integrated part of any project, program, initiative and action. We may engage in other social, educational and health related activities that serve our aspiration.
- Children lead the change; we build a youth network in each country we work with.
- Enable local partner organisations to deploy and improve know-how. Volunteers and the synergies of a high number of contributing beneficiaries is our core strategy for high quality outcomes. MMCC Global act as incubators, supervisors and facilitators rather than directors in any partnership.
- MMCC Global exits Afghanistan. Transition to local Afghan ownership, ensure that the social circus remains the core activity of the local NGO, and hand over MMCCs assets. Remain closely connected while new regions are established, as the activities in Afghanistan serve as the foundation for MMCC Global's expansion through transfer and exchange of practical know-how to new partners in other countries.
- Expand to Ethiopia in 2023 and one country in Asia* and Middle East* (2024) – followed by establishing networks for activities in more countries in Africa, Asia and Middle East in 2024-2026
- Facilitate youth to youth dialogue within and between youth in the countries, and with youth in Europe, via social media and in person.

Movement of Hope – A new Youth Network

As a direct result of the new situation in Afghanistan, MMCC Global in early 2022 decided to literally decentralize almost all its activities in the country. In the new structure young team-leaders are selected, supported and facilitated to take full lead and responsibility for implementing activities for and with children in their respective local communities. The youth are connected in a 'Movement of Hope' Network, with weekly online meetings facilitated by MMCC Global.

Starting with 10 such teams and team-leaders in the beginning of 2022, the number gradually grow as more young team-leaders are invited and added to the network after each 3-4 month. By end of the year, MMCC Globals Network in Afghanistan thereby included 25 active youth in 11 provinces, who were each running weekly social circus activities for 30+ children in their respective local communities.

The activities includes various social circus and social games as well as different arts and social skills. Apart from regular weekly social circus activities the youth with their teams of children throughout the year also organized multiple events, performances, and competitions.

Local Ownership:

In November our local management team conducted a very successful capacity-building workshop for the youth team leaders. The workshop was developed jointly with international management online. The workshop included various subjects such as pedagogy, monitoring, safety and security, logistics, social media, promotion, and educational shows. MMCC's educational shows such as hygiene and landmine awareness shows are very effective educational tools. The week-long comprehensive workshop enabled our 25 youth team leaders to manage and organize various social activities with and for children and youth in 11 provinces. We are so proud to see our local management's ownership and commitment together with the youth team leaders in capacity building and organizing themselves to provide more social activities to their communities.



Youth Network Committee:

One of the results of the national workshop in November was the establishment of a new Youth Network Committee. The committee consists of 5 youth members (including female) representing a total of 25 team leaders in 11 provinces (Kabul, Nangarhar, Bamyan, Khost, Herat, Laghman, Balkh, Ghor, Helmand, Daikundi, and Konar). The committee members are elected by the



25 team leaders and have regular weekly online meetings to improve the team leaders' activities, resolve problems, and also represent all the team members.

The Committee with our online supervision and support is now gradually taking over more responsibilities in organizing activities on their own.

SHARING – Our Food Emergency campaign for Afghanistan

Food Emergency

Following the mass-evacuations and political tumult in 2021, Afghanistan in 2022 and still faces alarming levels of hunger. In the beginning of 2022, UN considered some nine in ten households to face insufficient food consumption and 2 million children to be malnourished.

Besides our ["BackToLife"](#) campaign to bring and maintain fun and joy for children and youth, we therefore started a new campaign called ["SHARING"](#). Though naturally limited what a small organization such as MMCC can do when needs are so huge, we managed to support underprivileged children and vulnerable families by both this campaign and through our Movement of Hope project enabling us to provide food, winterization packages, and food supplements to several thousand families including many IDPs (internally displaced).

In our Herat center we provide daily lunch for over 100 children, mainly girls, and in the summer, our young team leaders distributed meat to underprivileged families in 6 provinces as part of celebrating Eid. By engaging the youth in distributing food to the most vulnerable in their own communities, the impact



went far beyond the actual support for the families as the youth became local heroes in their local communities, gaining energy, and becoming proud and happy as a result. The lunch, food distribution and small additional humanitarian support continues in 2023 depending on our project finances and our fundraising progress.

Believe it or not – a summer FESTIVAL in Kabul

Neither we nor probably anyone else would have imagined that it could be possible to gather 60 children and youth champions from across Afghanistan for a 6 days circus festival in the new era of Afghanistan. Despite the challenging conditions, this was a magnificent week for all of the children, youth, and staff to reunite and celebrate their National Festival and Juggling Championships again and such as in the past First, 16 team-leaders organized juggling and jump rope championships in 8 provinces during August, and then the winners came to Kabul for the National Championship and Festival. Due to the current political situation juggling competitions for the girls were instead held in our Herat center, while in Kabul 2 days of the festival were dedicated the girls from the Kabul IDP camps. More than 200 girls thereby participated separately in both the Juggling and Jump Rope competitions. To cope with the major lack of juggling clubs, the team-leaders made 'Made in Afghanistan' juggling equipment. We also tailored 'Made in Afghanistan' parachoots for children's social games with the support of a good friend's fundraising on Facebook.



Our Herat Center – an oasis fun & education for both boys and girls

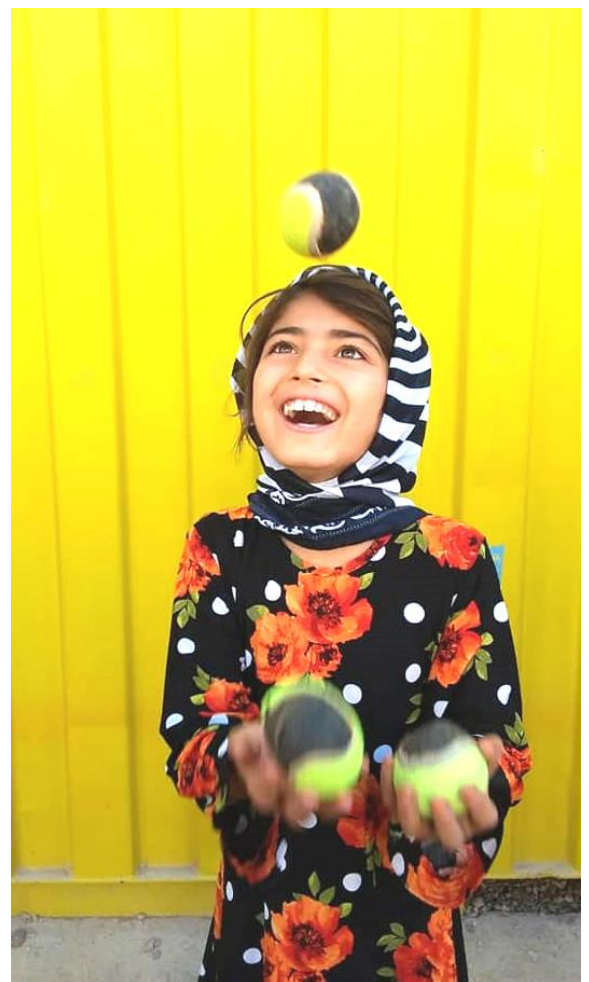
Already in January 2022 our Herat center in the western part of Afghanistan was again fully up running after the tumult period since August, 2021. During the winter, 170 girls and boys in two different morning and afternoon shifts attending a winter program. With different school subjects such as Math, English, Persian (Dari) Pashtu, and Quran classes, together with entertaining activities such as social circus and social games. The students got a nutritious warm meal every day too. This was a

unique opportunity, especially for the underprivileged children to return to kind of normal after several month where many things including the schools had been closed, and turn the cold winter season into a happy time of fun with art and culture.

After the winter, the daily social circus activities continued. The number of children soon increased up to average around 220 girls and 110 boys in two different shifts. Besides social games and collective joyful social circus activities, the activities in the Herat center continue to include both school subject classes and lunch for the most vulnerable.

Many of the students are becoming 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 program

As part of MMCC Global's strategy for engaging European youth in our activities, we in 2022 we also organized two live workshops and multiple online exchanges with around 30 youth in Europe. The Flute project, is a youth exchange project that offers online travel to Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, and Ethiopia, where young peers introduce them to their countries and cultures. The project is 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. It aims to develop a network of resilient young people who can connect digitally for productive humanitarian interaction.



Finances & Supporters

We are thankful to all our global friends who show trust in what we do by donating and making all these to happen. In 2022 a special thank is for the many individual supporters that donated to us following the radical changes in the political situation in Afghanistan in 2021. The private donations along with a new grant from a private foundation, enabled our activities in Afghanistan not only to continue but also to large scale grow.

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 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 were relatively stable though with a clear decrease in funding due to the global financial crises.

MMCC's fiscal year is January-December. The 2022's financial accounts that have been audited by a Danish certified external audit company are available upon request.

A few key figures from the financial statement 2022:

- Total Income: 167,754 USD
- Total expenses: 94,169 USD
- Current Assets by end of the year: 282,298 USD



Join the Journey

There are many ways you can join us in our journey of making the world much better place for and with children and youth of war. Here is 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 in www.globalgiving.org/fundraisers It is made so easy, just register and find our project "Back To Life" 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: www.youtube.com/user/AfghanMMCC
Face Book: www.facebook.com/MMCCglobal
LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/company/MMCCGlobal

Contact:

Website: www.MMCCglobal.org
Email: info@MMCCglobal.org
Tell: (+34) 6122 07727 & (+45) 2715 4164 & (+93) 7758 31371