

# MMCC Global Annual Report 2024



[www.MMCCglobal.org](http://www.MMCCglobal.org)



2024

# A Year of Resilience, and Growth



David Mason

Berit Muhlhausen

Dear MMCC Friends and Supporters,

We are honored to present to you another annual report of MMCC's evolving journey in 2024, a year marked by resilience, renewed commitment, and a clearer vision for the future. From the mountains of Afghanistan to the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh and the ongoing social circus efforts in Ethiopia, this past year has demonstrated not only the strength of our work but the growing synergy within our expanding network.

In **Bangladesh**, we returned to the world's largest refugee camp, home to nearly one million Rohingya refugees who fled Myanmar. Our return has been both emotional and empowering. We are excited to witness how the progress with our local partner KOINONIA is now beginning to grow with renewed momentum and purpose.

In **Afghanistan**, we entered the year with serious concerns. Increasing restrictions, particularly those affecting girls, threatened to suppress creativity and silence activity. Yet, thanks to the extraordinary commitment of our young local team leaders, we not only sustained our programs but continued to thrive. Festivals, school performances, championships, and various other activities filled the year with color and joy.



The core principle of our pedagogy, "**focus on possibilities rather than problems**", continues to guide not only our work with children but also our overall strategy and management. It is this approach that allows us to keep moving forward, even in the most challenging environments.

In **Ethiopia**, our previous Social Circus collaboration helped build our partner's capacity to continue independently. We're pleased that, with support from other sources, they have been able to sustain their social circus teams in line with our shared vision.

Across all three countries, we see something new and powerful taking shape: a living, growing MMCC network. Through synergy, local ownership, shared values, and the energy of young people, something truly brilliant is emerging, a network rooted in trust, creativity, mutual aid, and hope.



Berit Muhlhausen & David Mason

Directors

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## Circus of Hope in Bangladesh

In 2024, MMCC came back to Bangladesh again after its first successful project in 2018. This time with 2 Social Circus projects in the Rohingya refugee camps and its host community and an emergency project for flood affected communities of Bangladesh, marking a significant expansion into one of the world's most densely populated humanitarian settings.



As part of our expansion strategy, we started the Kutupalong camp, home to nearly one million Rohingya refugees, over half of whom are children. In a two-week field mission, MMCC introduced its Social Circus methodology and trained 12 young facilitators, including three youth from the host Bangladeshi community. Working in partnership with the local NGO KOINONIA and supported by CISU (Civil Society in Development, Denmark), these trainers began forming three children's circus teams in different parts of the camp. This pilot project aimed to establish a local base of trained youth, bring joy and learning to vulnerable children, and pave the way for longer-term activities.

Later in the year, a second project was launched, further deepening our presence and strengthening local capacity. This project has made a visible impact: participating children show remarkable progress, and our partner KOINONIA has increasingly embraced MMCC's pedagogical approach. The work continues to inspire both participants and facilitators.

At the same time, critical challenges persist — notably securing sustainable funding and increasing girls' participation, which is limited by local restrictions. To address this, MMCC is preparing a new project that will extend activities beyond the camps and involve local government schools. Special attention is being given to involving female trainers and teachers to support broader and safer inclusion of girls.

With these two successful projects completed in 2024, our commitment to Bangladesh is growing. We



have also prepared Clowns Without Borders (Spain) for an inspiring and capacity building performance and workshop tour to be conducted in early 2025. Drawing on our long-standing experience in contexts like Afghanistan, we are well-equipped to expand and adapt our programs for even greater reach and impact in the years ahead.

For ongoing updates:

[facebook.com/groups/MMCCinBangladesh](https://facebook.com/groups/MMCCinBangladesh)

To support the work:

[globalgiving.org/projects/circus-of-hope](https://globalgiving.org/projects/circus-of-hope)



## Emergency Relief for Flood-Affected Communities

In our third project in Bangladesh this year, in collaboration with our local partner KOINONIA and with financial support from DERF (Danish Emergency Relief Fund), we supported 14,899 flood-affected individuals in Kulaura Upazila. While this was an emergency response, it aligns closely with our broader mission, Our Social Circus and emergency activities in Afghanistan and Bangladesh as well go hand in hand. Last year our social circus teams assisted the earthquake victims in Herat province and this year flooding victims in Ghor province of Afghanistan by both aid distributions and psychosocial support of the children. Both approaches aim to restore dignity, strengthen resilience, and respond to urgent needs in meaningful and practical ways. The intervention included emergency food, hygiene kits, WASH facility repairs, hygiene awareness sessions, and a bamboo bridge. All planned activities were completed on time, reaching the most vulnerable, including women-headed households, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Community participation and local accountability ensured transparency and equity throughout. Over 10,000 people attended hygiene awareness sessions, and the bamboo bridge restored access for 2,000+ residents especially children. This experience also helped us and our partner build capacity, deepen collaboration, and expand our role in local recovery and resilience efforts.



## Movement of Hope in Afghanistan

In 2024, MMCC continued to deepen its impact in Afghanistan despite ongoing challenges. We proudly held our first performance in a government school attended by representatives from the authorities and the Ministry of Education, a significant milestone in promoting and normalizing art and entertainment for children, especially girls, in a difficult environment. Due to increasing restrictions, the average age of participating girls has decreased, and their public presence has become more limited. Nevertheless, MMCC remains committed to ensuring girls' active participation by dedicating more focus and resources to their inclusion.

Currently, 38 Social Circus teams operate across 17 provinces, with 14 female team leaders playing a crucial role in shaping these activities. Many male leaders also facilitate girls-only sessions, underscoring the collective commitment to gender inclusion. Each team offers at least two weekly sessions, alongside frequent performances and participation in regional and national events such as juggling championships and festivals.

Community engagement remains an integral part of MMCC's work. For example, in Ghor province, one social circus team, supported by a generous donor, organized workshops and performances alongside emergency aid distribution for 158 families affected by flooding. Such actions demonstrate how social circus fosters resilience and social responsibility even amid crises.

The systems and experiences developed in Afghanistan have also become invaluable to MMCC's expanding work in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and beyond. Our mobilizers and trainers from these Bangladesh join Afghanistan's online network meetings to learn, share inspiration, and build meaningful friendships, strengthening an international community united by resilience, creativity, and hope.



## Educational Shows & School Performances

After a long break, we finally restarted our Mobile Educational Shows. Since 2002, MMCC has performed educational shows for over 4 million children on various important topics like Hygiene, Landmine Awareness, Polio, Malaria, COVID-19, Child Rights, and Peace Education among many more.

On this year's first tour, the new mobile team in Afghanistan performed its popular Hand-Washing shows in six locations in Nangarhar province for a total audience of 4450. Then they continued to Kabul, Paktia, Khost, Laghman, and Ghor. The educational shows are accompanied by circus shows performed by our local children circus teams. The total number of audience was 19110 in 17 locations in 6 provinces according to our independent monitors. This was a major success in different levels. First of all to keep a culture of public fun and joy for children of Afghanistan is a great inspirational achievement under very harsh conservative circumstances. Besides the educational values of the shows the amount of collective joy and fun for the children is very important for the communities' mental health. The other very important benefit of the educational shows is the collaboration and coordination among the different team leaders, schools and other public venues and the young children artists. These shows are pioneering a creative culture of art and fun and establishes new standards in the country even for other stakeholders, and actors on the field.

Please help spread the word within your network, as we're seeking sponsors to support these precious Mobile Educational Shows. Anyone interested please ask them to send us an email to [info@MMCCglobal.org](mailto:info@MMCCglobal.org)



## Festivals and Juggling Championships

In 2024, MMCC successfully organized Regional and National social circus festivals and juggling championships. For the first time, the regional championships were held online, enabling greater participation without the additional costs of logistics and helping to include more girls in the competitions. Thanks to the continued support from the Linda Norgrove Foundation (LNF), these joyful activities have been supported for many years. All 38 social circus teams across 17 provinces of Afghanistan took part in the events. The top jugglers gathered in Kabul, where they not only competed for championship titles but also performed in numerous public venues, including parks and even a unique juggling parade through the city streets by car. Many of these events received coverage from various media outlets, amplifying the message of hope and resilience. Events like these are more vital now than ever, offering moments of joy, fun, and hope to a population burdened by trauma and prolonged conflict.



## Relocating Our Centers in Kabul and Herat

In 2024, we initiated the relocation of our container-based centers in both **Kabul** and **Herat** due to changing local circumstances. In Herat, rising rental costs prompted our decision to move. In Kabul, the land where our center was situated was sold, and the new owner plans a major construction project on the site.

Fortunately, our centers are constructed primarily from shipping containers, offer a high degree of flexibility, much like building with LEGO bricks. Although both centers are



complex and spacious, their modular design made the transition to new locations far more manageable.

Using long-distance online collaboration and interactive planning, reminiscent of virtual LEGO modeling, we quickly and efficiently developed restructuring plans for both sites. This adaptability is a testament to the strength of our innovative, resourceful approach in challenging environments.

## Mafo Zolo kids of Chench in Ethiopia

In **Ethiopia**, our Social Circus collaborations laid the foundation for a vibrant culture of social circus through the establishment of active teams, basic training, equipment provision, and infrastructure. Our local partner, Bright Star Ethiopia, continued these activities independently on a smaller scale.

In 2024, with the support of our international partner *Dignity for Children*, we co-organized a festival with the same social circus teams that have remained active within Bright Star's framework. Remarkably, these teams have continued their activities without any ongoing financial or technical support from MMCC. This resilience reflects the strength and sustainability of the seeds we planted.

We remain hopeful about opportunities to further develop and expand these efforts. However, even without additional intervention, the foundation we built has proven strong enough to thrive and grow organically.

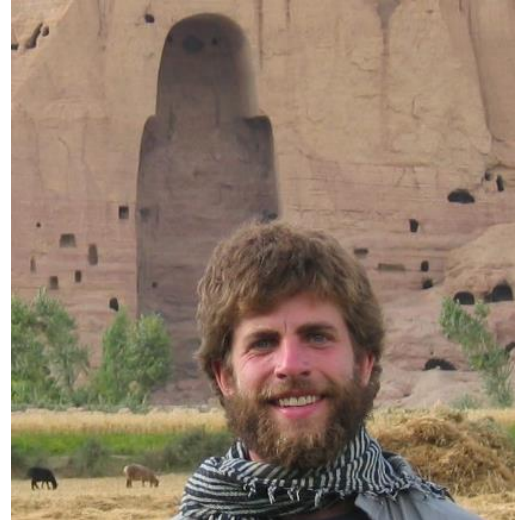
There is clear and compelling evidence of how easily social circus can be introduced: children quickly embrace it, communities welcome it, and local organizations find creative ways to sustain it. MMCC continues to explore ways to scale up this model and promote our pedagogy of "constructive fun and joy" as a powerful tool for resilience and positive change.



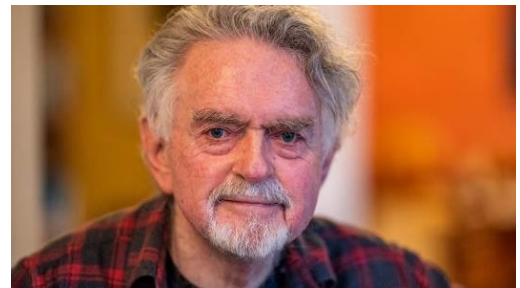
## A Tribute to Two Wonderful Souls

In 2024 we lost two of our best inspirational friends and MMCC's supporters.

**Seth Bloom** was MMCC's artistic director and the mastermind and instructor of many of our educational performances. He visited MMCC in Afghanistan numerous times from the early years, spending months building the capacity of our colleagues, trainers, and children. His artistic and technical contributions as our first-ever Social Circus instructor and developer of Educational Shows, along with his big smile, strength, passion, dedication, and friendship, are beyond words.



**Erik Clausen** was an inspirational artist, a motivator, a contributor, and above all, a wise mentor. He helped lay the solid strategic foundation that has allowed us to stay close to the children and avoid falling into the trap of becoming a large, bureaucratic organization. His words and concerns always reminded us not to lose sight of our original purpose or forget the very children we are here for.



## 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 Bangladesh.

By end of the year, the financial situation was stable though with a continued decrease in private donations, assumed to be first and foremost a result of the global financial crises. In addition, Afghanistan, which remains to be the core and heart of the organization, has clearly moved away from both the news and donors attention.

MMCC's fiscal year is January-December. The 2024'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 2024:

- Private/Individual Donations: \$ 66.316
- Institutional Donations & Other: \$ 313.507
- Membership fees \$ 4.761
- Expenditure (projects and overheads): \$ 386.119
- Expenditure to projects: \$ 306.246
- Brought to reserve: \$ -9.442
- Reserve/equity as of 31 December 2024 \$ 218.617

## 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: <https://buy.stripe.com/00gcQi3pQaVge5y8wL>

For other support please visit: [www.MMCCglobal.org/donation](http://www.MMCCglobal.org/donation)



## Join the Journey

We thank all our friends and volunteers who each in different ways contribute to MMCC.

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](http://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 [www.MMCCglobal.org/donation](http://www.MMCCglobal.org/donation) or [www.globalgiving.org/projects/BackToLife](http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/BackToLife)

## Social Media:

Instagram: [www.Instagram.com/MMCCglobal](http://www.Instagram.com/MMCCglobal)  
X: [www.X.com/MMCCglobal](http://www.X.com/MMCCglobal)  
Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@MMCCglobal>  
Face Book: [www.facebook.com/MMCCglobal](http://www.facebook.com/MMCCglobal)  
LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/MMCCGlobal](http://www.linkedin.com/company/MMCCGlobal)  
Tiktok: [www.tiktok.com/@MMCCGlobal](http://www.tiktok.com/@MMCCGlobal)  
Threads: <https://www.threads.com/MMCCglobal>

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