



مدرسة سيرك فلسطين
Palestinian Circus School

Annual Report 2020





In this report:

We are proud to present you with an overview of our work and achievements starting from 1st of January and ending on December 31, 2020.

For more information about our work in general, our approaches, our work in the past and daily updates, we invite you to read more about us on our website www.placircus.ps and to like our Facebook page: [The Palestinian Circus School](#)

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Introduction

Dearest supporters and friends of the Palestinian Circus School,

This year report will cover PCS programs and activities from 1st of January and ending on December 31, 2020. It has been a very challenging year for the circus family in Palestine due to the spread of Covid-19. The virus spread widely across the globe forcing us to delay or cancel the majority of our planned activities this year, including Palestine Circus Festival 2020. Nevertheless, we have succeeded to adapt to exceptional circumstances and meeting the emerging needs of our beneficiaries: children, youth and artists.



About us



Vision

A free Palestine in which Palestinians engage in a dynamic cultural and artistic life that embraces creativity, freedom of expression and diversity as the main pillars for a just and inclusive society.

Mission

By teaching, creating, performing and programming circus arts, the Palestinian Circus School strengthens the creative, social and physical potential of Palestinians, seeking to engage and empower them to become constructive actors in society and raises local and international awareness about the positive Palestinian potential and its different challenges.

You can read more about the history of PCS [here](https://palcircus.ps/en/about-us/#history)

<https://palcircus.ps/en/about-us/#history>

The staff in 2020

Mohamad Rabah	Executive Director.
Ahmad Rezqalla	Financial Manager
Rana Nasser	Projects Officer
Marah Al Natsheh	Research, Development and Marketing Coordinator / artist
Hanya Abdallah	Admin & Financial Assistant
Alaa Jayousi	Safety and Technician
Nayef Abdallah	Trainers Coordinator
Mohammad Abu Sakha	Circus Pedagogy Coordinator
Motasem Ghaith	Trainer
Mohammad Dweikat	Trainer
Noor Abu AlRub	Performers' Coordinator
Mohammad Abu Taleb	Pool of artist Coordinator
Ahmad Abu Taleb	Productions' Coordinator

Board of Directors

- President: Dr. Yousef Al Rimawi
- Vice President: Ms. Rawan Harb
- Treasurer: Mr. Sinan Mansour
- Secretary: Ms. Nadia Awad
- Member: Mr. Khaled Miqdadi
- Member: Mr. Raed Sadeq
- Member: Ms. Tina Rafidi



From the bottom of our hearts, we want to thank **all local and international volunteers** for sharing their valuable experience and time with us and for contributing to the further development of the PCS. Welcome always to our big circus family!!

If you wish to volunteer with us, please fill the application form by clicking [here](https://palcircus.ps/en/volunteer/)

<https://palcircus.ps/en/volunteer/>

Financial Overview

Statement of Activity

Donor Contribution	1,379,727
Board membership	1,100
Donation, subsidies and others	170,685
TOTAL REVENUES	1,551,512
Project expenses	1,354,482
General and administrative expenses	170,991
Currency differentials	101,212
Depreciation Expense	152,750
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,779,435
Change in net assets	-227,923
Net assets, beginning of year	2,559,,298
NET ASSETS (END OF YEAR)	2,331,374

Financial Position

Total Current Assets	2,801,402
Total Non Current Assets	614,886
Total Assets	3,416,287
Total Current Liabilities	7,191
Total Non Current Liabilities	159,180
Total Liabilities	166,370
Total Net Assets	3,249,917
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	3,416,287

Educational Activities

[Click on this link for a general introduction about the philosophy and approach of PCS in its educational work.](https://palcircus.ps/en/educational/)

<https://palcircus.ps/en/educational/>

Circus Clubs 2020:

From January to March, before the spread of Covid 19 and the lockdown of country, a total of 193 students, of which 61 boys and 132 girls followed our weekly clubs. The students came from Birzeit, Ramallah, Jenin and Jerusalem

From September to December 2020, we had a total of 231 students, of which 106 boys and 125 girls

During first semester in Birzeit, we had 4 clubs running for a total of 88 students (32 males and 56 females) all between the ages of 6 and 27. In second semester, we had 5 clubs with 84 students (40 males and 44 females)

With the **outreach program**, we spread the circus beyond the borders of Birzeit.

We bring circus to other cities and refugee camps, to children and youth with intellectual disabilities and to the girls of a social rehabilitation center. From our first days of training in 2007, we decided to go out of Ramallah, since we wanted to become a school for all Palestinians despite their geographic or social background. We have been working in Hebron, Jenin, and Al Fara'a Refugee Camp for many years where we have been in the process of establishing permanent hubs of training. We also bring children and youth from Al Jalazone Refugee Camp to Birzeit. We work with an average of 45 girls every year since 2008 at the Girls Rehabilitation Center in Jenin. In addition we teach circus to two groups of students from the Star Mountains and Al Nahda Centre where this year, we worked with 20 children with mental disabilities.

The Outreach program from January to March 2020, targeted 105 children (29 boys and 76 girls). From September to December 2020, we had a total of 147 students (66 boys and 81 girls) during weekly trainings in:

- **Jenin:** In cooperation with the Girls Rehabilitation Center (40 girls in first semester, 35 in second semester) and The Freedom Theater (2nd semester with 21 students)
- **Ramallah:** 1st semester with 25 students, 2nd semester with 23 students at the Episcopal Technological and Vocational Training Center (ETVTC)
- **Star Mountains:** 11 students (6 boys and 5 girls) with mental disabilities in cooperation with Star Mountain Center
- **Al Nahda:** 9 students (boys) with mental disabilities in cooperation with Al Nahda Women Association
- **Jerusalem:** 1st semester with 20 students, 2nd semester with 28 students in cooperation with Al Bustan Center
- **Tulkarem:** 35 students in cooperation with Dar Qindeel

Our **Training of Trainers program**, which we offer every 2 or 3 years, is open to all, and many of the students in this program come from our clubs outside Birzeit.

This year the school offered a Training of Trainers program for 17 youth from partner cultural organizations from Al Bustan (Jerusalem), The Freedom Theater (Jenin) and Dar Qindeel (Tulkarem).

In addition PCS organized a Training of Trainers workshop for 10 social workers from The Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center, Al Nahda Women Association and Raseel Organization. The workshop aimed at building the capacities of social workers working at aforementioned centers and at developing the pedagogical methods and techniques for working with children with intellectual difficulties.

Accessible for all

With the PCS we continue to invest strongly in the ‘circus for all’ idea. In our vision we state that we want to contribute to a just and inclusive society. For us this means that all Palestinians, despite their different backgrounds, possibilities and abilities, are welcome at the circus school. The main strategies we use to make circus possible for all are:

- To welcome all children and youth from all religious, political, social, economic and gender backgrounds.
- A scholarship system, that allows people to pay the fee they can afford. Read more about our scholarship system
- The outreach program, where the circus trainers travel weekly to different locations which would otherwise have no access to the circus offer.
- The development of partnerships with specific organizations that work with more vulnerable groups in our society. In this sense we have developed a strong partnership over the last years with the Social Rehabilitation Centre for girls in Jenin and with Star Mountain Rehabilitation Centre and Al Nahda Centre which both work with people with intellectual disabilities. In addition to Al Bustan in Sylwan, The Freedom Theater in Jenin and Dar Qindeel in Tulkarem.
- To open our doors for anybody who feels like passing by, come and see a training, and by organizing



Open Days & Summer Camps

PCS offers its students the opportunity to present their newly acquired skills to their social network. That's why by the end of each scholar year, PCS organizes a series of open days in its different training locations. Read more about our open days by clicking on this link. However, due to the spread of Covid -19 and the complete closure of country from March to May, we sadly had to cancel all scheduled open days.

Luckily, we were able to organize four summer camps in Birzeit, Jerusalem, Nablus and Jenin.

- **In Nablus** we had 50 students (22 boys and 28 girls) between the 1st and the 10th of June 2020.
- **In Jenin** we had 47 students (30 boys and 17 girls) between the 27th of June and the 2nd of July.
- **In Jerusalem** we had 20 students (9 boys and 11 girls) between 23rd and 31st of August.
- **In Birzeit** we had 28 students (11 boys and 17 girls) between 14th and 23rd of June

Circus Training Manual

We proudly announce the development of the first "Training Guide-manual". The manual includes methods of training circus techniques and will contribute to developing the competences of beginner trainers and staff working in the field of circus.

The manual is produced in Arabic and will be translated to English within the coming year. To read the manual in Arabic, click here

<https://palcircus.ps/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/circus-bookA42co-final-reduced-size.pdf>

Educational videos

PCS produced many educational videos this year. Follow Antar and our series of educational videos on our YouTube page: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vFWelmp-kY&t=6s



Joint Production

3 students from Al Nahda, 2 students from Star Mountains and 5 students from “SUN group” in Birzeit started working on a joint production.

On 20th of February, a pre-run show was performed in front of students’ parents and journalists. The show was attended by around 50 people who were very much touched by the performance and the message it conveyed.

Intensive trainings and public performances were scheduled in March. On 5th of March, the Palestinian Authority declared a state of emergency after the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. This forced us to cancel all scheduled performances.

Social Circus Conference “Enhancing Equal Rights & Social Inclusion”

In cooperation with Medical Aid for Palestinians, PCS organized a one-day conference under the title “Enhancing Equal Rights and Social Inclusion”. The conference shed the light on how circus activities can be used to promote social development and to empower people in their communities in Palestine and around the world.

The conference was held on 3rd of September and was attended by 68 people. It included two sessions where local and international papers were presented from Gaza Women’s Yoga and Circus Hub (Palestine), Sorin Cirkus (Finland), Social circus project in Afghanistan and a paper about the “Palestinian Circus School’: “Ethnography of circus practice as a tool of political expression in contemporary Palestine by Viola Giuliani (Italy). The papers discussed the concept of “social circus”, and its role in promoting equality and integration.

Circus Workshop in Al Azareyeh

PCS organized a circus workshop in Al Zahra Home in Al Azareyeh from 22nd to 29th of October for 29 girls between the ages of 6 and 20 years old.





مدرسة سيرك فلسطين
Palestinian Circus School

**تتشرف مدرسة سيرك فلسطين
بمؤتمركم لحضور مؤتمر السيرك الاجتماعي
"تعزيز المساواة في الحقوق والدمج المجتمعي"**

يوم الخميس ٣ أيلول ٢٠٢٠
من الساعة ٢:٠٠ مساءً حتى ٣:٣٠ مساءً
سيعقد المؤتمر من خلال زووم
حضوركم شرف لنا

يرجى تأكيد الحضور عن طريق الهاتف ٠٢٢٨١٢٠٠٠ أو البريد الإلكتروني Hanya@palcircus.ps

The Palestinian Circus School
Is honored by your presence at the Social Circus Conference
"Enhancing Equal Rights and Social Inclusion"
Thursday September 3, 2020
from 2:00 pm until 3:30 pm.
Through Zoom

For confirmation please call: 022812000 or Email: Hanya@palcircus.ps



Dr. Annika Schmieding
is a former Fellow at Harvard University
Society of Fellows
Doctoral degree in Sociocultural
anthropology from Boston University



Jenny Higgins
One of the founders of the Gaza
Women's Hub and Circus Hub
BA in Politics from University College Cork
PhD in Human Rights from University College
London



**Viola Lucrezia
Guallini**
from Italy
social anthropologist and a circus
teacher



Ms. Pii Karkkila (MA)
Specialized in social circus
A professor in social circus
well-being services and projects in
Suomi, Finland



Mr. Lari Aaltonen
a professor of social circus
a member's degree in anthropology
PhD candidate at the Tampere
University



Mohammad Abu Sakha
Pedagogical coordinator at the PCS



Nayef Abdallah
Trainers' Coordinator at the PCS

Artistic Activities

Productions and Performances

Spreading circus arts in Palestine and introducing Palestinians to a new form of performing arts, is an important quest for PCS. In order to fulfill this goal, PCS produces shows and organizes tours both locally and internationally. You can read more about the why and how of our artistic work [here](#)

<http://www.palcircus.ps/en/content/introduction-0>

ASIMO

“We step into a world where we see how exterior pressure, teachings and opinions can influence the development of human. But lessons taught can also be un taught, opinions can be changed and pressures can get lightened.

We see how ultimately the values that most influence us are the lessons taught in unity, sharing our ideas and exchanging skills and knowledge. Every clog must work together for the machine to function effectively.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWRue5Lk4bc>

Using circus, choreography and theatre ‘ASIMO’ takes on a journey through the world of one mad scientist’s invention and the discoveries made within.

ASIMO is performed by: Ahmed Abu Taleb, Alaa Aliabdallah, Mohammed Abu Taleb, Noor Abo Alrob and Directed by: Emile Saba.



Pool of Artist Productions

After the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and the cancellation of the third edition of Palestine Circus Festival as a result, we have supported artistic productions of 8 individuals/ groups from PCS pool of artists:

1. Tirhal for Contemporary Circus for their production "Alaa Infirad".
2. Stereo 48 for their production "Journey to Jerusalem"
3. Black Team (work in progress)
4. Nablus Performing Art and Circus School for their production "Matahat Shamieh"
5. Nafez Imad for his production "BE"
6. Issam Abu Snaineh for his production "In Between".
7. SPACE for their production "Gene"
8. Murtada Hmouz for his production "The Two Villages of Omba and Comba"

Sun Program & Production

Is a one year technical and artistic program for +18 students. Students train for 6 hours weekly with the aim of preparing them to become professional circus artists. By the end of the year, a circus show is produced. This year, the program started in October 2020 with 9 students (7 males and 2 females)



The Palestine Circus Festival

After the huge successes of first and second editions of Palestine Circus Festival, PCS announced open registration for artists interested in participating in third edition of Palestine Circus Festival which was scheduled from 19th to 26th of September 2020. However due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, the festival was postponed to November with the participation of youth local productions that were produced during Corona pandemic. But again the festival was postponed after the Palestinian Authority decided to lockdown country.





Cooperation with the different partners:

Local Cooperation

PCS has developed a very substantial network over the years. Our educational and artistic programs would not be where they are today without the precious cooperation with the Ministry of education, the many schools and local and international institutions, youth centers, women centers, theatres, local authorities and many more.

*PCS is since many years a member of the **Palestinian Performing Arts Network**. After being an establishing member, PCS became an active member of its board of Directors. To read more about PPAN, please click [here](#).*

Due to its increasing recognition, PCS is invited on many occasions to be part of different activities organized by third parties. To be able to meet all requests, PCS developed a pool of trainers and artists (around 25 people in each pool). PCS offers them capacity building activities, training and performance opportunities. This year PCS produced 8 performances for 8 groups/individuals from the pool of artists.

An overview of implemented activities in 2020:

- **Palestinian Performing Arts Network**
PCS performed in an event organized by PPAN to renounce political conditional funding on 4th of March.
- **Doulab**
PCS hosted the residency of two artists: Fadi Zmorrod and Juliette Cassey from 23rd of July to 8th of August.
- **Souq Al Baboureyeh**
PCS had several presentations during Souq al Baboureyeh organized by Birzeit Municipality and institutions every Saturday starting from 29th of August until 17th of October
- **Wajd Al Rouh Activity**
PCS had a circus presentation during Wajd Al Rouh activity organized by Al Kamandjati in Arab Al Rashaydeh on 29th of October
- **Nablus Circus and Performing Arts School (Assirk Assaghir)**
PCS offered an 18-hour workshop for 18 students (15 females and 3 males) from Al Najah University at Assirk Assaghir in Nablus
- **Medical Aid for Palestinians**
PCS offered a one-day workshop to partners of Medical Aid for Palestinians on social inclusion. PCS trainers received a training on how to spot mental health issues by Al Saraya Center
- **Ramallah Municipality**
PCS participated in Christmas Market of Ramallah Municipality from 6th to 9th of December



International Cooperation

- **PCS became full member of FEDEC**

In December 2020, PCS was voted a full member of The European Federation of Professional Circus Schools—FEDEC, which is an international network of around 70 circus members from 23 countries across the world.

- **Be Flat Residency**

PCS hosted the residency of “Be Flat”; a Belgian artistic group in March. But unfortunately the group had to end their residency and return back to Belgium after the spread of the pandemic.

Capacity Building Workshop

- **Microsoft Office and Google Forms workshop**

PCS offered its staff a Microsoft Office and Google Forms workshop from 28th of July to 6th of August. The training aimed at training PCS staff on basic and advanced concepts of using MS word, PowerPoint, Excel, in addition to google drive and forms.

- **Workshop on basic mental health issues**

PCS organized a 3-day workshop on 18th, 24th and 25th of November for 8 of its trainers and assistant trainers on screening and referral of mental health issues. As a result, trainers are capable of diagnosing children’s overall behaviors and dealing with children who have behavioral problems.

Institutional

- **Strategic Planning workshop in Al Aqaba**

PCS organized a 3-day workshop (from 3rd to 6th of January) for its team in Al Aqaba, Jordan to review and update its strategic plan.

- **New website**

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new website.





Supporters

Our impact and achievements wouldn't be the same without the precious support of all our donors, supporters and partners. We are very grateful for the large belief and trust all these people and institutions have in our work. For our activities and festival this year, we received support from:

- **Drosos Foundation**
- **Caritas**
- **SIDA in the framework of the Palestinian Performing Arts Program (PAN)**
- **Poppies for Peace – Klaprozen voor vrede**
- **Flemish Government / Flanders**
- **Clowns without Borders, Sweden**
- **PAC**
- **Medical Aid for Palestinians**
- **GIZ**
- **Spanish Cooperation through our project with our Spanish Partner-NovAct.**
- **CARAVAN.**

You are always welcome to join the family of supporters to guarantee that our work will continue and be able to make real changes in the life of our children and youth.

PCS in the Media

www.news.cn
新华网
XINHUANET
Saturday, March 27, 2021
Edition ▼
Search

Feature: Palestinian circus platform for youths with intellectual disability

Source: Xinhua | 2020-02-21 06:04:15 | Editor: huaxia

f t in r v



Young students from Palestinian Circus School perform together with peers with intellectual disability in an experimental show in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Feb. 20, 2020. The performance was the first of its kind, which came after almost three months of training and preparations. Ten young performers wearing colorful shirts appeared on the stage, including five with intellectual disability. (Photo by Ayman Nisani/Xinhua)

RAMALLAH/BIRZEIT, Feb. 20 (Xinhua) — In a unique experimental show, young students from the Palestinian Circus School performed together with peers with intellectual disability, in the town of Birzeit in west of Ramallah city on Thursday evening.



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NEWS: We support the Palestine Circus Festival 2020

Within the framework of our joint work with the [Palestinian Circus School](#), in the project "[Badil. Preventing violent extremism in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. An approach based on Human Rights and peace building](#)", we support the organization of the "[Palestine Circus Festival 2020](#)", reinforcing the resilience of young Palestinians to violent extremist narratives through the arts of circus, dance and theater.

This year's edition incorporates 8 new circus shows created and performed by Palestinian artists in the context of the [Covid19 pandemic](#). Although its celebration was scheduled for the period from November 26th to December 6th in the Palestinian cities of [Ramallah](#), [Birzeit](#), [Tulkarem](#), [Nablus](#), [Jenin](#) and [Hebron](#), within the Occupied Palestinian Territory of the West Bank, the [new measures against the pandemic announced today, November 23rd 2020](#), by the



www.palcircus.ps

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[The Palestinian Circus
School](#)

Photos in this report are taken by:

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- Regash
- The Palestinian Circus School