

BALLOON CIRCUS ANNUAL REPORT

2019



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Unforgettable play days and workshops

Balloon Circus brings uplifting entertainment to disadvantaged children encouraging creative play in a nurturing yet stimulating environment

Our workshops provide the children we visit with opportunities to learn new skills through balloons and interactive circus sessions.

We want to awaken the inner performer and empower the children to sharpen their physical, mental and social skills. As experienced, conscientious and talented performers we want to share our knowledge and skills to affect social change.

For the last four years Balloon Circus has been working directly with underprivileged children at a grassroots level. We reach as many children as possible to provide them with something that can be forgotten in the face of adversity – a child's right to play.

We work alongside other charities, complementing the amazing work already taking place.

As always, a big thank you to our sponsors, donors, friends and family who support our work.





Director's report

2019 - A year of fundraising and building

2019 has been our quietest year yet at Balloon Circus.

We decided to take time off touring to concentrate our fundraising efforts towards our next tours and building our first Circus School in Thailand, so we can invite the children for play days when we aren't on tour.

We had the privilege of visiting Taiwan where we held a Christmas Raffle, with some great prizes: Champagne, wine, restaurant vouchers, make-up and some handmade local crafts.

We managed to raise funds to do some Christmas workshops when unfortunately Jenny broke her arm and had to take a break from teaching.

The money raised was used to buy circus equipment that was donated to Bethany Children's Home, a local orphanage in Taipei.

Thanks to all our generous sponsors below and congratulations to our lucky winners.



Carnegie's | Ooh Cha Cha | Oldie Goodie |
James Joyce | Patio 46 | Mianto |
MQ Champagnes | Shu Uemura make up



Balloon Circus inspires smiles and laughter through a memorable and exciting experience



A big thanks to Jenny and Bow for bringing Balloon Circus to the kids in the Surgical Ward at Mahosot Hospital in Vientiane, LAOS PDR. Many of these brave kids are recovering from surgery for horrific burns and have been in hospital for a few weeks and it was a pleasure to see their faces light up when they received their wonderfully creative balloons. Keep up the great work and we hope to see you again. You guys are awesome!!

Andi Morrow Hall, WIG, Vientiane Laos PDR

TESTIMONIALS



Thank you so much for the wonderful day you gave to us at Haven Homes, Chiangmai. It was brilliant! The children were so blessed with every activity you did. Your balloon creations were outstanding.

One of our little ones who has just finished "kemo" in her treatment for a brain tumor was so happy with the beautiful heart arrangement you gave to her. Her lovely smile said it all!

I would not hesitate to recommend you to any organisation.

You are a real blessing! thank you so much. Until we meet again,

Jim, Haven homes





It was for the first time I saw all the children playing/juggling with those props you brought along with. They indeed had wonderful time together with props and friends for long hours

Juggling is not a practice, especially here. Children do go for varieties of games and sports. But those props were unique and all the children thoroughly enjoyed playing or even watching others practicing.

The most wonderful part of the overall event was the show by the children themselves. It was the opposite of what everyone thought in the beginning. Everyone was thinking that you two will show us some amazing juggling. However, to our surprise, you encouraged the children to to perform themselves at front of all the audience. Your briefing in the beginning, , in a very child friendly language and action was worth instructing. The support and guidance you provided throughout the practice time was praiseworthy. Even our SOS mothers and Aunts had a great time with you people and children.

So, to conclude, it was a day to remember for the children and everyone present there.

We all in SOS Children's Village Bharatpur heartily appreciate your effort in making the children all over the world laugh and play.

Thank you so much for the visit.

Regards,

Reena Gurung, Sr. Secretary/
Sponsorship Co-worker, SOS
Children's Village Bharatpur,
Nepal



Balloon Circus Director

Jenny Alexander

Members of the board

Michelle Harrison

Kate Walmsley

Miranda Wilkinson

Workshop leaders

Jenny Alexander

Somsak Thongrot

Balloon Circus has reached
12000 children in 155
orphanages in 11 countries

Why circus skills?

“Try things you never imagined trying, achieve things you didn’t expect to achieve, and learn things that you will never forget.”

Taking part in circus activities is a highly enjoyable way to develop important skills that apply to all walks of life, in an atmosphere of fun.

Circus talent requires concentration and confidence. The workshops offer genuine learning experiences that really help to develop individuals.

Here’s how:

- Circus skills build confidence and self-esteem and are inclusive of all abilities.
- Circus skills develop teamwork.
- Circus skills involve both the left and right side of the body and the brain to greatly improve learning abilities.
- Circus skills help people to deal with fear, react to the unexpected and plunge into the next challenge with confidence.

Short term objectives

- Bring the children together through circus.
- To bring laughter and joy to the children.
- Provide an opportunity for children to work with and learn from an international performer.

Long term objectives

- Extend workshops to other areas.
- Develop a sustainable circus/physical theatre culture.
- Play a role in realizing the value of alternative entertainment in the community.



Circus skills workshop

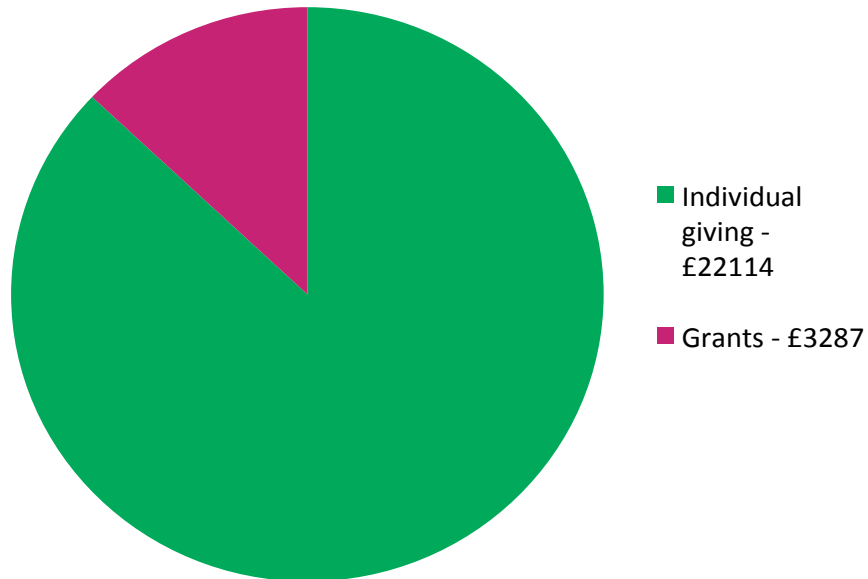
- Balloon modelling
- Diabolo
- Hula hoop
- Juggling balls & rings
- Plate Spinning
- Poi spinning
- Flower sticks
- Gymnastic ribbons & scarves



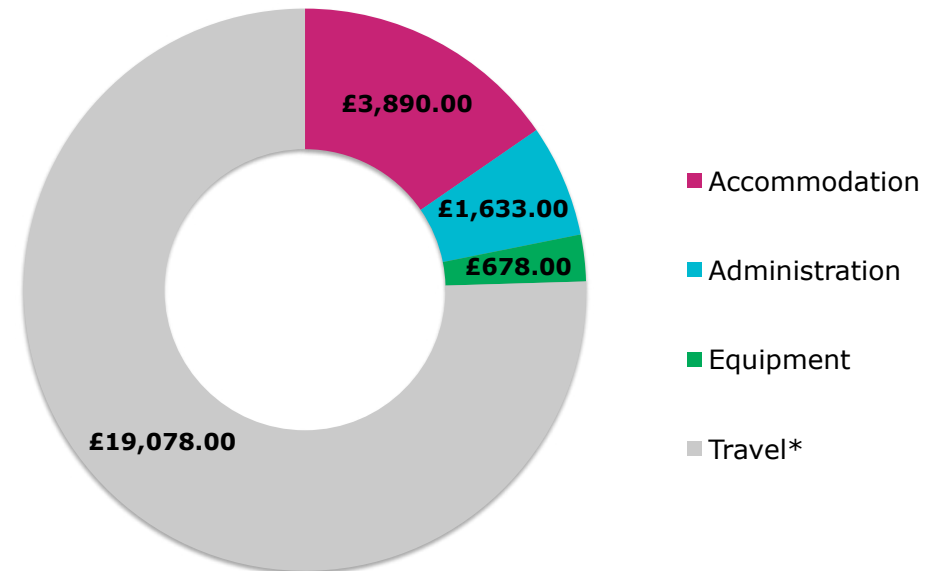
Balloon Circus income 2014-2019

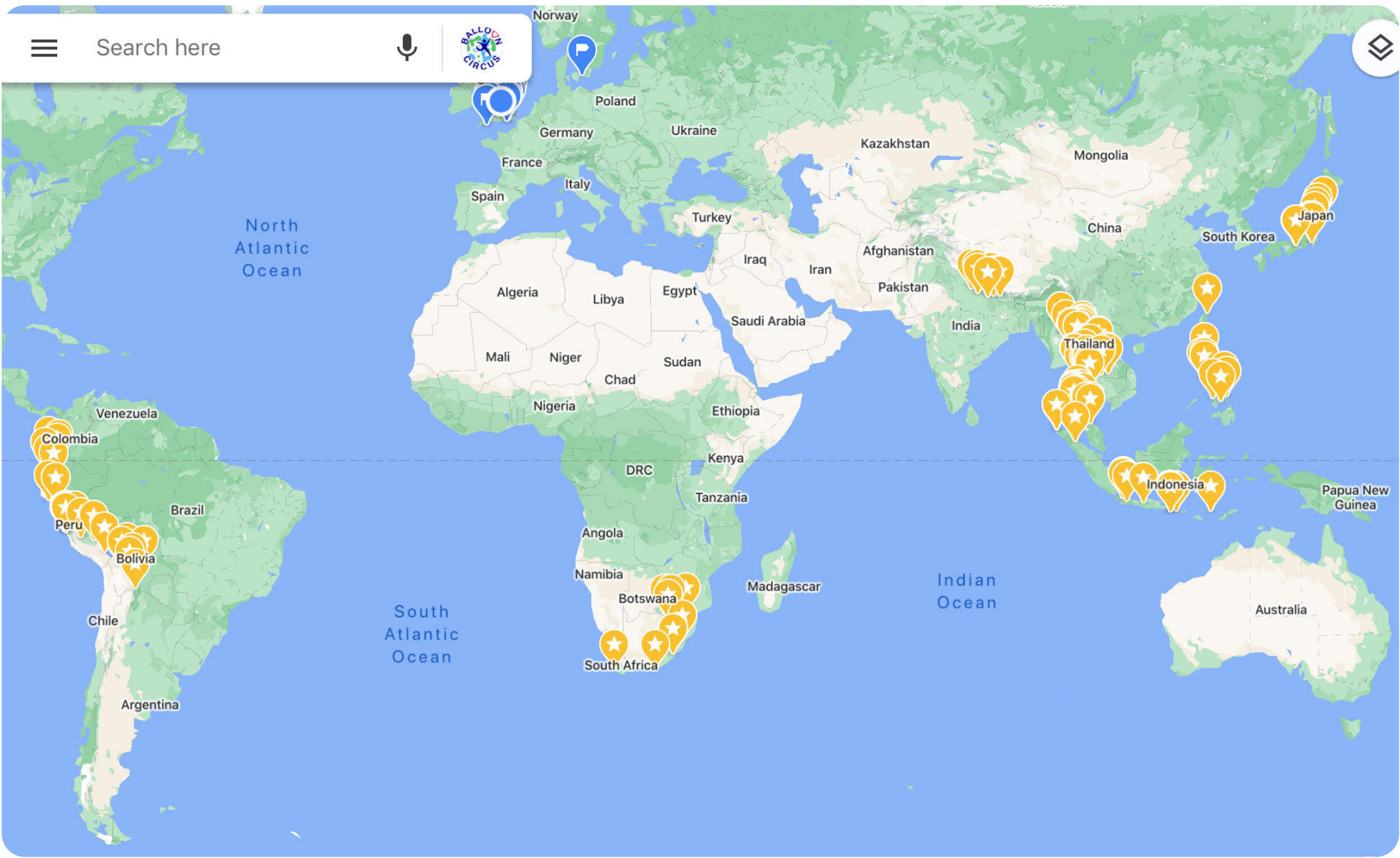


Income split 2014-19



Spending split 2014-19





Balloon Circus: 155 orphanages in 11 countries teaching around 12000 children