



## Can Circus Help Africa?

In a continent -and a country- where too often children are left stranded without basic needs and rights resulting in daily situations of insecurity and distrust between families and communities, it just might be that a circus can make a difference! After all, what is circus about? It's about overcoming fear, it's about trust, it's based on non-verbal and verbal communication, it represents an ancient, multicultural international tradition and its purpose is to make people not only smile but also think.

When you see children wrapped by the imagination and wonder... you know exactly what this means. When the circus stops the music, the curtain fall off and they says... "Hiccup Circus Uganda thank..." you understand that this is not just another school activity.



Hiccup Circus Uganda is tailored to kids of ages 6-15 from big towns or rural areas and does not have any fee for the audience. Performances are staged in schoolyards, basket or football grounds and for now, we tour places around Kampala in schools, youth centres, orphanages, paediatric wards, etc.





The HCU methodology strengthens the emotional and psychological appeal of messages and provides an interesting, entertaining and different way to explore health and environmental issues. It can change the way person thinks, acts and behave. It engages the audience, focuses the attention of the spectators, and actively involves them in a vivid and exciting experience.



Active involvement means that the emotions of the spectators, and not just intellectual or cognitive skills, are affected. It is this ability to touch the emotions that allows our approach to influence attitudes in ways that traditional instruction cannot achieve with traditional syllabi.



Circus will not save Africa but it can shape a better Uganda, help to make dialogue possible among generations, lowering barriers, informing and building trust among children. It can provide a model of shared loyalty that transcends common ways of teaching. It can demonstrate, to a wide audience, that what appears to be impossible is indeed possible... even knowledge. None of these may be sufficient to bring about the requisite social change, but without them, no change is possible.

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