

**De brief report and forward collaborative plans.**

## **Dzaleka Arts Lab - November 2023**

### **Context:**

Prof Helen Storey and Deepa Patel, from University of the Arts London, have conducted 2 scoping missions in Malawi during 2022. This latest mission has seen the first delivery of co-created work with the groups and communities we have come to know in Dzaleka Refugee Camp.

This project was hosted within Dzaleka by Salama Africa and acknowledges the collaboration and contributions of the refugees and TOT's from Women 4 Action, MUTU, and the Umoja People Disabilities Group.

The project, inspired by the Congolese Sapology Movement, was co-created with Salama Africa, after establishing great interest from refugee makers in embroidery and the learning of new skills and ways of imagining.

25 refugee participants took part in this workshop.



Salama Africa – meeting the making community May 2023

***“If the resilience of refugees were a pen, our collective efforts would serve as the ink – it is within our power to rewrite our past, shape our present and craft our future, ensuring that our voices are heard”***

**Toussaint Farini  
Founder Salama Africa.**

### **Approach and values of work:**

- The work starts with the building of trust – this work prioritises the relational.
- Co creation lies at the heart of all we do and deliver thereafter.
- Well-being & group cohesion fosters psychological support between people.
- Responsive to people, environment, and life situation, in the present moment.
- Equity of voice and learning – learning goes two ways and is reciprocal.
- Surfacing leadership and confidence in our imaginations.
- Creative partnership building between peoples and across organisations.
- Providing expertise in developing technical skills.

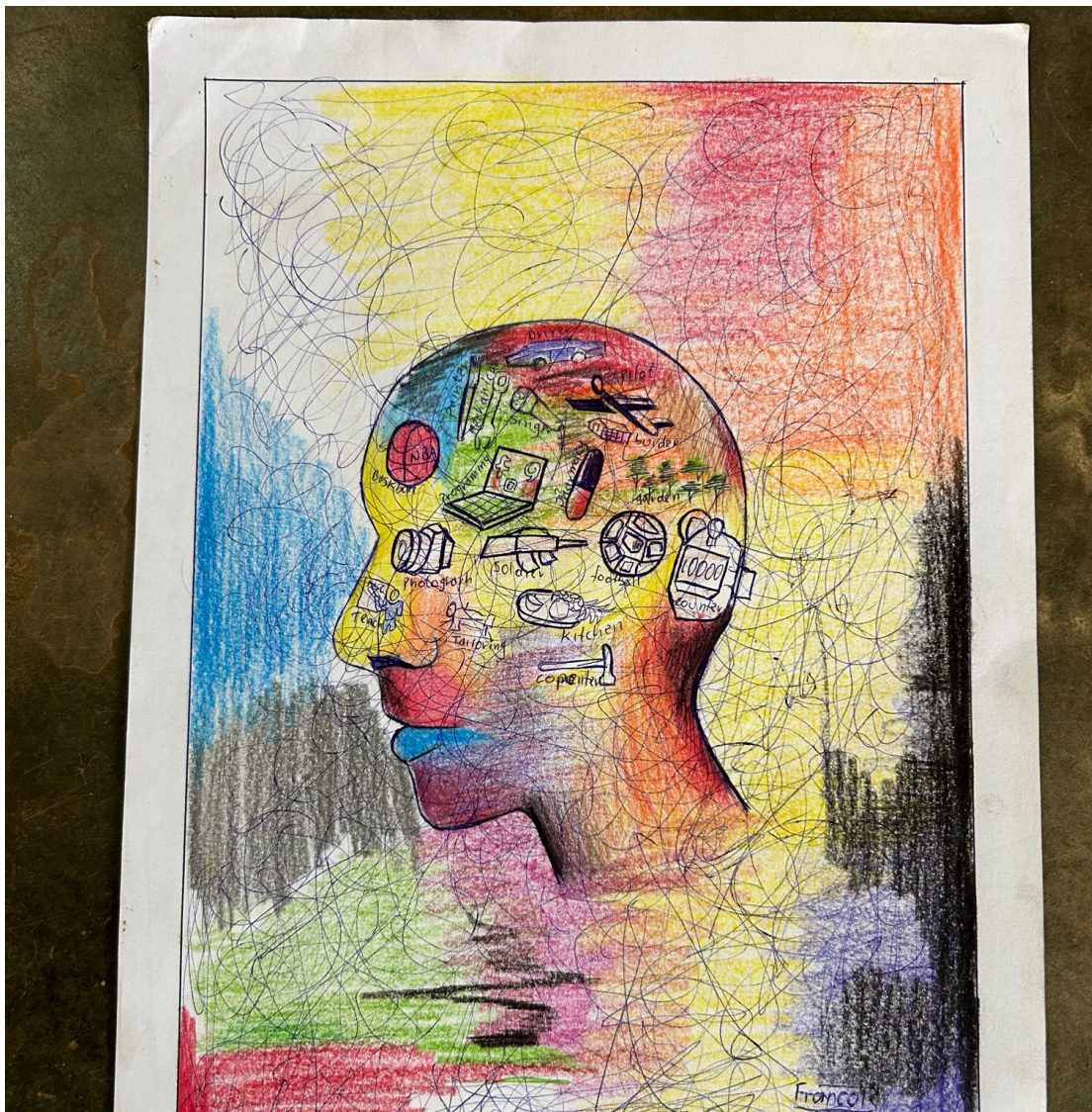


Image by Francois – Artist in Dzaleka

## Outcomes:

***“You have changed the way we think and our imaginations – when will you come back?”***

### **Participant.**

- Learning new skills in embroidery.
- Working in collaboration with other refugees.
- Developing the imagination to bring ideas into new creative forms.
- Experimented with new sustainable materials easily sourced in camp.
- Consideration of the relationship between culture and unique product making.
- Surfacing and support of leadership.
- Establishing of a Dzaleka Arts Lab & community.
- A sense of future activity and actions.



Group image displaying unique embroideries created, at the end of the workshop.  
photograph by Johnson Burume.

***“We know you believe and act from a place, where being a refugee is not an identity, but a situation”***

## **Namad – MUTU organisation**

### **Future plans:**

University of the Arts London have made a commitment to fund a further two years of collaboration with UNHCR, and organisations in the camp ie, Salama Africa, Women 4 Action, MUTU, Umoja People Disabilities Group, SOFRES, & JRS. Our plans seek to support and align to the further increase in refugee led organisations and the building of self-sustaining lives.

We aim to do this through the following:

- Return visits to Dzaleka to further develop skills, techniques, and livelihood opportunities.
- Expand our relationships across organisations ie, ‘Branches ‘and other arts, culture, well-being/ mental health groups.
- Provide on-going expert knowledge in person and online.
- Develop a series of co designed digital assets to support making and imaginative practices.
- Co-produce a film and provide expert mentorship of a young Dazleka film maker –This film will be given a global platform and will create further awareness of the talents and gifts of the refugee population.
- Support the continued develop of the Dzaleka Arts Lab.



With thanks to all who made this project possible, including our participants and all enabling partners & colleagues.

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