



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

## Together, on a Journey with Refugees in Malawi



### Small Loans - Big Results!

#### How microloans actually work.

#### From the Director's Desk

I recently learnt about a man called Dashrath Manjhi who, following the death of his wife for lack of immediate medical care, cut down a mountain single-handedly for 22 years to create a shortcut of 1 km instead of 70 km between the village and the hospital.

This reminded me of how important it is to be patient and take the long-term view of our work.

Anybody's effort towards positive change in the World is significant, whether its effects are visible now, or will be in years to come.

Thank you for your partnership in our work with refugees!

*Innocent Magambi*

One refugee church at Dzaleka has grabbed the opportunity to offer There is Hope business loans to vulnerable women and turned into a life-changing cycle.

Pastor Pascal (Rwandese) from Free Methodist Church has been the champion of this microloan scheme by offering oversight, encouragement and financial accountability to the women who started small and medium businesses over the last two years. After starting with few individual loans and adhering to the repayment terms, the church applied for a group loan (285 USD) involving ten women and two lines of business.

Mwamini (far right in photo) a Congolese widow with three children, leads four others in selling plastic shoes in and around Dzaleka. Stephanie, a Congolese married lady with nine children, leads four

others in raising egg-laying chickens that produce highly sought-after eggs for the people in the camp.

These two groups have repaid the loan in full and are now seeking a further loan to expand their respective businesses and involve five more women. The groups meet monthly to share profits, set a portion aside for a compassionate fund to visit the sick with gifts, and discuss the progress of their work.

Pastor Pascal says: *"Before the loans were given, most of these women were constantly knocking at my door with needs, once they became involved in business, this came to an end."*

Thank you to all the people that generously donate towards our work!





## Made in Dzaleka: “Kibebe” Baby Books!

“Kibebe” means chubby baby in Swahili, and it is a new initiative of There is Hope to help refugee tailors increase their income through developing products that appeal to the local and international market.

The first “Kibebe” product is a sensory book for babies, made with colourful African cotton prints, bouncy filling, crinkle material, and squeakers. The book also has a Velcro strap to hook onto pushchairs, and a fancy “Kibebe Malawi” label at the back. It is a quality product that provides safe, fun stimulation for babies, and an income to a small cooperative of refugee women tailors: Genevieve (Burundian), Kamariza (Rwandese) and Christiane (Congolese).

From the end of June the books will be available for sale online through [www.malawidelights.com](http://www.malawidelights.com) (a UK online retailer). We are also helping the tailors explore another relationship with a North American online retailer.

This is what one of Kibebe’s first customers said: *“I gave my nephew Harry one of the Africa baby books today. He loved it. He couldn’t understand why he couldn’t get the crackly-sounding stuff out from within the pages!”*

We have more product ideas for this brand, but we need to pace ourselves and establish a solid, sustainable foundation. This includes ensuring that the tailors develop planning and marketing skills to take over the project after There is Hope has gradually stepped away.

We are grateful to a group of supporters that raised money towards a loan for the purchase of materials in bulk for the first production of these books. ♥

Beautiful photographs by John Cairns ~ [www.johncairnsphotography.co.uk](http://www.johncairnsphotography.co.uk)



## Swahili literature for refugees in prison

Over the last few months we have been visiting refugees in prison with gift packs of food and toiletries. It is always striking how thankful they are for the material help, and yet their deepest need is that of keeping strong and hopeful about their lives, about ongoing criminal enquiries, about their future and the wellbeing of their families. We believe that inspirational and encouraging stories have the potential to do a little bit of that.

Refugees mostly speak and read Swahili, which is why we have sourced some books from Kenya to share with those in prison.

It’s not easy to pop in and out of the monthly prison visits, feeling like we have barely made any difference, knowing full well that life inside is harder than we can understand. Yet for us it is a small expression of something greater, a shadow of the deep compassionate care that we know God has over those who suffer.

