PRESS RELEASE – 22nd August 2016

« Dance to restore one's self-esteem,
Dance as a way to escape,
Dance to rebuild one's life »

African Artists for Development intervenes, for the second time, in the Mole refugee camp

African Artists for Development will be, once again, present in refugee camps in Sub-Saharan Africa to pursue and provide fresh momentum to the Refugees on the Move Program. Based on dance and music workshops, this program has already demonstrated the admirable natural ability of dance to achieve social and cultural mediation. With the support of the UNHCR, the choreographer Fabrice Bwabulamutima and his drama and dance company, the Kongo Drama Company, will mobilize themselves starting August 8th, to implement this long-awaited second phase at the Mole refugee camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Therefore, from the 8th of August till the 3rd of October, Fabrice Bwabulamutima and his team will propose daily dance and music workshops that will end with a show designed and created by the participants themselves. By being aware of the value of artistic work, the participants rediscover their vitality and are given hope for the future. As a matter of fact, these workshops have three main objectives: to reduce violence in the camps, to restore the self-esteem and dignity of the participants, and to encourage interaction between refugees and neighbouring populations.

Following the first session that took place early 2016, Fabrice describes the experience: *"I had already studied and read books on the social benefits of dance. But it is only at the Mole refugee camp that I truly witnessed and experienced it. Gradually, we saw an increasing amount of smiles on people's faces; people lifted their heads up, started looking at each other… Dance goes beyond being solely for the purposes of amusement and physical exercise. I would like to demonstrate this and deepen our understanding of the therapeutic effects of dance throughout the second phase."*

***Find all the information concerning this program as well as AAD's other programs on*:**
www.aad-fund.org and www.facebook.com/aadfund

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AFRICAN ARTISTS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Created in 2009, African Artists for Development –AAD– is a non-governmental organization that develops, supports, and initiates community development projects in Sub-Saharan Africa by associating the commitment of contemporary African artists to each project. Through an artistic and social approach, *African Artists for Development* intrinsically links contemporary art and local development initiatives to constitute progress alliances that generate economic, social and sustainable development, well-being and behavioural changes, in compliance with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.