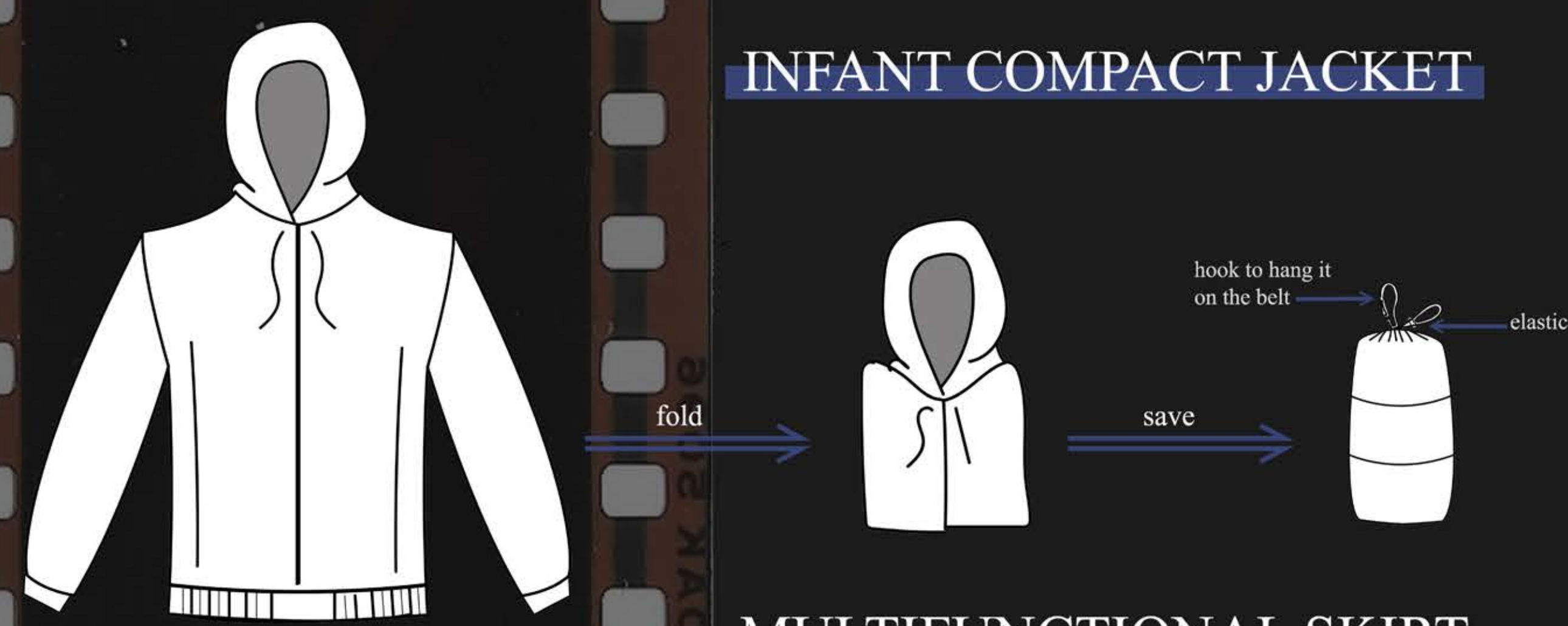


CAMINANTES

Caminantes is a term used to describe Venezuelan refugees that escape through the borders of the country and walk for long periods of time with no final destination. The outfit they wear and a full backpack are the only belongings that refugees take to start a new life journey from zero.

INFANT COMPACT JACKET

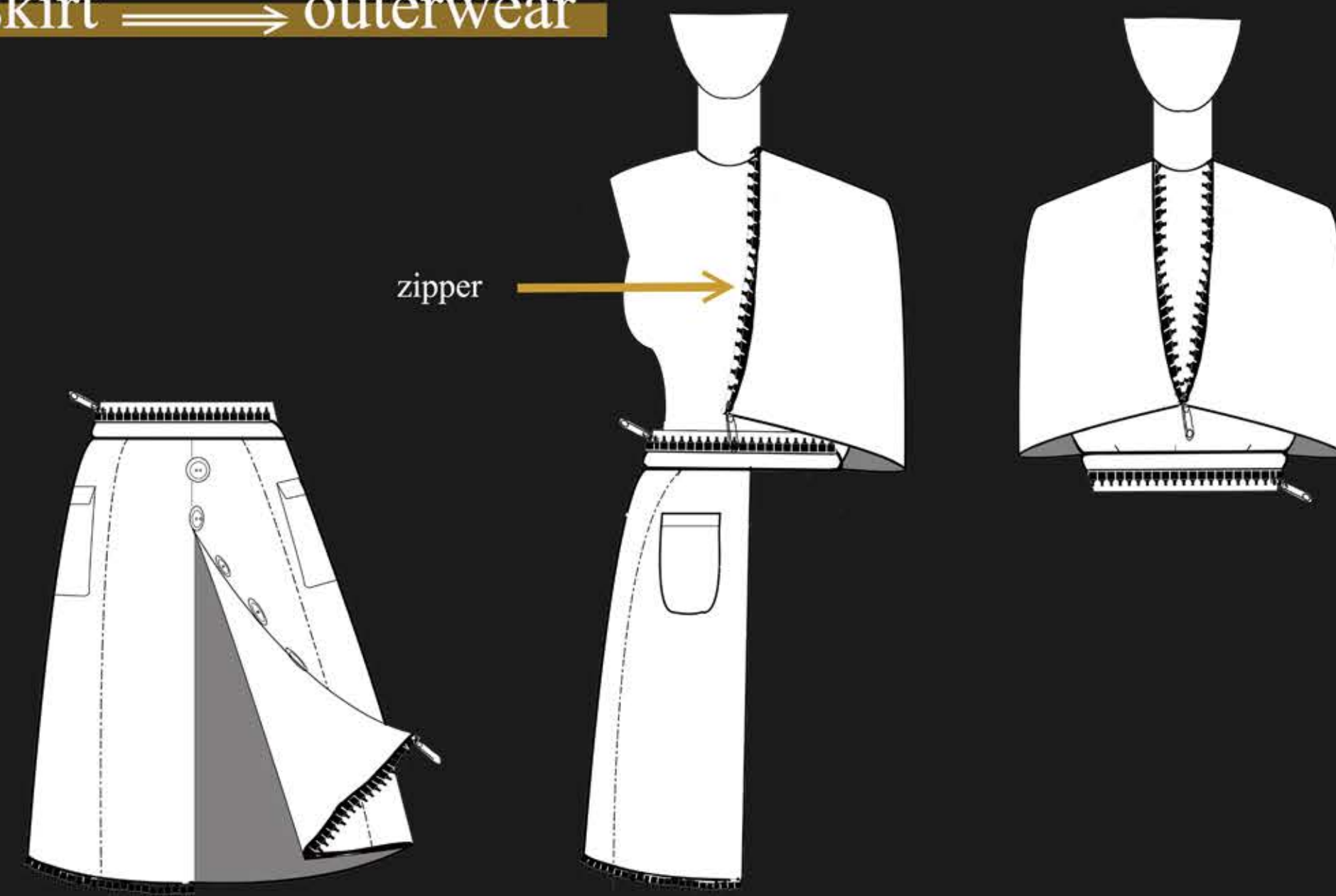
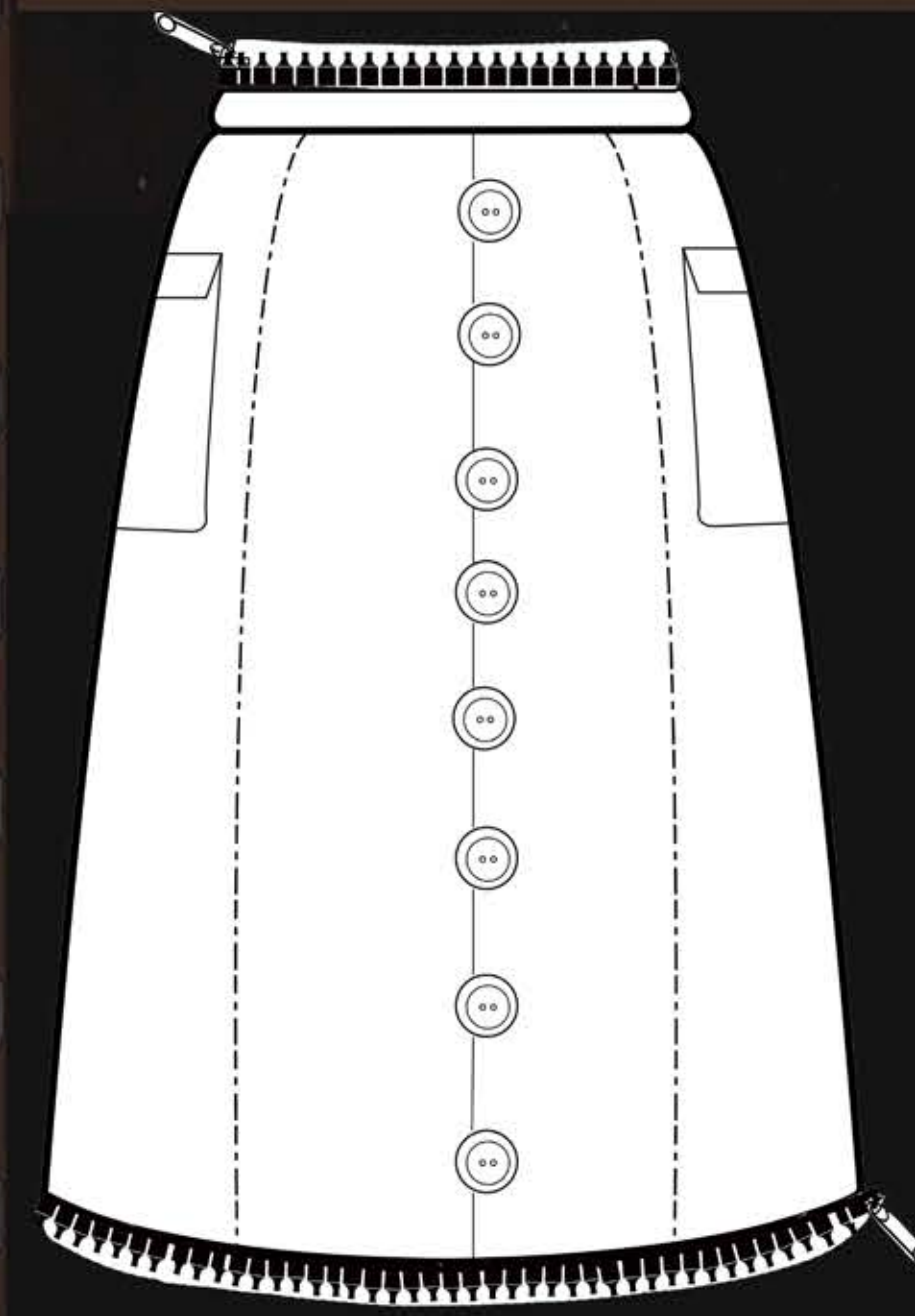


**it was mainly focused for kids, but it can also be adapted for the rest of the family (in the illustration it can be seen the father wearing it and the baby having it hooked at the belt). The jacket can be easily folded and has two big pockets to the sides, for extra storage or to simply cover the hands from the cold and rain. It also includes a cap and a zipper at the front for closure.

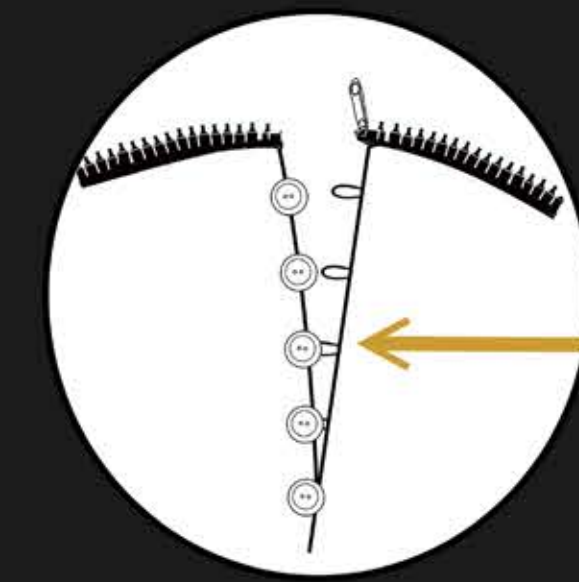
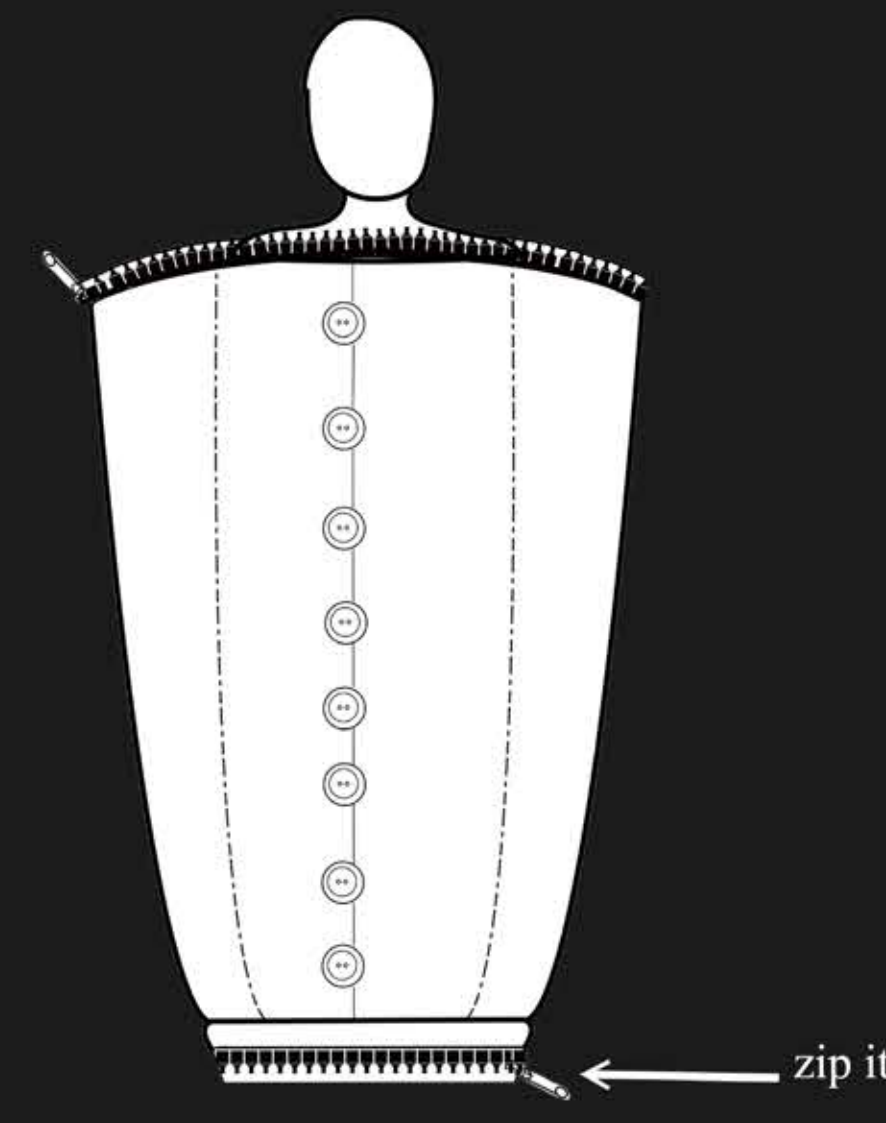
**refugees when scape from venezuela take their entire lives in one or two luggages, which makes it very difficult to carry additional or heavy objects. the lightweight jacket is foldable and suits perfectly the needs of the refugees

MULTIFUNCTIONAL SKIRT

skirt → outerwear



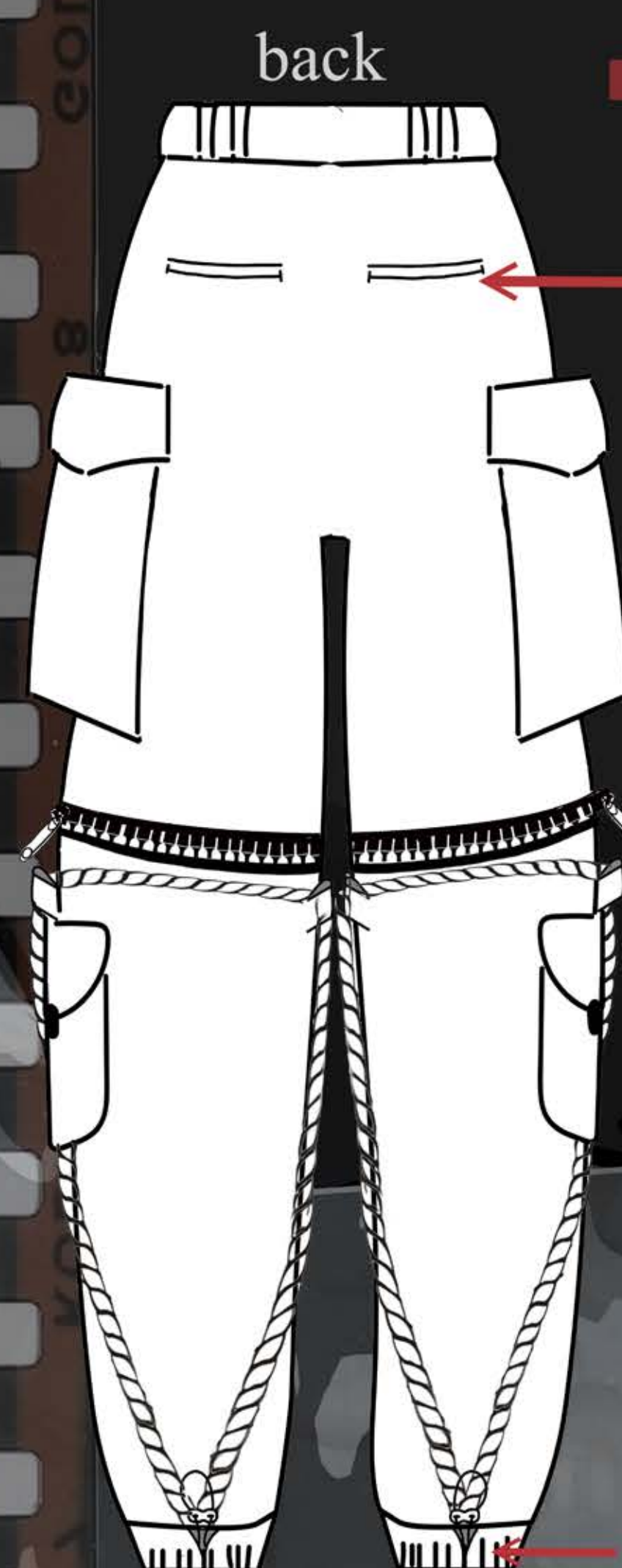
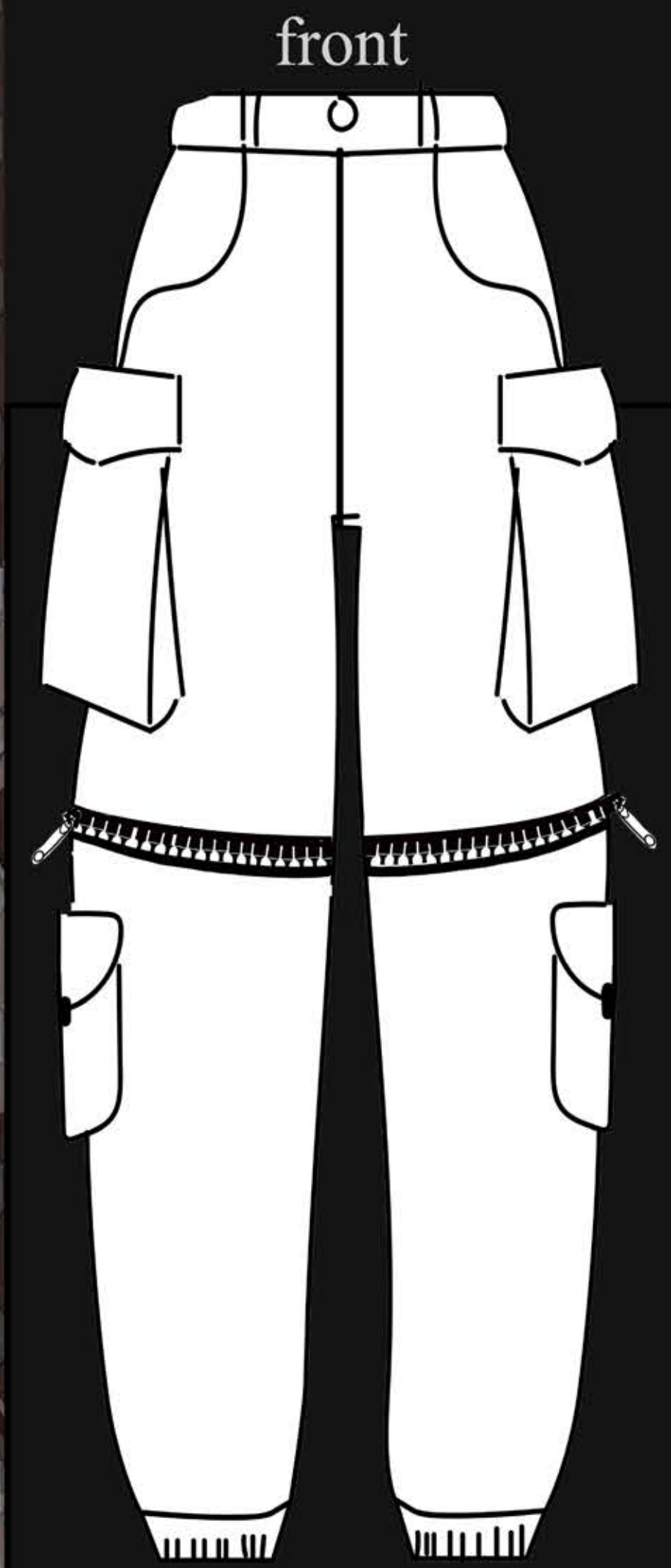
skirt → sleeping bag



hat
(see reference under focus area)

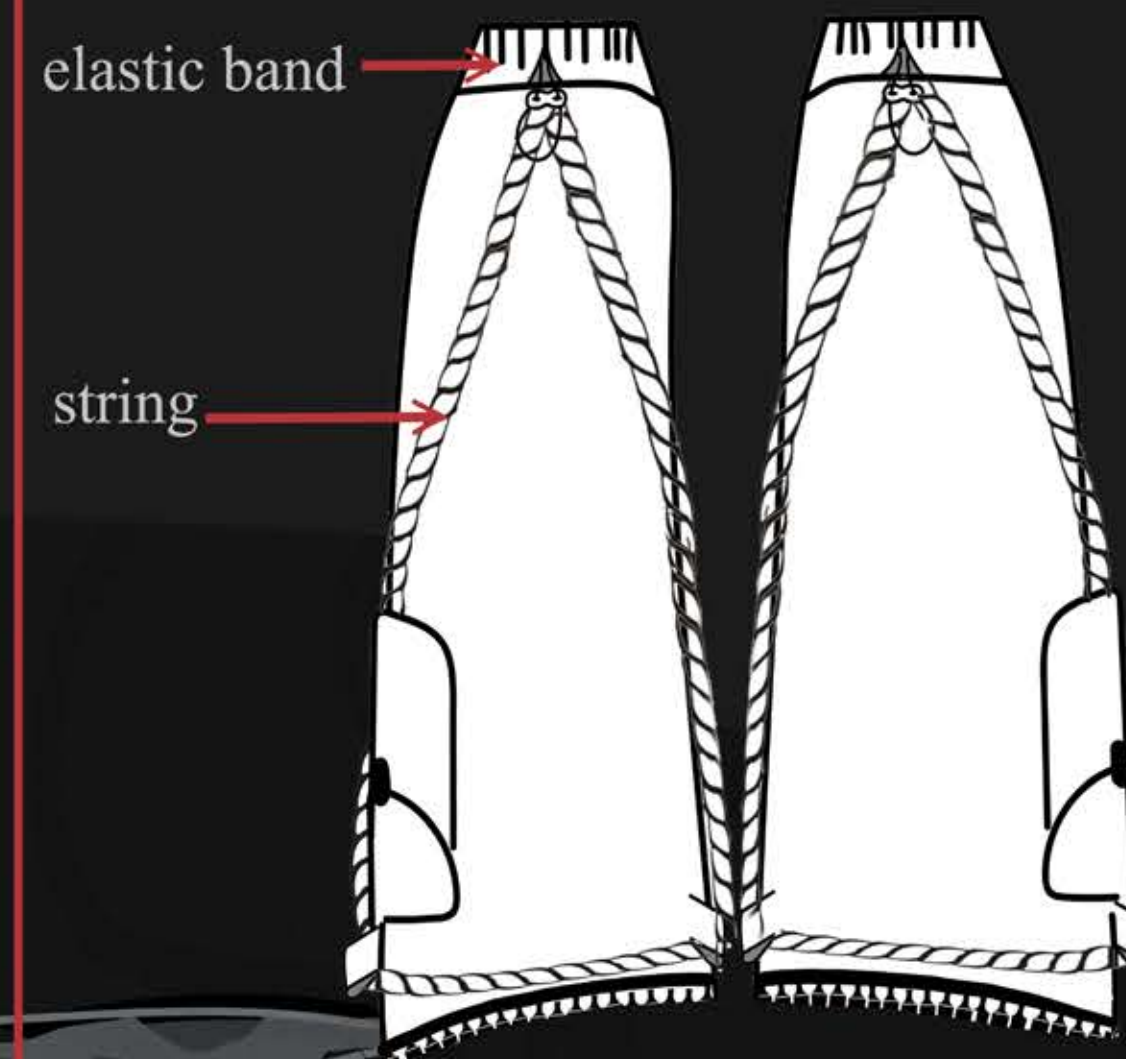
MEN'S PANTS

pants → short



pants → lunchbox/extra storage

if flipped upside down pant leg can be used as a bag



** Usually during the day the families receive donations of food and most of the times because the reduced storage space, the food ends up getting dirty or eaten all at once, so there is no worry about where to put it. The pant legs can be detached and used as lunch bags.

elastic band
-special for comfort
-can be adjusted

** While Refugees walk in the dark, there is nothing that protects them from drivers, or people. In the worst of the cases they have been victims of run overs. Therefore to prevent any accidents, the prints will have special protective qualities. All the white parts of the prints will have reflective properties at night.



- 803U
- 16-0952 TPG
- 18-1553 TPG
- 10333 C
- 11-0700 TPG
- 19-1034 TCX
- 19-3953 TPG
- 19-1106 TCX
- 15-4704 TPG

COLOR PALETTE

Is a combination of earth colors with primary colors.



Waxed Canvas

Hemp Twill

Hemp Woven

Hemp Woven

Reflective Fabric

COLOR PALETTE

I wanted to create a strong color palette for my garments so they could be functional and still be full of meaning for the refugees. The earth colors were purposely chosen as a way to camouflage dirt. The primary colors, which are also the Venezuelan flag colors, are meant to give hope and support the immigrants that leave the country with nothing more than dreams and couple fears.

DESIGN NEEDS

Functional, low weight, provide personal protection, comfort, COVID-19 protection, storage space.

PRINTS & FABRIC QUALITIES

- NEGATIVES**
The first print from the left to the right, was created with the combination of real negatives and the colors of my flag. Thanks to the reduced amount of belongings the refugees can take with them, I decided to create a print that could allow them to bring their memories with them. All the white sections will have reflective properties.
- YELLOW CAMOUFLAGE**
Taking inspiration from the soldiers uniform, I decided to interpret the abstract shapes and only translate the outlines of them into my print. Thanks to the limited personal cleanliness opportunities for the immigrants, the clothes have to camouflage as much dirt as possible. Therefore, the use of dark yellow comes into place. It will have reflective properties to protect the refugees during the night.
- SKY FULL OF STARS**
Having already a print with personal meaning in it and another one that helps to camouflage dirt, there is one more thing I wanted to include for my third print, which is hope. Venezuelan refugees escape from the country leaving everything looking for opportunities. However, after they leave, there is nothing promised, and here is where hope comes into place. People walk for months without knowing where they are exactly going, and their only compass to follow are the stars. The print also includes characteristic flowers from the 40's and as mentioned before, the white segments will have reflective properties.
- HEMP**
-Protects from UV rays
-It is microbial and antibacterial
-strong fiber
-breathable
-good to blend with other fibers
-needs very little water
-4 times more durable than cotton
-smell resistant

CAMINANTES

target consumer

Venezuelan Refugee Families that go through challenging situations making their path walking through the border.

FOCUS AREA

Personal Protection:

The Caminantes will have to face a lot of different outdoor situations, in which protection and solving with what is available, will come into place. Therefore, the three focused garments will count with special characteristics from the textile composition to the multifunctional purposes.

Infant Compact Jacket and head protection

The red cross and the UNHCR, often recommend the refugees to protect/cover their heads from the cold and hot temperatures.

The compact jacket counts with thermal protection and a cap, so the refugees can protect themselves from cold nights walks.

For the warm climates, it was considered the use of a hat that could protect Caminantes from UV rays.

From skirt to outerwear and from outerwear to a sleeping bag

A very common situation for the refugees is that they do not count with a shelter, nor bed to sleep on during cold nights, therefore they constantly face hypothermia, and health issues. Infants are the most affected. Hence, with the convertible skirt, the mother can unbutton it and use it as a sleeping bag or blanket for the kid. Another alternative is for the mom to use it as outerwear, is to unbutton the bottom and be can and placed over the shoulder, the fabric can be pulled and attached with buttons located on the inside of the waistband.

From pants to lunch bags

The convertible pants are designed to protect from cold weather during night and transform into shorts for warm temperatures. The pant leg can be detached with a zipper and transformed into lunch bags. There is a string attached from the top to the bottom that allows it to be carried as a regular backpack that Caminantes can front carry.

INFLUENCE

My inspiration comes from my grandmother's stories living during WW2, and the situation Venezuelan refugees are currently facing.

Fashion during the 40's was need-based more than about following trends. Therefore, the three of my highlighted garments, the jacket, midi skirt and cargo pants are adapted to meet the immigrants' needs.

Midi and maxi Skirts, were very popular at the time for women to use, (picture reference to the left). The cargo pants were redesigned by the American army in the 40's and from there they became more of a fashionable garment, therefore I included them as a key component for the man's outfit.

However, I consider that I was very thoughtful at including every element on my illustrations and reflecting the influence of the 40's. A good example are the face masks, representing the gas masks people had to use thanks to the bombing attacks, and the camping backpacks that are mainly inspired by the army backpacks and the hats and boots similar to the ones the military used those days.

In comparison, in both contexts during the WW2 and the refugee's situation in my country have the personal protection and functionality similarities. Looking at the past, I noticed that there is a lot of reference we can learn from to create more than simple garments, and I certainly enjoyed seeing how my grandmother's past is allowing me to work towards helping my people.

AATCC Test Methods

Antibacterial

TM 90:

Tested to stop bacterias from reproducing on antimicrobial materials such as hemp.

If we can prove that hemp is the best fiber to prevent zones of inhibition, then the refugees will count with a textile specially chosen for their needs and limited personal cleanliness opportunities. By having the opportunity to test on flat and non-flat surfaces, the idea of utilizing hemp for most of the elements of the capsule collections, the target consumer will count with complete antibacterial protection.

Water Resistance

TM 35:

Tested to insure resistance on both water and non-water-resistant materials.

By measuring the resistance of waxed canvas to the penetration of water by impact, we can predict how the fabric will resist rain from penetrating.

By testing the different intensities of water impact, we could determine if the textile selected is suitable for the weather of the South American countries.

In case the water repellency is not enough for the different climates, then the construction of the fabric will be modified and tested until it suits the needs of the refugees.