



The Acholi Beads Story



The Acholi people of northern Uganda have spent the last 23 years living in the crossfire between the Ugandan military and the Lord's Resistance Army, a terrifying rebel militia known for abducting children and brutalizing innocent civilians.

The government, unable to gain the upper hand on the rebels, sentenced all the Acholi people to life in terrible refugee camps so that its army could operate more freely in the area. Thousands of people died in these camps every month for lack of basic necessities like food, water, and the occasional medicine.



Many Acholi people fled to Uganda's capital city, where they were treated as outcasts due to colonial stereotypes, and could only find refuge in a hillside slum, now called Acholi Quarters. Thousands of people moved their families to the Acholi Quarters slum, hoping for a better life. But the only livelihood available to most of these refugees was hard labor in a stone quarry, where they pound boulders into gravel for less than \$1 per day - not nearly enough to feed and educate their children and the many orphans that their community found itself caring for.



Acholi Beads
was founded to give

the women of Acholi Quarters a safer and more profitable livelihood option. Working from home and using recycled paper, they handmake beautiful Acholi Beads jewelry, which is exported to America and sold in select stores across the US.

During their first year partnering with Acholi Beads, these women earned as much money as they would have working 365 days per year for 10 years in the rock quarry. They founded their own cooperative, they feed their families well, they send their children to school, and Acholi Beads is training them on the skills they need to build a successful future.

