

31 BITS

UGANDA

Twenty-five years of war devastated northern Uganda, leaving the land ravaged and two million people displaced. Farms were burned, stolen children were forced to be soldiers, families became homeless and hungry, and HIV spread rampantly without treatment. Yet when a young American traveled to Uganda, she met women with strength, joy, and creativity—all evident in their efforts to make and sell their beautiful handcrafted jewelry. Inspired and eager to empower these at-risk women, she purchased jewelry and shipped it home to the States. After returning to Uganda with a business plan and partners, she and her partners now run a thriving micro-enterprise that employs almost 100 of the most vulnerable women in the community. In this four year program, these women earn a self-sustaining income, treatment for HIV, education, micro-loans, and vocational training. Here they find hope and a safe place, working with dignity and dreaming of their own businesses. Though it began with an airmail box of beads, 31 Bits now empowers an entire community, allowing at-risk women to provide for their families and invest in their futures.



STORIES OF RESCUE & EMPOWERMENT

COUNTRY: UGANDA • PROGRAM: MICRO-ENTERPRISE



Fibi

When Fibi quit school, she quit dreaming about her future. Her sister had passed away, and Fibi focused on survival for the small children left in her care. But when she became the youngest member of the 31 Bits family, the strong, nurturing women there wrapped arms of love around Fibi, teaching her how to be a mother and how to dream again. Now, as Fibi provides medication and schooling for her children, she can invest in their future. And as she designs beautiful jewelry sold to women around the world, she dreams about her own future as well. Aspiring to open her own business someday, Fibi inspires others with her passion and story. When you buy these beautiful products, you empower at-risk Ugandan women to overcome poverty and follow their dreams.

*For more stories of rescue & empowerment, please visit our story gallery at www.warinternational.org/story-gallery
2790 44TH ST SW, WYOMING, MI | 616-855-0796*