

The Gulu Disability Quilt

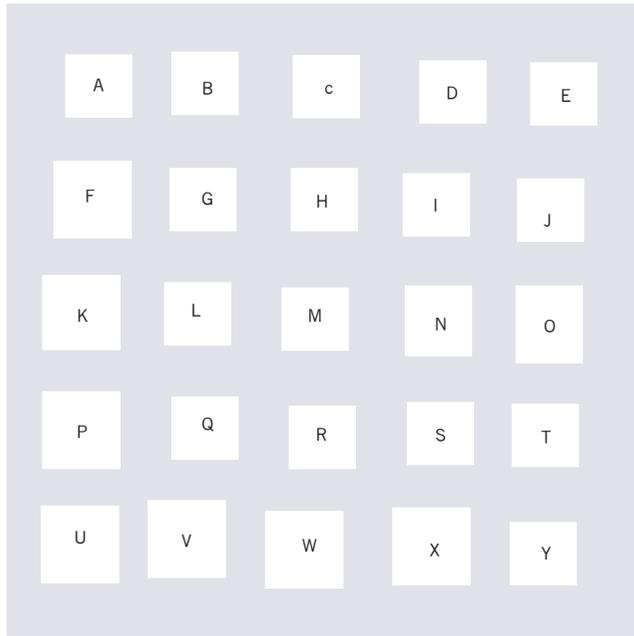


Photo above: Josephine Aker, a GDPU member and seamstress, contributed panel I, and assembled the quilt. Josephine uses a tricycle to travel the main roads, and makes her living from sewing. Peace Fellow Christine Carlson (below) was volunteering at the Gulu Disabled Persons Union when she helped GDPU members make the quilt. She also wrote the text for this poster. She is pictured here with Josephine.



U. Child with Disability at St. Jude's Orphanage (picture unavailable): This panel depicts a soldier. LRA soldiers were a common sight when these children were young. Even today, government soldiers and armed guards are always present in Gulu.



A. **Monica Akena** - Child with Disability at St. Jude's Orphanage (picture unavailable). This panel shows a child in a sea of color.



E. **Santos Okot** - Blind: Santos has been completely blind since birth. He makes some of his income by knitting sweaters and knitted a miniature sweater on his panel. Santos has trained many blind women who are now able to support themselves.



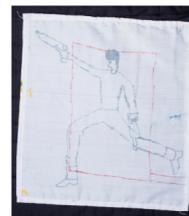
I. **Josephine Aker** - Physical disability: Josephine, a single mother of two, supports her family from sewing. She is grateful to GDPU for her tricycle wheelchair, because it allows her to travel the bumpy dirt roads, although she has to crawl while moving around her village. Her panel displays a miniature bag and dress.



M. **Evelyn Gloria Piloya** - Physical Disability: Evelyn commands respect wherever she goes. She is on the board of GDPU, and also represents persons with disabilities for the New Resistance Movement Party. Her panel carries the GDPU logo and asks for assistance for people with disabilities.



Q. **Simon Ojok** - Visual Impairment: Simon is on the board of the GDPU. In spite of his disability, which was caused by an LRA soldier, Simon has received his BA in development studies. He and his partner Joyce (who is also visually impaired) raise their children and four orphans of his brother who was killed in the war. Simon's panel depicts a man with a spinal-cord injury being pushed by his girlfriend.



V. Child with Disability at St. Jude's Orphanage (picture unavailable): This panel depicts a man running with a machine gun. The image remains strong in the minds of children who survived the war with the LRA.



B. **Patrick Okyoyo** - Physical Disability: Patrick is the accountant at GDPU. He was born with a disease that prevented his legs from fully developing. This panel depicts PWDs playing football, which is the most popular sport in Gulu.



F. **Paul Loum** - Spinal Cord Injury: Paul lives at St. Jude's Orphanage for disabled children. He uses a wheelchair made from an old outdoor chair with wheels bolted to the legs. His panel depicts a school decorated with his favorite colors.



J. **Rose Adong** - Physical Disability: Rose was in a school for the disabled when the war began in Uganda. Her school was destroyed and eventually her family was forced to move. For six years Rose was unable to walk and therefore could not attend school. Her panel reflects her incredible talent for embroidery.



N. **Patrick Okyoyo** - Physical Disability: Patrick is the accountant at GDPU. He was born with a disease that prevented his legs from fully developing. In this panel Patrick shows PWDs running from LRA soldiers. Many people with disabilities were too immobile to flee the LRA and were captured and killed.



R. **Benson Oyat** - Physical Disability: After Benson's accident, he had to wait several years for a wheelchair. His panel shows him crawling to town during this period. This is unusual in Uganda, where most people with disability use flip-flops on their hands to protect their skin and tie pieces of old tires to their knees.



W. **Irene Loken** - Landmine Survivor: Irene grew up in the same village as Joseph Kony, the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army. One day on her way home she stepped on a landmine planted by LRA soldiers, and lost her leg. Her panel says that God is stronger than landmines and that she loves Mzungus (foreigners).



C. **Victoria Oyella** - Spinal Cord Injury: Victoria wheels her tricycle wheelchair to the GDPU compound every day. She sews on the porch of her house and mends clothes to pay the school fees of her grandchildren. Her daughter was killed by the LRA.



G. **John Aluma** - Physical Disability: John is the intern at GDPU. He was born with only one leg but does not allow his disability to prevent him from leading a very full life. His panel depicts the Ugandan flag and the US flag with the Uganda crane in the center. He loves the US and hopes to visit some day.



K. **Josephine Akotang** - Physical Disability: Josephine is a lawyer with a legal aid project, run by the Uganda Law Society. She was born with only one working leg. Her disability didn't stop her from becoming a fierce lawyer and wearing beautiful suits! Her panel celebrates the beauty of embroidery.



O. **Moris Okonyero** - Spinal Cord Injury: Moris lives at St. Jude's Orphanage for disabled children. He spends a lot of time on his clothes and accessories because he likes to look good. His panel depicts an ambulance at work and images from the village.



S. **Joyce Ajok** - Visual Impairment: Joyce likes to share the lessons she has learned from overcoming her disability with others, particularly children. Her panel clearly demonstrates her embroidery skills.



X. **Jennifer** - Physical Disability: Jennifer lives at St. Jude's Orphanage for disabled children. She rarely smiles, but loves art. Her panel depicts the crane, which is the national bird of Uganda.



D. **Christine Akwero** - Spinal Cord Injury: Christine lives at the St. Jude's Orphanage for disabled children. She loves to draw and is extremely expressive despite being confined to a wheel chair. She drew flowers on her panel.



H. **Patrick Okyoyo** - Physical Disability: Patrick is the accountant at GDPU. He was born with a rare disease that prevented his legs from fully developing. In this panel Patrick depicts a man whose limb has been cut off by the LRA running with his family from the village to an IDP camp.



L. **Santos Okot** - Blind: Santos has been completely blind since birth. He makes some of his income by knitting sweaters. He made two panels for the quilt, each of which carries a miniature knitted sweater.



P. Child with Disability - at St. Jude's Orphanage (picture unavailable): The artist's panel shows a happy girl with colored dots.



T. **Monica Piloya** - Landmine Survivor: Monica belongs to the Landmine Survivors Association. She is learning hair "plating" (braiding) at the Association's beauty school. Her panel depicts a landmine.



Y. **Francis Ojok** - Physical Disability: Francis lives at St. Jude's Orphanage for disabled children. His panel depicts a happy village. Unfortunately, for many children in Gulu this is still only a dream.