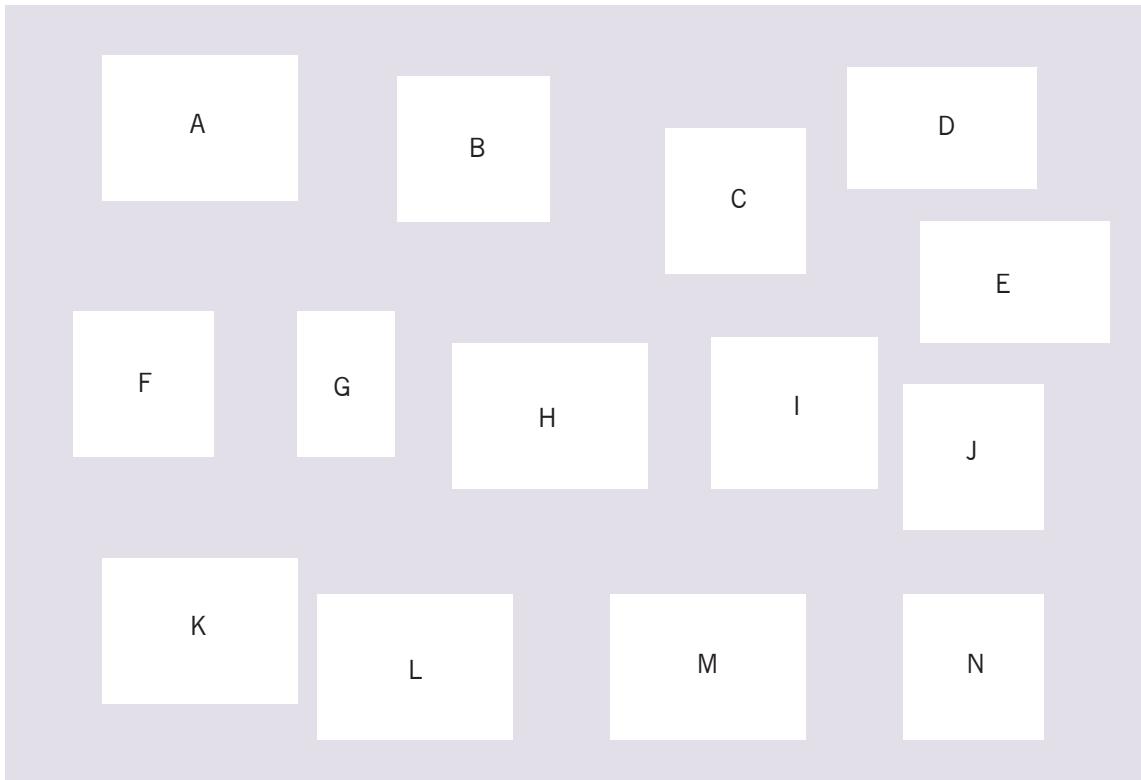


# The Third Ahadi (Promise) Quilt



**A. Neema Fatuma** is 29 years old and cultivates for a living in Lekesha village. She came to SOS FED to learn more about managing her produce from the fields so that she can make more money to raise her 3 children. She is married, but her husband, '...is not interested in contributing and drinks too much beer.' For the future, she hopes that Fizi Territory, '...will find peace and return to the way it was before the war. In that era we could take care of ourselves and now we are sometimes helpless.'



**B. Jeanne Mwadjuma.** Since being raped in Kenya Village, Jeanne Mwadjuma's life has changed drastically. Jeanne, pregnant at the time of the rape, lost the pregnancy and, since then, suffers from severe abdominal pain. Although her husband chose to stay with Jeanne and their two children, he blames her for giving him AIDS.



**C. Zaituni Ramazani** is a married mother of 8 children from Kazimia who depicted a mother giving advice to her child. Zaitani chose to work on the theme of the position of women in Congolese society because she wanted to show people that women in Congo, despite not reaping much from their daily work, still have a great deal to teach their children.



**D. Mahombi Useni** is one of the more outspoken women at SOS FED, she knows her rights, and she has no problems advocating for herself and for her fellow SOS FED beneficiaries. She chose to depict a soldier begging for forgiveness for her submission to the Ahadi project. Mahombi said that she wants to tell people that because of the education she received from SOS FED, she was able to find the strength to forgive her attackers and to speak up for herself.



**E. Alphonsine Losembe** said that since surviving rape, the most important thing to her is equality. "If I was seen as equal and I was respected, this never would have happened to me," she said. Alphonsine dreams of a constitution in which everyone is equal; her tile is a depiction of this hope. To convey equality, she embroidered a woman, a man, and a handicapped boy all of equal stature. Alphonsine believes that if peace is realized in Congo, then equality for all will be given. Alphonsine says that she also often thinks about equality because she suffers from discrimination at the hands of her community. "I am ashamed to leave my house because everybody in my village knows me as the woman who was raped."



**F. Asende Selemani** is a married mother of 8 from Kazimia village. She experienced a great deal of difficulty during the wars that left her husband disabled and her house destroyed. Asende is grateful for the daily support she is able to obtain from SOS FED's community fields program. Asende chose to depict a burned house, "this happened to me when I was pregnant," she says.



**G. Kesiya Inosa** says that you cannot tell by looking at her, but she was born into a well to do family in Kazimia village. "We had many boats and many riches, but everything was taken." Kesiya says that she did not know suffering until after the war. "My family never suffered, but when war came, my family was gone and I was left alone and raped." Kesiya dreams of working for an NGO or becoming a secretary one day; "I am intelligent, and I can do this work, but I have no training," she says. Kesiya says of her submission to the Ahadi quilt, "I want to show my suffering. A raped woman will lose her husband and do all the work alone—she will survive only if she's constantly working."



**H. Kashidi Selemani** is shy. During the war Kashidi survived a blast that blew up her house. Although Kashidi lived, the blast left her eyes permanently damaged despite the intervention of doctors at the refugee camp where she lived in Tanzania. This condition has caused her to lose confidence in herself. "When I think of war, I now think of the eyes which no longer work like they used to," Kashidi says. Kashidi's tile depicts a woman sitting in front of her house pondering what to do in the face of problems she faces in the war. Kashidi said that she aimed to show the utter despair she felt after the attack on her house and the subsequent helplessness she felt as a refugee.



**I. Arbetina Lúúbe** is a farmer and a married mother of one child who lives in Kazimia village. "I had 6 kids, but 5 withered away and died during the worst fighting here," she says. Rebels also shot her husband in the legs, leaving Arbetina as the sole breadwinner for her family. Arbetina depicted children and a soldier learning about human rights.



**J. Mlasi Machozi** is a 21 year old cultivator from Minova village, which is located 50km north of Bukavu in South Kivu Province. Mlasi arrived at SOS FED's Mboko reception center in August 2010. She related her story to interviewers: 'When war came the soldiers killed both my parents. I was then forced to marry young and then my husband left me with 2 kids. When I was 13 years old I was raped and only made it through 2nd level primary school because everyone knew I had been raped and forced me out of school.'



**K. Mlasi Sumaidi** is a married mother of four from Kazimia village. She depicted a woman learning about her rights from SOS FED staffers to show the world the way in which women benefit from SOS FED services.



**L. Zainabu Shabani** is a mother of eight children from Kazimia. Zainabu embroiders for a living, but farms a small plot of land to make ends meet. She depicted a woman working in the fields with a machete and a hoe to show the importance of the tools that provide her and her family sustenance.



**M. Marie Jan Kaseke** chose to depict the legal and educational services provided by SOS FED for her submission to the Ahadi quilt. Her tile shows SOS FED workers teaching a group of women about their rights. Marie Jan says that rape is a systemic problem that can only be solved by education, and particularly by educating women about their rights. Marie Jan hopes to improve her economic situation and to continue benefiting from the educational services provided by SOS FED. "With the education I receive, I know I can be an agent of change in the Congo," she says.



**N. Juma Lupango** said that she was not able to heal from the wounds of the war until she stepped through the doors of the SOS FED offices in Mboko. The war in South Kivu brought a great deal of instability to Juma's life. Juma was raped by four soldiers that later burned her house to the ground. Juma's tile depicts women that have been raped, and their journey to the SOS FED offices. She said she chose this image because of the role SOS FED had in her recovery. Juma only hopes that peace is realized so that she and her husband can earn a living to support their three children. The way things stand now, Juma tries to do business, but on several occasions, soldiers have robbed her and threatened her; she says that she cannot do business under such conditions.



Survivors working on panels for the Ahadi quilts, at the SOSFED Center in Mboko.



The quilt was assembled by the Capitol City Quilt Guild in Michigan.