

# Kakwanzi means “precious bead”

BeadforLife is a nonprofit organization that creates jobs for a group of Ugandan people fleeing war or living with HIV/AIDS. Before joining the group, which BeadforLife calls Kakwanzi power, these 39 women and one man earned less than \$2 per day. Today, they earn \$145 per month. The artisans recycle calendars, posters, and pamphlets from local markets, cut the paper into strips, roll the strips into beads, and varnish each bead twice. The beads are not painted; the brilliant colors come from the print on each page. A 2-oz. (57g) bag is \$12. To order beads, or to sign up for *The Bead* newsletter, call BeadforLife, (303) 554-5901, or visit [beadforlife.org](http://beadforlife.org). — Jane Konkel

## SupplyList

### bracelet

- 2-oz. (57g) bag 10–26mm mixed paper beads (approximately 170 beads)
- 2g cylinder beads
- flexible beading wire, .013 or .014
- 50 x 60mm seven-hole leather end component (Rings & Things, 800-366-2156, [rings-things.com](http://rings-things.com))
- 14 crimp beads
- 14 crimp covers
- 14 Wire Guardians

- chainnose pliers
- diagonal wire cutters
- crimping pliers (optional)

### earrings

- 10 10–26mm mixed paper beads, 2 long beads and 8 short, in three to five colors
- 1g cylinder beads or Charlottes
- 10 2-in. (5cm) decorative head pins
- pair of chandelier findings, with five loops
- pair of earring wires
- chainnose and roundnose pliers
- diagonal wire cutters





**1 bracelet** • Decide how long you want your bracelet to be, add 3 in. (7.6cm) and cut seven pieces of beading wire to that length. Center a paper bead on one wire.



**3** String the pattern in steps 1 and 2 on the remaining wires, balancing different colors and shapes.



**4** On each end of one wire, string a crimp bead, three to five cylinder beads, a Wire Guardian, and the corresponding hole of a leather end component. Check the fit, and add or remove beads from each end if necessary. String two to four cylinder beads and go back through one cylinder bead, the crimp bead, and a few more beads. Crimp the crimp bead (Basics, p. 112) and trim the excess wire. Use chainnose pliers to close a crimp cover over the crimp bead. Repeat with the remaining wires.



**2** On each end, string two cylinder beads and a paper bead. Repeat until the beaded section is within 3 in. (7.6cm) of the finished length, ending with a cylinder bead.

### DESIGN OPTION

Arrange beads in a variety of colors on each strand. Or, string beads in one shade on each strand, as I did here.



**1 earrings** • On a decorative head pin, string a long paper bead and two cylinder beads or Charlottes. Make a plain loop (Basics, p. 112). Make four short-bead units.



**2** Open the loop of the long-bead unit (Basics) and attach the center loop of a chandelier finding. Close the loop. Attach the remaining bead units.



**3** Open the loop of an earring wire (Basics). Attach the dangle and close the loop. Make a second earring to match the first. ♣

