



FEATURE STORY | PG.4

FALLEN BISHOP KYALIGONZA MEMORIAL REVIVES CALL FOR TOUGH ACTION ON ROAD SAFETY

HIGHLIGHTS

• Fallen Bishop Kyaligonza Memorial Revives Call for Tough Action on Road Safety...**Page 4**

• Tooro Malnutrition Crisis: Leaders Call for School

• Feeding Programs in Kabarole...**Page 8**

• Transitional Grant Boosts Completion of Kitagwenda District Administration Block...

• **Page 13**

• FAO, Ministry of Water and Environment Upgrade Weather Stations to Boost Flood Preparedness in Kasese...

Page 18

Environment Authorities Order All Encroachers Off Nyakabale Wetland to Save Eco-System...

Page 20

From Shs 1m to a Thriving Piggery Enterprise: How PDM Rebuilt Manyindo's Livelihood in Kibiito...

Page 25

Kitagwenda District Records Better PLE Performance Despite 2025 Teacher's Strike

Nationwide ...Page 28

Water for People Begins One-Year Water & Sanitation Project in Kitagwenda District...

Page 32

SHE Kasese Football Club Transforms Girls' Lives Through Education and Sport...Page 37

KABAROLE: Stakeholders Expand Frontline Health Workforce with Mass CHEWs Recruitment to Bridge Delivery Gaps... Page 39

Kabingo Water Project Commissions First Phase, Kicks Off Second Construction in Munkunyu Sub-County...Page 43

Building Resilience: Save the Children, Leaders Champion Disaster Preparedness Drive in Kasese Communities...

Page 45

Bundibugyo Achieves 97% Rural Water Functionality, Invests UGX 930M towards Equitable Access...Page 49

**Rwenzori
Times** 

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FALLEN BISHOP KYALIGONZA MEMORIAL REVIVES CALL FOR TOUGH ACTION ON ROAD SAFETY



Rwenzori Diocese Bishop Reuben Kisembo shaking hands with ACP Norman Musiinga.

Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer- Kabarole

Assistant Commissioner of Police DEMO ACP DEMO Norman Musiinga has issued a stern warning to drivers and riders regarding the necessity of obtaining valid driving permits and licenses.

Speaking at the memorial service for the late Bishop Patrick Kyaligonza Ateenyi, the fifth Bishop of Ruwenzori Diocese, ACP Musiinga emphasized that those operating vehicles without proper documentation are

endangering lives and will face legal consequences.

Musiinga declared that an operation order has been issued, and enforcement actions will soon commence nationwide. He stated unequivocally, “All drivers and riders who take to the roads without a license are, in effect, murderers, and they will be arrested,” he cautioned. He stressed that during the upcoming operations, any driver lacking a valid license should refrain



Rwenzori Clergy and the stakeholders After Memorial Service.

from operating their vehicle or motorcycle. This firm stance reflects a commitment to road safety and accountability.

The memorial service for Bishop Kyaligonza, who tragically lost his life in a motor accident on February 11th, 2010, was held at Rwengoma Church of Uganda in Fort Portal Tourism City. The bishop's untimely death serves as a sobering reminder of the dangers present on the roads.

He was involved in a fatal accident near Kyenjojo town when the vehicle he was traveling in lost control and overturned after a rear tire burst. At the time of his passing, he was just 46 years old

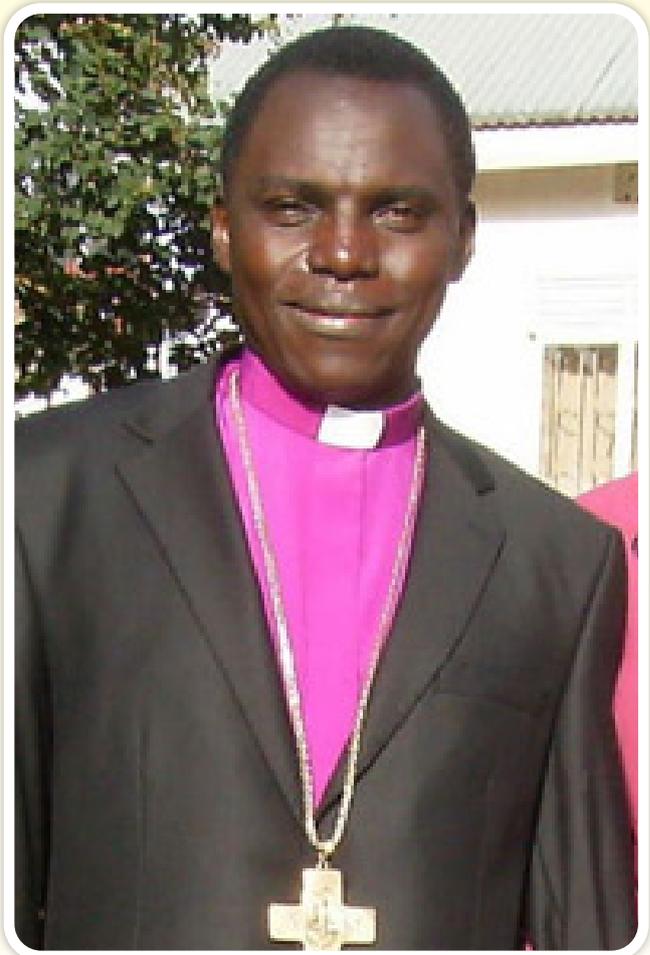
and had recently been consecrated as the youngest Anglican bishop in Uganda in 2009. His wife, Rose, and the driver sustained injuries in the crash, further highlighting the tragic consequences of road negligence.

During the memorial service, Tooro Kingdom Royal Clan Head Charles Kamurasi urged law enforcement to rigorously enforce traffic laws, particularly the requirement for drivers to acquire licenses. He expressed deep concern over the alarming trend of overloading children on boda bodas, especially as schools prepare to resume for the 2026 academic year. This practice not only violates traffic regulations but also poses significant risks to the safety of young passengers.

Patrick Rukuya, representing the Minister for Primary Health Care Hon Margaret Muhanga Mugisa, echoed these sentiments, pointing out the inadequacies in Uganda's driving schools. He noted that many driving instructors lack the necessary qualifications, resulting in the issuance of substandard driving permits. This situation underscores the urgent need for reforms in driver training and licensing to ensure that all road users are adequately prepared to navigate Uganda's roads safely.

In the week leading up to the commemoration, the committee of the Bishop Kyaligonza Trust Fund is actively engaged in initiatives aimed at raising awareness about road safety and the alarming rate of road carnage in Uganda. Collaborating with the traffic police and community liaison officers, they implemented a series of outreach activities designed to educate the public on safety measures.

Key highlights of these initiatives include radio discussions to enhance awareness, outreach programs in markets, tertiary institutions, and places of worship, taxi parks, and boda boda stages. These efforts aim



Late Bishop Patrick Kyaligonza.

to sensitize the community about road safety and the profound impact of road accidents on Ugandans. Additionally, prior to the memorial service, a zebra crossing was painted at Kahinju Primary School in Rwengoma to improve pedestrian safety.

Rev Ezra Musobozi, a retired canon and chairperson of the Bishop Patrick Kyaligonza Ateenyi Trust Fund, announced plans for the construction of a casualty ward at Kabarole Hospital. This initiative is in response to the high number of individuals injured in accidents,



The children of late Bishop Patrick Kyaligonza and their Mother Rose.

as the facility frequently receives accident victims who are then referred to Fort Portal Regional Hospital, contributing to congestion in the healthcare system.

Bishop Patrick Kyaligonza, who passed away at the age of 46, was survived by his widow, Rose, and their three young children. Thanks to the support from the Trust Fund, his children have been able to pursue their education and complete university. His eldest

daughter is employed with the Rwenzori Diocese (RUDI SAACO), while his second child (son) works with Compassion International.

The youngest daughter is set to join university this year, reflecting the positive impact of the Trust Fund on their lives. That week, all the funds collected by the churches in the Rwenzori diocese are injected into the Bishop Patrick Kyaligonza Trust Fund.

ACP Musiinga emphasized that those operating vehicles without proper documentation are endangering lives and will face legal consequences.

TOORO MALNUTRITION CRISIS: LEADERS CALL FOR SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAMS IN KABAROLE



Dr. Rwabuhinga Richard, the District Chairperson Kabarole.

Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer- Kabarole

Leaders and nutrition advocates in Kabarole District are calling on parents to take immediate action in the fight against child malnutrition by ensuring that every child and student brings packed food to school.

This comes as many children attend classes on empty stomachs, a situation that not only exacerbates stunted growth and persistent

malnutrition but also negatively impacts academic performance, making it difficult for learners to concentrate and achieve satisfactory results in Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) examinations.

Despite the Tooro sub-region being recognized as a food basket, the rates of malnutrition remain alarmingly high. According to the latest Uganda Demographic and



District Leaders and Stakeholders pose in a photo after the engagement.

Health Survey (UDHS) 2022, stunting among children under five years in Tooro stands at 38.7 percent, ranking the sub-region third nationwide, following Karamoja (43.9%) and Kigezi (41.5%), all of which exceed the national average of 26 percent.

The report further indicates that severe stunting among children under five in Tooro is at 14.4 percent, placing it second after Karamoja (19.7%) and significantly higher than the national rate of 9 percent. Additionally, the prevalence of underweight children under five stands at 11.3 percent, slightly above the national figure of 10.2 percent, with severely underweight children at 3.2 percent.

District leaders attribute the

ongoing malnutrition crisis partly to parents who sell off food supplies, leaving children without meals at home or school.

Mr Brian Kitembo, the Kabarole Assistant District Health Officer and chairperson of the district nutrition committee, stated that the district is now advocating for a school feeding program as a long-term solution. "If all children start eating at school, it will not only address malnutrition but also reduce school dropout rates and the challenges associated with hunger among learners," Mr Kitembo remarked. He emphasized that nutrition is not merely about having food but ensuring that children consume meals rich in essential nutrients necessary for

proper growth.

"We have food, but what are our children being fed? Food lacking nutrients cannot support healthy growth. We have many children under five years who are stunted, and they require nutritious meals," he explained.

Mr Kisémbó revealed that out of every 100 children in the Tooro sub-region, approximately 40 have stopped growing normally, warning that stunted growth becomes

birth to low-birth-weight babies, breastfeeding becomes challenging because malnourished mothers may not produce enough breast milk. These children also become more vulnerable to non-communicable diseases later in life," he explained.

Mr Kisémbó highlighted that sub-counties such as Kabende, Hakibaale Harungogo, and Kasenda have recorded high numbers of malnourished children. He stated that in all 15 sub-counties within the district, nutrition committees have

been tasked with engaging families through community sensitization on proper feeding practices.

Kabarole District Chairperson, Dr. Richard Rwabuhinga, said that the

unfortunate reality that children are

increasingly suffering from lifestyle-related illnesses such as diabetes due to poor dietary habits at home. "People today are growing quantitatively but not qualitatively because of the food they consume. This is why malnutrition persists.



Waddell Steven, Executive Director PLANE Uganda addressing the stakeholders.

irreversible after the age of two.

He further noted that malnutrition among pregnant mothers contributes to anaemia and low birth weight, which adversely affects child development. "If mothers give



Mr. Brian Kitembo, Chairperson of the District Nutrition Coordination Committee, addressing the stakeholders.

Our children perform poorly in class because they cannot think clearly when they are hungry, and they have grown only in size due to the food we provide," Dr Rwabuhinga stated.

He warned that stunted growth has long-term repercussions on future generations and called for government funding to address the crisis. "We need a budget funded by the government to tackle malnutrition. This issue affects the future of our children. When a child is stunted and grows, they cannot reason well at home, which is why we are witnessing an increase in cases of gender-based violence," he said.

Dr Rwabuhinga commended PLANE Uganda for their advocacy programs,

which utilize radio talk shows and drama to sensitize the community on gender-based violence, environmental conservation, and protection through initiatives like the Greening Uganda Schools project.

"I recognize PLANE for their innovative advocacy approaches using radio drama and talk shows to educate our people on health, social, and economic issues. They have produced films on GBV prevention, such as 'My Fate,' which addressed the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT), and now 'Voices Unheard and Unseen Burden.' Their Greening Uganda Schools project is nurturing young environmental stewards, creating a generation that will protect and

respect nature," he said.

Ms Catherine Kemigabo, the district nutrition focal person, highlighted that malnutrition has a particularly severe impact on teenage mothers, many of whom fail to attend antenatal care services and instead opt for traditional birth attendants.

"The impact is worse among teenage mothers because some do not seek antenatal care and instead rely on traditional birth attendants. This often results in low-birth-weight babies," she noted.

District leaders, development partners, and 15 sub-county Community Development Officers (CDOs) convened a Leaders Nutrition Engagement meeting to discuss strategies for eradicating malnutrition among children both in schools and communities.

Among the key resolutions was the need to engage parents to ensure that all learners return to school with packed lunches and to educate families on providing meals rich in nutrients. Stakeholders also resolved to strengthen sub-county nutrition committees, integrate nutrition into all government programs, and mobilize funding to support interventions.

Mr Steven Waddell Ainganiza, the Executive Director of PLANE (PLATFORM for the NEEDY), announced that the organization has identified five schools where advocacy for a school feeding program will commence in Kabarole District. "In our engagement, we will ensure that parents in the identified schools understand the importance of children eating lunch at school. We do not want children studying on empty stomachs," Mr Ainganiza emphasized.

He added that the program will also involve establishing school nutrition gardens to cultivate nutrient-rich crops, which will also be encouraged in homes. "Children will learn how to plant various food crops, becoming ambassadors of change in their households. Parents should not sell all food for money but reserve enough for home consumption," he advised.

The identified schools include Kichwamba, Kaboyo, Kinyakende, New Valley Junior, and Hope Primary School. Through these initiatives, Kabarole District leaders and nutrition advocates aim to create a sustainable solution to the pressing issue of child malnutrition, ensuring that every child has access to the nutrition they need for healthy growth and academic success.

TRANSITIONAL GRANT BOOSTS COMPLETION OF KITAGWENDA DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BLOCK

Tumwiine David, Ag Communications Officer- Kitagwenda



Kitagwenda District Authorities Launching the completion of the Administration Block

For the last six years, there has been scramble for office space for Kitagwenda District Staff where some officers have worked in shifts, others worked under the trees while others shared working space in congested rooms.

Kitagwenda District Local Government came into being on July 2019 after it was carved out of Kamwenge District. The District Head Quarters got its new home at the former Ntara Sub County Headquarters. The office space that

was sufficient for Ntara Sub County Staff members became habitat for all the New District staff members. The space was thus insufficient.

Moreover, despite the limited space, part of the former Ntara Sub County structures was occupied by the Political wing, (the District Chairperson and the District Executive Committee members, the District Speaker), the Resident District Commissioner, Deputy Resident District Commissioner and the Assistant Resident District Commissioners, the District Internal



Kitagwenda District RDC Mr Byarugaba Isaiah Kanyamahane handing over the Contract Documents for Completion of Administration Block to Mr Sarapio Betambira of SBR Construction Company Limited

Security Officer and his Deputies.

When the District started, it received a Government Grant of 900,000,000 (Nine hundred Million) the funds were used to procure furniture, computers, fleet, and stationery for the new district as well as make renovations on the five Structures that belonged to Ntara Sub County which after the creation of the New District was relocated to another place.

Along the way Government started giving Kitagwenda District local Government Transitional Development Grant which was used to start construction of a double storied Administration Block. In the Financial Year 2024/2025, the roofing of the New Administration

Block was completed.

On 29th January 2025, Kitagwenda District Local Government staff were filled with joy and breathed with a sigh of relief with smiles on their faces when the District Authorities launched the completion of the Ground floor of Administration Block.

The Works on completion of the ground floor will cost the district shs. 499,414, 680 where shs. 300,000,000 is from the Central Government Transitional Grant while 199,414, 680 will be from the Locally generated Revenues from the District.

The Project Launch which was officiated by the Resident District Commissioner of Kitagwenda, Mr

Isaiah Kanyamahane Byarugaba will last for 5 months and is expected to end on 21st of June 2026.

According to Engineer Timanywa Francis, the Kitagwenda District Engineer, the project scope will include completion of the interior of the ground floor, the veranda, landscaping and putting up the septic tank. “The Scope of Works will involve internal completion of the Ground floor, completion of the veranda, completion of the District Council Hall and the Council Gallery and furnishing the Council hall, completion of one Board Room, putting terrazzo on the ground floor and electrical works on the Ground Floor,” he stated.

The project will also include works on 3 voids and metallic grills, completion of 2 number water borne toilets with six stances each with a

urinal in the East and west wings of the ground floor and three stare cases.

“We shall provide the firefighting equipment and pavement with walkways, land escaping and greening,” Engineer Timanywa added.

He revealed that by the end of the project cycle, the District will have 18 rooms fully completed which will be a big relief to the District Staff members who have faced a big challenge of lack of working space.

The Kitagwenda District Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Dalili RK Moses, made commitment to monitor the implementation of the project and is committed to paying contractors for continuous flow of work.



Kitagwenda District Technical Staff and political Leaders on a guided tour during the Launch of completion of Administration Block



The yet to be completed Kitagwenda District Administration Block.

He requested the Contractor SBR Company Limited to expedite the project. “It is my commitment to ensure that the providers are paid in time, this allows free flow of works. For this particular project I request that you (The Contractor) should embark on it and deliver it in time to help us secure office accommodation for staff. We have limitation in office space and am glad if we secure the ground floor, we shall have enough space for many of the officers who have challenges,” he said.

Mr Dalili appealed to staff to remain patient as works on the ground floor gets complete. We shall continue to look for more funding from Government so that we do some work on this building annually. He proposal to use part of the DDEG money in the coming Financial Year

so that we can do some substantial work on the second floor” Mr Dalili said.

He encouraged the Contractor to put safety measures to avoid injuries to workers saying there will be monthly site meetings to ensure work is progressing as scheduled and handled in time.

During the launch, the District Speaker Mr Baguma Mugaiga James who represented the District Chairperson appreciated the Contractor for his commitment to quality Work since he started the project. He called upon the engineering Department to always make proper Bills of Quantities to avoid variations. He appreciated the District Administration for considering to give priority to work on the Council Hall because

the District Council has always operated under the tents and during the changes in the weather, Council would end prematurely.

Hon Baguma James Mugaiga appreciated the Central Government for continuously providing money to the Kitagwenda District for the Construction of the Administration Block and appealed to Administration and Political wing to join hands and lobby for more financial support from the Central Government to complete the Administration Block. "I thank the Government which has given us money to make this building reach this level. I want request that we continue lobbying for more funds so that this building is complete and I want to thank God that I am back after winning the election and I am here I will support you," the Speaker Mr Mugaiga said.

The Kitagwenda District Resident District Commissioner who was the Chief launcher, Mr Byarugaba Isaiah Kanyamahane appreciated the Chief Administrative Officer and the Technical Team as well as the Government of Uganda for the progress on the Construction of the Administration Block. "This is one of the major gains for this District. For this progress, I appreciate the Efforts of the CAO, the Technical

and the Central Government for this major milestone. This project is a land mark in Kitagwenda and it will be here for generations," the RDC Mr Kanyamahane said.

He appealed to the Contractor to ensure quality work. He appreciated the Contractor for the quality works he has done for the District since the Starting of the Construction of the District Administration Block.

"To you the Contractor you should defend this position. Getting this contract is a rare opportunity and you should not take it for granted therefore, you should not relax and we expect quality work," Mr Byarugaba stated.

He implored the Chief Administrative Officer and the Technical Team to blacklist some of the contractors who do substandard work for the District. "I want to implore you CAO and the Technical Staff, let us blacklist some of the contractors who do shoddy work. We must change the narrative in Kitagwenda. We must blacklist some companies to send a message that doing shoddy work in Kitagwenda is unacceptable. We must change a message that Kitagwenda has changed," Mr Kanyamahane said.

FAO, MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT UPGRADE WEATHER STATIONS TO BOOST FLOOD PREPAREDNESS IN KASESE



FAO, DDMC at the weather station at the district headquarters.

Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer- Kasese

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations DEMO **FAO** DEMO, in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment, has launched an initiative to upgrade weather monitoring infrastructure in Kasese District to strengthen access to timely weather forecast information and enhance flood management in the region.

The development was pronounced during a meeting organized by FAO with members of the Kasese District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), held at the district headquarters on Monday, February 9th, 2026. During the meeting, technical teams from the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Uganda National



DDMC meeting with FAO.

Meteorological Authority (UNMA) briefed committee members on the hydrometeorological systems to be installed.

Charles Kakoza, a UNMA official from Kampala, explained that the installation will be carried out in three phases. The first phase involves setting up automatic weather stations within the district. This will be followed by the installation of additional monitoring tools in Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) camps located in the Rwenzori Mountains.

“These high-altitude areas experience extreme cold conditions, so we shall install specialized rain gauges designed for highland environments. The system will create a cascade of hydrometeorological data, starting from the mountain

areas down to Rukoki at the district headquarters,” Kakoza said.

According to Kakoza, the project will see the installation of a total of three weather stations, three river gauges, and

five rain gauges, among other instruments. Once fully operational, all data collected will be transmitted in real time to the regional meteorological center in Fort Portal.

“A dedicated team has already been recruited to process this data at the Fort Portal regional office. They will share regular weather bulletins and timely forecasts with the district, and the district will also be able to request specific weather information whenever needed,” he added.

Semba Alex from the Ministry of Water and Environment urged members of the District Disaster Management Committee to actively utilize the weather station data to save lives.

“This facility can generate a wide range of products. If the district makes maximum use of the available datasets, they will truly appreciate the value and impact of this investment,” he noted.

The Kasese District Disaster Management Committee welcomed the intervention, pledging to fully utilize the hydrometeorological stations to improve disaster preparedness and response.

Singoma Joseph, the Disaster Management Focal Person for Kasese District, said the district is committed to using the new systems to reduce the impact of recurring disasters.

“As Kasese DDMC, we are going to use the hydromet stations to access accurate weather information and

minimize the effects of floods and other disasters,” he said.

Committee members expressed appreciation to FAO and the Ministry of Water and Environment for enhancing access to reliable weather information in the district. They noted that beyond disaster risk reduction, the weather station will also serve as a learning facility for students and researchers interested in meteorology and climate studies.

Kasese District has, over the past decade, been severely affected by floods and landslides, resulting in loss of lives, destruction of infrastructure, and displacement of communities. Stakeholders say this intervention will significantly strengthen early warning systems and preparedness, ultimately reducing the impact of flooding in the region.

ENVIRONMENT AUTHORITIES ORDER ALL ENCROACHERS OFF NYAKABALE WETLAND TO SAVE ECO-SYSTEM

Tumwiine David, Ag District Communications Officer- Kitagwenda

District authorities in Kitagwenda under the auspices of the Natural Resources Department

have swung into action to save Nyakabale Wetland by instructing all the encroachers of the Nyakabale wetland to



The Kitagwenda District Senior Environment Officer Mr Kalyegira Anthony stopping locals from encroaching on Nyakabale Wetland

halt all human activities that are degrading the wetland.

The Nyakabale Wetland which borders the Ntara Business Central District stretches for a distance of approximately 3 kilometers. It filters water flowing into Rwambu Stream which is a tributary of River Mpanga.

According to Kalyegira Anthony, the Kitagwenda District Senior Environment Officer, the human activities conducted on the wetland included draining it too make it favorable for crop cultivation especially during the dry season, cultivation of green papers, tomatoes, maize, cabbage and egg plants by the community members.

The stoppage on Nyakabale wetland encroachment was reached at when the Kitagwenda District

Authorities got a tip off from concerned community members, that there was serious degrading and encroachment on the said wetland especially in Muruhura and Omurukagate areas in Ntara B Cell of Ntara Ward Kitagwenda Town Council.

The encroachers led by one Katungwensi who is also an area councilor have pledged to comply with the District Directive and promised to advise several other community members engaged in cultivating in wetlands to stop henceforth.

An engagement meeting with all encroaches has been scheduled to take place before the end of February and it will be Organized and



Part of the encroached on Nyakabale Wetland

facilitated by Kitagwenda District Natural Resources Department where community Members will be trained in alternative livelihoods such as bee keeping, Fish farming, bee keeping, promotion of microscale irrigation, eco- tourism, craft making such as weaving baskets among other incentives.

The Kitagwenda District Central Police Station has been notified of this encroachment and promised to arrest any of the community members if they are reported to continue engagement in activities which contravene the Environment

Management Act.

According to Kalyegira Anthony, it is illegal to conduct human activities in any wetland and such activities contravene the provisions of the National Environment Act. Cap 181 (2019) and on conviction, a person can be charged an equivalent to 30,000 currency points and one currency point is an equivalent of 20,000 shillings (totaling t Uganda Shillings



Part of the encroached on Nyakabale Wetland



The Kitagwenda District Senior Environment Officer Mr Anthony Kalyegira in a maize garden in Part of the wetland has been drained for maize growing

600,000,000) or imprisonment of 12 years or both.

Kitagwenda District is well known to be very sensitive with wetland protection which has made the District to periodically win different awards. In 2023, Kitagwenda District received the Best Performing District in Wetland Restoration by Ministry of Water and Environment. In 2025 Kitagwenda District got two awards as the Best District in Environmental Reporting by NEMA and the Best Performing District in Wetland Conservation by the Ministry of Water and Environment. As of 2022 we had 78.4% wetland coverage Kitagwenda District has approximately square meters of wetland, of which have been demarcated with Concrete pillars

these include Ruhagura, Kyarutanga.

According to NEMA Report, in 2022 Kitagwenda District had 128.7 Square Kilometers of Wetlands of which 101.7 square kilometers were intact while 27.0 were degraded. In 2025 Kitagwenda had 98.6 Square Kilometers of Wetlands still intact which presents 76.6 % while 30.1 Square Kilometers (23.4% had been degraded).

Kalyegira argued that a lot of wetland degradation has taken place in the last 3 years. “The rate at which the environment is being degraded is alarming. In a period of 3 years since 2022, the district has lost about 3 square kilometers of the wetlands to encroachers which indicates 1.84% of wetland loss. The encroachers are



Maize growing in Nyakabale Wetland

degrading the wetland to earn a living through human activities especially farming. We are doing a lot as the Environment Section of the District but a lot is desired especially on enforcement. We need involvement of Partners, the central government financing and the Political Will to ensure the masses are engaged to appreciate wetland restoration and environmental conservation," he said.

With Support from the Ministry of Water and Environment, the Central Government Wetland Grant for the District and Development partners such as Join for Water (Protos),

Kitagwenda District has been able to Demarcate a stretch of 68 Kilometers of wetlands in the areas of Nyakabale, Mpanga, Kyarutanga, Ruhagura, and Kanunka. However, due to limited funding enforcement on restoration and conservation is still a big challenge.



Local people doing cultivation in Nyakabale Wetland

FROM SHS 1M TO A THRIVING PIGGERY ENTERPRISE: HOW PDM REBUILT MANYINDO'S LIVELIHOOD IN KIBIITO



Manyindo touring his piggery project with a town agent, Denison, from Kibiito Town Council.

Christopher Tusiime, Communications Officer- Bunyangabu

When Kibiito Town Council resident George William Manyindo first received Shs 1,000,000 under the Parish Development Model DEMO PDM DEMO, his plan was simple: invest in piggery and start earning from a business that can turn small capital into steady income.

Today, that “simple plan” is not only working, it is also quietly transforming his household economy, strengthening his farming system, and funding basic needs that once felt out of reach.

Manyindo's first investment was practical. With the Shs 1 million, he



Manyindo says one of his pigs can earn him Shs 1.5million on the local market now.

bought a pig and feeds, hoping to quickly build up stock, then expand. But like many first-time livestock investors, he faced an early setback. “The pig did not grow well,” he explains. The animal’s poor performance threatened to turn his first PDM effort into a loss. Instead of giving up, Manyindo made a calculated decision: he sold the pig together with its piglets, then used the proceeds to buy a stronger, better breed.

That single decision, cutting losses early and reinvesting wisely, became the turning point.

Months later, the new choice is showing clear results. Manyindo

now has two fully grown pigs and more than eight piglets that are almost mature. The project has grown beyond survival level into a viable small enterprise with real market value.

On the local market, he says, one mature pig can fetch not less than Shs 1.5 million, depending on size and demand, meaning his stock is no longer just animals in a shelter, but living assets.

For Manyindo, piggery is not just about selling pork animals. It has unlocked benefits across his entire farming system, especially through manure.

Pig droppings, often treated as waste, have become a resource. Manyindo collects the droppings and uses them as manure in his banana plantation, improving soil fertility and reducing reliance on expensive inputs.

And when the bananas sell, the income flows into other priority areas, especially livestock care.

The pig and banana link has created a chain reaction. Earnings from bananas help him buy drugs and feed for his two cows, keeping them healthier and more productive. Then the cows add another stream of income through milk.

From milk sales, Manyindo says he can educate his two grandchildren, who are still in primary school, paying school-related costs that are often a heavy burden for rural households.

It's the kind of integrated, practical livelihood model that development programmes often talk about, except in Manyindo's case, it is happening in real time.

His household's economic story also includes hardship. Recently, Manyindo's banana plantation was hit by banana bacterial wilt, a destructive disease that can wipe

out production and push families into financial distress.

He says when the plantation suffered, the family survived largely through livestock income.

In other words, the piggery didn't just add profit, it added resilience. When one livelihood stream weakened, another carried the family.

Manyindo is direct about what he believes made the difference: discipline and using the funds as intended.

He encourages people who were skeptical about PDM to look at what consistent investment can produce. In his view, the programme is useful when the money is put into the agreed project and managed with focus.

He credits the government for what he calls an initiative that is transforming grassroots lives, and he speaks with the confidence of someone whose results can be seen, not just promised.

Even as he celebrates progress, Manyindo thinks bigger. He says if the PDM support were Shs 2 million, he would be able to expand faster, improve housing structures, scale feeds, and invest in higher-quality stock, essentially moving from a

stable small project to a stronger enterprise.

It's not a complaint, but an aspiration: a farmer who has proven he can grow value from Shs 1 million, asking what more could be achieved with slightly stronger capital.

In Kibiito Town Council, Manyindo's story is not dramatic in the way headlines usually demand. It is quiet, practical, and deeply relatable: one man, one million shillings, one decision to restart properly and a household gradually rebuilding

stability.

From pigs to manure, from manure to bananas, from bananas to cow care, and from milk to school fees the project is doing what it was meant to do: creating a livelihood that sustains a family, even when farming shocks hit.

And for George William Manyindo, that is the clearest proof that development isn't always a big event sometimes it begins with a pig, a better breed, and the discipline to keep going.

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KITAGWENDA DISTRICT RECORDS BETTER PLE PERFORMANCE DESPITE 2025 TEACHER'S STRIKE NATIONWIDE

Tumwiine David, Ag District Communications Officer- Kitagwenda DLG

There has been general academic improvement in the performance of the 2025 Primary school candidates in Kitagwenda district despite the National wide Industrial Action by Teachers in the Last Term of the academic Year 2025.

The PLE examinations which were conducted in November 2025 under

the theme, “**enhancing security and holistic assessment of learners in a dynamic environment**” were released on Friday, 30th January, 2025. Results for all Candidates from 64 PLE centers of Kitagwenda District were released.

Kitagwenda district registered 2926 candidates in 2025 as compared to 2901 candidates who were registered



The Kitagwenda District Inspector of Schools Mr Nabijuka George

in 2024.

The 2926 registered candidates were from 147 Primary Schools across the district and 68 of the schools are Government aided (UPE Schools).

In the Academic Year 2025, 41 candidates did not turn up to sit for their examination as compared to 42 in 2024 and 87 candidates scored Division U as compared to 114 candidates in

2024

PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW.

Kitagwenda District registered performance improvement of up to

2025					2024				
Division	Male	Female	Total	%	Division	Male	Female	Total	%
1	151	186	337	11.51%	1	126	97	223	7.67%
2	774	909	1683	57.5%	2	784	861	1645	56.6%
3	261	318	579	19.78%	3	265	367	632	21.7%
4	93	106	199	6.8%	4	110	130	240	8.2%
U	32	55	87	2.97%	U	51	68	119	4.09%
x	27	14	41	1.14%	x	17	25	42	1.44%
Total	1337	1589	2926	100%	Total	1353	1548	2901	100%

RESULTS SUMMARY SEGREGATED BY GENDER

95.62% as compared to 94.45% of 2024

Overall, Girls performed better than boys in all performance grades while the boys who did not turn up for examinations almost double the number of girls

According to the 2025 results, there has been a remarkable implement in 2025 Academic Year performance with reference to pupils who passed in Division I from 223 in 2024 to 337 in 2025 representing 11.51% up from 6.67% in 2024.

More than Half of the candidates appeared in Division Two, while Division Three and Four totals to 26.58 % as compared to 29.8% in 2024.

BEST SCHOOLS AND BEST PERFORMING LOWER LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Best Schools with the Highest number of Division Ones above 10 pupils were Maria Junior School (Private School) 51 Candidates, Ntara Christian Primary School (Private) 40 candidates, Ntara Town School (Private) 33 candidates, Buryansungwe Primary School (Government Aided) 24 candidates, Ntara Primary School (Government aided) 22 candidates and Kicece

Primary School (Government Aided) 20 candidates, Kitagwenda Parents school (Private) 18 candidates, Kibumbi Primary School (Government Aided) 13 candidates, Muzira Primary School (Government Aided) 12 Candidates, St John Baptist Nyabuteba Primary School (Private) 11 candidates, and Kitonzi primary School (Government Aided) 10 Candidates There has been reported improvement in UPE schools with 143 candidates passing with Division 1 in 2025 compared to 95 candidates passing with Division 1 from UPE Schools in 2024

The Best candidate in the District scored 4 Aggregates and was from Maria Junior School while the Best PLE candidate scored 8 Aggregates

The best performing Lower local Government was Kitagwenda Town Council with 116 candidates in Division 1, followed by Kicheche Sub County with 98 Division I while Kabujogera Town Council came third with 45 candidates with Division 1.

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE DISTRICT

The Kitagwenda District Education Officer Mr Asiimwe Sedas appreciated the Education Department, the District Administration, the Political Leadership, Head Teachers, and



The Kitagwenda District Education Officer Mr Asiimwe Sedas

Teachers as well as the School Management Committees, PTAs and Foundation Bodies for their roles that made the district improve in academic performance. He also appreciated parents and learners for all the efforts to realize the obtained performance.

He further applauded Development Partners like Kitagwenda Development Think tank (KIDETT), Toro Kingdom, Raising Voices, COSIL, Baylor Uganda, that have facilitated several psychosocial support processes, providing basic necessities and scholastic materials, reproductive health education which have all contributed to the improved performance.

Mr Nabijuka George, the Kitagwenda District Inspector of Schools, added

a voice to appreciate all stake holders for their involvement in making the district achieve the improved and good performance.

He remains positive that the recent recruitment of teachers will boost the staff ceiling and will reduce the Teacher Pupil ratios reducing on the teacher's workload.

He pledged that the Inspection function

will be strengthened to monitor the Teachers especially in schools where poor performance has been observed

Mr Nabijuka called on the Education Department and the Human Resource Section of the District to ensure staff stability and encouraged counselling of Teachers who are not performing to the required standard as opposed to transferring them.

“The Human Resource Section of the District to ensure that all Teachers who have not accessed pay roll are migrated to the HCM and start accessing payroll as this will motivate the Teachers and increase better performance in the subsequent years ahead,” he said.

WATER FOR PEOPLE BEGINS ONE-YEAR WATER & SANITATION PROJECT IN KITAGWENDA DISTRICT



Kitagwenda District Leadership and the Staff of Water for People at the Launch of the Project at Kitagwenda District Headquarters.

David Tumwiine, Ag Communication Officer- Kitagwenda DLG

Residents of Kitagwenda District are set to benefit from improved access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene services following a new intervention by Water for People aimed at closing long-standing WASH gaps in the area.

On October 29th, 2025, Water for People held an inception meeting with the Kitagwenda District Authorities, during which it was revealed that the Organization

intended to cascade its activities to Kitagwenda District.

Water for People is an International Non-Government Organization based in the United States of America with a vision of a world where all people have access to safe drinking water and sanitation, a world where no one suffers or dies from water or sanitation-related diseases.

This became reality on February 5th, 2026, when Charity Water Grant 675 (a WASH project) was launched in



The RDC Kitagwenda Mr Byarugaba, Isaiah Kanyamahane, at the Launch of the Project, as the CAO Kitagwenda District Mr Dalili RK Moses looks on.

Kitagwenda District.

The project dubbed, 'Easing Access to safe water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Kamwenge and Kitagwenda' will be implemented in a period of one year.

The project cost for the two districts of Kitagwenda and Kamwenge will be US Dollars 925,000 (Approximately 2.23 Billion Shillings). where the

appropriated funds for Kitagwenda District alone will be 59% of the Total budget Water for people will hinge on its Model "lasting Solution" which is premised on every one having access to water in the communities where the Organization works and ensuring that communities are trained and equipped so that water flows forever.



Kitagwenda District Leadership Launching the Project.

The Coming of Water for people in Kitagwenda is a long-term engagement and will provide access to clean and safe drinking water.

Water for People WASH Program Manager, Mr



Mr Ssemwanga David, the Water for People WASH Program Manager and other staff of Water for People in happy moods after launching the Project in Kitagwenda.

Ssemwanga David, who led the team from Water for People and introduced it to the district authorities for onward cooperation in the implementation of the project was happy that after 12 years of WASH activities in Kamwenge District, they longed to come to the Daughter District Kitagwenda but because they had to first work on Kamwenge projects and get more funding to cascade to Kitagwenda.

He said that Water for People will be here for an extended period of time and will involve many activities, and the focal Point Department will be the Water Department. He challenged the District Engineer to always ensure that every Financial Year, there are approved District Water System designs that will make

the Work for Water for People easy.

Mr Ssemwanga David tasked the District Authorities, both Political and technical wings, to offer the necessary support in the implementation of project activities for this year and the years to come.

He emphasized transparency and integrity on the part of

the Government (political leaders and technical staff) and maintaining minimum WASH standards for all District Staff.

The Project Manager Mr Ssemwanga David, highlighted the key outputs of the Project in Kitagwenda District. The Project will have 7 key outputs, namely;

- Overhauling and constriction of Nganiko Gravity Flow Scheme and establishing over 100 water points /Tap stands and rehabilitation of 16 boreholes
- Construction of new household latrines or upgrading them to basic sanitation status, targeting 80 households in Kitagwenda, establishing five model villages to demonstrate improved

sanitation and hygiene practices, and a market-based sanitation improvement approach in 8 villages in Kitagwenda

- Hygiene and Institutional outputs where 60 members of Parents' and Teachers' Associations and School Management Committees will be trained in school WASH management, strengthened planning, budgeting, and monitoring of school WASH facilities.
- Community Engagement and social Mobilization sessions and biannual site meetings conducted for the sustainability of project initiatives
- Governance, planning, and coordination outputs where joint technical monitoring meetings were conducted, attendance of District Water and Sanitation Coordination Committee meetings, and development of the District Water Investment Plan
- Capacity Building and sustainability, where capacity Building training sessions for Hand Pump Mechanics Associations will be done and supporting the District to onboard the Hand Pump Mechanics Associations, Area service provider and strengthening

administrative, personnel and financial management systems for operations and maintenance of the Water Systems.

- There will be monitoring and evaluation and Learning outputs whose activities will include annual baseline data collection in the project area, assessment of water points, schools, and health facilities in the project area, water quality testing and refresher training for the project, where WASH baseline data collection will be done.

There will be water quality testing for 300 water points.

Construction of 2 Five-Stance Pit latrines at Kayombo Primary School.

During the launch of the project, the Kitagwenda District Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Dalili RK Moses, welcomed Water for People to the District at a critical time when the District's water coverage is only at 65%, and with an annual grant of 200,000,000, which is insufficient to create a significant improvement in the water sector to increase water coverage.

He pledged the commitment from the technical team to ensure the project meets its objectives. "My Commitment is that the technical team will work with you to ensure

that standards and designs are adhered to, and emerging issues are identified and dialogued on for cooperation and eventual project success. We must ensure value for money to safeguard the donors' investments. Involve us as leaders in monitoring of the project, ensure milestones are achieved," Mr Dalili said.

The District Vice Chairperson Mr Ashaba Peter, welcomed the project to Kitagwenda. "The coming of Water for people to Kitagwenda is a big blessing. When we were still under the Kamwenge District, Water for People was there, and it did tremendous work in Kamwenge. Their coming to Kitagwenda will leave Kitagwenda District a transformed district in terms of WASH," he remarked.

Mr Isaiah Kanyamahane Byarugaba, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) of Kitagwenda District, shared similar experiences from his time working with Water for People when he served as RDC of Kamwenge District. He expressed deep appreciation to Water for People for coming to Kitagwenda and extending much-needed WASH project activities in the district.

He called upon the Chief Administrative Officer, the technical

team, and the political leadership to provide full and appropriate support to Water for People for the betterment of the people of Kitagwenda.

"I assure Water for People that you have an ambassador in Kitagwenda. When I came here, I engaged the District Water Engineer, and we discussed how we could convince Water for People to come to Kitagwenda District, and indeed, you are here. The coming of Water for People to Kitagwenda is a great blessing. This is a real and formidable team, ready for work and hands-on in implementation," Mr. Kanyamahane remarked.

He further noted that while many NGOs struggle to secure funding, Water for People continues to launch projects one after another. He attributed this success to the organization's transparency, integrity, and strong accountability systems.

"I am committing myself to be an Ambassador for Water for people in Kitagwenda. This is a very serious team, and we must give them all it takes to receive and welcome them and work with them," he added.

SHE KASESE FOOTBALL CLUB TRANSFORMS GIRLS' LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION AND SPORT

Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer- Kasese

For many girls in Kasese District, school holidays once meant idleness, increased vulnerability, and the risk of early pregnancy and early marriage. Today, that story is changing, thanks to SHE Kasese Football Club, a community-based initiative using sport as a tool to keep girls in school and safeguard their futures.

prepared and motivated, reinforcing the club's belief that education and sport must go hand in hand.

The handover was officiated by Bagumira Faisal Kirarira, the Senior Probation and Social Welfare Officer for Kasese District, who praised the initiative as a practical response to the district's high rates of teenage pregnancy and violence against children.

"SHE Kasese is doing exactly what prevention looks like. By engaging girls in football, keeping them active during holidays, and supporting their education, they are addressing the root causes of early pregnancy and school dropout," Bagumira said.



SHE Kasese female football club.

On 19th February 2026, SHE Kasese demonstrated the impact of its work by handing over scholastic materials to its young players at the club offices in Nyakasanga. The support ensures that girls return to school

Founded in 2019, SHE Kasese Football Club targets girls aged 6 to 30 years, combining talent development with social protection. According to Kaputu Moses, the club manager, the initiative was created to bridge

gaps faced by girls who remain idle during holidays and often end up in risky situations.

Through football training, mentorship, and education support, SHE Kasese has mobilised dozens of girls from the community, some of whom now compete at national level. More importantly, many have remained in school, while others have accessed bursaries that would otherwise have been out of reach.

personal journey. Now a university student, Bridget says she has benefited from education bursaries since primary school due to her involvement in sports.

“Football kept me focused, healthy, and busy during holidays. I did not have time to engage in things that could lead to early pregnancy. Instead, I stayed in school and progressed to university,” she said.



SHE Kasese in school girls receiving scholastic materials.

She added that sports have not distracted her from education but strengthened her discipline and wellbeing. Bridget encouraged other young people to embrace sports as a pathway to education, personal growth, and positive life choices.

“Our biggest success is not just football trophies. It is keeping girls in school, delaying early marriages, and helping them dream beyond their circumstances,” Moses said.

The impact of the initiative is best seen in the lives of the players themselves. Katusabe Bridget, captain of SHE Kasese, credits the club for shaping her academic and

As Kasese District continues to grapple with teenage pregnancies, initiatives like SHE Kasese Football Club are proving that community-led solutions can create lasting impact. By combining sport, education, and child protection, SHE Kasese is not only developing football talent but also protecting futures and changing the narrative for girls in the district.

KABAROLE: STAKEHOLDERS EXPAND FRONTLINE HEALTH WORKFORCE WITH MASS CHEWS RECRUITMENT TO BRIDGE DELIVERY GAPS



The Trained Leaders on CHEWs pose in a photo at the district.

Stephen Ainganiza, Communication Officer- Kabarole

Across Uganda, a transformative health system is emerging, rooted in proximity, trust, and timely data. This ambitious initiative marks a significant leap forward as the country focuses on training and deploying thousands of Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs). These individuals are tasked with bridging the persistent gap between communities and formal

healthcare systems, ensuring that essential health services reach those who need them most.

On Wednesday and Thursday, Kabarole District organized orientation trainings for CHEWs, bringing together District Executive Committee Members (DEC), District Health Teams (DHTs), and sub-county and town council representatives at the district headquarters in Kitumba. The



Mr Brian Kitembo, Chairperson District Nutrition Coordination Committee addressing the stakeholders.

participants included town clerks, sub-county chiefs, chairpersons, Community Development Officers (CDOs), parish chiefs, and religious representatives, all united in their mission to enhance community health.

The recruitment process for CHEWs is designed to be inclusive and thorough. Each parish is expected to submit two candidates, one male and one female, who meet the criteria of being between 22 and 35 years old, possessing an “O” level certificate, and being a resident of the parish. Sub-county chiefs and health center in-charges will oversee the application and recruitment process, ensuring that the most suitable candidates are selected and submitted to the District Health

Officer’s office.

Madam Catherine Kemigabo, the District Health Educator for Kabarole, emphasized that successful candidates will undergo a comprehensive six-month training program, consisting of four months in the classroom and two months in the field. This hands-on training will equip them with the necessary skills to effectively serve their communities.

Brian Kitembo, the Assistant District Health Officer for Environment, highlighted the vital role CHEWs will play in providing health promotion and preventative services. Each CHEW will be equipped with essential tools, including an Integrated Health



Leaders Being Trained on CHEWs.

Education handbook, T-shirts, gumboots, medicine boxes, digital thermometers, bicycles, press jackets, glucometers, and digital blood pressure machines, among other resources.

To revitalize community health services, the Village Health Teams (VHTs) that transition into CHEWs will be replaced, ensuring that service delivery continues seamlessly in their villages. Technology will also play a pivotal role, as CHEWs will be connected to Uganda's electronic Community Health Information

System (eCHIS), enabling real-time data collection and improved performance management.

“With CHEWs deployed at the village level, we will have a strong frontline force to promote hygiene, educate families, support malaria prevention, and address illnesses



Madam Catherine Kemigabo DHE Training the leaders.



Mr. Kiseembo Brian Training the team.

before they require treatment at health facilities,”

Kiseembo stated. This proactive approach aims to empower communities and enhance overall health outcomes.

Mr Muhumuza Joseph, the Secretary for Health and Education, emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between health workers and the community. He urged local leaders in town councils and sub-counties to prioritize health education and sanitation, fostering healthier lifestyles among residents.

Madam Benuza Jane Ateenyi, the Deputy Resident Commissioner for Kabarole, cautioned leaders

overseeing the recruitment process against soliciting bribes, urging them to adhere strictly to the established requirements and qualifications. She also encouraged leaders to hold village meetings to educate families on their roles in preventing domestic violence and fostering peaceful, development-oriented households.

While the introduction of CHEWs signifies a professionalization of community health in Uganda, the dedication of VHT volunteers who have tirelessly served their communities for years remains a cornerstone of the nation's healthcare system. Together, these initiatives represent a promising step towards a healthier future for all Ugandans.

KABINGO WATER PROJECT COMMISSIONS FIRST PHASE, KICKS OFF SECOND CONSTRUCTION IN MUNKUNYU SUB-COUNTY



Assistant RDC, District Chairperson, handing over phase II to the contractor.

Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer-Kasese

Kasese District Local Government has officially commissioned Phase I of the Kabingo Gravity Flow Scheme and handed over Phase II of the project to contractors for construction, marking a significant step forward in improving access to safe water in Munkunyu Subcounty.

The commissioning and handover

ceremony took place on Thursday, February 12th, 2026, at Salaama Trading Centre in Katanda II village, Munkunyu Subcounty. Phase I of the project, valued at UGX 645 million, was constructed using funds from the District Water and Sanitation Conditional Grant, while Phase II, worth UGX 239,075,907, will be funded by SMVA Trust and PARC-Uganda.



Assistant RDC, District Chairperson, commissioning the Kabingo Gravity flow project phase I

The event was officiated by the Assistant Resident District Commissioner for Kasese, Ms. Muhindo Justine Mutabazi, who formally commissioned the completed Phase I works and handed over Phase II to the contractors for implementation.

While addressing residents, Ms Mutabazi called upon Water User Committees to actively carry out their responsibilities, emphasizing proper operation and maintenance of the gravity flow scheme. She urged the community to take ownership of the project and maintain the water chain through good hygiene practices such as handwashing and using clean water containers to prevent waterborne diseases.

She further encouraged residents to engage in productive work, reduce

excessive alcohol consumption, and invest household resources in activities that promote development. Ms Mutabazi also urged community members to adopt soil and water conservation measures, including digging trenches in gardens, and to ensure that children attend school.

Representing the Chief Administrative Officer, Mr Kikusa Mustafa appealed to civil servants to remain active at the community level and play their role in addressing local challenges. He criticized absenteeism among some public officers, noting that effective service delivery requires regular engagement with the people.

Mr. Mustafa also emphasized sanitation and water safety, warning that unsafe water handling could lead to infections and disease outbreaks. He informed residents that community participation will be critical during the implementation of Phase II, particularly in supporting activities such as digging pipe trenches and taking part in operation and maintenance.

He further warned against gender-

based violence, noting that the water project should contribute to reducing domestic conflicts associated with water scarcity.

Kasese District Chairperson, Hon. Muhindi Bukombi Eliphazi, reaffirmed the district's commitment to expanding access to safe water, in line with the government policy that every household should access clean water within one kilometre. He noted that the district is prioritizing the construction of gravity flow schemes to meet this target.

Hon. Bukombi called on residents to protect the water infrastructure and ensure proper operation and maintenance to sustain the project's

benefits.

During the event, residents welcomed the development, with Ms. Ithungu Jonah Mughongo, a resident of Katanda II village, expressing appreciation for the project. She noted that women previously walked long and risky distances to fetch water, but will now access water more easily. She pledged community commitment to maintaining cleanliness at the water points and improving household hygiene.

The commissioning of Phase I and the handover of Phase II mark a key milestone in Kasese District's efforts to improve rural water coverage and strengthen community participation in water management.

BUILDING RESILIENCE: SAVE THE CHILDREN, LEADERS CHAMPION DISASTER PREPAREDNESS DRIVE IN KASESE COMMUNITIES

Kabugho Sharon, Communications Officer- Kasese

Kasese District is emerging as a national leader in disaster preparedness, thanks

to strengthened collaboration, empowered institutions, and a growing focus on prevention



District Disaster Management Committee capacity strengthening Meeting at Rwenzori International.

rather than reaction.

This progress was evident during a two-day Disaster Management Capacity Enhancement Meeting facilitated by Save the Children International on 11th and 12th January at the Rwenzori International Hotel. The meeting brought together a wide range of actors: district leaders, members of the District Disaster Management Committee, NGOs, CSOs, security agencies, cultural leaders, and local leaders all united by one goal: protecting communities, especially children, from the devastating effects of disasters.

The meeting forms part of Save the

Children International's ongoing Disaster Management Project in Kasese District, implemented in the sub-counties of Karusandara, Kyarumba, Nyamwamba, and Maliba. Running from 15th September 2025 to 31st December 2027 and funded by Save the Children Italy, the project is reaching deep into communities to build long-term resilience.

The initiative is directly benefiting 15,000 children aged 6–18, 20 primary schools, 25,000 women, and 20,000 men across the four sub-counties. One of its most transformative interventions is the establishment of 20 child-led Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and disaster preparedness clubs in primary schools, empowering



children to understand risks, promote early warning messages, and become champions of safety in their schools and homes.

By placing children at the centre of disaster preparedness, the project is not only protecting young lives but also nurturing a generation that understands risk, preparedness, and resilience.

Beyond schools, the project is strengthening district and community systems for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Emergency Preparedness (EP), Anticipatory Action (AA), and Early Warning Systems (EWS). The focus is on building inclusive, coordinated, and well-prepared institutions that can anticipate disasters and act early before lives and livelihoods are lost.

The expected impact is a more resilient and responsive Kasese District, where disasters are managed proactively, and communities recover faster.

Kasese Recognized as a National Example

Addressing participants, Mr Solomon Illangat from the Office of the Prime Minister praised Kasese's leadership, describing the district as "the limelight of disaster preparedness in the country." He credited strong coordination and commitment among stakeholders for the district's progress.

He reminded participants that Uganda's Disaster Management Policy assigns clear roles to different actors and stressed that no single institution can manage disasters



Stakeholders in disaster Management at Rwenzori International Hotel.

alone. He urged stakeholders to work together to strengthen risk detection, monitoring, and management, and to view disaster management as a continuous cycle starting with preparedness, not ending with response.

The meeting also created space for honest dialogue around financing disaster preparedness.

Mr Kikusa Mustafah, Chairperson of the District Disaster Management Committee, highlighted ongoing funding constraints and called on the Office of the Prime Minister to consider a conditional grant for disaster management.

Echoing this call, Hon. Monday Girivazio, the District Vice

Chairperson, reaffirmed political commitment, urging the district budget desk to implement the resolution to allocate 1% of the district budget to disaster management. He emphasized that political leaders remain fully committed to ensuring preparedness is adequately funded.

Stakeholders across sectors applauded Save the Children International and its donor, Save the Children Italy, for investing in systems that protect children and communities. Participants noted that the capacity-building meeting strengthened coordination, clarified roles, and renewed collective responsibility for disaster preparedness in Kasese.

BUNDIBUGYO ACHIEVES 97% RURAL WATER FUNCTIONALITY, INVESTS UGX 930M TOWARDS EQUITABLE ACCESS

Mbabazi Sylvia - Ag Communication Officer, Bundibugyo

Bundibugyo District has registered major progress in extending access to clean water and improving sanitation, with several gravity flow schemes upgraded, new protected springs constructed, and stronger partnerships driving community services across hard-to-reach areas.

utilized its UGX 930.7 million water and sanitation budget in Financial Year 2024/25. He explained that this enabled completion of key interventions, including Gravity Flow Schemes (GFS) like Kagugu Gravity Flow Scheme (GFS) Phase I, Nyaruru GFS Phase III, and the Kikyo GFS extension.



Water Sector stakeholders and district staff during an advocacy meeting on Thursday.

The district also constructed 10 protected springs and completed designs for the Kasitu GFS to unlock additional investments in the next implementation cycle.

Presenting an update during the District Planning and Advocacy Meeting on Thursday, February 12th, 2026, the District Water Officer, Mr Ismail Tusiime, said the district fully

The district also credited partners for strengthening service coverage. These included support for the Bundikaleba piped water system, rehabilitation of the Sindila GFS, and installation of school boreholes, which interventions have reduced

pressure on existing sources and improved reliability for households and institutions.

According to district figures referenced from the 2026 Uganda Water Supply Atlas, the district has 1,573 domestic water points serving about 223,347 people, alongside 26 piped schemes. Rural functionality of water infrastructure was reported to be at 97 percent, reflecting sustained operation and maintenance efforts by communities, local leaders, and technical teams.

As part of reforms to improve service delivery and protect investments, Bundibugyo District Council approved the District Water Supply and Services Board (DWSSB) in November 2025 for submission to the responsible Ministry. The board is intended to strengthen governance of rural water systems by improving oversight of operation and maintenance, financial sustainability, and accountability, while providing a clear link between Water User Committees and district-level management.

In the next financial year, the district has outlined additional priorities, including Kagugu GFS Phase III, extension of the Kisonko–Mirambi GFS to Kaleyaleya, partial rehabilitation of the Bubukwanga

GFS, and construction of a Bubukwanga Market latrine.

Ongoing works include Kagugu GFS Phase II, restoration of Bundinyama–Hakitara, Kyogho GFS restoration, and rehabilitation of Nyaruru GFS Phase IV.

In its WASH Master Plan (2024–2030), Bundibugyo targets expanding basic water services from 28 percent in 2024 to 83 percent by 2030, and raising safely managed sanitation from 44 percent to 100 percent within the same period. The district estimates it will need about US\$ 84.9 million (approximately UGX 300 billion) over six years to deliver the plan through government allocations and partner support.

As part of challenges, the Water Officer pointed to aging systems, difficult mountainous terrain, floods and landslides, and limited treatment facilities for surface stream systems.

“There is need for lobbying for additional funding, climate-resilient designs and catchment protection, establishment of treatment facilities for all piped systems, and renewed community participation through Bulungi Bwansi to protect water sources and keep systems functional,” he said.



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