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# Cholera kills eight refugees

HOIMA

By Robert Atuhairwe

Eight people have died and over 300 are hospitalised in isolation centres that have been set up following a suspected cholera outbreak in Hoima district.

The latest outbreak has been reported in Rwenyawawa village, Kyangwali sub-county and Sebigoro landing site in Kabwoya sub-county, where Congolese refugees are living.

The areas are a host to thousands of refugees from DR Congo, who have fled tribal clashes between the Lendu and Bagegere in Ituri Province in the eastern part of the country.

The violence has allegedly forced over 20,000 Congolese to flee into Uganda since December last year via Lake Albert.

Dr Fred Kugonza, the Hoima district disease surveillance officer, on Monday told *New Vision* in a phone interview that all the deceased were children below five years. He said among those admitted, 119 are children.

He said the children died following episodes of diarrhoea and vomiting, coupled with high fever — all signs of cholera.

Kugonza said as part of the intervention, isolation centres have been set up at Rwenyawawa village and Sebigoro landing site.

He said some samples from patients diagnosed with acute diarrhoea have been sent to Central Public Health Laboratory in Kampala for testing.

The Hoima Resident District Commissioner, John Steven Ekoom, advised residents to observe personal hygiene and use of pit latrines.

He said the outbreak was due to poor sanitation in the camps and said the situation might get worse when it rains.

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