

Abim tops Karamoja in latrine coverage

ABIM

By George Bita

Abim district has the highest number of latrines in the entire Karamoja sub-region with a coverage of over 60%.

Jimmy Ochero, the LC5 chairperson, said 3,412 newly constructed latrines under the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) project pushed up the coverage.

"The percentage definitely varies per sub-county with Lotuke at 75% being the best. We will always be indebted to development partners and the Government for this achievement," Ochero told *New Vision* on Monday.

John Lopeyok, the Moroto municipal water engineer, revealed that general latrine coverage in Karamoja has of recent reached 40%, up from 10% almost a decade ago.

Lopeyok attributed the increase to rigorous sensitisation campaigns that have seen most locals steer clear of open defecation practice.

According to Gerald Ntale, who works with a non-government organisation in the area, about 2,770 households have been persuaded to construct latrines over the last



A pit-latrine built by a non-government organisation in Abim district. Photo by George Bita

BETWEEN THE LINES:

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three years.

Ntale says ignorance is a major stumbling block to boosting latrine coverage, in especially

rural areas.

Juan Lomongin, the Namalu sub-county chief in Nakapiripirit district, appreciated efforts of non-government organisations such as Water-Aid in constructing latrines for locals.

"Construction of a standard 30-foot pit-latrine costs about sh1.5m, which is way out of reach for the common man. Interventions by NGOs and the Government have helped a lot,"

RESIDENTS' VIEWS

Nelson Olwit, Abim deputy chief administrative officer:

The improving latrine coverage in Abim is due to tireless efforts of donors.



Ismail Lomongin, resident of Moroto municipality: The improvement is because of massive sensitisation by development partners and the

Government. It will improve hygiene and keep away diseases.



Regina Chepsok, resident of Amudat town council: More residents are turning to

modernity. I think with time, the coverage will be higher.

