

Govt donates food to Sironko landslide victims

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SIRONKO. Government has finally delivered the first consignment of relief items to Sironko District landslide victims.

Nine people are suspected to have been buried alive by the landslides following heavy rains in the Elgon sub-region. Hundreds were displaced.

The food consignment that included maize flour and beans was yesterday handed over to Mr Herbert Mulekwa, the LC5 chairperson, who received it on behalf of the district disaster preparedness committee.

It will be distributed to more than 135 affected families.

Most of the affected families are from Masaba Sub-county although other sub-counties could be faced with a similar disaster if the government does not act to resettle the people there, according to observers.

Mr Mulekwa said most of the victims, who fled their homes on Monday and have taken refuge in mosques and churches, are in dire need of shelter.

The landslide survivors, however,



Homeless. Children stand at scene where the landslides occurred in Sironko District. PHOTO BY YAHUDU KITUNZI

criticised the food relief, saying it was too little to benefit more than 500 displaced persons.

They appealed to government and other humanitarian agencies to treat their plight with urgency and deliver what is adequate.

Most of the residents living on the landslide-prone slopes of Mt Elgon are willing to relocate to safer areas within Bugisu sub-region as was agreed after the 2012 Bulucheke landslides, but blame the government

HELP SO FAR

Recently, the Office of the Prime Minister embarked on a verification process to resettle at least 500 people out of 39,500 homeless people. Other humanitarian agencies, including Uganda Red Cross Society have donated some relief items.

for delaying the resettlement process.

Government had procured land in Bunambutye in Bulambuli District but its ownership is marred by controversy and disputes.

Two landslides struck Bududa and Sironko districts leaving several homes, crops and property destroyed.

Local politicians have accused the Office of the Prime Minister of being slow in intervention.