

family has ...  
about sh30m from the fish.

Walulu said they opted to rear tilapia fish because it had a ready market, although the cost of feeds was high. He added that their dream is to

the pond's bottom.

He said the pond could handle at least 1,800 fingerlings instead of the 3,000 it had.

"A fish pond that does not

**led to depletion  
of oxygen."**

**Retired fisheries officer**

# Rubanda district residents hit by acute water shortage

**RUBANDA**

**By Job Namanya**

Over 20,000 residents of Nshebeya, Igomanda, Mpungu and Ruhonwa parishes in Hamurwa sub-county, Rubanda district are facing a water crisis.

The crisis resulted from the heavy rains that hit the district last year. Residents say since then, most of the springs were submerged and covered in silt, forcing them to resort to small streams, which provide little amounts of water.

Libina Natukunda, a resident of Nyabirigita village in Nshebeya parish, said it takes her about four hours to draw water and return home.

"I wake up early in the morning in order to arrive at the water source in time. However, I end up in a long queue. It takes me about two hours to get a jerrycan of water. Getting back home takes about one-and-a-half hours as I have to walk up the various hills," Natukunda said.

Batulumayo Turyasingura, another resident, said children usually delay when they go to the stream.

"We usually ask our children to get up early to fetch water, but get disappointed whenever they come back late and thus report to school late," Turyasingura said.

Deus Byomuhangi, another resident, said there are fears people could contract waterborne diseases since they share water with animals.

Nafutali Biryahabwe, another resident, said they had suffered a lot and call for government to intervention.

"None of our leaders has come to rescue us. This means our elections have not yielded positive results," Biryahabwe said.

In Nshebeya parish, the rains swept away water springs at Nyabirigita, Katojo, Bugwaza and Gondo trading centres.

Igomanda parish saw the loss of water springs at Rwabukorya, Kashekyera, Rwabakyenga, Kanzahamugyera and Nyamiyaga.

Springs in Mpungu Karungu, Bushure, Rutooma, Nyarundya A and B, plus Kaburara, were all silted.

According to the Hamurwa sub-county district councillor, Pius Tumwehende, he has reported the matter to the concerned authorities.