

James Erimu, the registrar of the college, said the school offers a two-year diploma in technical education and DITTE study programmes of Kyambogo University in the local communities are welcoming and the school is good.

The school has a well-stocked library. Photo by Hudson Apunyo

Over 65,000 children immunised against polio in Bundibugyo

BUNDIBUGYO

By Geoffrey Nyamwongera and Lawrence Okwakol

A total of 65,690 children were immunised against polio in Bundibugyo district, in the mass immunisation exercise, which ended Monday, achieving a success rate of 131%.

According to Christopher Kiyita, the Bundibugyo district health officer, the Ministry of Health's target for the district was 50,118 children.

"Our target as the district was 50,118 children, for the 24 sub-counties, but we scored highly

due to the massive sensitisation of communities," Kiyita said.

The district, however, has 550,000 children under the age of 5. Kiyita clarified that the district will continue to immunise the rest of the children in the routine immunisation exercise.

He said the heavy downpour in the district on the eve of the second and third days of the exercise disrupted the exercise as it made the roads impassable.

Another challenge was parents who resisted the exercise.

"It is a shame that some of our health workers had refused to have their children immunised, but we later talked to them and

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The polio campaign exercise targeted children aged five and below, who received oral polio vaccine drops.

■ The exercise was conducted on a house-to-house immunisation campaign.

they accepted," Kiyita said.

Peter Oumo, the central supervisor from the health ministry, attributed the success to combined efforts and teamwork of the district health officials.

Oumo said in June, four polio cases were confirmed in the neighbouring DR Congo, which puts Uganda on a high alert. "There was need for collective effort to stop the importation and interrupt the transmission of the wild polio virus in Uganda and the region and we had to act to prevent it," he said.

Oumo added that the routine polio vaccination continues, and that this was to supplement the routine programme due to a polio outbreak in DR Congo.

He said polio attacks the nervous system as well as muscles of the arms and legs, and can cause paralysis or death. The Bundibugyo district cold

chain assistant, Johnson Sabiti, said vaccine supply was not enough since there were more people in villages than expected.

In a related development, Pallisa district registered 113% of the children they had targeted for immunisation. The district had 97,976 children immunised compared to the expected 85,977.

Godfrey Kuruhira, the chief administrative officer of Pallisa, said the team met some resistance from certain religious sects, but they involved a security team chaired by John Watanyeli Nabende to overcome them.

He said they had to storm Kameke sub-county, which

had the highest resistance, to ensure children are immunised. "We had to ensure that every child in Kameke sub-county is immunised so that no alarm is raised in the near future," he said.

Dr Godfrey Mulekwa, the district health officer, raised concerns regarding Kambatana. Kambatana, one of the largest islands with a population of over 3,000 people did not benefit from the campaign because the sudds prevented the medical team from reaching the children.

Mulekwa said the district, in partnership with the works ministry, will avail motorised boats for staff to do the work.

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