

Housewives start income schemes to beat poverty

MASAKA

By Dismus Buregyeya

Over 1,000 girls and housewives from Masaka district have initiated income-generating schemes to reduce poverty-related gender-based violence (GBV) in families and communities.

The women from the villages in Buwunga sub-county, who are victims of GBV, make liquid soap, crafts and skin jelly and also generate income from their drama group.

The group's secretary, Josephine Nandawula, said the groups also carry out counselling in families affected by domestic violence.

She added that the affected victims are enrolled in the GBV groups. She said they started with sh2m from Buwunga Community Development Office to roll out the programme in the villages.

Nandawula said 10 GBV victims from Kamwoze village in Buwunga sub-county, under the support of MIFUMI Survivors' Shelter at Masaka Regional Referral Hospital, initiated the scheme.

"We discovered that many women, girls and men in our villages affected by GBV were suffering silently. They did not know where to report their cases for redress," she said, adding that the victims, especially the poor, were discouraged by the costs involved in seeking redress at the sub-counties, Police and LCs.

One of the GBV victims, Janet Ngabira from Buwunga, said she was reconciled with her husband, after a maid had taken over her home and business.

"GBV Survivors Group saved my marriage after counseling," Ngabira said.

A seven-year-old girl, who was defiled by her father, is among the victims under the GBV shelter in Masaka Hospital for two years. The 40-year-old father, a builder, is on remand at Masaka Government Central Prison. The community identified a guardian, Catherine Nalunkuma, from Mukungwe in Masaka, to look after the girl.

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