

Floods ravage eastern Uganda

BULAMBULI

By Vision Reporters

Floods have ravaged five sub-counties in Bulambuli district, leaving 680 households and pit latrine under water. Most families have vacated their homes and taken shelter in the nearby schools, churches and trading centres.

"Last year, Bulambuli district was among those badly hit by cholera, which left many dead and 500 admitted to referral hospitals," John Matingo, the Bwikhonge sub-county LC3 chairperson, said.

The floods have left crops and household property worth millions of shillings destroyed.

"Our pit-latrines were submerged. We are now easing ourselves in our maize fields. We cannot risk going between the weakened walls because we could easily fall into the pit," James Wandukwa, a resident, said.

Wandukwa said their mud and wattle houses had also collapsed, while semi-permanent structures had been weakened by cracks.

He said the heavy downpour in the Elgon region, forced River Sipi to burst its banks and cause the floods.

Wandukwa said the affected sub-counties were Bwikhonge, Bunambutye, Muyembe, Bukhalu and Nabongo.

Rebecca Muduwa, a 75-year-old mother, said they were susceptible to catching other water-borne diseases due to the water sources contaminated with faeces. She called on the Government to intervene before cholera takes a toll on the people.

Annet Wandukwa, the LC2 chairperson of Buwabwala parish, accused the area Members of Parliament, Sarah Wekomba and Alex Burundo, of neglecting their constituencies.

"We regret having elected these people to Parliament because it is as if they went on a tour. Unlike their colleagues in Bududa who help their people during such situations, ours lack lobbying skills," she said.

Wandukwa appealed to the energy minister, Irene Muloni, to approach the Office of the Prime Minister for urgent relief aid items such as tarpaulins, water purification tablets,



The affected after receiving relief items at Malaba town council

food, medicine and mosquito nets.

She, however, said no person had lost their life since the rains started.

Iganga roads cave in

The heavy rains that lasted six hours over the weekend caused the newly repaired Iganga-Luuka road to cave in disrupting traffic in the process.

Vehicles plying the Butimba-Buyubu pathway had been diverted to the longer route through Namadope village. The Government, three months ago, completed the restoration of the broken culverts that had inconvenienced motorists at

Buyubu swamp for two years.

Herbert Sebandeke, the Iganga district roads engineer, said the bridging of the Buyubu-Butimba swamp was co-funded by the Government and Kakira Outgrowers Rural Development Fund.

"The works involved bush clearing, swamp filling, gravelling plus grass planting, which was boosted with installing culvert," Sebandeke said.

Hatib Kapata, the Butimba LC1 chairperson, said the multi-million project contracted to CEACO Company Ltd was not handled to expectations.

Part of Iganga-Luuka road which caved in due to broken culverts. Photo by George Bit

SHODDY WORK

Sarah Ntumba, the Luuka district secretary for social services, said she would follow up with the contractor, saying the disruption of normal traffic was unfortunate.

"The quality of work was obviously wanting. How can culverts put in place three months give way like that?" Kapata wondered.

Sarah Ntumba, the Luuka district secretary for social services, said she would follow up with the contractor, saying the disruption of traffic was unfortunate.

Tororo flood victims get aid

The Government handed over relief items to those affected by floods in Tororo district to help them cope with life.

Tororo County South MP Fredrick

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Abdulkarim Kyamaiso, resident of Butimbwa village:

I cannot move safely across the damaged road without carrying my bicycle. The engineers should get back to the site to fix the road.

Aisha Namulwasha, resident of Buyubu village:

The road should be worked on before our children return to school, otherwise it will affect them.

Zainabu Nabirye, resident of Buyubu village:

I think the drainage channels on either side of the road were not put into consideration. Running water from the slopes also contributed to sweeping away the bridge.

Angura on Sunday handed residents of the four sub-counties Kwapa, Mella, Osukuru and Malaba town council items which included blankets, tarpaulins, plates, cups and mosquito nets.

Angura warned the beneficiaries against selling the items.

The beneficiaries thanked the Government for coming to their rescue, but also asked for food aid, saying most of them had nothing to eat.

Compiled by Faustine Odongo
Paul Watala and George Bit