

Rural water projects help over 900,000

By Vision Reporter

Close to a million people in rural areas across the country now have access to clean and safe water, thanks to projects executed by the Rural Water Department.

These projects include gravity flow schemes of; Nyarwodho, Bududa-Nabweya, Bukwo, Rwebisengo Kanara, Nyabuhikye-Kikyenyke, Bukwo, Lirima and Bukedea.

There are also Buwoya-Buboko and Butebo water supplies, solar-powered mini piped systems, boreholes and hand pumps and production wells.

The commissioner Rural Water Eng Joseph Oryono Eyatu says his department is committed to ensuring that the rural population gets 100% access to clean and safe water to increase on their productivity.

He says the department is prioritising the use of gravity

flow schemes since they can supply a large population and can easily be expanded unlike the use of bore holes.

"Our focus now is to motorise most of the hand pump boreholes with high yield of water to ensure that the time spent on the hand pump is reduced to allow the population concentrate on other income-generating activities," he says

Oryono adds that this has been majorly supported by the Egyptian government and the African Development Bank.

He says as they strive to extend water to the rural population, handwashing is still a problem, and that more efforts are being geared at improving sanitation.

According to Eng. James Seguya, an official in the Rural Water Department, they coordinate utilisation of the District Water and Sanitation Grant, which involves resource mobilisation and allocation, technical support to districts, monitoring compliance and capacity building to the

district local governments.

He says the department supports planning and development of water supply and sanitation projects.

They also promote use of appropriate technologies and sanitation practices in rural areas.

Seguya says their projects cover communities with scattered population settlements of up to 1,500 and Rural Growth Centres with populations between 1,500 and 5,000.

The main technology options used for water supply improvements in rural areas include deep boreholes, currently standing at 42%, shallow wells (25%), protected springs (21%), public stand posts (6%), yard taps for public use (6%), kiosks (1%) and rainwater harvest tanks (1%).

Boreholes, he says, are the predominant water supply technology in the rural communities.

The District Water and Sanitation Development Conditional Grant (DWSDCG) programme, which is



Bukwo water treatment plant in Bukwo district

implemented through district local governments, is based on work plans and budgets approved by the Ministry of Water and Environment. The programme finances construction of water supply and sanitation facilities, community sensitisation and mobilisation in rural areas.

The Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department (RWSSD) established and distributed 10 Technical Support Units (TSUs) countrywide to provide capacity building, monitoring and technical back-up

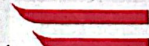
support to local governments in the implementation of the water and sanitation projects.

The central government, through Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department (RWSSD), is responsible for resource mobilisation and allocation, setting standards, technical support, and monitoring compliance.

It promotes appropriate technology through action research, development and upscaling, plans and develops water schemes that traverse local government, strengthens improved sanitation hygiene

service delivery in the district local governments (DLGs) through capacity building programs and carries out quality assurance of water supply designs developed by DLGs.

As of June 2017, the access to safe water within 1km in the rural areas was estimated at 70%, while the functionality of rural water facilities is at 85%. About 80% of the households in rural areas access safe and effective sanitation, with 37% accessing handwashing facilities with soap.



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