

Mudslide victims want faster help

Risks. Victims lack food, proper shelter and pit-latrines, exposing them to the risk of getting cholera.

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SIRONKO. More than 300 families in Lusabe village, Bufupa Parish, Masaba Sub-county in Sironko District that were recently hit by mudslides have asked for faster response from government due to the dire conditions they are living in.

Although government opened a camp for the families at Bufupa Primary School, it lacks social amenities such as pit-latrines and clean water.

The camp is about 200 metres from the mudslide site.

"We have nowhere to go. We are in dire need of shelter, food, clothing and other basic household facilities because all our household properties were buried," Mr Fred Wanyenya, one of the survivors, said.

The victims also spend nights on the floor in temporary shelters made out of dry banana leaves.

Mr Geoffrey Wandukwa, who lost a relative in the mudslide, said government should speed up the process of relocating them to safer places.

"We expected government to



Poor shelters. Mudslide victims take shelter at Bufupa Primary School in Masaba Sub-county, Sironko District recently. PHOTO BY YAHUDU KITUNZI

take this disaster as an emergency, but we are shocked to see them taking the matter lightly," Mr Wandukwa said.

Ms Amina Kakai, another affected resident, said government has not met their expectations.

"If this was a by-election in a certain constituency, the government would have got the funds but since it's a disaster, which only affected ordinary people, they are dilly-dallying," said Ms Kakai.

However, the State Minister for Relief and Disaster Preparedness, Mr Musa Ecweru, said the

government wants to relocate the survivors at Nakirungu Primary school in Busulani Sub-county, about three kilometres away from the landslide scene.

"People are congested. This brings fears of a cholera outbreak and other hygiene-related diseases," LABAN WANIALA, MASABA LC3 CHAIRPERSON

"We are looking for tents and when we get them, we will relocate these (landslide victims)

to a temporary camp as we look for a permanent solution," Mr Ecweru said.

The Lusabe village chairperson, Mr Francis Namoso, said if the relocation is to be effective, it must also include residents of Namagoye and Lusambe villages.

The LC3 chairperson, Mr Laban Waniala, said the number of people living in the camp has increased to about 5,000.

The Elgon region police spokesperson, Mr Suwedi Manshur, said police have also deployed officers to provide security at the camp.

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BY STEPHEN WAI
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