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... harmful practices. children, in a

... presents all.

The meeting was held under the theme: Together we can

... challenge.

While presenting a report on child abuse cases, Echidu said every stakeholder should

... forced or lured into marriages, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

A WHO study indicates that

... resultant pregnancies are the biggest cause of deaths among 15-19-year-old girls, accounting for 20% of maternal deaths.

# Rubanda flood victims receive relief items

## RUBANDA

By Job Namanya

Grace Mugabirwe Mutebile, the vice-chairperson of the International Community of Banyakigezi (ICOB)-Uganda chapter, has donated relief items to families affected by floods in Rubanda district.

Mugabirwe handed 42 blankets and clothes valued at sh1.2m to families at Nfasha trading centre in Muko sub-county. The families were affected by floods in September.

While handing over the items, Mugabirwe noted that she felt concerned about the victims, after watching the pictures of the disaster on the news. It prompted her to mobilise for relief items from her friends to help the people affected.

"I was watching news when I saw pictures from our home area about the calamity that had hit us, I felt the need to do something to restore the hope of the affected families. That is how I got to ask my friends to join me in raising the items I am handing over today," she said.

Beneficiaries hailed Mugabirwe for being compassionate towards them, since they were living undesirably following the floods.

Jane Binagera, one of the victims, said following the death of her husband, she has been living as a beggar.

"My husband was the only source of hope in our family. My body is now frail, which limits my ability to work.

"I always looked at my husband for survival, but since his death, I have been struggling," she said, adding she depended on the mercy of people for survival.

### Losing all

To John Ainembabazi, the death of his wife was a shocking experience he will never forget.

On top of losing his spouse, Ainembabazi's house was also swept away by the floods.

He lost everything.

"I have been trying to recover from this shock, but it is very difficult. I appreciate all efforts made to bring a smile back on our faces," he said after receiving relief items.

Gaudensia Basimobwabo lost two children in the floods and since then, her life has been tough. She has been struggling to keep herself afloat.

"I have been thinking of how to live after this great shock, but we always get encouraging messages from people with good hearts," she said.



Some of the Rubanda flood victims displaying the relief items they received. Photo by Job Namanya