

Disaster. Several homesteads and plantations were buried in huge blocks of mud and rocks.

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SIRONKO. By press time last evening, one person was confirmed dead and six others missing in Sironko District following a downpour on Monday evening that triggered landslides.

During the Monday night downpour, huge blocks of mud and rocks started to roll down hills, toppling homes and killing livestock.

The Elgon region police spokesperson, Mr Suwedi Mansur, said a joint security task force has taken over security in the area to avoid a repeated disaster.

"The cracks are still visible and we don't want to see people in the area. As security, we appeal to experts to come and assess the area and advise us," he said.

Mr Francis Namoso, the chairperson of Lusalanje Village, Bufumpa Parish, Masaba Sub-county, identified the deceased as Topista Nakayenze, 45, a mother of eight.

The missing people were identified as Oliver Nabuzale, 53, with her son Mike Gizamba, 15. Others are Akimu Fungo, 18, a pupil of Sironko Parents Primary School, Edrick Wandeya, 10, Jane Namono, 9, and Edrin Wanyera, 5.

He identified the most hit villages as Namagoye, Lusabe and Lusalanje in Bufumpa Parish, Masaba Sub-

One dead, 6 missing in Sironko landslides



Catastrophe. Residents at one of the scenes of the landslides in Lusalanje Village, Bufumpa Parish, Masaba Sub-county in Sironko District yesterday. PHOTO BY YAHUDU KITUNZI.

Disaster

Earlier incident. The Sironko incident comes a day after another landslide destroyed three villages in Bulucheke Sub-county in Bududa District, also on the slopes of Mt Elgon in Bugisu sub-region.

county.

According to Mr Namoso, several acres of coffee plantations and homesteads were destroyed, leaving residents homeless and in fear of famine.

He, however, said this is not the first time landslides are occurring in the same area and that this time, they are ready to relocate to safer places.

"We have had a number of landslides but government has failed to relocate us to safer areas, putting our lives at risk," he said.

Mr Kibale Wambi, the former Sironko District chairperson, said about four parishes were affected by the landslides.

He named them as Zesui, Bufumpa, Bubobolo and Businyere.

Mr Fred Wanyenya, a survivor of

the catastrophe, accused government of delaying to relocate them from the disaster-prone areas.

"We are very ready to vacate this place but we have nowhere to go. Government should come in and relocate us to safer areas," he said.

Officials from the Sironko District disaster committee and Uganda Red Cross are on the ground to assess the extent of the damage.