

Kamwenge residents ask for safe water

KAMWENGE

By Francis Emorut

Residents of Kamwenge district have asked the district leadership and other stakeholders to come to their rescue and provide them with safe water.

Naomi Natukunda, the senior assistant secretary for Nyabani sub-county, said people were drinking contaminated water.

She said the worst-hit areas were Nyabani and Ntara, where boreholes had dried up and residents were consuming water from the shallow wells.

"We are afraid of waterborne diseases. Following the heavy rains, a lot is being washed into shallow wells, especially in places where open defecation is being practised," Fred Musinguzi, the LC1 chairperson of Kaburisoke village, said.

The residents made the appeal during a meeting with Kamwenge district health officials and officials from Water for People. The officials were in the area to verify the 18 villages which were declared free of open defecation by the ministries of health and water and environment.

"Since the boreholes dried up, we no longer get access to clean and safe water," Aisha Lubega, another resident, said.

During the visit, *New Vision* was able to see residents, especially children, fetching

contaminated water from the shallow wells.

Another resident, William Mukasa, said chemicals such as chlorine used to treat water were expensive for residents.

ON THE GROUND

Naomi Natukunda, the senior assistant secretary for Nyabani sub-county said the worst hit areas were Nyabani and Ntara, where boreholes had dried up and people were consuming water from the shallow wells.

Cate Nimanya, the country director of Water for People, said all affected villages had been mapped to have piped water.

"We are working with district leaders and other partners to mobilise resources and ensure piped water is availed to the communities," Nimanya said.

She said co-funding is a big component of their programme regarding water, sanitation and hygiene.

To allay the residents' fears, the Kamwenge district water officer, Annet Kobusinge, said the district was working on extending piped water to the water-stressed communities through the gravity flow scheme.

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