



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



NDDP - FC

The JOURNEY

**NAMAYINGO DISTRICT
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES**



**ENHANCING QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE
FISHING COMMUNITIES**

JUNE 20, 2022

CONTENT

7

Fishermen turned
into pupils

9

Iceland Intervention
saves namayingo forest

14

Writers' Space

15

Schools embrace
feeding programme
to improve learning

19

Iceland revolutionalises
education in Namayingo

23

Namayingo teen mother attends
school with son.

26

How Iceland has boosted
WASH in schools

The JOURNEY
of
NDDP - FC

Foreword



I am pleased to write a foreword for Namayingo district development programme for fishing communities' magazine first edition.

This communication channel is a valuable tool that will support Namayingo district local government in disseminating its vision and priorities to the public. In addition to articulating in-depth information and needs.

The magazine will inform the people about public services, explain policies, encourage people lead safe

and healthy lives and counter misinformation and disinformation. As a result, it will influence target audiences to create long term change.

I would like to appreciate the Government of Iceland for supporting the district in addressing education, Water, sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) issues.

I commend the embassy of Iceland for their financial and technical support in the development of the NDDP-FC magazine. This is in line with Access to Information Act 2005.

Thanks to the Chief Administrative officer and team for the work done. I therefore, urge the public to use the magazine as source of information in order to transform communities.

For God And My Country

Ronald Sanya
District Chairperson,
Namayingo district.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CAO's Message

Namayingo District Local Government would like to express its appreciation to Iceland government and embassy team whose commitment and support have made this NDDP-FC magazine.

The magazine was developed, designed and subjected to the development the Iceland government is doing in the district. Namayingo is implementing education and WASH programme. It is aimed at reducing poverty and facilitating improvements in livelihood and living conditions of poor population in fishing communities of the district.

Accordingly, I express my gratitude to the communication unit and the implementing departments for the contribution towards NDDP-FC magazine. We are grateful to the Iceland government for the continued support.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Edith Namayega
Chief Administrative Officer
Namayingo district.



> VISION

A developed and Harmonious community that has all the essential amenities of the life by 2040

> MISSION

To optimally utilize the available resources for quality service delivery to improve on the quality of life of the population

> MANDATE PLANNING

Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and strengthening the capacity of all staff to effectively deliver services aimed at achieving the district's vision and to bring about socio-Economic transformation of the community we serve.

> CORE VALUES

- Client focus
- Integrity
- Transparency and accountability
- Collective Responsibility

RDC's Message



I urge the community to disseminate information, create awareness about the programme and empower rights holders to demand accountability in form of improved services from the duty holders.

I appreciate the bilateral partnership between Uganda and Iceland government. The support and relationship has greatly contributed to the achievement Namayingo Local government is now counting.

As government, we have made giant steps such as democracy, good governance in an endeavor to improve the quality of life for all Ugandans. We have built a firm foundation to steer the economy for social transformation.

Through different interventions both from government and partners, our people are making positive transition from poor and subsistence living to modernity. Your support has also awakened the parents to meaningful participation in government programmes such as education, health and social economic transformation.

We look forward to working with you partners and stakeholders in implementation of all prioritized activities laid out in National Development plan III
Thank you

For God and my Country
OGAJO BARASA SULAIMAN
Resident district commissioner
Namayingo

Editorial

Corner



Dear readers,

We bring you the first publication of the journey Magazine.

This magazine is born out of our partnership with Iceland government in the implementation of Namayingo District Development Programme for Fishing Communities (NDDP-FC)

As you are aware, the first steps and inaugural moments of any journey are special, it is the same we bring you enterprising stories, features, real life stories about the new developments in Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme in the fishing communities.

In this edition, we have created space for our children to give them a different educational

experience and help schools close the literacy gap by actively participating in creative thinking and writing. We are very confident that the children's corner will appeal to a wide variety of interest as well as offering a great saving.

We hope you take the time to read what the contents of the magazine have to offer.

Betty Angatai
Communication Officer

contacts

NAMAYINGO DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- 📍 P.O.Box 64, Bugiri
- ☎ +256 (0) 772 382 931
- ☎ +256 (0) 772 418 183
- ☎ +256 (0) 774 539 351
- ✉ info@namayingo.go.ug
- ✉ namayingodistrict@gmail.com
- 🌐 www.namayingo.go.ug
- 🐦 @namayingo
- 📘 Namayingo district local government



HOW ACCOMODATION HAS IMPROVED PERFORMANCE IN NAMAYINGO DISTRICT



Namayingo has been one of the districts in Uganda with the poorest state of accommodation for both learners and teachers. The learners would have their lessons from makeshift classroom structures which usually become unusable during extremely dry as well as rainy seasons.

In the worst scenarios, the students or pupils could have lessons under tree shades. This meant staggered teaching and learning and hence high learner dropout. This high rate of dropout made the district to lose the would-be bright children to look for alternative source of engagement and for this particular case, the welcoming Lake Victoria multi-business base became the savior. Teachers would walk long

distances to duty stations and they always arrived late and tired. While still in class, they would again think of the return journey. So psychologically, they were on duty for less than four hour daily. On rainy seasons, they would be very irregular due to the muddy roads but during dry days, the teachers were always full of dust and therefore dirty.

District staff and school leadership accommodation or office space were equally uncomfortable and unbearable leading to mismanagement of records. It became a challenge to the performance of any institution without proper records kept and viewed when need arose.

Basing on the above, we are appreciative to the government and the people of Isiland for the Samaritan eye and heart that they used to rescue the community in the fishing district which is two thirds covered by lake Victoria.

You have given us many classrooms, furniture and sanitation facilities which have attracted so many children to an

extent that even those who had gone fishing have abandoned the business for formal schooling. The staff houses built in schools are both an administrative and performance improvement tool. The teachers' and pupils' rate of concentration has improved due to good accommodation and hence a very big hope of improved performance. Teachers are within the spheres of the managers' site and time wastage and late coming are now a past tense. We are destined for improved performance and hence the fight against poverty has been pushed to a higher level in this part of Uganda.

We pray to the Mighty God to bless whoever saw the need and gave a hand towards saving Namayingo community.

By Kaawo Kawere Naay
District Education Officer

FISHERMEN TURNED INTO PUPILS

By Betty Angatai

When other pupils were going to school, Emmanuel Ojiambo would be on his way to Bumeru A landing site to make ends meet. Ojiambo's daily work was to carry passengers



Ojiambo at school.

and luggage. He could go fishing at night. I joined the lake to look for survival," Ojiambo says.

Ojiambo says at first he was employed by fishermen to dry their fishing nets but he stopped due to the meagre pay.

"I could get fishing nets from boats, dry and later take them to the lake but I only earned between Sh2,000 to sh4,000 at the end of the day," He says. He adds that the money was too little for his survival and to cater for the family needs. This prompted him to join the **Kanyama** business of lifting passengers' goods off and onto boats at the landing site.

Ojiambo says that the Kanyama work was so lucrative that it opened for him doors to the world of money-making and other opportunities on the lake.

He explains that he used to charge Sh2, 000 to carry luggage and sh3, 000 for a passenger. He says some passengers could give him more money as a result of good customer care.

For Ojiambo, he never had any plans of going back to school because he had found a treasure in the fishing industry.

"Why would I even waste my time in school? I earned between Sh50,000 and sh90,000 each day and the money was just enough to sustain us," He says.

Ojiambo says that he abandoned fishing after he listened to a radio talk show on a local station. The show aired Iceland's interventions in the district.

Turning point

"I abandoned fishing to concentrate on my studies," Ojiambo says. He's now a primary seven pupil at Bumeru primary school. The school was constructed by Iceland government to improve on the learning conditions in the area.



Ojiambo (L) Interacts with Swamad Kakaire, also a former fisherman.

Ojiambo who wants to become a doctor is determined to make his dream a reality.

"I come from the family where education is not valued. I want to set an example by becoming the first doctor," Ojiambo assures. He recalls the day when he informed his mother about the decision. "My mother became worried and pondered how she will sustain the family,"

Ojiambo becomes fisher of men

When Ojiambo got the news, he spread it to his friends who were also fishermen and those that engaged in petty businesses at the landing site.

Ojiambo says that changing his colleagues' minds wasn't an easy task and it prompted most of the children to despise him.

"I am happy that I was able to convince my friend Swamad Kakaire to abandon fishing to focus on education," Ojiambo says. The duo was working for a one Nadango who has many boats at Bumeru landing site

Kakaire says that he used to earn about sh50,000 from fishing on a good day while on a bad day he would take home sh15,000.

Now, Kakaire is back to school and wants to become an electrician in future.

James Wesonga, the head teacher at Bumeru primary school says the boys are doing well in class. "We have hope in them. They are destined for first grade," Wesonga stresses



Ojiambo with his fellow pupils posing for the photo at the administration block



ICELAND INTERVENTION SAVES NAMAYINGO FORESTS



George Were, a cook in Bumeru Primary School demonstrates how to use energy saving stoves

At all schools given a facelift courtesy of Iceland aid in Namayingo local government, contemporary kitchens have taken shape with energy-saving stoves.

Unlike the conventional fireplaces that consume a lot of wood fuel, these new stoves save a lot of energy by retaining heat within their surfaces.

The end result is using much less wood, producing almost no smoke but effectively cooking a meal for the learners.

According to George Were, the school cook at Bumeru Primary School in Mutumba

sub-county, the spacious kitchen makes his job enjoyable.

"There is no more thick black smoke and I can cook in any type of clothing. The energy-saving stoves emit less heat and I do not sweat at all," Were assures.

He appreciates the firewood store room on the facility which he says helps to keep the few pieces of wood needed to cook posho and beans for the pupils.

"Gone are the days when we needed truckloads of firewood from the lakeshore forests. This state of affairs has definitely

saved our natural forests from depletion," Were claims.

He adds that the stoves remain warm long after the cooking process enabling the food to be served while still hot.

"In the past, to serve the food warm necessitated using more wood fuel to keep the fire burning. This meant more trees chopped for the sake of keeping food in a warm state," he argues.

James Wesonga, the headmaster of Burneru PS says he would spend over sh1m on wood fuel per term while using the old kitchen.

"We have since limited expenditure on wood. A few pieces of wood picked by pupils and stored in the kitchen can prove useful to us," Wesonga notes.

According to him, the energy-saving stoves should be spread out to all schools to stop the uncontrolled depletion of the district's natural forests.

"A recent research placed schools at the top of the list of destroyers of natural forests for wood fuel. This is one sure way to end this menace," he adds.

Cornelius Tabu, the deputy headmaster of Buchumba Primary School in Banda sub-county shares a similar view saying just a few pieces of dry cassava stems from the school garden can cook a meal.

"These energy-saving stoves are excellent at preserving wood fuel. It is a sure way of saving our forests from being destroyed for firewood," Tabu says.

Dismal data

The statistics from Namayingo district forest department show that a total of 546 hectares of the local government land is central forest reserve.

However, much of this territory has been encroached on and cleared for firewood,

timber, building poles and charcoal purposes among others.

The deforestation has left large areas exposed to erosion and other degradation practices making our soil attain an inferior quality.

Some of the reasons as to why deforestation is on the increase include high need for fuel wood or fire wood, poverty and weak law enforcement.

According to Dominic Ouma, the LCI of Buchumba in Banda sub-county, the increased cutting of trees has left some hitherto forested hills bare like the Syabona hill in Banda.

Go green

Ouma welcomes the reforestation taking place at all schools revamped with Iceland government aid.

"The grass is growing to occupy spaces left by the pavers and concrete walkways. Even the trees planted are coming up to offer good shade which is a great intervention," he observes.

He argues that the trees will not only provide shade from sunlight but also purify the air the people breathe.



A teacher in charge of welfare supervises George Were, a cook (with apron) as he prepares to serve meals to pupils

Baraza notes that some tree species have been planted on the school compound to improve the green cover and also address climate change.

"We also brought in paspalum to fill the spaces left in between walkways and paved parking lot. This will give our pupils a green mat to sit on during their free time," he says.

Wesonga explains that maize crops have been grown within the grass patches to prevent pupils

from trespassing.

"Once they see tall maize, they cannot walk through easily. Since this grows in just three months, by the time of harvest, our grass cover would have taken shape," he says.

He believes a green environment adds more beauty to the beautiful landscape created at the recently refurbished school premises.

Enhancing Literacy in Namayingo district.

Namayingo district received a donation of home schooling textbooks from the government of Iceland. This was aimed at improving children's learning culture and to promote quality education.

Vincent Makali, the senior education officer says that the intervention was timely and has greatly improved on the pupils' learning culture and performance. He says that before Iceland's intervention, district experienced depreciating literacy levels of school going children.

"Over the years, the district has faced challenges in literacy. Many children could neither read nor write," Makali says.

The National Assessment of progress in Education report released in 2018 placed Namayingo among the worst districts in Literacy countrywide. According to Uwezo Uganda Eighth learning Assessment report of 2019, the percentage of primary

three to primary seven children who could read and apprehend a basic story at primary two level dropped from 39% in 2015 to 33 % in 2018.

Early results from the programme show that it is having the desired outcomes.

Bernard Wabwire, a primary five pupil can't hide his happiness after he learnt how to read.

"I am so proud of my reading skills and I like to read stories to my classmates, Wabwire says. He adds that the books distributed have all subjects.

Rebecca Naigaga, a primary six pupil at Bumeru commended Iceland government for the

support. She says the intervention has improved on her reading skills.

"At home, I read messages and I interpret to my parents" Naigaga says. She adds that her parents didn't go to school and now she's the only resource in the family.

Peter Wandera, a pupil recalls the days when he used to share a text book with about 15 of his classmates during English lesson.

At least 50,000 home schooling text books have been distributed to primary level learners in the district.



A girl showing the mother a home schooling text book donated to her by ICELAND

What do you have to say about the new look of your school?



Yakin Malagwe P5, Pupil

I like my school's new look. The buildings are user friendly to even children with disabilities. I can easily access the classrooms and toilet without being supported.



Patrick Okoth, P7

I remember we used to compete for a pit latrine with our teachers. The school had only one pit latrine stance that was shared. The situation forced some children to ease in the bush but now we have many latrine stances.



Ketra Taaka P7

We used to study under trees shades. We would miss lessons during the rainy seasons. With the construction of new classrooms, our education standards will improve.

What change(s) do you notice in your school environment compared how it was in the previous years.



Nassim Kawala, P7

I would miss school whenever I was in menstruation periods. I found it difficult to attend lessons because we lacked space for changing. The school pit latrines were dilapidated making it hard to change pads. I am happy because I can comfortably change and attend lessons without being noticed.



Christine Nabirye, P7

In our school, we have 12 beautiful classrooms equipped with desks. Previously, we had only six classrooms and were in bad state. Our teachers also lacked a staffroom and conducted meetings under trees.

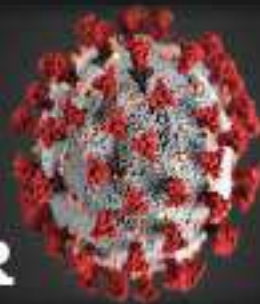


Caren Nafula P7 Isinde primary school

The sanitation status in our school has greatly improved.

"There is no more sharing. Teachers, boys and girls are each using their own facility which is a good arrangement.

DISTRICT GETS MEDICAL SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT FOR COVID-19 RESPONSE



At this time when COVID-19 has continued to devastate the country, availability of medical supplies and equipment has become key in saving lives of both patients and health workers.

The Iceland government donated medical supplies and equipment to the district to boost the fight against the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

The medical supplies worth sh.500m include 20 oxygen cylinders, 6 BP digital machines, 24 clinical thermometers, 26 hospital beds, 26 hospital mattresses, 20 gas cylinders, 5 wheel chairs, 2 microscopes, 15 infra-red temperature screeners, 3 motorcycles, liquid soap, masks, tents among others.

Edith Namayega, the chief administrative officer says before the intervention, the district grappled with a number of challenges to fight the pandemic. She cites challenges of lack of a district hospital, ambulances, medical supplies and porous entry points.

"Most COVID- 19 patients who were in critical conditions were referred to other facilities for better treatment because our facilities could not

handle such cases due to lack of equipment and supplies," Namayega recalls.

She commends the Iceland government for the support that is aimed at saving lives and promoting healthier living environment.

Mathias Mangeni, the Assistant district health officer says the donation is aimed at supporting the district in responding to COVID- 19 pandemic. He says "Our health workers will now be protected from high infection rate and related threats arising from shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in health facilities.

Speaking during the handover of supplies to the district, the ambassador of Iceland to Uganda, H.E Thordis Sigur Dardottir says that her government is committed to support Uganda in improving lives.

Although the Iceland government walked the journey by donating medical supplies, the district still faces constraints in the health sector.

With a total population of 237, 000 People, the district doesn't have a hospital. Most of the serious cases are referred to distant health facilities in the neighboring districts. This has led to complications and deaths as a result of delayed access to treatment.



Workers Offload medical equipment donated to the District by Iceland Government.

COVID 19 GUIDELINES



SANITISE
YOUR HANDS



WASH
YOUR HANDS



WEAR
A MASK



REPORT
ANY CASE



AVOID
HAND SHAKE



MAINTAIN A 2M
SOCIAL DISTANCE



Writers' Space

I want to use this opportunity to appreciate the goodness of God for the support and donation that has been provided to us by donors and children of Namoyiga in portraits.

You have built a truly educational block Namoyiga Local Government (L.G.), provided furniture, improved the environment by providing trees, providing medicines, water, and ensuring their children and staff.

I also thank Namoyiga Local Government for equipping our school with competent and committed staff that have improved the teaching and learning process.

I therefore report that teaching and learning at Bachumbi P.S. is at a better state and I am very glad.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the children and we agree you that your voice will not go unheard and your donations will be put to full use.

I wish you the best, thank you.

By Isaac Munda Raso
Principal

DAVID KIRISA TERRY
0120861555

THE FIRST SCHOOL

Our first school school Bureni is 1. I am one of the students of of Bureni Primary School and I am in Primary school.

Bureni Primary School is located in Namoyiga district, Matunda sub-county, Busitema parish, Bureni H. In the past years, Bureni had only six classrooms and some were leaking and there were no children to learn when the rain was raining. We had few teachers and we could get free first grades.

But now, because the mission has come to Bureni, we have good classrooms. The school is well equipped. The compound is big and large. Right now everything is good.

Thank you to the things given we shall get more first grades than ever.

Thank the local community for the support given to us.

Terry

Kirisa Terry

0120861016

A Story about Bureni primary school.

I am a 631555 Namoyiga 17 and am in primary school.

This is how Bureni was a school used to look like.

Previously, Bureni primary school had inadequate classrooms, Teachers' quarters, latrines were also not enough and teacher were sharing with pupils.

Currently, Bureni primary school is now a transformed school and a model one that everyone who has been said to learn from.

Bureni Primary School now has enough classrooms, teachers, latrines and enough desks as well.

However, I take this opportunity to thank the local government, Namoyiga District local government for the great work they have done in Bureni as a school and the whole community. I am the local government, Namoyiga District government, the staff and my country.

David Kirisa Terry
0120861003
Bureni Primary School

A story about Bureni Primary School.

THE FIRST SCHOOL

I am one of the students of Bureni Primary School. The school of Bureni School is very old school and even you can see it in it because had leaking clocks, poor kitchen, a small number of teachers and it had many number of children because it is the only school in our village which is found in Namoyiga district, Matunda sub-county, Busitema parish, Bureni H. village.

But do you know God loves us he brought the people of many to Bureni. When he brought people to Bureni, the local community and government for us. Good classrooms, good teachers, many number of teachers had been brought, many latrines had been constructed and now we are in good environment.

We shall not forget the mission God made for us. And local community and Namoyiga district government.

Now we shall move with flying colors. I am a model school. We shall get more first grades than they did get in the past.

Goodbye

David Kirisa

SCHOOLS EMBRACE FEEDING PROGRAMME TO IMPROVE LEARNING

By Betty Angatai

Brenda Anyango, almost dropped out of school due to hunger. She could hardly get any meal for the whole day in school.

"Before the school fully initiated the feeding programme, I would go home for midday break feeling hungry but there wasn't any thing for me to eat. This left me low and I felt like never going back to attend the afternoon lessons," Anyango says.

The 14-year-old pupil of Bumeru primary school narrates that she lacked concentration in class whenever she didn't get food to eat.

"Nothing is difficult like studying on an empty stomach. You experience low energy and you can't concentrate at all in class," Anyango says. She recalls the days she would dodge lessons.

Today, Anyango is one of the happiest pupils after a compulsory feeding policy was introduced in her school.

"Now that I have lunch at school it is easy for me to finish the whole day studying. The school meals are good and served from a clean place," she says.

She says that prior to the intervention, most pupils were unable to attend school because they had no access to meals both at school and home.

Patricia Nabwire Wandera, a primary six pupil at Bumeru PS recalls the day she almost lost her life after eating cold foods at home.

"I experienced sharp pains in the abdomen after I feasted on the supper leftovers. I didn't know what happened next but I came to senses when I was admitted in a clinic," Nabwire says.

James Wesonga, the head teacher at Bumeru primary school says that a number of children missed school because of lack of meals.

"We normally experienced very low turn up of pupils especially for afternoon lessons. We investigated and it was attributed to lack of

midday meals," Wesonga says.

He says some children were forced to do odd jobs and work despite their age just to earn money for one meal to keep them going.

Wesonga says the lunch incentive has not only helped to keep children in school but most of them will now be able to complete their primary education level.

At Isinde primary, parents have fully taken charge towards their children's welfare in a bid to improve the learning outcomes.

Julius Maloba, the Isinde's chairperson school management committee says there has been an improvement in the school's opening time.

"Since the school reopened in 2022, the new day starts at 8:00am and ends at 5:00 pm. Some pupils in upper primary are even able to take on extra lessons in the evening," Maloba says. He says that prior, most pupils would turn up after 9:00 am and never returned after lunch break.

At Buchumba primary school, baby-steps have so far been taken towards feeding pupils.

"At least 15% of pupils can access midday meals.



Pupils being served porridge during breaktime



Pupils enjoy their mid-day meal at school.

"We are still engaging parents to fully contribute towards their children's welfare," says Connellus Tabu, the deputy head teacher.

In Mutumba primary school, so far a total of 600 pupils access meals while at Busiro Church of God primary school 560 pupils have contributed for meals.

In Bukewa primary at least 421 out of the total population of 1,384 pupils take porridge at school. According to Fred Nalwenge, the Bukewa's head teacher, each pupil contributes five kilograms of Maize to have porridge for the whole term.

According to the Education outcome indicators baseline survey 2019 carried out by the planning department only 28,745 pupils accessed meals against 56,292 total school going population in the district.

Vincent Makali, the Senior Education Officer says that feeding program has been embraced in most schools.

"The results are evident. Most of the schools including those supported by Iceland government have so far registered an increase in the number of children feeding in schools. This has not only improved on attendance but also overall enrollment," Makali says.

He however, noted low figures of feeding in some schools and suggested the need to scale up efforts for school feeding.

Christine Nabwire, the Namayingo district Nutritionist called upon stakeholders to undertake efforts to feed children in order to improve on learning.

"Feeding contributes to better health and nutrition which allows children to learn and perform in class," Nabwire says. She adds that there is need to empower communities with nutrition sessions to enable proper development of children.

"The feeding has attracted more children in school because they are assured of meals. This has also contributed to a reduction in absenteeism and dropout rate,"

Wesonga Says



Ambassador Thordis Sigur Dardottir hands over a motorcycle to sub-county community development officer at the District Headquarters

Namayingo gets new vehicles, Motorcycles

Namayingo district local government has been boosted with vehicles and motorcycles. The three double cabin pick-ups trucks, staff van and eight motorcycles were donated to the district by Iceland government to improve service delivery in the fishing communities.

The district chairperson, Ronald Sanya, says the pressing issue of transport had been sorted.

"For long, the district has been facing challenges of transport. Most vulnerable communities were not reached out and this affected service delivery in communities," Sanya says.

The district is implementing a programme dubbed Namayingo district development programme for fishing communities (NDDP-FC) in the sub counties of Mutumba, Buhemba and Banda. The programme supported by the government of Iceland aims at improving safe water, sanitation, hygiene and education developments.

Edith Namayega, the Chief Administrative officer, says that the district also received two speed boats with engines to ease monitoring of project activities in islands.

She urges the technical team to use the vehicles

for the benefit of the communities. The motorcycles were distributed to the sub county community development officers from the three fishing sub counties. Others were distributed to sectors of Education, Audit, Finance, and Registry.

Sulaiman Ogajo Barasa, the Resident District Commissioner, commended the government of Uganda for creating stability that has attracted development partners in the country.

He urges the community development officers to reach out communities and show positive impact in service delivery.

Mildred Adundo Nyanja, a beneficiary, applauds the government of Iceland for the great support. She says transport challenge has now reduced.

Namayega adds that the Iceland government also donated an assortment of equipment to the district. She says "We received 20 computers, printers and other basic office tools,"



Why we should encourage communities to plant trees to address climate change

Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals 12, 13, 14 and 15) sets targets for combating the effects of climate change and sustainable management of water resources, land, terrestrial ecosystems, forests and the environment. Aspiration 1, Goal 7 of Africa Agenda 2063 calls for putting in place measures to sustainably manage the continent's rich biodiversity, forests, land and waters and using mainly adaptive measures to address climate change risks. The EAC Vision 2050, pillar 34 targets sustainable utilization of natural resources, environment management and conservation with enhanced value addition, with 92.9 percent of population having access to safe water. The Uganda Vision 2040 calls for development of appropriate adaptation and mitigation strategies on Climate Change to ensure that Uganda is sufficiently cushioned from any adverse impact brought by climate change.

Uganda's vision 2040 aspires to pursue economic development and socioeconomic transformation that is inclined on the principles of the green economy such as equity, environment sustainability, resource efficiency, climate change adaptation and mitigation. Namayingo as a district is heavily dependent on natural resources for livelihoods i.e. soils, fishing, water, forests, wetlands, lakeshores and biodiversity and due to human activity, massive deforestation, wetland and lakeshores have been heavily affected causing a lot of environmental challenges on the fragile ecosystem. The impact of human activity on the environment has greatly exposed the



communities to the hard effects of climate change manifested by prolonged dry spells, unpredictable rainfall patterns, floods, hailstorms, reducing water levels among others. These impacts cut across all sectors therefore,

There is need to ensure general environmental restoration through tree planting especially around the water catchment areas and fishing communities.

The government of Uganda is equally promoting feeding in all schools across the country and most of the schools use fuel wood for cooking causing deforestation in the communities. There is need for replenishment and this forms a basis for Namayingo to engage the schools and the surrounding communities to play a role in environmental restoration activities for sustainability including promotion and use of energy saving stoves in schools that will help in the reduction of fuel wood consumption.

Namayingo district natural resources department with support from Iceland has embarked on a number of environmental conservation activities that support in combating climate change challenges ranging from tree planting in the water catchment communities, establishment of tree nursery beds in schools for demonstration to the learners at schools, planting woodlots in schools, sensitization of communities on the sustainable management of the environment, use of energy saving stoves in schools among others.

The writer is Alex Busagwa,

The district Natural Resources officer - Namayingo.



ICELAND REVOLUTIONALISES EDUCATION IN NAMAYINGO

Although the Namayingo district education sector was literally limping a few years ago, there are indicators of starting to run, after the government of Iceland came in to assist, writes *Betty Angatai*. Last year, the Iceland government through the project dubbed Namayingo District Development Programme for Fishing Communities (NDDP-FC) embarked on the construction of schools.

According to Finnbugi Anarson Rutur, the Iceland Embassy's head of Co-operation, the programme is aimed at improving education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in the fishing communities.



Primary one Pupils attending a lesson at Bumeru Primary School

A total of three schools have already had buildings on site rehabilitated as well as have new structures in place. At Busiro church of God, Mutumba and Bukewa primary schools, the civil works are ongoing to make the institutions better learning environments.

At the lakeside Bumeru Primary School located in Mutumba sub-county, the locals call it their 'new University' in reference to its expansive nature as well as contemporary shiny outlook.



Pupils interacting during break time in front of the new classroom blocks

Abubaker Muwanika, the LCI chairman of Bumeru B explains that it is difficult of late to force children to go to school.

"The nice buildings themselves serve as an attraction to lure learners into school. Government also sent us more teachers hence the standard of education is better," Muwanika says.

He cites the example of Swamad Kakaire and Emmanuel Ojiambo, former fishermen who are now concentrating on their books as candidates.

According to Kakaire, the urge to become an electrician in future prompted him to abandon fishing and study in the spacious classrooms built recently.

"I also want to become an engineer. I was earning about sh50, 000 from fishing on a good day while on a bad day I would take home sh15, 000 but I stopped," Ojiambo testifies.

Vincent Makali, the senior education officer says the new developments have wooed back children to school.

"We are happy that a number of children have resumed school. Most of them had abandoned school to engage in fishing, gold mining and other



A temporary classroom structure constructed by the parents of Bumeru Primary School

petty businesses,” Makali says. He noted that many children in the fishing communities face a number of challenges that hinder their completion of the education level.

Ronald Kasadha, the chairman of the School Management Committee notes that the facelift has changed the mindset of the majority beachside fishing community.

“These locals had a bad attitude about the school that was in a dilapidated state with the headmaster always demanding for cash from parents. In fact some would encourage their children to dodge school and avoid the ‘begging’ head teacher,” Kasadha says.

He recounts that if the headmaster was not demanding for development fee, he was sending children for lunch fee and so on.

“We are happy because that is behind us now and nobody can send a child for money to build a school that is developed. Even the meals are better as we use energy-saving stoves,” Kasadha asserts. James Wesonga, the headmaster explains that initially the school had only four semi-permanent classrooms attended to by eight teachers.

“Now we have 20 classrooms, administration block that accommodates offices of the head teacher, staff room, senior male and female

teachers,” Wesonga says.

Afani Mbiro, the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) chairman says parents are so appreciative of the revamped nature of the school.

“My only appeal to government is to assist further and set up dormitories. There are children who commute from the islands yet crossing the lake on a daily basis is risky,” Mbiro notes.

Cornelius Tabu, the deputy head teacher of Buchumba Primary School in Banda sub-county equally reveals that the new structures have attracted more learners to school.

Dominic Ouma, the Buchumba LCI chairman says the fencing of the school with aid from Iceland has improved the safety of pupils.

“Children no longer loiter in the trading centres during class hours. This is a major achievement that will contribute significantly to improved grades,” Ouma claims.

Approaching Isinde Primary School via Iceland road gives any first-time visitor a feel of the glamour awaiting him or her at the institute that sits on a hillside.

The uniform maroon-coloured iron-sheets on buildings complete with solar panels give the school a fresh look.

Hanington Mukaga, a parent says the well furnished

new classrooms give hope for better results in Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE).

"Our children now sit on desks, the teachers have well constructed new quarters and solar power which enables teaching even at night. We are so grateful to Iceland funders for this arrangement," Mukaga says.

Robert Baraza, a P7 teacher at Isinde Primary School says this is the first time candidates are sitting in a comfortable environment and it could deliver better grades.

Wilber Egesa, the head teacher at Isinde primary school boasts of enough infrastructures. He says some learners used to study under tree shades while others in the Anglican Church at the school. He says the school's enrollment rose to 868 pupils compared to 2019 where the school had only 538. Steven Lumala, the co-ordinator for Namayingo district development programme for fishing communities, says that the government of Iceland plans to improve all the 56 primary schools in the fishing communities, in phases.

The \$8m programme for (2021-2023) aims at reducing poverty, improving livelihood quality of life for the poor population in the fishing communities of Mutumba, Banda and Buhemba sub counties.

Training

The Chief Administrative officer, Edith Namayega says Iceland government has contributed to the general capacity support of the district.

"The district has received pre-programme support in institutional and human capacity building activities to address critical capacity gaps," Namayega said.

In addition, a series of trainings aimed at enhancing capacities of the education department team, teachers and members of the school management committees have also been conducted. Namayega also says Iceland is funding an upgrading programme for teachers. The 50 teachers selected will further their education in

different universities.

"This is a Godsend opportunity to improve skills of our teachers and after the training, they will be able to adapt the changing realities in education sector," Namayega said. She adds that the teachers' needs assessment that was conducted by Mwalimu Educational consult in 2021 revealed that most teachers have limited foundational teaching approaches and professional skills.

Mbiro emphasizes the need for more teachers' training so that the learners can be taught by a well-trained team that can deliver good results.

Challenges cited

Wesonga discloses that with an increased school population of 1, 878 at Bumeeru PS, there is definitely need for more space.

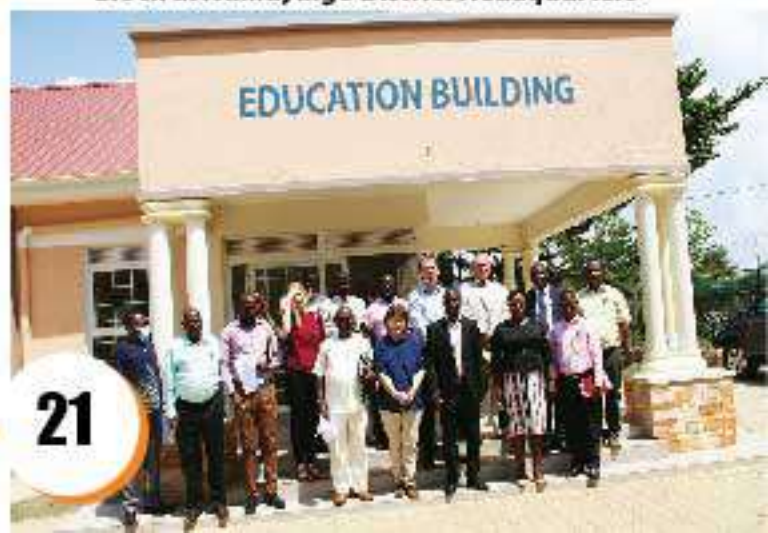
"We are glad the Iceland government helped us to have more buildings. However, the classes can sustain 1, 200 pupils comfortably yet the number has shot up drastically," Wesonga says.

He adds that even the four staff units constructed aren't enough for the 15 teachers on government payroll as well as 10 recruited under PTA undertaking.

"Actually we have decided to give each teacher just a room to ensure a big number stays near school. This enables them easily attend to learners even during prep time," Wesonga says.

He laments about the bad nature of the roadways which worsens when it rains complicating movement of day scholars to and from school.

District officials pose for a photo with Iceland Delegation at the newly constructed Education Block at Namayingo District Headquarters



Pictorial



Head of Mission Thordis with pupils of Bumeru Primary School during her monitoring visit



Head of Mission Thordis installing Iceland road signpost at Isinde



Head of Mission Thordis officiating at the breaking of the ground for the construction of an Education Administration Block at the District Headquarters



The Embassy of Iceland Team monitoring the progress of the construction works at Busiro Church of God Primary School



District Councillors monitoring Buchumba Primary School

NAMAYINGO TEEN MOTHER ATTENDS SCHOOL WITH SON

Although mothers are often left home as children go to school, for five-year-old Emmanuel, he goes to school with mum.

Emmanuel from Bumeru B village, Mutumba sub-county of Namayingo district attends the nursery section of Bumeru Primary School.

Abubaker Muwanika, the LCI chairman, reveals that he is aware of the mother and son attending the same school in the neighbourhood.

"The government working with Iceland donors revamped Bumeru PS recently. Since the school has good facilities, many parents want their children to study from there," Muwanika says.

He argues that it must have been the status quo that prompted Aisha (not her real name) the mother, to bring her son to the same institution.

Isah Nasabu, the mother to Aisha, explains that while her daughter was in P7 in 2017, she was impregnated by one Dickson Bwire Sibagaya from Lumino village in Busia district.

Defiler disappears

According to Nasabu, the defiler took off to Kenya after realizing that his action was a criminal offence.

"I wanted to have him arrested because he had interfered with my daughter's education. That was when he fled into Kenya just like most lawbreakers do in Namayingo after committing offences," she says.

Nasabu notes that the dad has through emissaries attempted to steal the child from the grandmother's place.

"That is why I am ever alert and must know my grandson's whereabouts all the time. I know he is the bait that would help me nab that

good-for-nothing dad of his," she claims.

Aisha says her child's father only gave her the family name for the boy before he stopped communication.

"He promised me heaven on earth but ended up running away. I think this is a lesson to other schoolgirls to learn from," Aisha says.

Nasabu discloses that he suffered from pneumonia almost four years ago and it has somehow affected his general health.

"He therefore needs some close regular observations mainly during the wet season. The beachside locality dictates that he is exposed to occasional strong winds from the lake which may



Aisha with her child at Bumeru Primary School.

complicate the condition," she says.

She adds that as a farmer dealing in matooke, her income often falls short of meeting the medical expenses for the grandson.

Second Chance

James Wesonga, the headmaster of Bumeru Primary School narrates that the mother and son

are safe within the well-fenced compound. He observes that the boy rarely disturbs the candidate mum except when he is hungry and needs a sh100 coin to buy something during breakfast time at 1040am.

"We have managed to have the school fence as well as a gate courtesy of our Iceland donors. This has secured the 1, 878 learners on location," Wesonga stresses.

He says that he is happy that the mother and son are studying under his care unlike in most instances where a pregnancy spells doom to the girl-child.

"We have set a good example that a teen mother can still return to school. She is competing favourably with her fellow candidates and we are hoping for the best in Primary Leaving Examinations," Wesonga says.

Challenges cited

Nasabu says due to her meager earnings, she has

not yet procured a school uniform for her grandson.

Wesonga says the distance moved from the village to school becomes impassable every time it rains due to its muddy nature.

"This scenario at times stops the son from attending lessons. It is a similar situation when it rains in the afternoons and delays the movement back home," he says.

Future prospects

Nasabu hopes that her daughter would go through education and become a responsible member of society.

"Her sister was equally in a similar dilemma but managed to complete school. She recently acquired a diploma certificate and can fend for herself," Nasabu notes.

Aisha is determined to become a successful woman in the future so she looks at the past as the stepping stone to success.

BUIKWE'S EXCHANGE VISIT

Bulkwe team visits Namayingo to benchmark on the implementation of Iceland programme.

The team visited education and water projects supported by Iceland government in the district in Mutumba and Banda sub counties.

Betty Nakindu, the deputy chief administrative officer for Bulkwe says the visit was aimed at sharing experiences, good practices, and approaches.

Geoffrey Kiruhira, Bulkwe CAO tipped Namayingo team on improving impact of Iceland programme in communities through improved livelihood and education performance.



Namayingo District Chairperson, Ronald Sanya (R) interacts with CAO -Bulkwe, Geoffrey Kiruhira



NDDP - FC Coordinator, Steven Lumala (L) sharing with Bulkwe Delegation During their Visit in Mutumba Primary School

Improving safe water access in rural communities

Despite being covered by Lake Victoria, access to safe and clean water is still a challenge to many locals in Namayingo district.

Most of the people draw water directly from the lake and unprotected ponds which has exposed them to diseases.

"A number of locals use traditional sources to access water for drinking and domestic use," Says Wilberforce Egessa Odwori, the Buhemba LC3 chairperson.

Aidha Nabwire, another resident says "We collect water from ponds that are shared with animals and receive all the contaminated surface run-off water during the rains,"

Iceland Intervenes

In a bid to improve safe water access, the Iceland government through Namayingo district development programme for fishing communities has embarked on construction of spring wells and rehabilitation of boreholes in the fishing communities.

So far, a total of 50 boreholes have been rehabilitated and 12 spring wells constructed in the fishing communities of Buhemba, Banda and Mutumba.

Joshua Wabusa, the district water officer, says the district water coverage now stands at **61%**

"Water has been a challenge in this area. We have been getting it from un protected well shared with animals," Evelyn Nafula says.

"I am very happy our spring well has been constructed.



Pupils quench their thirst from a rehabilitated borehole.

She adds that due to lack of access to safe water, many residents have been walking to the neighbouring Kenya.

The situation had forced us to walk to Kenya just to get safe water," Nafula says.

"You see it was not easy to get water here. We competed with animals and to get good water, it would require one to wake up between 4:00am to 5:00am to collect before it could get contaminated," she adds.

She says most children missed school because they spent a whole day looking for water.

Joel Wandera, a resident says they have been relieved off water crisis related issues in their village. He adds that they have been grappling with water challenges after their only borehole broke down years back.

"This will keep pupils especially the girl-child safe. Lack of water at times exposed girls to lustful men while they trek the 5km journey to the beach to get the precious liquid," Wandera narrates. He says the facility is saving lives of the populace.



Girls collect water from Nahalga Spring.



Pupils washing hands during breaktime.

By Betty Angatal

Since time immemorial, the Namayingo lakeside area has had a problematic water supply with the underground option as unsafe as the lake source.

Little wonder that when the Iceland government came in to improve the water coverage, the sole solution was rain harvesting from the newly constructed school blocks.

The water tanks with ranges of up to 10,000 liters have proved vital to school communities every time it rains. Unfortunately, the dry season implies the school taps run dry with children moving back to collecting water from the nearby Lake Victoria.

Bad Background

James Wesonga, the headmaster of Bumeru Primary School in Mutumba sub-county explains that the institution had only two latrines serving a school population of 1,226.

"That was before Iceland aid came in. This meant the children would share one as the teachers use the other," Wesonga says.

HOW ICELAND HAS BOOSTED WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE IN SCHOOLS

He lamented that the status quo prompted inevitable open defecation to take place as some children would simply rush to nearby bushes.

Wilber Egesa, a head teacher at Isinde Primary School says initially, they had only one pit latrine shared by over 530 pupils and eight (8) teachers.

"There were instances when a queue would arise outside the latrine. This had both teachers and learners competing for the place of convenience," Egesa stresses.

Barbara Anyango, a P7 pupil says some pupils would just run uphill into the bushes and empty their bowels from there.

"However, a downpour could easily wash such excreta back into the school compound. In fact this made the premises unhygienic," Anyango notes.

Current status

Wesonga discloses that Bumeru PS now has 20 stances on four latrines built with aid from the Iceland government.

"This is quite appropriate for the present school population of 1,878. Our school is a better place to live in," he says.

He adds that a total of eight rainwater harvesting tanks with 10,000litre capacity have been installed to trap the liquid falling off the roofs of the new buildings.

Hanington Mukaga, a parent of Isinde PS appreciates the three VIP latrines now on location saying it has greatly improved the sanitation status of the school.

"There is no more sharing. Teachers, boys and girls are each using their own facility which is a good arrangement," Mukaga says.

Cornelius Tabu, the deputy head



A newly constructed VIP pit latrine at Bumeru Primary School in Mutumba Sub county

teacher of Buchumba Primary School in Banda sub-county says the school was given eight rain harvesting tanks under Iceland aid.

He discloses that the school now has separate washrooms for girls, boys as well as staff.

"The girls section has an incinerator for burning up their used sanitary pads. In the past, they would simply throw them with the other rubbish soiling the premises," Tabu says.

Water woes

According to Tabu, the rain harvesting method makes wet seasons to be a period of plenty but this isn't the case during the dry season.

"Our children have to walk to the Lake Victoria shores to collect water when the tanks run dry. This occasionally happens during the dry season," Tabu reveals.

He argues that the movement to the lake exposes the children to attacks by man-eating crocodiles common along the shoreline.

"A school child from another school was eaten by a croc not so long ago. So we encourage our learners to move in groups and exercise caution while drawing water from the lake," he says.

Baraza notes that pupils broke some taps due to their playful nature and curiosity about the new water supply system installed in school.



An old pit latrine at Buchumba Primary School

He says the unsafe water puts the children's lives in jeopardy as it could cause waterborne diseases like cholera.

"There are also regular bilharzia infections due to the unsafe water used. The water stress is a major problem that needs to be addressed once and for all," Baraza says.

The Assistant District Health Officer, Mathias Mangeni commended the government of Iceland for designing a programme addressing the specific challenges affecting children in the fishing communities.

He notes that a number of girls dropped out of school due to poor sanitation facilities, failure to maintain menstrual hygiene, lack of water, teenage pregnancies, and early marriage, among others. According to Rebecca

Namukisa, a P7 pupil, gone are the days when the girls would run home at the onset of their monthly periods.

"Nowadays we have bathrooms with water for cleaning up. In no time one would be fresh enough to return to class and resume studies," Namukisa narrates.

She says that the incinerators to burn their used sanitary towels and the washrooms for cleaning up give a clean and safe environment.

Tabu hails the Iceland government for providing the girl-child with free sanitary towels which contributes significantly to their stay in school.

"In the past, girls would stay home due to lack of sanitary towels. Some parents cannot raise that sh3,000 for a packet of pads every month," Tabu assures.

Wesonga notes that the laying of pavers at the parking lot and cemented walkways on the compound makes the place very hygienic.

"The run off that would dirty the compound has been checked.

Our learners and teachers now walk on clean surfaces that are free of germs in muddy environs," he says.

"The girls will now remain longer in schools. This will lead to a decline on issues of teenage pregnancies, where

Namayingo is closed to 30% in all antenatal care attendances," Mangeni says.

MEDIA WATCH

Iceland to support fishing communities

NAMAYINGO

By Betty Angatai

Iceland will continue supporting Uganda's fishing communities in a bid to improve people's lives, development, Iceland's ambassador to Uganda, Orradottir Ramette, has said.

The targeted communities will benefit from improved safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and education developments. Speaking to residents at Isinde Primary School, Buhemba sub-county, Namayingo district during a fact-finding mission, Orradottir noted that a number of schools are in an appalling state and should be supported.

Namayingo district is earmarked for a five-year funding programme from the Iceland International Development Agency (ICEIDA) program targeting the fishing communities. The Icelandic delegation also visited Buchumba Primary School in Banda sub-county.

"We want to see every child stay in school, complete the whole cycle of education," Orradottir said, adding that they are creating opportunities for every child to access and attain core skills and abilities. She said this will help them live productive and fulfilling lives.

Orradottir said Iceland has been supporting Kalangala district in education and infrastructure development, among others.

"We improved the status of education in Kalangala. We will also boost the development plans for Buikwe and Namayingo districts," she said.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Ronald Sanya, the district chairperson, said the initiative will increase the enrolment of pupils in schools in the fishing communities.

Vincent Makali, the district senior education officer, said: "Iceland's intervention is a relief, will foster development through making education more accessible to the less privileged areas."

He cited the lack of safe water, teachers' housing, educational materials and proper classrooms as main challenges facing their education sector.

Buchumba Primary School has 728 pupils, only six classrooms," Makali said, adding that some pupils conduct lessons under trees.

Ronald Sanya, the district chairperson, said the initiative will increase the enrolment of pupils in schools in most of the fishing communities.

He noted that a number of children drop out of school to engage in fishing and other businesses.

"One of our main challenges is that 56 out of the government-aided primary schools are located on islands and at landing sites (fishing communities) in such areas, children tend to abandon school to engage in fishing," Sanya said.

He added that this has contributed to the high levels of illiteracy and poverty in the district, which now stand at 69.9%.

"Children and youth need to be empowered so that they can live a sustainable life. This can be achieved through holistic education," Sanya said.

Samir McCarthy, a member of the parliament from Iceland, pledged total support for Namayingo district.

"I have seen children taking unsafe water from ponds. I have noted a number of challenges in the area. We pledge to support the district to fill

NAMAYINGO

By Betty Angatai

The young Namayingo district has been grappling with challenges in education sector, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Many children have abandoned school to engage in fishing, gold mining and petty businesses, while others drop out due to poor infrastructure development, lack of safe water, poor sanitation facilities, early marriage, teenage pregnancies and failure to maintain menstrual hygiene, among others.

The Namayingo district education officer, Nany Kaseve, said children from the fishing communities were the most affected.

"One of the 84 government-aided primary schools, 56 are located in fishing communities," Kaseve said.

Buhemba Primary School has 1,265 pupils, with only six classrooms and eight teachers, according to Wilber Otumbo, the headteacher.

Mary Nahirwe, a pupil at the school, said: "We do not attend lessons whenever it rains because it gets flooded under the tree, where we study from."

She added that pupils in other classes conduct lessons in semi-permanent structures put up by the school.

To boost the education sector, the government of Iceland recently launched a project dubbed, Namayingo District Development Programme for Fishing Communities (NDDP-FC), aimed at enhancing education and improving access to safe and clean water and hygiene in the fishing communities.

Speaking during the launch of the project at the district headquarters, the Icelandic ambassador to Uganda, Thordis Sigur Dardottir, said the programme is aimed at reducing poverty and improving the livelihood and living conditions of the poor population in the fishing communities in the district.

The programme, worth \$8m, will be implemented through education project and economic empowerment of fishing communities in Buhemba, Mutumba and Banda sub-counties.

The programme will also focus on

Namayingo gets \$8m education, hygiene boost

PHOTO BY BETTY ANGATAI



Dardottir officiating at the breaking of the ground ceremony for the construction of an education administration block in Namayingo district recently

FACT CHECK
56
The number of schools located in fishing communities.

women and youth projects, as well as implementing plans on general capacity building support to the district.

"We want to reduce poverty through providing basic education for children," Dardottir said.

She said the project will increase access and utilisation of safe basic facilities and services in schools to promote development.

During the function, Dardottir also handed over three vehicles and eight motorcycles to help in the project implementation.

The Bukooli Islands MP, Peter Okweh, said this holistic approach of the planned intervention will help vulnerable children in the fishing communities meet a full range of needs.

"Our children attend classes under trees and in dilapidated buildings. They are faced with challenges of lack of books and learning materials," Okweh said, adding that in such situations, most children see education as a waste of time and eventually drop out of school.

The district chairperson, Ronald Sanya, co-chaired the Iceland government for designing a

programme addressing the specific challenges affecting school-going children in the fishing communities.

"This initiative will increase the enrolment of pupils in schools in most of the fishing communities, reduce early school dropout and absenteeism," Sanya said.

The chief administrative officer, Edith Namayega, said the support is geared towards construction of classrooms, administration blocks and staff houses and establishment of WASH facilities.

Anthony Namazzi, the commissioner in charge of local economic development in the local government ministry, who represented the permanent secretary, pledged total support to enable project progress and development in communities.

Fishermen urged to use condoms

RUKUNGIRI

Fishermen at Rweshama fishing village in Bwambara sub-county, Rukungiri district have been asked to value their lives by using condoms. The call was made by the president of the Lions Club of Bwambara, Frank Arinaitwe, recently, while giving out life jackets to fishermen at Rweshama fishing site. He urged the fishermen to protect themselves against sexually transmitted diseases by using condoms. Charles Katsigazi, the health inspector attached to Bwambara Health Centre IV, said 70% of the patients who visit health facilities at Rweshama, Bwambara and Bwaganyi have sexually transmitted diseases.

Masindi health centre reopened

MASINDI

Health officials in Masindi district have reopened Kinyara Health Centre II, which had been temporarily closed after eight health workers at the facility tested positive for COVID-19. The health facility, which is located within Kinyara Sugar Works Company Limited premises and serves the company workers and neighbouring communities, was closed on Thursday last week. Patrick Baguma, the district health officer, said the health centre was reopened on Monday after thorough disinfection.

Iceland donates medical supplies

NAMAYINGO

By Betty Angatai

Namayingo district local government has received a consignment of medical supplies and equipment from the government of Iceland. The donation is aimed at boosting the fight against the spread of the coronavirus.

The supplies, worth sh500m, include 20 oxygen cylinders, six BP digital machines, 24 clinical thermometers, 26 hospital beds, 26 hospital mattresses, 20 gas cylinders, five wheelchairs and two microscopes.

Others are 15 infrared temperature screeners, three motorcycles, liquid soap, masks and tents, among others.

Namayingo Chief Administrative Officer Edith Namayega said the district has been grappling with many challenges, including the lack of a district hospital, ambulances, medical supplies and porous entry points.

Speaking during the handover of supplies to the district, the ambassador of Iceland to Uganda, Thordis Sigur Dardottir, said her government is committed to supporting Uganda in improving lives.

Dardottir also toured the education projects supported by her government that are currently under construction.

Through the project dubbed Namayingo District Development Programme for Fishing Communities (NDDP-FC) Iceland government is boosting education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sectors in the fishing communities in the district.

In addition to education and WASH boost, the Iceland government has also donated vehicles and motorcycles to the district.

NAMAYINGO PUPILS WOODED BACK

By Betty Angatai

Over 500 pupils from 15 government-aided primary schools in Namayingo district have been wooled back to school. The initiative was part of a project funded by the Icelandic International Development Agency (ICEIDA) to improve the education sector in the district.

The project, which is part of the Namayingo District Development Programme for Fishing Communities (NDDP-FC), aims to enhance education and improve access to safe and clean water and hygiene in the fishing communities.

During the wooling back ceremony, the district chairperson, Ronald Sanya, co-chaired by the Icelandic ambassador to Uganda, Thordis Sigur Dardottir, handed over three vehicles and eight motorcycles to help in the project implementation.

The Bukooli Islands MP, Peter Okweh, said this holistic approach of the planned intervention will help vulnerable children in the fishing communities meet a full range of needs.

"Our children attend classes under trees and in dilapidated buildings. They are faced with challenges of lack of books and learning materials," Okweh said, adding that in such situations, most children see education as a waste of time and eventually drop out of school.

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