



*President Museveni speaking at the West Nile Peace Day celebrations.*

# **President Museveni Champions Institutional Development for Peace at West Nile Celebrations**

# Editor's Note



**Achidri Akim,**  
**Communication Officer**  
**Yumbe District**

Welcome to the fourth edition of West Nile Today, your regional publication committed to showcasing Uganda's West Nile. Our mission is to highlight the region's investment potential, government achievements, local innovations, regional unity, and tourism opportunities.

This week's edition, compiled by district communication officers, presents compelling stories relevant to communities, leaders, investors, tourists, and the diaspora.

From Adjumani, we examine refugee women's mental health challenges and President Museveni's efforts to resolve the Apaa land conflict. In Yumbe, we feature the World Bank-funded DRDIP woodlot initiative, which is restoring hope.

Other headlines include Arua City's malaria control efforts, Koboko's community health worker strategy, and President Museveni's focus on institutional development for peace. We also cover Nebbi's climate action appeal, Maracha's clean water success, and OPM's delivery of iron sheets to schools in Pakwach. Further, Obongi's DRDIP success revitalizing Ewafa Primary School, Koboko Municipality's social services improvements through road maintenance, and Terego District Council's budget plans are highlighted.

Through these articles, we aim to provide a comprehensive overview of West Nile's advancements, challenges, and prospects, encouraging informed discussion and positive development. Thank you for your support.

From the Editor's Desk:



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President Yoweri Museveni declared that the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government is now committed to building strong institutions across Uganda after establishing peace throughout the country.

He made this statement as the guest of honor at the West Nile Peace Day celebrations held in Yumbe District on Saturday, April 12.

“I am delighted that Uganda is now united and that peace prevails throughout the country. We are focused on strengthening the institutions of our nation. We cannot

allow a tribal army, police, or security service,” Museveni asserted.

The celebrations were themed “Consolidating 23 years of peace and security in the West Nile region for socio-economic transformation” and took place at Yumbe Geya Primary School Play Ground.

The event commemorated the peace agreement signed by the Uganda National Rescue Front II (UNRF II) with the government on December 24, 2002, which officially ended its insurgency under the leadership of late Maj. Gen. Ali

Bamuze.

Reflecting on the aftermath of Idi Amin’s regime in April 1979, Museveni highlighted the suffering experienced by many former Uganda Army soldiers and civilians who sought refuge in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

He stated having actively championed efforts for the safe return of West Nile residents, emphasizing their security under the NRM government.

“When I took power in 1986, I reached out to those who had fled to tell them that the NRM would not target them. Their



*A former UNRF II combatant salutes President Museveni*



*Former IGP Kale Kayihura delivering his speech*

return was safe, proving our commitment to peace,” he said.

Museveni further clarified that the NRM’s fight during Amin’s rule was not against the people of West Nile but against the oppressive leadership.

He stressed the government’s dedication to reconciliation, emphasizing that they rejected the cycle of revenge against specific communities linked to past leaders’ failures.

During the festivities, the President unveiled a monument honoring former combatants and announced a phased allocation of Ugx 26 billion to support West Nile ex-fighters, starting with an initial Ugx 1 billion. He explained that previous delays in payments stemmed from prioritizing the maintenance of peace before providing assistance to ex-combatants.

“We must ensure the welfare of all children, and our focus should be on infrastructure development roads, electricity, schools, and health facilities that benefits both ex-combatants and the community at large,” he added.

Recognizing Gen. Caleb Akandwanaho, also known as Gen. Salim Saleh, for his contributions to stabilizing the West Nile region, Museveni committed to dialogue with West Nile and Acholi MPs regarding recent conflicts in Akaa, calling for a judicial commission of inquiry led by former Chief Justice Bart Katureebe.

Gen. Moses Ali praised President Museveni for the peace achieved under the NRM government, urging the youth to cherish this stability. He noted, “Today, Uganda stands as a refuge for many, contrasting our past experiences as refugees.”

Hon. Huda Oleru, Minister of State for Defense in charge of

Veteran Affairs, encouraged former combatants to leverage their resettlement packages to improve their livelihoods, highlighting the government’s long-term commitment to peace and security in the West Nile.

Gen. Kale Kayihura, former Inspector General of Police, acknowledged the positive reception of the peace agreement by community elders, while expressing gratitude towards the late Maj. Gen. Bamuze for his contributions, emphasizing the need to honor his legacy.

Lt. Gen. Charles Okidi, who represented the Chief of Defence Force, assured attendees of the Uganda People’s Defence Force (UPDF)’s readiness to defend the nation, underscoring their role in maintaining peace.

Former Minister. Zoe Bakoko Bakoru reflected on how the NRM’s liberalization policies have spurred development and healing in West Nile. She commemorated the collective efforts to end fighting, ensuring a better future for the region’s children.

Yumbe District Chairperson Hon. Asiku Abdulmutwalib expressed appreciation for the government’s financial support to former combatants, while also advocating for assistance for the victims of past conflicts.

According to the Refugee Law Project, the emphasis on community institutions in fostering peace in West Nile provides valuable lessons applicable to other areas in northern Uganda.

***Moses Atule  
Communication Officer  
Maracha District***

## NEW MARACHA DEO TASKED ON GOVT PROGRAMS

**M**ARACHA- Hajji Ramathan Walugembe, Maracha Resident District Commissioner (RDC), has tasked the new District Education Officer (DEO), Mr. Asiki Michael Maxwell, to cooperate with his office in the supervision and monitoring of government programs in the education sector. Hajji Walugembe made the remarks at the handover of the education office to the new DEO.

“We shall always want to know what takes place at the department. We are not spies as people say, there is a difference between a spy and a monitor. A spy is not supposed to be known,” he said. We therefore ask for your cooperation,” Hajji continued.

Currently the education department is undertaking capital projects, under Uganda Intergovernmental Fiscal Transfers Program Project for Uganda (UgIFT) these include: construction of All Saints’ Oluvu Seed Secondary School and Construction of Kololo Public Seed Secondary School. Under the School Facilities Grant (SFG) the department is undertaking Construction of 2-classroom block with office and store at Yivu Primary School, Construction of 2-classroom block with office and store at Azipi Primary School, among other projects. Under the School Maintenance Grant (SMG), renovation of 2 units of classroom blocks without office and store at Etoko Primary School, renovation of 4 classroom blocks without office and store at Kijomoro Primary School and renovation of 4 classroom blocks without office and store at Maracha Primary School, among other projects.

Mr. Asiki replaces Ms. Osoa Flavia who stepped down in May 2024 after reaching the mandatory retirement age, 60.

Hon. Stephen Obitre, Maracha District Chairperson, tasked the new DEO to be determined to achieve results saying, “For you to succeed you have to be principled, embrace team spirit and be assertive. There is that assertiveness you need to apply for you to manage your office,” he advised.

Mr. Olila Patrick, Maracha District Chief Administrative Officer, said the recruitment process of the DEO was rigorous.

“Before Flavia (Osoa) retired we did not want to have any gap. We advertised for the post of DEO before Flavia (Osoa) but unfortunately we did not get a candidate suitably to be shortlisted and therefore we had to go to the drawing board. We

had to re-advertise for the post, we were successful,” he said.

Mr. Olila said the experience Mr. Asiki possesses in school inspection will be a pillar in the delivering of quality education.

“You can’t be a good DEO unless you are good inspector. I want to thank you for accepting to be appointed DEO Maracha and preparing yourself to be solicited,” he said.

Mr. Olila commended Mr. Edward Andrug, senior education officer, who was acting DEO for doing his best.

“It was not easy for me to identify someone but I thought he would do it best. I want to thank you for having that accepted the responsibility. You did it within the timeframe given to you. You have steered the office successfully to until we have got a new DEO,” he said.

Mr. Asiki was a classroom teacher before gaining promotion to senior education officer and principal education officer both position she held while serving with Koboko District Local Government.

“I believe in teamwork. It is my responsibility to bring the team together to see that we achieve what is required of us. We shall coordinate together to see to it that we take Maracha to greater heights,” Asiki said.

Mr. Asiki called for further entrenchment of the program-based approach to planning in the district.

“We no longer work as sectors we work as programs, I want to commit to you (heads of departments) that we shall work together, coordinate together to see that we achieve the vision of Maracha District Local Government. We have to work for the Government of Uganda led by His Excellency Yoweri Museveni,” he said.

The Third National Development Plan (NDP III) adopted a Program Planning Approach (PPA) comprising of eighteen programs that are to be aligned to Program Based Budgeting (PBB). NDP III became more result oriented in planning and budgeting. The programme approach has implications to the planning, budgeting, coordination and implementation frameworks. NDP IV will uphold PPA.

*Moses Atuke  
Communications Officer  
Maracha District*

## NGO PARTNERS WITH MARACHA DISTRICT TO IMPROVE CLEAN WATER ACCESS

MARACHA- PHASE, a non-governmental organization has partnered with Maracha District Local Government to improve access to clean water. PHASE has embarked on the construction of shallow water wells in Maracha East County with funding from International Development and Relief Foundation (IDRF).



*Hon. Obitre Stephen, Maracha District Chairperson commissioning a newly constructed water source in Aligo village, Drambu sub-county.*

Hon. Obitre Stephen, Maracha District Chairperson commissioning a newly constructed water source in Aligo village, Drambu sub-county.

At least 9 shallow water wells were constructed across Maracha East County in the first phase of the water project in 2024. In February this year, 15 more shallow water wells’ construction was launched by PHASE to address the challenge of water scarcity in Maracha East.

Hon. Stephen Obitre, the Maracha district chairperson, observed that on average, they receive funds from the central government for drilling at most six boreholes per year, making it very difficult to divide and allocate the water sources for the 691 villages in the 19 sub-counties and town councils of the district.

“As government, we thank PHASE for this consideration and generosity that has birthed this mega project. So, when we get such kinds of water facilities, we really praise God and thank the partners so much for this initiative,” Obitre added.

Hajji Ramathan Walugembe, Maracha Resident District Commissioner (RDC), applauded PHASE for complementing the effort of the government in ensuring that everybody has access to clean and safe water in the district. Walugembe noted that one of the challenges of the West Nile sub-region is water.

“When I was coming here, I saw one borehole with a very long line as if it was a line of cattle going to the well but full of jerrycans. That is already an indicator that we have that challenge of water,” said Walugembe. He thanked PHASE for supplementing governments work as resources are limited on the part of government.

The project, according to PHASE officials, focused on Maracha East because it didn't benefit from the piped water supply system of the Ministry of Water and Environment.

Registered in 2014 in Somalia, PHASE Organization operates in three East African Countries of Somalia, Kenya and Uganda with main focus on health, education and socio-economic wellbeing of the people.

Mr. Justus Yeero Aduma, one of the Directors of PHASE in Uganda, said some of the sub-counties in Maracha East

with grave water challenges have this time round, got two shallow water wells while those that have fairly good water coverage got one each.

“We will keep changing this from time to time. As you know, water is really a very big problem in the entire Maracha district because many villages don't have access to safe and clean water. So, we are happy that our partners are able to support this project for our people to have improved access to safe and clean water,” said Mr. Aduma.

Similarly, Mr. Godfrey Osutre, Paranga sub-county chairperson, acknowledged that he has water problems in the 51 villages in his sub-county.

“Today, it is a good opportunity in Paranga sub-county, Etoko parish in Edogoa village because we have received blessings with water where PHASE has dug for us a shallow water well to help

this community which has been suffering for long without clean water,” Osutre said.

Rev. Denis Adoroti, the Anglican Parish Priest of Bura Church of Uganda in Maracha Town Council, said the wellbeing of people depends on water because water is life.

Mr. Elyas Burney, the Director of Global Programs and Social Impact, who doubles as one of PHASE funders under IDRF, said he was touched by the testimony of women who walk through the dark for hours in search of water.

Access to safe water in Maracha District stands at 76% meanwhile functionality is 78%.

*Moses Atule  
Communications Officer  
Maracha District*



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**Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng Ocerro**  
Minister for Health/Woman MP, Lira City



# PRESIDENT MUSEVENI RENEWS COMMITMENT TO RESOLVE APAA LAND CONFLICT

President Yoweri Museveni is scheduled to visit Adjumani District in the first week of May 2025 to engage with leaders from the Ma'di Sub Region about the ongoing Apaa Land Conflict within the East Ma'di Wildlife Reserve.

The announcement was made by Maj. Gen. Felix Busizoori, Commander of the UPDF 4th Infantry Division, during a stakeholders' meeting convened by the West Nile Development Association (WENDA) on April 10, 2025.

The meeting was prompted by recent violent incidents in Ukusijoni Sub County, which resulted in the deaths of five individuals, including a UPDF soldier, and highlighted ongoing land grabbing and atrocities in the East Ma'di Wildlife Reserve.

The gathering drew in key stakeholders from the Ma'di Sub Region and various Area Members of Parliament, including the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister, Gen. Moses Ali.

In light of the recent violence, leaders and community members from the Ma'di Sub Region initially decided that they would boycott the 23rd Peace celebrations in Yumbe district on April 12, 2025, instead designating the day for mourning those who lost their lives in separate incidents on March 27 and April 3, 2025.

However, Gen. Moses Ali urged the community to reconsider their decision, emphasizing that attending the celebrations would provide them an opportunity to voice their grievances to President Museveni, who would preside over the event.

Additionally, he noted that the ceremony would launch a 26 billion compensation package for the Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF), a group primarily composed of individuals from the Ma'di Sub Region.

"I was informed that you plan to boycott the Yumbe function, but I am here to beg you to attend. The function will, among other things, focus on compensation for ex-combatants of the UNRF, which we started. I therefore request my daughter, Hon. Ababiku, and others to set aside bitterness and attend the event so that our message can reach the President," Gen. Moses Ali urged.



*Minister Balaam Barugahara receives the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Dr. Gen. Moses Ali to the Peace Day celebrations. (Photo Credit: Courtesy)*

During the 23rd Peace Day celebrations held in Yumbe on April 12, President Museveni confirmed having spoken with local leaders about the Apaa Land Conflict.

He indicated plans to meet with Members of Parliament from both the Acholi and West Nile regions regarding the ongoing dispute between the Amuru and Adjumani districts.

However, he emphasized that the ultimate resolution would be based on the findings of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry established on April 3, 2023, headed by former Chief Justice Bart Katureebe.

"I will meet with Members of Parliament from both the Acholi and West Nile sub-regions, but let it be clear—the real resolution will come from the findings and recommendations of the Judicial Commission of Inquiry," the President stated.

Moreover, President Museveni cautioned leaders from both regions that those inciting violence regarding the Apaa issue would be prosecuted, acknowledging that certain individuals were exploiting the conflict for personal benefits.

"I went to the satellite archives and retrieved detailed information from as far back as 1985 about that area. Let me warn you—if this issue is not handled properly, some people may end up in jail,"

he warned.

In response to the recent violence, Maj. Gen. Felix Busizoori reported that UPDF has arrested 15 individuals linked to the killings and land grabbing within the East Ma'di Wildlife Reserve.

To maintain order, the UPDF has instituted heightened patrols and a curfew while awaiting the enhancement of military presence in the region. "We have arrested fifteen people for inciting violence and land-grabbing in East Ma'di Wildlife Reserve, and we are hunting for more suspects," Maj. Gen. Busizoori revealed.

The Judicial Commission of Inquiry, led by former Chief Justice Bart Katureebe, has been assigned to investigate the multifaceted land dispute, which includes ownership claims, boundary demarcation, casualties, and displacement issues.

Despite its establishment, the commission has not conducted any known public hearings or meetings since April 2023, leading to rising tensions and skepticism regarding its effectiveness as a conflict resolution mechanism.

The Ma'di community has voiced concerns about the government's commitment to conclusively resolving the land conflict that has persisted for over 14 years.

**Bazio Doreen**  
**Communications Officer**  
**Adjumani District**

# GOVERNMENT ALLOCATES SHS 26 BILLION FOR COMPENSATION OF OVER 9,000 EX-COMBATANTS IN WEST NILE.



President Museveni also commended Gen. Moses Ali, the former WNBFC Commander for accepting to cease fire and embrace reconciliation, a move that restored the region on a path of re-development.

According to the State Minister of Defense (Veteran Affairs), Huda Oleru Obason, some of the ex-combatants have been paid while others await for verification.

*President Museveni takes a group with representative of the ex-combatants. (Photo Credit: Courtesy)*

The Government has earmarked shs 26 billion to compensate over 9,000 ex combatants of the defunct Uganda National Rescue Front (UNRF) I led by Gen. Moses Ali, the current 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and UNRF II led by Gen. Bamuze Ali and West Nile Bank Front (WNBFC) who for the last 23 years have been waiting for their payment.

These surrendered their guns on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2002, after signing a peace agreement which promised them a resettlement package, 10 government positions and retaining their ranks in the Uganda People's Defense Forces.

While presiding over the 23<sup>rd</sup> Peace Celebrations in Yumbe District on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025 as a Chief Guest, President Yoweri Museveni, launched a shs 1 billion compensation package in cash and said that government will pay shs 13 billion in the next financial year and another shs 12 billion after West Nile votes the NRM in the forth coming 2026 elections.

"We would have paid the shs 26 billion at once but we are working on the Nebbi – Arua road which is in bad state. It is not true that we had forgotten to pay the ex-combatants because their children have been studying and getting medical care in facilities constructed by the NRM since 1986," the President explained.

Particularly, the Aringa Obongi Peace Initiative Committee was formed during peace negotiations between the Uganda government and the Uganda National Rescue Front II (UNRF II).

Hon. Oleru expressed her appreciation to President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for honoring his commitment to provide a financial "handshake" by allocating Shs 1 billion to members, She added that this was the final installment for the group, asserting that it was the last assistance the government would provide to the Aringa group and similar organizations like the West Nile Bank Front, and that no additional claims would be accepted.

Regarding the compensation for the UNRF II, Hon. Oleru noted that out of more than 3,000 outstanding claims, 364 had been confirmed and compensated, with funds already transferred to their accounts.

Meanwhile, President Museveni also unveiled a monument in memory of the peace agreement signatories.

**Bazio Doreen**  
**Communications Officer**  
**Adjumani District**

# STANDING WITH REFUGEE WOMEN IN ADJUMANI TO BREAK BARRIERS ON MENTAL HEALTH

**A**DJUMANI- A 2021 study by the Alliance Forum for Development (AFOD) revealed that 82% of refugee households in Adjumani, Uganda, experience mental health issues, locally known as “riak-nhom” (disturbed mind) in the Dinka language.

Additionally, a World Bank study in 2021 indicated that refugees in Uganda are ten times more likely to suffer from depression, with women being particularly vulnerable.

Despite these challenges, the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its partners are providing crucial support to refugee women and girls facing mental health issues, particularly those stemming from limited access to basic necessities.

## BENEFICIARIES' TESTIMONIES



### LWF'S INTERVENTION

Nabwire Martha, a clinical psychologist with LWF, highlights their efforts to prevent relapses by providing financial grants and empowering women to identify income sources.

Dudu Betty, 37, is a widow and mother of four who struggled to cope with the sudden loss of her husband. The stress led to a miscarriage, as she grappled with the responsibility of caring for her children and stepchildren. Group sessions organized by LWF provided her with much-needed support.

Christine Kiliha, a 36-year-old South Sudanese refugee and mother of eight, turned to drug abuse to cope with a challenging marriage and dwindling food rations. She received vital psychosocial support from the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) after a miscarriage, which helped her address past traumas, including a near-fatal pregnancy

The program helps to restore self-esteem among women who previously faced stigma. In 2023, LWF assisted 2,902 women with UNHCR funding and 553 with support from other partners. In 2024, in collaboration with Safe Home Africa, they reached 9,115 individuals with mental health support across all 19-refugee settlements in West Nile's Adjumani district.

However, the empowerment of women has also led to increased Gender-Based Violence, as some men feel marginalized. Some women also choose to leave unsupportive husbands.



Mary Candia, 44, a widowed refugee and mother of seven, left her husband due to his lack of support. Benefiting from World Vision's assistance, she now earns income through farming and casual work. Counseling has helped her cope with suicidal thoughts that arose from financial struggles.

### WORLD VISION'S APPROACH

Alice Azunyo, a Child Protection Assistant at World Vision, reports that their project has reached 492 refugee women in Mungula and Maaji settlements.

According to child protection enthusiast, through the Problem Management Plus (PMP) Program of World Vision, women receive mental health sessions where they can share problems and solutions. “The PMP program has also led to a reduction in Gender-Based Violence, child neglect, and abuse, as women learn to manage their emotions and improve their livelihoods,” she narrated.



Anzoa Gift, 21, a South Sudanese refugee, found herself in a difficult marriage after being forced to leave home. When her husband was arrested, she considered abortion but received counseling from Tutapona, a mental health NGO. Tutapona's Contribution Asienzo Agnes, a Mental Health Field Facilitator at Tutapona, explains that since 2014, they have implemented projects in multiple refugee camps, offering psychosocial support, mentorship, and counseling. In 2023, they supported 191 women out of 340 beneficiaries.

### THE BROADER CONTEXT

Adjumani hosts approximately 244,374 refugees, with women and children comprising 85% of the population. South Sudanese refugees account for 55% of the 1.5 million refugees in Uganda. The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2019-2020 emphasizes the importance of strengthening mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services. However, as of October 2019, the RRP was only 39% funded. In 2024, partners initiated joint efforts in Maaji and Ayilo refugee camps to address the growing demand for mental health services. AFOD is constructing a Mental Health Rehabilitation Centre on 10 acres of land in Rende Village in West Nile's Adjumani refugee hosting district. Adjumani General Hospital records about 2,000 cases of mental health disorders and 10 suicides annually according to the district's latest health report.

### GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

In April 2022, the Ministry of Health (MOH) drafted the first national mental health strategic plan (2022-2026), which aims to strengthen mental health response and provide comprehensive care.

While mental health has gained attention, with efforts to integrate it into primary healthcare, Uganda has only 53 psychiatrists, mostly in urban areas.

The Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) working group in Kampala meets monthly, with similar groups at the refugee settlements and district level. Despite positive reforms, mental health problems remain high, affecting 30% of the population as of November 2023, according to the MOH.

# 124 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS DEPLOYED TO BOLSTER HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN KOBOKO



*Koboko District is set to receive a significant boost in its healthcare services with the graduation of 124 Community Health Extension Workers (CHEWs).*

The passing out ceremony, presided over by the Minister of Health, Hon. Dr. Ruth Aceng, took place at the Koboko District Headquarters on Monday, April 14th, 2025, marking a crucial milestone in the effort to improve healthcare access and address the growing health challenges in the region.

The CHEW program, a collaborative initiative between the Ministry of Health, TASO, and the Koboko local government, was launched in August of the previous year.

Its primary objective is to tackle the high disease burden and the critical shortage of healthcare professionals, ultimately enhancing equitable access to essential health services for all Ugandans.

The program specifically addresses the rising prevalence of preventable communicable diseases and the existing gap in human resources within health facilities, highlighting the urgent need for trained community health workers in Koboko.



*During the passing out ceremony, Hon. Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng emphasized the pivotal role of the community as one of the fundamental pillars of Primary Health Care.*

She underscored the accessibility of CHEWs to communities, making them invaluable assets in reaching underserved populations. The Minister urged the newly graduated CHEWs to focus on improving key health indicators, including immunization rates, delivery services, and other crucial aspects of public health.

Recognizing Koboko's strategic location at the border of Uganda, Congo, and South Sudan, the Minister of Health acknowledged the heightened health risks faced by the district.

The deployment of these CHEWs is therefore considered a critical intervention to strengthen the community's resilience and improve its overall health security.

Dr. Charles Olaro, the Director General of the Ministry of Health, provided further context on the CHEW program, stating that it was initially piloted in Lira and Mayuga.

Its success has led to its expansion across 24 districts throughout the country, signifying its effectiveness and potential for scalability.

To date, a total of 1242 community extension workers have been trained across the country since the program's inception, demonstrating the growing commitment to community-based healthcare.

The Resident District Commissioner, Mr. Emmy Mitala, expressed his gratitude to the Minister of Health for her transformational leadership within the Ministry, highlighting the innovative programs like the CHEWs Training program.

He urged the graduating CHEWs to embody exemplary conduct in promoting health services and serving as positive role models within their communities.



*The comprehensive training received by the CHEWs encompassed a wide range of essential healthcare topics. They were equipped with knowledge and skills to address both communicable and non-communicable diseases, promote environmental*

*sanitation and hygiene, and effectively identify cases requiring referral to higher-level health facilities.*

To facilitate their work and ensure they can effectively reach communities, the CHEWs were provided with essential resources, including bicycles for transportation, medical kits for basic healthcare interventions, blood pressure machines for monitoring vital signs, gumboots for protection in various terrains, and bags to carry their equipment.

The resources will empower them to deliver quality healthcare services directly within their communities.

The deployment of these 124 CHEWs in Koboko represents a significant step toward strengthening the district's healthcare system and improving the health and well-being of its residents.

“By bringing healthcare services closer to the community, the CHEW program is poised to make a lasting impact on the health outcomes of the region and contribute to the overall health goals of Uganda.,” an optimistic Mitala asserted.

The success of this initiative hinges on the dedication and commitment of the CHEWs themselves, and their ability to build trust and rapport with the communities they serve. Their role in health promotion, disease prevention, and early detection will be crucial in creating a healthier and more resilient Koboko district.

**Gloria Winnie Adraa**  
**Communication Officer**  
**Koboko-district**

# GOVERNMENT INVESTS 1 BILLION IN ROADS



*A well maintained roads in the outskirts of Koboko Town making the town accessible to the residents*

**K**oboko Municipality - One billion Uganda shillings road fund has driven socio-economic transformation in Koboko Municipality as pathways have been created where there were no roads.

Mr. Anguyo Natal, the Senior Assistant Engineering Officer for Koboko Municipal Council, identified Musa Road, Brigadier Charles Arube Road, and Abele to Nyangilia Road among the previously inaccessible roads.

“With continued support from the central government, we are able to maintain the roads in better condition than before and even open new ones,” he shared, a smile of relief lighting up his face as he commended the government’s initiative.

The municipality’s road status report shows an impressive total road network coverage of 113.17 km, a direct result of the central government’s assistance through the Uganda Road Fund.

Abdallah Juma, a resident of Abele in Koboko Municipality, recalls the difficulties his children faced in attending school during heavy rains.

“It was incredibly frustrating for our children to access school because there was no bridge connecting Abele to Nyangilia Secondary School,” he explained.

According to Kepo Vicky, the Superintendent of Works at Koboko Municipal Council, the one billion shillings Road Maintenance Grant plays several critical roles, including opening new roads, maintaining and shaping existing roads, improving drainage, and stone pitching, among other tasks.

Musala Salila, a local passionate about development in Koboko Municipality, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the government for its determination to help residents overcome hardship.

However, significant challenges persist, including frequent breakdowns

of the aging grader and delays in fund disbursement. Sanya Kirk Fixer Wilson, the municipal mayor, noted that the grader was provided to Koboko Municipality while it was still a Town Council.

The mayor emphasized that roads are vital for local economic development, enabling access to schools, markets, and health facilities. He therefore urged for an increase in the annual fund from one billion to two billion shillings to expand the scope of work and enhance impact when resources become available.

Similarly, Musala Salila, along with other residents, appealed to the government to upgrade key roads connecting Koboko Municipality to the neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan to tarmac status, serving as a catalyst for further socioeconomic prosperity in the West Nile sub-region.



*Abele to Nyangilia road opened and 4 lines of culvert bridge installed*

**Bernards Okuyo**  
**Communication Officer**  
**Koboko-district**

# IRS INITIATIVE EASES PATIENT DISCOMFORT IN KOBOKO MUNICIPALITY

**T**he Health team preparing to spray Nyangilia Health Centre III In line with the adage that charity begins at home, the Koboko Municipal health

department has initiated a targeted spraying operation at Nyangilia Health Centre III to curb the increasing cases of malaria.

Equipped with protective gear and tanks filled with insecticide, the spraying team focused on the General/Maternity ward and staff quarters, treating the interior walls and surfaces where malaria-carrying mosquitoes tend to rest.

The Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) exercise at the health facility has led to a significant decrease in mosquito bites, resulting in a marked reduction in malaria cases at the health center.

West Nile Today confirmed that Nyangilia Health Centre, being a new service point, had missed the annual IRS spraying period in November and December.

“Fortunately, a request to the Ministry of Health for immediate spraying received a positive response, effectively breaking the malaria transmission chain,” stated Akonyu

Charles Amejje, the Assistant Vector Control Officer. Residents of Koboko Municipality had their homes sprayed earlier in November 2024 but expressed concerns about contracting malaria while visiting relatives admitted to

Nyangilia Health Centre for other ailments, as the facility had not been treated and lacked mosquito nets.

“Since our homes were sprayed, we’ve experienced fewer malaria cases. The spraying of the Health Centre brings us new relief,” shared Mary Ajonye, a resident of Kululu cell in Nyangilia ward of Koboko Municipality.

According to Principal Health Inspector Mr. Azabo Joel, health workers faced initial resistance from some community members when the IRS program began, but awareness campaigns helped ease those challenges.

“We continually encouraged community members to cooperate and to maintain other preventive measures so that we can significantly reduce malaria and ultimately eliminate it,” added the dedicated public health worker.

The Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) Program is part of the Ugandan government’s renewed commitment to eliminate malaria through preventive strategies.

***Bernards Okuyo***  
***Communication Officer***  
***Koboko-Municipality***



*The Health team preparing to spray Nyangilia Health Centre III*

# MAJOR GENERAL HENRY MATSIKO TASKS MADI OKOLLO DISTRICT TO ADDRESS HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Major General Henry Matsiko the UPDF Political Commissar urged Madi Okollo district to address household income of its population. This call was made during his visit to Madi Okollo district yesterday Wednesday 9th April 2025 in the afternoon. Major Gen. Matsiko was accompanied by the UPDF Fourth Division Political Commissar Lt. Col. Hassan Kalungi, the district OWC Coordinator Rtd. Maj. Julius Agotre and two other officers. The visit was to create awareness on the forthcoming 23rd anniversary of West Nile Peace day on Saturday 12th April 2025 in Yumbe district. The Peace day is aimed at celebrating socio-economic transformation of the region after signing of peace agreement with the Uganda National Rescue Front (UNFT II) in 2002.

Maj. Gen. Matsiko said that government's desire to eradicate poverty has been through the livelihood programs of Emyooga, PDM, YLP and UWEP. Madi Okollo district received 1.1 billion shilling for Emyooga, 11 billion shillings for Parish Revolving Fund under PDM, 900 million for UWEP and 500 million shillings for YLP. Maj. Gen. Matsiko tasked the district to address household income of the population through the livelihood programs of the government. He said the staff and the leaders are to solve the challenges of the community and empower them.

Meanwhile, the UPDF Fourth Division Political Commissar Lt. Col. Hassan Kalungi, said that the UPDF are in DR Congo, South Sudan and Somalia to restore peace and exercise the Pan African mandate. Lt. Col. Kalungi mentioned that they are striving to secure peace in these neighboring counties to prevent refugee influx which impacts on the distribution of resources and external markets. He urged the staff to love their work and be patriotic.

Masereka Joshua, Madi Okollo District RDC remembered that there was lawlessness and insecurity before President Museveni's regime. He praised the regime for restoring peace and security in the country.

The District Vice Chairperson Asea Geoffrey requested for implementation of the Presidential Order on the Balalus. Hon. Asea informed that the district is struggling with the influx of Balalus who arrive on daily basis and their cattle has caused enormous destruction of crops in the communities.

The district since its creation in 2019 has improved in infrastructure development in schools, health facilities, administrative units and at the district headquarters with the existence of USMID and DRDIP projects. Despite the infrastructure development, the district has poor road network, human resource gap, lack of primary schools and secondary schools in some parishes and sub counties respectively, no district hospital, one HCIV and no government health facility especially in Anyiribu sub county. The district therefore requests government for affirmative action in improving services in the district by establishing a district hospital, HCIVs, health facility in Anyiribu sub county, road infrastructure

and establishing schools in the parishes and sub counties without government schools.



*Maj. Gen. Matsiko Henry during a meeting with the district staff and leadership at the district headquarters*



*A group photo with the district staff and leadership after an orientation meeting on West Nile Peace Day.*

**Dorothy Anguparu**  
**Communication Officer**  
**Madi Okollo DLG**

# ARUA CITY WALKS AGAINST MALARIA

ARUA- 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 dawned as a special day in Arua City as stakeholders walked against malaria. This event was organized by Uganda Parliamentary Forum on Malaria as a strategy to create awareness about Malaria, how to prevent it and the different government interventions aimed at reducing the spread of malaria and subsequently reduce the deaths associated to malaria.



*Endless queues of walkers match to create awareness; including CSOs, Indian Community of Arua, Civil Servants, schools and the general public (photo credit: Adukule Benon)*

According to the chairperson of the organizing committee, Ms. Judith Draleru, 14 Ugandans die of malaria every day and 500 people monthly in Uganda, which is affecting Human capital of the country.

Government of the Republic of Uganda has had a number of interventions to fight the spread of malaria like donating mosquito nets to all citizens, the In-door Residual Spraying, and the recently introduced malaria vaccine, targeting babies of 6 months to 18 months, to be administered in four doses. These programs are part of Uganda government's renewed commitment to eliminate malaria through preventive strategies.

The malaria vaccine was launched nationally on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2025 at Apac District, with the Min. of Health, Dr. Jane Ruth Achieng as the guest of honor.

World Health Organisation (WHO) has proven that the vaccine against the spread of malaria has been tested and is thus safe for children, as it has been used in many other sub-saharan countries successfully.

*Below is an album of whatever transpired during the walk against malaria disease.*

*Photo credit: Adukule Benon*



Mr. Raj, the owner of Janki enterprisess and the leader of the Indian community in WestNile advocated for Unity in working together, they have lived long in Uganda. "I have personally lived in Uganda for more than 20 years now and many of us are now Ugandans. Our income does not only go back to India but we put investments in the city. It is our responsibility to build a healthy city together and our colours shouldn't separate us," said Raj.

Mr. Adrapi the head of HeadTeachers in WestNile thanked the students and schools that sent in students to come and participate in this walk. "you are the ambassadors of this malaria walk for we look up to you to spread the malaria message in your schools and your communities – no one should die of malaria," cried Adrapi.

The Civil Society Organisations in the region supported and participated in the event like; Memprow, Upendo Ni Baraka, Mungufeni Foundation, CEFTRA, Rotary, Malaria partners Uganda, Muni University and the Local Governments and stakeholders from across WestNile.



## Arua District

Arua District staff headed by the Ag. DHO, Dr. Peace Oliver Eyotaru joined the malaria walk a few days after the launch of the malaria vaccine- for Arua equally launched on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at Vurra Health Center III

*Benon)*



*RDC, Toko Shuaib holds a baby as it gets its first malaria vaccine doze, as Hon Alfred Okuonzi, the District Chairman looks on*

*Ag. DHO Arua District (in polker doted skirt), Dr. Eyotaru Peace, Malaria & HIV Focal person, Rebekah and Ms. Margaret Bayoru the IMO health Arua District join the walk. (photo credit: Adukule*



*Hon. Alfred Okuonzi, the District Chairman-Arua holds a baby to be immunized as the RDC, Mr. Toko Shuaib looks on*

# GOVERNMENT FINALIZES CONSTRUCTION OF OVER ONE BILLION WATER SCHEMES IN NEBBI DISTRICT



*Solar power water scheme at Nziri in Pacaka Parish in Erussi Sub County.*

**N**EBBI - The government, through the Ministry of Water and Environment, has successfully completed the construction of two water schemes in Nziri, located in Pacaka Parish, and Palyech, situated in Abar West Parish, within the Erussi and Ndhew Sub Counties of Nebbi District. The initiative was part of the Development of Solar Powered Irrigation and Water Supply Systems Project (Phase 1).

The combined value of these solar-powered water schemes is approximately 369,530.33 euros, which translates to around 1.49 billion shillings (Nziri – 778.7 million and Palyech – 717 million). The construction was carried out by Nexus Green (UK).

According to the District Water Officer, Anican Evelyn, the project received co-funding from both the Government of Uganda and UK Export Financing.

“Government contracted Nexus Green (UK) to design, supply, and install the solar-powered water systems at Nziri and Palyech, which have all been completed and are now functional, awaiting political commissioning,” Evelyn stated.

Technical commissioning was conducted by the Ministry of Water and Environment, and the schemes were handed over to the district in February 2025.

Evelyn mentioned that these two water schemes were designed to accommodate a combined population of 11,692, with the Palyech scheme serving 5,784 individuals and the Nziri scheme supporting 5,908 people.

Each scheme features three public stand posts, currently serving the villages of Palyech and Nziri Central in Ndhew and Erussi Sub Counties, respectively. Currently, they provide water to approximately 5,500 residents across the two sub-counties.

Additionally, with support from a donor group known as Friends of S.O.U.L. Ministries from Paducah, Kentucky, U.S.A., the Palyech water scheme has been extended from Owilo Primary School through the villages of Palyech Central, Palyech North, Awu, and Ambere. This extension covers 3 kilometers and includes eight public stand posts

supplying water to the Omoyo area, benefiting over 5,000 people in Ndhew Sub County.



*One of the public stand posts in Owilo in Abar West in Ndhew Sub County*

Kisa Lawrence Ojok, the Secretary for Finance, announced that in the upcoming financial year 2025/2026, the district has allocated 668.1 million shillings to enhance rural water supply and promote sanitation awareness. He noted that the district aims to extend the Nziri and Palyech piped water schemes to additional areas in Erussi and Ndhew Sub Counties.

Evelyn added that the expansion of the piped water scheme will include 80 yard taps, covering the entire Abar West parish, which comprises 13 villages.

Currently, the district’s access to safe water is at 69%, while the functionality rate stands at 73%. In addition to the two new water schemes, Nebbi District has drilled seven boreholes this year in the villages of Uduk, Acwera, Kwiyo, Juplala Centre, Jafurunga, Apolla, and Murumbi.

Plans are also underway to rehabilitate 11 boreholes in Jupathombo, Acibu, Arumbele, Nyayamo, Akango, and Boma East, with additional work scheduled for Kalwang, Bagu, Ndabu, and Owenjo.

The District has also drilled two production wells in Jupulia in Ossi, Parombo Sub County, and Pajur in Erussi Sub County. The production well at Pajur is set to be developed by the Government through the Ministry of Water and Environment under the Water Facility – North initiative in the upcoming financial year 2025/2026.

The Lions Club has drilled and constructed three boreholes in Aleo, Gamba, and Akuru Bridge.

Kisa Lawrence further stated that the district, through various initiatives, aims to increase safe water coverage to 70% and improve functionality to 80% by the next financial year, 2025/2026.

**Odiya Godfrey**  
**Communication Officer**  
**Nebbi District.**

# NEBBI DISTRICT LEADERS URGED TO SET AN EXAMPLE IN THE BATTLE AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

By: Odiya Godfrey



*Dr. Odongo Hannington (Standing) a consultant with Partnership for Development Capacity Consult (PDCC) Limited emphasizing a point to the participants during validation of the District Climate Action Plan*

**N**EBBI - Paul Bwire Ogallo, the Deputy Resident District Commissioner, has called upon district leaders to exemplify best practices in tackling climate change. He encouraged them to serve as leading agents in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

“As leaders, how can you instruct communities to plant trees if you haven’t done so yourself? How can you expect them to trust you?” Ogallo challenged.

Speaking during a meeting on Friday, April 1, 2025, to validate the district’s five-year Climate Change Action Plan, Ogallo also urged leaders to educate communities about changing their attitudes towards bush burning, a practice he mentioned contributes to environmental degradation.

He pointed out that in West Nile, many still believe there are appropriate seasons for bush burning, a mindset that must be addressed among other practices to combat climate change.

With the assistance of the Local Adaptive Climate Facility (LoCAL), Nebbi District is developing a District Climate Change Action Plan for 2025-2030. This plan aims to implement climate actions and measures that provide multiple co-benefits to enhance climate resilience.

Its objectives include sustainable natural resource management, human capital development, climate safeguards through climate proofing, knowledge transfer, and skills development to cope with the impacts of climate change.

Furthermore, the district plans to adopt climate-resilient public service delivery infrastructures in schools, health facilities, and other public spaces to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on service delivery.

Onyai Alfred, a consultant with Climate Change Action Plan Partnership for Development Capacity Consult (PDCC) Limited, which is supporting the district in developing the plan, noted that public infrastructures are often designed without considering climate change impacts that disrupt services.

It was observed that during the hot, dry season, public officers frequently leave their offices due to uncomfortable temperatures, which negatively affects service delivery.

Onyai meanwhile said with the Climate Change Action Plan in place, such challenges shall be effectively addressed by establishing infrastructures that withstand climate change, ensuring public services are not hindered.

Nebbi is currently experiencing the impacts of climate change, such as prolonged dry spells, increased flooding, erratic rainfall, and rising temperatures. These changes are adversely affecting the region’s agriculture, which heavily relies on rain-fed subsistence farming.

“The climatic changes are also increasingly impacting water resources in the area, potentially leading to environmental degradation,” he added.

To combat these climate change challenges, the Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Local Government under the Local Adaptive Climate Facility (LoCAL), is actively supporting eight districts, including Nebbi.

The project’s overarching goal is to enhance community resilience to climate change through various adaptation measures.

As part of LoCAL’s efforts to bolster community resilience, the district has constructed and drilled a valley dam and borehole worth 314 million Ugandan shillings for the community of Gotar village in Ossi East Parish, Parombo Sub County.

Approximately 3,834 people and 15,343 animals are currently benefiting from the dam and borehole in the Greater Parombo cattle corridor.

According to Fualing Doreen, the District Natural Resources Officer, the district has planted trees along 138 kilometers of road reserves as part of the same project. Additionally, trees have also been planted in 10 schools and 26 health units throughout the district.



*Valley dam constructed in Gotar in Ossi East Parish in Parombo Sub County*

# EWAFWA PRIMARY SCHOOL: A DRDIP SUCCESS STORY



One of the classroom blocks before facelifting



**O**BONGI - Ewafa Primary School, established in Obongi District in the 1950s, was a vital educational institution. However, it faced decline with deteriorating infrastructure and dwindling enrollment due to its state. Thanks to the District Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP), Ewafa Primary School has been revitalized.



Once known for academic excellence and influential alumni, the school suffered from crumbling classrooms. Leaking roofs, cracked walls, and a lack of essential features impacted the learning environment. The shortage of desks forced students to learn in uncomfortable conditions.

Teacher Dralada Charles recalls the deplorable conditions of the four main classrooms. Head Teacher Alu Birungi Edward noted parents transferred children due to safety and the search for a better learning environment.

In October 2022, a 900-million budget was approved for the comprehensive renovation of Ewafa Primary School. This included overhauling the four classroom blocks into modern, well-equipped learning spaces. The school now boasts state-of-the-art facilities, including clean water and improved latrines.

Hon. Atiku Alexander, the LCIII chairman of Ewafa, expressed gratitude for the project and improved infrastructure. Fencing has enhanced discipline and security, reducing theft and improving student control.

The enhanced learning environment has increased enrollment by over 200 pupils. Former students have returned, and the availability of desks has improved the learning experience.

Solar lighting has extended learning opportunities, enabling remedial teaching and individual study sessions. The Head Teacher believes these resources will improve academic performance.

Durable materials, such as terrazzo flooring, demonstrate a commitment to quality and long-term sustainability. The Head Teacher advocates for terrazzo flooring in all schools due to its longevity.

The renovation project prioritized environmental considerations, including planting ornamental trees and soil protection. The addition of flowers created a welcoming and visually appealing atmosphere.

The project included renovating four classroom blocks and installing stainless steel rainwater harvesting systems. This ensures access to clean water for students and staff.

The transformation of Ewafa Primary School showcases the impact of strategic investment and collaboration. It has emerged as a model school, providing quality education and igniting hope within the community.

**Ociru Beatrice**  
Communication Officer  
Obongi DLG

# CLEAN WATER BRINGS JOY AND HOPE TO VILLAGES IN PANYIMUR AND DEI SUB-COUNTIES IN PAKWACH



*Deputy RDC commissioning the borehole at Olando in GotRao Parish, Dei Sub County*

For years, the residents of Kidi Achoka, Olando, and Munduriema villages have faced a daily struggle: the relentless search for clean water.

The arduous task has defined the lives, particularly for the women who bear the brunt of ensuring their families have access to water. Recently, a wave of excitement and relief has washed over these communities as they celebrate the arrival of borehole water, a long-awaited solution to their water woes.

The newly constructed boreholes, funded under the District Discretionary Equalization Grant (DDEG), represent a significant investment in the well-being of these villages.

Each project, costing 38,500,000 Ugandan shillings, is more than just a water source; it's a symbol of hope, a promise of improved health, and a testament to the power of community development.



*The community welcoming the team for commissioning*

The joy on the faces of the women and men in Kidi Achoka Village (Lwala Parish, Panyimur Sub-county) and Olando and Munduriema villages (Gotrao Parish, Dei Sub-county) is a clear indication of the transformative impact these projects will have.

“The issue of having clean water has been something the community has battled for long,” explains Achiro Mary, a

resident of Kidi Achoka village.

She noted that as women, they used to wake up early in the morning to look for clean water. The new project will help address so many challenges they had been going through as women in the community.

Achiro’s words encapsulate the collective relief felt by countless women who have spent countless hours searching for and transporting water. The new boreholes will free up their time, allowing them to focus on other essential tasks such as childcare, education, and income-generating activities.

Ocai Gilbert, the Chairman of LCI, echoes this sentiment, emphasizing the historical significance of this achievement.

“Since my childhood, I had never seen any proper and clean source of water in this village,” he states.



*The DCAO with residents of Kidiachoka after commissioning of the Bore hole*

The local council one chairperson urged the community members to own the facility, emphasizing the crucial role of the user water committee in ensuring its long-term sustainability.

The call to action highlights the importance of community involvement in managing and maintaining the borehole to maximize its benefits for generations to come.

In Olando village, Dei sub-county, the situation was equally dire. For years, access to clean water had been a top priority for the community, consistently raised during planning and budgeting sessions from the village level to the sub-county.

However, their pleas had gone unanswered, leaving them with limited options. The arrival of the borehole water is viewed as nothing short of a miracle.

Before the establishment of the new water facility, the river served as their only source of water, forcing women to rise before dawn to collect water before it became contaminated. This daily struggle is now a thing of the past, replaced by the convenience and safety of a clean, accessible water source.

Speaking at the commissioning of the projects, the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Ms. Acen Florence, expressed her appreciation for the technical staff’s diligent supervision, which ensured the successful completion of the project.

# OPM DELIVERS 300 IRON SHEETS TO PAKWACH DISASTER HIT SCHOOLS



*The headteacher Kinju P/S (in brown shirt) with some of staff lifting the iron sheets for delivery to the schools*

Pakwach District Local Government has received 300 iron sheets for Kinju and Ayabu Primary Schools located in Panyango and Ragem sub-counties, respectively. This delivery comes after a storm last year that damaged the roofs and compromised the walls of the classrooms at both schools.

According to Giramia Faith, the Education Officer for Guidance and Counseling, who spoke on behalf of the District Education Officer, the department learned about the disaster from the head teacher of the two schools.

Prompt documentation was then completed and submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer, who forwarded the report to the Office of the Prime Minister. She expressed deep gratitude for the initiative taken by the Office of the Prime Minister.

However, the department proactively planned for disaster management due to the urgency of the situation, as the students were significantly affected, particularly at Kinju Primary School, where the storm destroyed the lower primary classroom block.

Students had to study under trees while awaiting a response from the Office of the Prime Minister, which took longer than expected. Therefore, in the current fiscal year 2023/24, the department proceeded to roof the classroom blocks accordingly.

Giramia emphasized the importance of using the iron sheets delivered by the Office of the Prime Minister effectively, as the school still lacks other essential structures. She urged the PTA and SMC Chairpersons to ensure the iron sheets serve their intended purpose.

Mr. Muswa Jatho Wilfred, the head teacher of Kinju Primary School, noted that the disaster occurred last September when four classroom blocks were destroyed by a severe storm, affecting around 800 learners from P1 to P5.

He expressed immense gratitude for the Office of the Prime

Minister's response and thanked the Ugandan government for its intervention. The iron sheets will help address the remaining gaps, as the school requires additional classrooms to accommodate all students.

Ms. Akumu Sidolia, the head teacher of Ayabu Primary School, added that the disaster impacted three classroom blocks, a situation acknowledged by the district.

"The office of the DEO worked diligently to document the disaster and ensure that all information was submitted to the Office of the Prime Minister, resulting in the delivery of the iron sheets," Akumu expressed.

She commended the district, particularly the DEO's office,

for their efforts in renovating some classrooms to support the affected learners, especially those in lower primary class. She believes that the response from the Office of the Prime Minister will help fill the remaining gaps.

Chairman LCV Hon. Omito Robert Steen highlighted that the Office of the Prime Minister sometimes takes time to respond as thorough and accurate data must be collected before proceeding.

Nevertheless, he expressed appreciation for the response and encouraged the leadership of the respective schools to make the best use of the 300 iron sheets, with 150 allocated to each school, ensuring they are utilized properly since accountability will be required.

He noted that significant progress has been made in the education sector, particularly in improving the teacher-to-learner ratio, which has improved from 1 teacher per 200 learners to 1:89, compared to the national ratio of 1:53.

Despite the positive development, Omito acknowledged that challenges still exist. He cited a lack of classrooms, limited number of teachers, and insufficient teacher accommodations but said the issues will be addressed through other various initiatives.

The Deputy Resident District Commissioner, Mr. Achile Twaib, emphasized the importance of acknowledging government support and interventions. He pointed out that the direct beneficiaries of these initiatives are the people of Uganda, who are now enjoying improved services. It is essential to recognize the government's commitment to supporting its citizens.

***Akello Night  
Communication Officer  
Pakwach DLG***

She urged residents to embrace the new water sources and avoid practices that could compromise water quality. Her message underscores the importance of responsible water management to ensure the long-term benefits of these projects.

Hon. Omito Robert Steen, the Chairman LCV, acknowledged the numerous past attempts to provide the community with clean water, all of which had been unsuccessful due to the villages' location on hilly terrain and the lack of adequate

road infrastructure.

He urged community members to embrace development initiatives and expressed optimism that, in the future, they would have access to tap water, better roads, and improved healthcare services.

Omito's vision paints a picture of a brighter future, one where basic necessities are readily available to all residents.

The Deputy Resident District Commissioner, Mr. Achile Twaib, who

commissioned the projects, cautioned against vandalism and encouraged the community to take ownership of the boreholes, emphasizing the long-awaited nature of these projects.

*Akello Night  
Communication Officer  
Pakwachi District*

## TEREGO DISTRICT COUNCIL PROPOSES A BUDGET OF SHILLINGS 31.2 BILLION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026



*Deputy Speaker Draru Gloria Ogunu speaking during District council TEREKO - Terego District Council has announced a budget of shillings 31,254,627,150 for the financial year 2025/2026 during the 5th ordinary council meeting held on April 10th, 2024, at the district headquarters.*

**A**s stated by Christine Aciferu, the Secretary for Finance, Planning, and Administration, this proposed budget comprises several significant sources of fund, including:

- Local Revenue: shillings 649,332,000
- Central Government Transfers (Development): shillings 2,964,440,934
- Central Government Transfers (Wage): shillings 18,025,720,161
- Non-Wage Recurrent Grant: shillings 9,615,134,061

Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Alex Otim expressed

gratitude for the successful presentation of the draft budget, assuring the council that it would be thoroughly examined by various committees to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with the district's priorities.

District Chairperson Wilfred Saka underscored the significance of the draft budget framework in steering the district's development.

He stressed the need to prioritize the outpatient department at Cilio Health Centre III, utilizing Local Revenue and the District Discretionary Equalization Grant (DDEG).

To bolster accountability, Saka also announced the District Executive Committee's plans to implement an activity tracker.

Deputy Speaker Draru Gloria Ogunu encouraged councilors to carefully analyze and discuss the budget details during upcoming committee meetings. This proactive approach will facilitate a well-rounded evaluation in preparation for the next council session.

Alongside the budget proposal, several other vital documents were presented, including the annual work plan, recruitment plan, retirement plan, performance improvement plan, and procurement plan. These documents will serve as a blueprint for the district's operations and development initiatives in the upcoming financial year.

*Atizuyo Judith  
Communications Officer  
Terego District*

# SECURITY TO BE BEEFED IN TEREGO



*West Nile RPC Latif Zaake addressing stakeholders at Terego District headquarters*

**O**n Tuesday, April 8, 2025, the Regional Police Commander for the West Nile region, SSP Latif Zaake, along with his team, initiated a familiarization tour of Terego District.

The initiative follows his recent appointment and aims to strengthen relationships with key stakeholders, including district leaders, cultural and religious figures, and community members.

During the tour, Zaake highlighted the vital role of collaboration in effective law enforcement. “Success in enforcing laws is impossible without networking with the community. We need to get to

know each other and work together to support one another,” he remarked.

A primary focus of the tour is to outline the strategic vision of the police, particularly regarding the introduction of a sub county policing model.

The model aims to assign at least 18 police officers to address the challenges of insufficient personnel at police posts, which has affected timely crime scene responses, patrols, and the arrest of suspects linked to criminal activities.

Zaake mentioned that while this program has already begun in some areas of the country, its implementation in the West Nile region is set for the next phase, dependent on the upcoming graduation of police recruits in training.

He assured that the new system will

incorporate all heads of departments, including the Officer in Charge (OC), the Officer in Charge of Criminal Investigations (OC CID), the Crime Intelligence Officer, and the Child and Family Protection Officer, among others.

District Police Commander Kennedy Akena reported advancements in the fight against crime, particularly addressing road robberies, gambling, and the rising involvement of minors in uncontrolled disco activities.

District Chairperson Wilfred Saka expressed his appreciation to the new RPC and his security team for choosing Terego District as the starting point for this important tour, assuring them of the district’s peaceful environment and enhancing confidence in community safety.

The tour began with a meeting of key stakeholders at the Terego District Headquarters, followed by interactions with residents in Aii-vu and Odupi subcounties.

The day wrapped up with a speech to police officers at the Omugo Central Police Station, emphasizing the significance of community-police partnerships in improving regional security.

*Judith Atizoyo  
Communication Officer  
Terego District*

# YUMBE REQUEST FOR SECOND PHASE OF DRDIP WOODLOT INITIATIVE



*Ijosiga Kassim in the middle of the formerly degraded area of Ananga Village after woodlot establishment*

For decades, there has been systematic cutting down of forests to create farms or pastures, or for other reasons like using the wood for fuel. This is also a cause of a high level of carbon emissions, since trees, when cut and burnt, release the carbon they have been storing.

In Yumbe district, the scenario caused by climate change is not any different. The routine of waking up every day to collect pieces of firewood for cooking is a never-ending lifestyle among the rural communities of Yumbe District and no one could imagine the end of it.

But with the increased demand for wood fuel and timber among nationals and refugees in Yumbe district has caused an extensive loss of vegetation cover leaving several of its land areas bare.

Young girls and women in this part of Uganda endure the brunt of having to walk over 10 kilometers nearly every day to obtain firewood for the daily preparation of meals.

One of the affected persons is Jamila Funga, a resident of Okoi Parish in Yumbe district who explains that the burden is far heavier on women given their role in

the traditional setting of African cultures which makes them in charge of domestic work like cooking which requires firewood.

“The situation is especially challenging for women in extended families who need large amounts of firewood to prepare enough food for many people in their homes,” Jamila explains.

Most residents in the West Nile district of Uganda lack alternative energy sources, such as solar cookers or energy-efficient stoves, leading them to rely heavily on the few remaining endangered indigenous tree species.

Women and their children from Biddi-biddi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe District were recently pictured carrying firewood. Such activities have led to the destruction of the tree cover.

A 60-year-old Mayimuna Ajiko a resident of Lori Sub County in Yumbe District is pessimistic about the future looking at the rate of human activities on land in her area.

Mayimuna Ajiko, a 60-year-old resident of Lori Sub County in Yumbe District, expresses concern about the future. “I am

increasingly becoming scared; if gathering just a few pieces of wood for cooking is this difficult now, how hard will it be in ten or twenty years?” Mayimuna voiced her worries.



*Women and their Children from Biddi-biddi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe*

District were recently pictured carrying firewood. Such activities have led to the destruction of the tree cover.

DRDIP responds through the Woodlots Initiative

Through the recently concluded Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project (DRDIP) government invested millions in a wood lots initiative a program aimed at re-establishing the lost forests by planting more trees in Yumbe district, bringing excitement to the faces of the vulnerable people in the area.

DRDIP responds through the Woodlots initiative

Zamuradi Maneno is one of the beneficiaries of the Jomorogo woodlot sub-project under the sustainable environmental and natural resources management sub-component of DRDIP.

She says, four thousand (4,000) tree seedlings they planted are growing very fast and she is optimistic that the huge burden of carrying big bunches of firewood over a long distance shall soon be much reduced.

Despite the worsening difficulty of accessing firewood because of mass deforestation, farmlands have become infertile, and rainfalls have become inconsistent partly due to the deforestation in Yumbe district. This, therefore, threatens the livelihoods of people in Yumbe.

Ijosiga Kassim of Okoi Parish, however, says through their Ananga woodlot sub-project under DRDIP, a previously bare Okoi land is gradually turning green and fertile.

“I never imagined that land without trees, like ours here in Okoi, could ever become lush and productive until DRDIP arrived,” Kassim testifies.



*A section of Ananga village in Yumbe District before DRDIP*

According to scientists, trees help improve soil health due to the ability of the roots to improve the capacity of soil to absorb water and nutrients and they also reduce the risk of wind erosion.

The fallen leaves create new organic matter in the soil including moderation of soil temperature through their shade.

It is reported that the world loses an average of 18.7 million acres of vegetation every year.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

(IPCC) a scientific group assembled by the United Nations that monitors and assesses all global science related to climate change, this is due to the increasing demand on the environment and land to accommodate the growing population as well as like timber and wood fuel.



*Refugee boy Carrying fire wood*

Prevention and management of environmental degradation as well as addressing the consequences of climate change is one of the project objectives of the concluded five-year DRDIP project which was led by the office of the prime minister.

Ijosiga and other members across the various wood lot establishments acknowledge the relevance of the intervention but say more another phase is required to achieve broader coverage and maximize impact.

“As women in charge of kitchen matters, we struggle to get firewood to cook foodstuffs. This is why we overwhelmingly supported the DRDIP initiatives when it came” says Funga Jamila who is also a beneficiary under the Ananga woodlot sub-project in Yumbe District.

***Achidri Akim  
Communication Officer  
Yumbe District***



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