



NDDP - FC



The **JOURNEY**

NAMAYINGO DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES



**ENHANCING QUALITY EDUCATION IN THE
FISHING COMMUNITIES**

JANUARY 18, 2023

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Foreword



I am delighted to share with you new developments implemented by Iceland government under the Namayingo district development programme for fishing communities.

The introduction of The Journey Magazine being one of the achievements, demonstrates the commitment by Namayingo district Local government in ensuring access to information.

This channel of communication has not only supported us in disseminating public information, it has also greatly contributed to the improvement of literacy among children.

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

Special thanks go to Embassy of Iceland for the tremendous technical and financial support towards the development of this publication.

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.

Ronald Sanya
District Chairperson,
Namayingo district.

For God And My Country





CAO

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

Namayingo District Local Government would like to express its appreciation to Iceland government and the Embassy team whose commitment and support have made this NDDP-FC The Journey Magazine.

Our magazine covers issues linked to all the programme interventions in Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene being implemented by the government of Iceland. Additionally, it has given opportunities to children to contribute stories thus improving on writing and reading skills.

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



Message
RDC'S

Deborah Mwesigwa Mugerwa
Resident district commissione
Namayingo

On behalf of government, I commend Iceland for the support and relationship it has exhibited in transforming the Ugandan fishing communities.

The bilateral partnership between the two countries has greatly contributed to the improvement in social-economic cycle.

Through the government of Iceland, Namayingo is implementing WASH and education intervention and this is aimed at reducing poverty and facilitating improvements in livelihood and living conditions of poor population in fishing communities.

Since inception, 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.

As government, we pledge continued support and commitment with you in the implementation of prioritized activities in the National development plan III

For God And My Country



Editorial Corner

Betty Angatai
Communication Officer

Dear readers,

Welcome to this second edition of the Journey magazine. The content in this Magazine mainly focuses on areas and key interventions of Namayingo District Development Programme for Fishing Communities.

It has been designed to help in information dissemination as well as monitoring and evaluation tool for tracking the impact of the interventions in communities.

In fulfillment of the right to participation, children and other stakeholders have actively taken part in the production of this issue. We thank all those who have contributed towards this edition. We are optimistic that our district being multilingual with diverse backgrounds, the magazine makes an ideal place for effective communication and skills development.

Thank you.

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WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS TO PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS

By communication unit

Hajirah aged 16, was born with a disability. Her left leg was crippled and could only walk with the help of a crutch.

Growing up, she enjoyed playing games but she was often discriminated by her close friends. She says that she was not considered a 'full person' whenever they would participate in games.

"No one wanted to play with me due to my disability. I was always considered unfit for any sport activity," Hajirah said.

For years, children with disabilities have faced challenges of inclusion in sports activities, education, and health. Most people have attitude that sports is only for those who are able-bodied.

However, according to 19th century research, sporting activity was proved important for the re-education and rehabilitation of people with disabilities.

Gilbert Maloba, the district sports officer, said that parasports increases participation among children with disabilities and this reduces dropouts.

"Through sports, persons with disabilities can acquire vital social skills, develop independence and become empowered to act as agent of change in communities," Maloba said.

Maloba was handing over parasports equipment to head teachers at the district



Gilbert Maloba the District Sports Officer (right) handing over sports equipment for PWDs to Wandera Samuel, headmaster - Bukewa P.S (left)

headquarters recently. The equipment was purchased with funds from Iceland under NDDP-FC project. The beneficiaries included the six primary schools of Mutumba, Bumeru, Isinde, Buchumba, Bukewe and Mutumba.

Maloba thanked the government of Iceland for providing parasports equipment to PWDs. He added that this will reduce discrimination and segregation of children with disabilities during sporting activities.

Fred Nalwenge, head teacher at Bukewa primary school, said that this will provide a good platform for PWDs to prove their abilities and be part of the communities.

"Improving sports for children with special needs will make them feel loved and happy," Nalwenge said."

Samuel Wandera, the head teacher of Busiro church of God said besides developing learners' talents, para-sport also improves on individual communication skills as well as building teamwork, cooperation and respect for others.

Maloba encouraged parents to support children with disabilities to actively engage in para-sport.



MINISTER COMMENDS ICELAND

By Betty Angatai

The Minister in-charge of General duties, Justine Kasule Lumumba has commended the government of Iceland for improving the education sector in Uganda.

"I want to commend Iceland for its continuous contribution towards the improvement of education in the country," Lumumba said.

Lumumba was speaking during the thanksgiving ceremony at Bumeru primary school in Mutumba Sub County. The ceremony was organized by the school administration and community members to thank Iceland government for the infrastructural development in the area. Bumeru is one the schools supported by the government of Iceland under the Namayingo District Development Programme for Fishing Communities (NDDP-FC)

Lumumba urged parents to prioritize education and also fulfill the responsibility of nurturing children.

"Iceland has constructed beautiful infrastructure in communities. Let us utilize these facilities by bringing our children to school," Lumumba said.

Before she attended the ceremony, the Minister, visited Isinde and Mutumba primary schools also supported by Iceland



Minister Kasule Lumumba at the thanksgiving ceremony in Bumeru P.S.

where she urged children to focus on education. Michael Wanyama Odwori, the Member of Parliament for Namayingo South, said the intervention has registered positive impacts in communities.

"Some children who had abandoned school for fishing have now resumed," Wanyama said. He adds that the enrollment of pupils has drastically increased as a result of the development.

Ronald Sanya, the district chairperson thanked Iceland for the support saying it has contributed to the development of the district.

Edith Namayega, the Chief Administrative Officer, said that Iceland has so far constructed six primary schools of Bukewa, Isinde, Mutumba, Buchumba, Busiro church of God and Bumeru.

The embassy also supported all the 84 primary schools with textbooks, scholastic materials and

training of teachers among others.

Namayega said in addition to construction of schools, the district received a boost of four vehicles and motorcycles to improve on service delivery in communities. The district also received two speed boats and an assortment of equipment that included 20 computers, printers and other office basic tools.

In health sector, a consignment of medical supplies and equipment worth over sh500m towards COVID-19 response was donated. The equipment was aimed at boosting the fight against the spread of the Corona virus.



Minister Kasule Lumumba dancing with pupils of Mutumba P.S.

Minister Kasule Lumumba touring Mutumba P.S.



ENERGY-SAVING STOVES OFFER SOLUTIONS TO NAMAYINGO WOES



By Communication unit

Most locals in Namayingo district rely on firewood obtained from the scanty tree cover to prepare food on a daily basis.

The status quo has been in place since time immemorial since firewood was readily available from the lakeside natural forest cover.

Abubaker Muwanika Salongo, the Bumeru B LCI chairman discloses that women and children usually fetch firewood every evening and stack it on a platform above the fireplace for subsequent use.

“The stored wood usually accumulates soot that often chokes and makes those cooking to occasionally sneeze and cough. The smoke too often makes the eyes turn red or teary,” Muwanika says.

He argues that the persistent use of firewood has depleted natural forests as a lot of it has to be used on a daily.

However, the state of affairs is bound to change thanks to intervention by the government of Iceland. A number of local mothers have been sensitized on the need to check on the energy used in their homesteads.

Genesis

Madina Nakasango, a resident of Bumeru B village, Mutumba sub-county narrates that they had a one-day training at the Gombolola headquarters on how to make and use the energy-saving stoves.

She says the training that occurred in December culminated in her getting a new energy-saving stove in her kitchen on December 16.

“After the training, they asked those ready with materials to say so and I responded immediately. I was actually the first from Bumeru B to get this stove in my home kitchen,” Nakasango testifies.

She adds that the new stove is the envy of neighbours after completely turning round the way cooking takes place in the home

Benefits of stoves

According to Nakasango, the amount of firewood used nowadays is very small as a few pieces are enough to cook both sauce and food on the two-way facility.

“No smoke or soot accumulates in the kitchen as the chimney ensures it takes it out through the wall. My kitchen is cleaner nowadays and I sit inside with ease as there are no fears of suffocation,” she says.

Safia Naigaga, another beneficiary, observes that since the set-up is built along the kitchen wall, it is not prone to breakages that occasionally arise with movable stoves.

“Even the food cooked with such stoves is fresh and has no sooty or smoky aroma. In some instances when smoke gets into food, it loses its natural taste,” she says.

Naigaga notes that the food also gets ready faster due to the hot flame generated inside the stove as a result of the effective air-inlet letting in ample oxygen supply.

Alex Busagwa, the district Natural resources officer says that energy-saving stoves are essential in saving money that would have been

spent on charcoal or procuring firewood especially by institutions.

“The energy stoves play a big role in reducing the quantities of fuel wood consumption,” Busagwa says.

He adds that they also prove to be a reliable intervention in curbing climate change as they greatly reduce carbon dioxide emissions that affect the ozone layer. A depletion of the ozone layer leads to global warming with resultant flooding, hurricanes that affect man.

Ronald Sanya, the Namayingo district chairman, believes the use of energy-saving stoves will help rejuvenate forest cover in the local government.

He laments that although about 546 hectares of the district land is covered by central forest reserves, these have been greatly encroached upon.

Much of the forest destruction is attributed to increased demand for firewood, timber, charcoal all of which can be reduced by energy-stove option.

Health hazard

Associate Prof. Dr. Peter Waiswa of Makerere University School of Public Health explains that an ordinary fireplace emits toxic gases that pose a serious risk to those cooking in the kitchen.

According to him, the smoke and soot equally enters the nasal passage over time and can lead to respiratory complications.

“It is one of the reasons rural mothers who stay longer in poorly-ventilated kitchens cooking usually have persistent coughs. Some may go ahead to develop life-threatening complications in the long run,” he warns.

Waiswa adds that even the eyes may become affected due to the continuous smoke that settles there causing them to appear teary.

He adds that smoke is an irritant to lungs and affects the immune system making those continuously exposed to be likely to suffer lung infections.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) data 2022, the inhalation of fireplace smoke can also contribute to heart disease.

The report further states that those inhaling firewood smoke risk becoming asthmatic or getting cancer.



Nakasango in her kitchen with a locally made energy-saving stove.

It is estimated that 4.2 million people die worldwide from exposure to outdoor air pollution in addition to 3.8 million whose deaths are linked to household smoke produced by dirty stoves and fuels.

Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, the WHO Regional Director for Africa in her 2022 world health day message argued that there is a link between the planet and our health as infectious diseases rise alongside climate-related challenges.

Saving forests

Muwanika is optimistic that continued use of energy-saving stoves would put less strain on forests giving them a chance to rejuvenate.

Sam Cheptoris, the water and environment minister, appeals to every citizen to be a change agent in restoring the natural ecosystems like forests to save mankind from disaster.

BETTER SANITATION

STATUS TAKES SHAPE

IN NAMAYINGO DISTRICT

By Communication unit



A community inspection team checks a recently laid slab at a home in Mutumba Central

The need to improve sanitation in especially the rural countryside of Namayingo district has prompted several interventions.

One such arrangement is in place due to timely efforts of the government of Iceland. The idea being to ensure they put an end to open defecation in the area.

In Mutumba central zone, a team of natural leaders tasked with mobilisation, engineers and local leaders ensure they sensitise and coerce the villagers to have proper latrines at home.

Ronald Ouma, a natural leader explains that his task isn't a smooth one as there are open confrontations with those bent on remaining under poor sanitation category.

"At times you walk into someone's home to enlighten them about hand washing, having a good pit latrine or even smoking it and they rubbish your

advice. I have had instances where someone says I will do it for you to come and use," Ouma laments.

However, the negative energy seems not to bother the team bent on turning round the sanitation status of Namayingo local government for the best.

Hillary Bwire, a community engineer with Mutumba central team says they keep visiting people's homes to ensure they have durable pit slabs in place.

"The lifespan of a latrine is majorly on its slab. So the onus is on the sanitation crew to reinforce the slab and make sure it stands the test of time," Bwire assures.

Building boost

Ronald Makhoha, a natural leader narrates that they use a concrete mixture to boost the slabs of pit latrines



Makhoha using cement to re-enforce a Pit-latrine slab

“The government of Iceland trained us as community leaders to help implement this sanitation project. The natural leaders mobilise communities as the technical team carry out the civil works to bring about change,” Makhoha says.

He explains that each beneficiary locality has a team of nine workers comprising both natural leaders and community engineers.

“We not only mobilise communities to have proper pit latrines but also to put proper sanitation measures in place. This includes good hygiene practices like hand-washing points,” he notes.

Benson Otucho, a community engineer notes that some homesteads lack pit latrines hence there is no structure to attend to.

“The culture of some locals is that pits are alien structures that must be avoided. There is talk of men even divorcing women who remind them about having a pit latrine on compound,” Otucho observes.

Rosemary Makhoha, another engineer, says they ferry sand and cement from home to home to help reinforce those slabs that are weak.

“We mix sand and cement and lay it on the slab to make it last much longer. Some of these structures have been made out of weak items that even compromise the safety of users,” she says.

According to her, some people even fear using the weak structures over fears of them collapsing while a user is busy defecating.

Markets boost

At some markets where people would help themselves in nearby bushes, they have been helped to get proper places of convenience.

Mutumba weekly market premises now boast of an improved sanitation situation with a new water-borne toilet in place.

Sanitation Status

According to the National Population and Housing Census of 2014, Namayingo district was ranked the local government with lowest latrine coverage in Busoga sub-region.

With an estimated population of 215, 443, the district had at least 21.5% of households without a latrine.

It was also observed that 56.5% of the residents have no access to safe water with the situation made worse by the common act of locals using bushes to answer nature’s call.

Health Hazard

On March 15, 2016 there was a cholera outbreak reported in Namayingo district with four confirmed cases. This was the second outbreak in the area within a space of two years.

The outbreaks in Namayingo have been associated with open defecation, eating cold food, drinking water from the lake as well as poor hygiene practices.

Aid appreciated

Ronald Sanya, the district chairperson welcomes the Iceland intervention saying it will help in improving the sanitation situation in the district.

He adds that during the 2021/2022 financial year the local government equally constructed three 5-stance lined VIP latrines at Kifuyo trading centre, Nsono in Buyinja and Sigulu in Lolwe.

OPINION

Sensitization, resher courses Changing Communities.

Dear the Journey Magazine

I am impressed by the many sensitization sessions and trainings that have been extended to the relevant education stakeholders in the District by the embassy of Iceland. The District has benefited a lot from these sessions conducted with a basic goal of improving the impoverished Education Standards in the Namayingo Community. There has been a significant improvement in the economic and social circles of the underprivileged

areas that were formerly characterized by high levels of poverty and poor academic harvest. The communities along the lake shores had a belief that fishing was more lucrative than formal education. This has changed! Currently, there is increased enrollment of learners in schools and this is a symbol of appreciation by the education

consumers. I am not mistaken to state that the fruits are being consumed positively. Most parents and guardians have of recent started playing their obligatory roles. They have discarded the TB syndrome. TB, here, standing for Too Busy though the truth was basically due to irresponsibility. Meals and other basics to learning are being provided to learners and this has made most of the

learners like schooling. The schools are learner friendly and we are optimistic that tomorrow is very bright.

To teachers, school heads and managers, the sessions have been a wakeup call and have positively contributed to both administrative and academic performance. This

every stakeholder through the School Improvement Plans. Many of our school heads who were managing schools by crisis are now crisis managers not managers by crisis.

The refresher courses and the professional growth programmes that have been

extended to teachers and school leaders have motivated them are now committed to the call of professionalism.

The people of Namayingo are humbled with less excuse not to improve upon their Literacy and numeracy levels, Micro and resultantly National Macroeconomic standards. It is equally true that

sooner than later the three Uganda's challenges from independence (These are ignorance, Poverty and diseases) are expecting a knock-out. Thank you Iceland!



Hillary Baguma, a Centre coordinating tutor training teachers on Leadership and generic skills at Lolwe Island.

has birthed to effective school and a conducive learning environment. Schools are being run according to plans and programmes set with the consultation and involvement of

KAAWO KAWERE NAAIY
FORMER DISTRICT EDUCATION OFFICER
NAMAYINGO.

For God and My Country!



Writers' Space

I hereby thank Iceland government for the great support rendered to us as Buchumba Community by building for us a wonderful infrastructure (school).

Thank you for this support because we have good building, desks, water for our teachers accommodation, toilet, kitchen, furniture etc.

Thank you so much because of this support the government of Uganda has also supported us by adding more teachers.

MUSIGA AZEO PRIMARY SCHOOL

A very beautiful Bumeru Primary School.

A nice looking school. After some years back, it was not looking well because few building and enough labour at school were not ok. Our parents tried to construct temporary classroom which had old iron sheets and holes on the wall. We could not stay in its ruin until it stays. We thought the school would break down in rain or grace. There came the night school in year 2022. Now everything is well, good environment and buildings, enough teachers and enough labour. I thank the local community for support given to us. I feel well and happy at school in Bumeru P/S, Mutumba sub-county, Namayingo district.

MUSIGA AZEO.

ABDULLAH TIM ISRAHIM

I am in primary school.

I am happy with the condition of my school because of the following:

1. No need to use to learn under trees but now we are sitting in classes.
2. These days we used to sit on dirt but now we have enough desks.
3. Teachers are now teaching us daily.
4. We used to walk in mud but now we have pathways for walking on.
5. I promise you that we are going to perform well.
6. I wish one day our school receives secondary.

Buchumba

Bumeru primary - P-7

Education Education Education

Uganda child needs education.

Iceland - you have made it.

providing beautiful classroom, buying and keeping books.

medicines for us, latrines to mention but a few.

Iceland Iceland Iceland

-you have provided water for us and the community.

Oh oh oh Iceland, what can Buchumba primary school give to appreciate.

Our destiny of Bumeru Primary School
Last time, there came a school to exist in the name of Bumeru Primary School. The school is Namayingo district Mutumba Sub-County, Buchumba parish, Bumeru B village. In the year past, the school had a very big number of children but amidst it, there were only six classrooms. Our parents tried to build temporary building.

I think due to the thing given to us and the raised number of teachers shall get more first grades than ever.

I thank the Iceland community for the support given to us to have such a wonderful environment to be talked about. May should continue giving us more.

MINYA SALIMU

NGOLOBE LAWRENCE

Law

The story about Bumeru Primary School

Previously Bumeru P/S was like a sub standard school in the five years ago.

We had six classrooms, teacher's quarters, latrines and understaffed.

Teachers could use tree shades as their stop rooms.

To performance too was low.

However appreciate the Iceland government for the great transformation.

It has made Bumeru now.

Currently, we have enough classes, teacher's quarters, latrines, a kitchen and improved sanitation.

These include water harvesting tanks, electrification, a good number of VIP latrines, wash facilities & shower rooms for girls.

Due to above facilities we now have enough books and we have enough getting quality.

Long live Iceland government!

Long live Namayingo District government

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

NAMAYINGO SCHOOLS GET FACELIFT

By Betty Angatai

The number of children who drop out in the fishing communities of Namayingo district is expected to go down following the refurbishment of six primary schools by the government of Iceland.

The schools that include Busiro church of God, Bukewa, Mutumba, Bumeru, Buchumba and Isinde from three fishing sub counties received education infrastructural boost from Iceland through Namayingo district development programme for fishing communities.

The district chairperson, Ronald Sanya, said the Iceland support had improved the education standards.

"Most of the children that had dropped out have returned to school," Sanya said.

According to the statistics from the district planning department, the primary completion rate for boys in 2019 was 31.2%, while that of the girls was 27%

Vincent Makali, the acting district education officer, said many children had dropped out of schools due to poor infrastructural development.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony at Busiro church of God primary school in Banda sub- county recently, the Namayingo Woman Member of Parliament Margret Makhoha noted that several children had abandoned school to poor infrastructure coupled with lack of educational materials and long distance.

"I studied in this school (Busiro P/S) but under poor conditions. We used to study under trees and could sit on logs and bare ground," She said.

Makhoha added that the school had only two grass-thatched classrooms made out of mud and wattle.

"I can't trace my former classmates because most of them dropped out of school. I only succeeded because I had a passion for education," She said.

Samuel Wandera, the head teacher of Busiro thanked the government of Iceland for supporting the community.

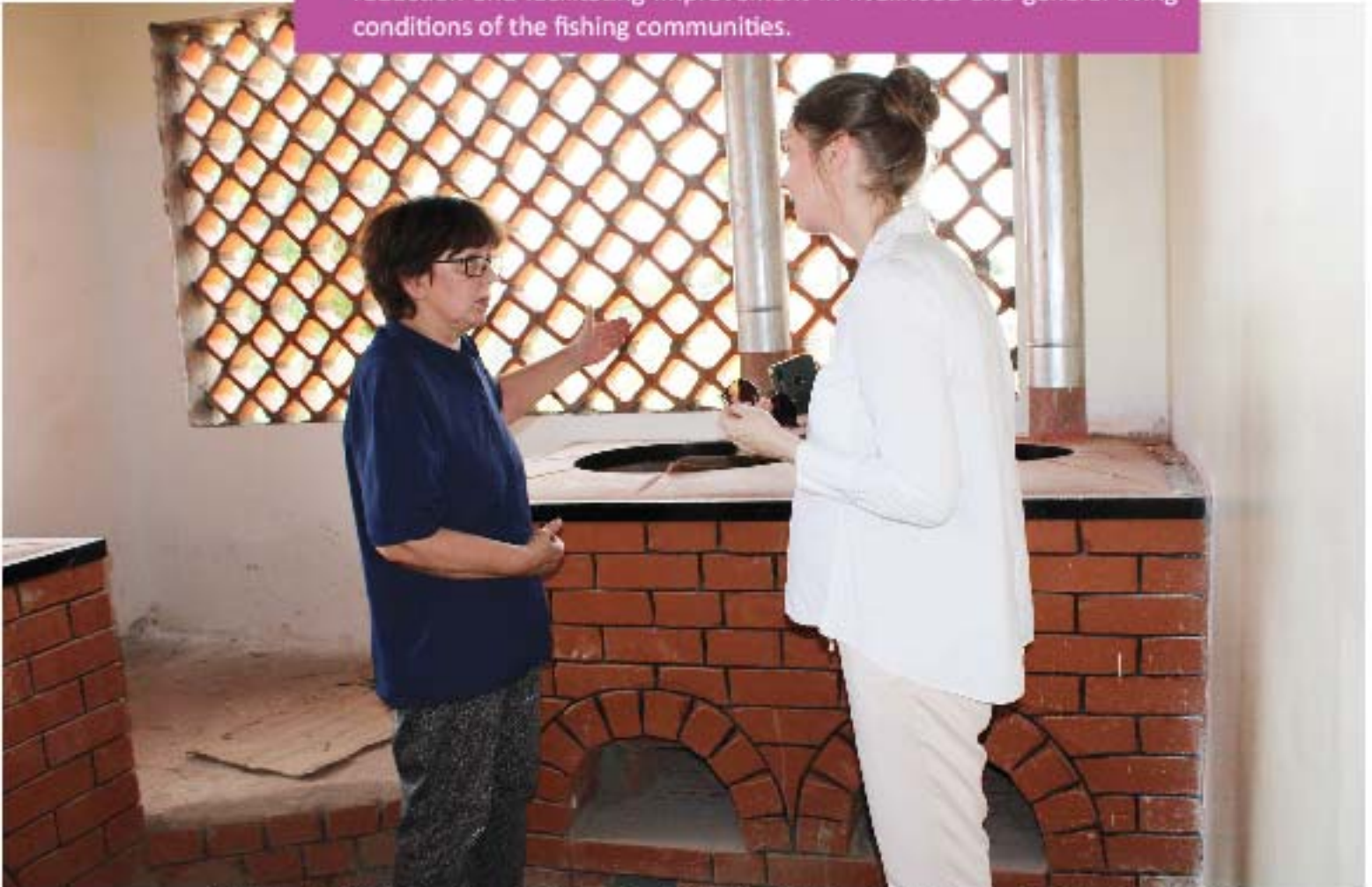
He said the school was grappling with challenges of sanitation facilities, classroom blocks, teachers houses, water among others.



John Genda Walala, the director Incharge of Inspection in the Ministry of Local Government (2nd-left) with the Head of co-operation Embassy of Iceland, Rutur Anarson (2nd-right) commissioning Busiro Church of God P.S

"We had few classrooms and in a very sorry state. They could not accommodate the 1,019 pupils," Wandera said, adding that most lessons were conducted under trees.

The \$8m programme is intended to address the development constraints in the district related to deficiencies in delivering basic services to the fishing communities. This is in addition to poverty reduction and facilitating improvement in livelihood and general living conditions of the fishing communities.



The Head of Mission Thordis Sigurdardottir (Left) with Asdir Bjarnadottir in-charge of bilateral co-operation ministry of foreign affairs during the monitoring visit in Mutumba P.S.

The Namayingo district Chief administrative officer, Edith Namayega said the construction of schools is handled in phases under Namayingo district development programme for fishing communities for the period of period 2021-2023.

In the first phase, three schools of Bumeru in Mutumba, Buchumba in Banda and Isinde in Buhemba were constructed.

In the second phase, three other schools of Mutumba, Busiro church of God and Bukewa were also refurbished.

The scope of works in all schools included construction of new classroom blocks, refurbishing of old classrooms , construction of administration blocks, kitchens equipped with modern energy –saving stoves, staff houses, sanitation facilities and installation of solar panels and water harvesting tanks.

The schools have also been equipped with desks and also received educational materials.

Wandera said the new development in the



Pupils of Busiro Church of God Primary School during breaktime

school had increased pupil enrollment. "Initially, the school had only 10 semi permanent classrooms but currently we have 17 with an enrollment of over 1050," Wandera said.

Iceland committed

The head of co-operation at the Embassy of Iceland, Rurur Arnason said his government was committed to supporting the education sector in the district.

He emphasized improved performance in a bid to create value for the new infrastructure in schools. Iceland commended

The director of inspection in the Local government ministry, John Genda Walala, who represented Local government minister Raphael Magyezi, commended the Iceland government for boosting the

education sector and WASH, especially in the rural and marginalized fishing communities.

Inspection team urged

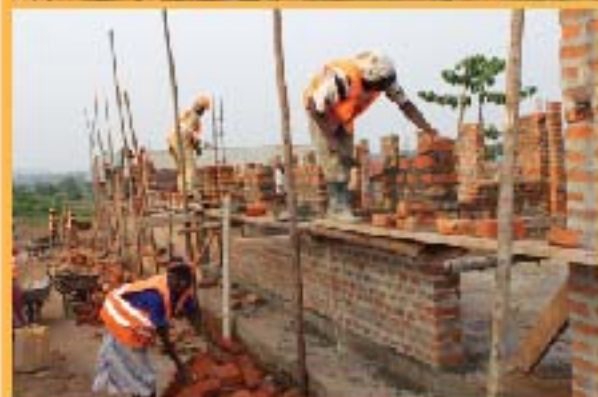
Makhoha asked the inspection team and teachers to improve performance through effective teaching and assessing learners.



Pupils at Isinde P.S

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

The Journey magazine brings you pictorial of women who braved and took part in the construction work of Busiro Church of God primary school in Banda Sub County.



Iceland support PWDs access education

"Iceland has contributed towards my welfare at school. I don't need to go back home for mid-day meals. This has helped me to concentrate in class," **Baseka** says

By communication unit

Although she cannot make use of her crippled feet, 12-year-old Adiyani Baseka still literally crawls to and from Mutumba Primary School daily to attend lessons.

Due to the rough nature of the terrain she moves on, her feet and hands have scaly sores and blisters that often inconvenience her movement.

According to Baseka, every time it rains, the roadways become muddy and she has to soil her clothes on her way to and from school.

Hillary Bwire, a community natural leader in Mutumba central narrates that Baseka is a regular pupil at school and only keeps away when she falls sick.

Derrick Kyambadde, a teacher at Mutumba PS explains that Baseka is an average pupil proving that disability isn't an inability at all.

"She comes to school crawling and can then get onto a bench and sit properly during lessons. The good thing her home is not very far away from the school compound," he says.

He observes that over time, other pupils came to appreciate Baseka's condition and they freely play with her making her feel comfortable and develop a sense of belonging.

"It is common to find other pupils helping her carry her school books. This simplifies her movements," he says.

Kyambadde notes that the school has an old pit latrine that had been constructed with a stance specifically for PWDs.

"However, some buildings lacked ramps or special access slopes meant for use by PWDs. This somehow inconvenienced Baseka until government of Iceland came in to assist of recent," he testifies.

★ *Iceland input*

He reveals that the government of Iceland has provided scholastic materials for Baseka to help her attend school with ease.

"They also constructed a modern pit latrine with a PWD exclusive section that makes life easier for Baseka. It was fitted with guard rails, ramp and other facilities to help her use with comfort," he says.

Baseka affirms that the new pit latrine is ready for use although the guard rails had been positioned slightly much higher than her height.

Baseke says that the government of Iceland also caters for her mid-day meals at school.

"Iceland has contributed towards my welfare at school. I don't need to go back home for mid-day meals. This has helped to me to concentrate in class," Baseka says.

The Education officer in-Charge of special Needs in Namayingo district, Erisania Mayende say that a total of 583 orphans and vulnerable children have been supported by Iceland in the six schools.

"So far, they have been provided with food but there is a plan for Iceland government to support the children with scholastic materials," Mayende says.

★ *Schooling status*

Baseka reveals that she first attended Namiguwa Junior Education Centre before transferring to Mutumba Primary School.

"My first two years of primary school were at Namiguwa then I joined Mutumba PS in Primary three. It is at Mutumba that I got my first experience of a public school environment," she notes.

Grace Asinde, her mother, discloses that they shifted from Bugiri district in February



Iceland support PWDs access education

last year enabling Baseka to join Mutumba PS last year. Baseka is the fifth born in a family of eight.

“Even at Namiguwa she wasn’t paying fees as the proprietors offered her a scholarship. The status quo has been maintained courtesy of government of Iceland at Mutumba PS,” she says.

★Government goal

The persons with disabilities act, 2020 (Act 3 of 2020) stipulates that the government and all persons shall respect, uphold and promote the fundamental and other human rights and freedoms of persons with disabilities.

It is estimated that there are about 5 million disabled people countrywide and these face extreme conditions of poverty, limited opportunities for accessing education, health as well as suitable housing and employment.

The universal primary education act makes it financially possible for families to send their disabled children to school.

★Challenges cited

Baseka says continuous movements irritate both her hands and feet since they are the ones used in crawling.

“The palms and feet itch due to the contact

with sharp stones. When it rains, the mud and run-off become unbearable,” she says.

Asinde reveals that Baseka at times develops complications that make her skin appear as if it is getting rotten.

“This girl was born like any other normal child but started getting sick at six years. Her skin started cracking and we took her to Buluba hospital in Mayuge district but we were told it isn’t leprosy,” she says.

She says the recurrent health condition which still puzzles local medics has taken a toll on her dad (Kuzaiifa Maka’s) business undertaking at Kitodha village.

Maka observes that Baseka experiences a condition whereby the entire body appears to be so hot with the skin looking scald.

“We were advised to seek diagnosis and subsequent treatment from abroad but do not have the funds. So she has to bear with her condition for now,” Maka says.

Asinde also laments that she has not yet got enough funds to buy a school uniform for her daughter who crawls to school wearing non-uniform.

★Future prospects

Maka hopes that her daughter can become a prosperous business lady at the nearby Busia town when she grows up.

“Both her mum and dad are indulging in trade. It is in the family and with her education, she can perform wonders,” Maka suggests.

Children speak out on the importance of sanitation and hygiene clubs in schools

KIDS ZONE



We have promoted behavioral change in our school through sanitation and hygiene club. Many children can now wash their hands after visiting the pit-latrines.

Abdullah T. Ibrahim
Isinde P.S

We have special room for changing our linen during menstrual periods. Our sanitation facilities are always clean and have incinerators. We can complete our monthly periods without being noticed.

Esther Lucy Ajiambo,
Isinde P.S



In our club, both boys and girls meet and talk about menstruation. We have been taught how to make re-usable sanitary pads and liquid soap. Menstrual hygiene management has been prioritized and as our club grows, no girl will miss school due to lack of sanitary pads.

Barbara Anyango
Isinde P.S



We keep our school clean. We clean sanitation facilities and classrooms but the only challenge is that some children without shoes come with mud and dirten places cleaned.

Adongo Mary,
Buchumba P.S



The best thing about the club is that we get to learn information on good health practices and disseminate it to others. I have also shared the same information with my parents and there is a change at home.

Aaron Barasa Buluma
Bumeru P.S

School Children taught how to make Sanitary Pads, liquid soap

By Betty Angatal

At least 36 school children and teachers have been taught how to make re-usable sanitary towels from local materials.

The beneficiaries were selected from the six primary schools supported by the government of Iceland. They were taught how to make sanitary towels and liquid soap.

Mathias Mangeni, the Assistant district health officer, said that the child hygiene and sanitation training was facilitated by the Iceland government in a bid of promoting good hygiene and sanitation.

He noted that most girls in the rural communities were challenged with lack of sanitary pads and this affected their education.

The 2013 survey conducted by UNICEF in the

10 districts revealed that about 23 percent of adolescent girls between the ages 12-18 years that start experiencing menstrual periods lack adequate menstrual protection.

Patience Nafula, a pupil at Bukewa primary school said "I would miss school whenever I was in my menstrual periods. I used old clothes to cope up with the messes making it difficult for me to attend lessons,"

Nafula said her parents could not afford to buy sanitary pads. "I have never used a pad ever since I started menstruating. My parents could not afford. I am very happy that I have learnt how to make them;" A packet of sanitary pads costs between sh3000 to sh4000.

Imelda Nabwire, a senior woman teacher at Busiro



Pupils trained on how to make re-usable sanitary towels



Pupils trained on how to make liquid soap

church of God said that many girls have dropped out of school due to poor management of menstrual hygiene.

"Menstrual periods have greatly affected the academic performance of the girl-child in rural poor areas. Most girls do not stay in school when in their messes," Nabwire said. Nabwire said "Through this initiative, we will be able to curb absenteeism in school and this will enable girls complete the whole cycle of education,"

Mangeni added that the initiative will lead to a decline on issues of teenage pregnancies, where the district is close to 30% in all antenatal care attendances.

He commended the Iceland government for

designing a programme addressing the specific challenges affecting children in the fishing communities.

Lakeri Kukolakwe, a pupil at Mutumba also thanked Iceland for the initiative saying it helps stay in school even during menstrual periods.

"I have learnt how to make liquid soap. I will now wash my linen with ease and be able to attend school without any worry or embarrassment," Kukolakwe said.

Florence Aklor, a trainer said pupils and teachers have been taught how to make sanitary towels and will in turn teach others.

Azed Musoga, a pupil at Bumeru primary school thanked Iceland for involving them (boys) in sanitary pads and liquid soap making activities.

The Journey Magazine, a tool for literacy - Minister Gidudu



Hon. Minister Mafabi (2nd left), District Chairperson Ronald Sanya (First Left), Woman MP -Margaret during International Literacy day Celebration.

On 8th September last year, Namayingo district local government launched the first edition of its bi-annual Magazine, 'The Journey Magazine'

The Magazine was launched by the State minister for Elderly Affairs, Dominic Gidudu Mafwabi during the International Literacy day celebrations held at the district headquarters. Namayingo hosted the National celebration that was celebrated under theme 'transforming literacy spaces'

Gidudu said that the magazine will improve literacy among learners and also provide functional information that touches different sectors.

"The magazine is a vital tool for literacy which should be used by learners and stakeholders," Mafwabi said.

Ronald Sanya, the district chairperson explains that the magazine was developed by Namayingo district development programme for fishing communities (NDDP-FC) with support from the Embassy of Iceland to help in the dissemination of information. The Iceland government is supporting the district in addressing education, water, sanitation and hygiene issues in the district.

Gidudu said that the government is committed to universalize education, literacy and training in communities.

He noted that government has so far taken steps in making education accessible through introduction of universal primary education and universal secondary education.

He thanked Iceland for education interventions and support towards the improvement of literacy in the district.

"The government has and continues to implement programmes to universalize education, literacy and training. It has done this, through programmes such as Functional Adult Literacy, UPE, USE and complementary education projects and integrated community learning for wealth creation (ICOLEW)" Gidudu said.

Gidudu said although the government has registered some achievements in eradicating illiteracy, a lot has to be done to improve on literacy.

"In Uganda, about 1.8 million men and 8.2 million women are non-literate. Of these, 93% live in rural areas and only 7% in urban centres, Gidudu said. He said adding that about 80% of older women are illiterate compared to 41% of men aged 60 years and above.

Illiteracy rate among children with disabilities is still high with 64.7% of them aged 13 years and above not have completed primary education.

Excitement as Namayingo residents get water



Women fetch water from a newly constructed spring well.

Residents in the fishing communities who had been battling a severe crisis of water have reasons to smile following the construction and rehabilitation of water sources in their area.

"We had no safe and clean water in the area. People used traditional water sources to access water for both drinking and other domestic use," Christine Nafula, a resident of Nahayiga village said. She added this exposed them to diseases.

"I am too excited because of the newly constructed spring well. We are now saved from collecting water from ponds shared with animals," Auma said, adding that despite the pain of sharing with animals, the water source received all the contaminated surface run-off water during the rains.

The Iceland government has so far constructed 12 spring wells and rehabilitated 50 boreholes in the fishing sub counties of Buhemba, Mutumba and Banda.

Joshua Wambusa, the district water officer, said that the water coverage stands at 61%

The Head of Mission Thordis Sigurdardottir washing hands at Namalere spring well as Ronald Sanya, the district chairperson looks on





School gardens improve feeding, learning for Namayingo Learners

By Communication Unit

Feeding at school is a necessary requisite for learners to understand properly what they are being taught.

Hence it came as a much-needed boost when the government of Iceland helped set up school gardens at six renovated schools of Namayingo district.

Vincent Makali, the district education officer, notes that lack of feeding at school has partially contributed to children dropping out of school.

"They start by running home during lunch to feed or climbing mango trees to eat the fruits. Afterwards, it becomes an excuse to escape from the school compound leading to losing interest in academics," he says.

Background

Makali notes that there had been uncontrolled cutting of trees even on school compounds which caused deforestation in the local government.

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.

"So coming up with school gardens is one way of restoring tree cover in the district. Most gardens now have trees intercropped with food crops for school use," Makali discloses.

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 fruit trees planted as part of the school garden 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.

Derrick Kyambadde, a teacher at Mutumba PS notes that some tree species have been planted on the school compound to improve the green cover.

"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.

According to him, the green cover prevents run-offs that make the top fertile soil layer to be lost through soil erosion.

"The gullies that result from the erosion pose a threat to the pupils as they can get injuries. So we have instead made drainage channels that supply the school garden with this excess rain," he says.

James Wesonga, the head teacher of Bumeeru PS explains that they have an extension of the school garden in form of maize crops that 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.

Improved meals

Esther Auma, a P4 pupil at Bumeeru PS testifies that the school garden has improved feeding at school.

"There are days when the maize is boiled and given to pupils at lunch. We also feast on the mango fruits that are rich in Vitamin C to help us guard against COVID-19," Auma notes.

Kyambadde explains that school gardens also help teachers plant their own crops and save some of their money that would be used to buy food from the trading centres.

Abubaker Muwanika Salongo, the Bumeeru B LCI chairman testifies that teachers at Bumeeru PS indulge in small-scale farming at the school garden especially during holiday time.

"The food proves crucial at that time when the children are away and teachers are dependent on only salary. They grow among other crops; sweet potatoes, soya beans and greens," Salongo says.

School study

Auma adds that the school garden is instrumental in teaching pupils basic agricultural skills that they may need later on in life.

"Classes have particular sections and teachers make it a point to supervise what is going on. We learn how to prune, thin, mulch and even make compost manure," she says.

Wesonga argues that the tree species growing on the school garden are one way through which pupils can appreciate the importance of afforestation.

"Children get to study a lot about the environment from the school garden. They get practical knowledge about how trees are of an advantage to man and so on," he says.

Ruth Anyango, a P7 pupil says she was able to learn about crop rotation from the school garden and can now apply it in real life.

"We have a period after classes for co-curricular activities and this is when we go to the garden for practical skills. Children hold hoes and dig, remove weeds and are guided to do other duties like digging drainage channels," Anyango says. She appreciates the government of Iceland for helping them have functional school gardens that are enabling the pupils to get such good practical skills.



Salongo checks on a tree species growing in Bumeeru P.S garden



Thordis Sigurdardottir, the Head of Mission at the Iceland Embassy, launching the sanitation facility with Community Members at Mutumba Trading Centre

NAMAYINGO GETS SANITATION FACILITIES

By Betty Angatai

For years, Namayingo district has been grappling with the challenge of lack of sanitation facilities. Most public places and households lack sanitary facilities which has put many residents at risk of contracting diseases.

Due to poor sanitation facilities in the area, there has been an outbreak of hygiene-related diseases such as cholera, typhoid, and diarrhea.

The Namayingo district principal health officer, Humphrey Oundo said the most affected are the fishing communities of Banda, Mutumba, Buhemba and the island sub-counties of Sigulu and Dolwe.

"Public latrine coverage in the district stands only at 20% while household coverage at 77.3% Oundo said adding that handwashing coverage at household level stands at 44%

At Maruba primary school in Mutumba sub county, some children ease themselves in Lake Victoria, while communities said the government of Iceland has

constructed six sanitation facilities in rural growth centres and four primary schools of Siabona, Maruba, Mutumba and Lufudu.

"The two pit- latrines at the school are in a sorry state. Secondly, they cannot be used by all the 1,200 pupils," Leonid Ajambo, the head teacher, said.

Evelyn Acheing, a primary six pupil said they normally ease themselves in the nearby Lake Victoria. "We cannot queue for over 10-15 minutes just to use a pit latrine," She said.

Gladys Opondo, a primary six pupil of Siabona primary school said several pupils especially girls, miss lessons due to poor sanitation facilities at the school.

"If one wants to ease oneself, he or she must run back home and by the time they come back, it is too late for lessons," Opondo said.

She added that the situation becomes worse when girls are experiencing their menstrual periods, where most of them miss school.



A newly constructed VIP pit-latrine at Siabona P.S in Banda Sub County.

Godfrey Wandera, a teacher at Siabona, said that the school has only one latrine which is used by pupils. At Mulombi trading centre, the residents and market vendors used a makeshift latrine that lacks a door, wall and roof.

Cholera outbreak

Oundo said the district has had two major cholera outbreaks in the past seven years, with the most recent occurring in 2018.

"The most hit areas were the communities living in Mutumba, Band and Buhemba sub-counties located along the lakeshores of Lake Victoria," Oundo said.

Mathias Mangeni, the Assistant District Health officer, said in a bid to reduce transmission and mortality caused by cholera, the Ministry of Health launched a vaccination campaign in the hotspots districts, where an oral cholera vaccine was administered to persons above the age of one.

Negative cultural and social beliefs

Augustine Bwire, the LC1 chairperson of Lutolo village, however, cited some negative cultural and social beliefs, low levels of education and mindset issues which hinder improvement in sanitation in communities.

Iceland intervenes

To promote good sanitation and hygiene in the fishing communities, the Government of Iceland embarked on the construction of sanitation facilities in public places.

Finnbogi Arnarson Rutur, the Iceland Embassy's head of cooperation, said the project, dubbed Namayingo District Development Programme for Fishing Communities (NDDP-FC) is aimed at improving Water, Sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and education in the fishing communities.

Steven Lumala, the district co-ordinator for Namayingo district development programme for fishing. The facilities have been constructed in Mutumba, Lutolo, Bujwanja, Tanganyinka, Mulombi, and farm.

Lumala said a 10- stance water-borne toilet, six bathrooms, water supply and hand washing facility has been constructed for each sanitation facility in the rural growth centre.

Winfred Muwagala, a head teacher at Lufudu primary school commended the government of Iceland for the support. She said the intervention will contribute to retention of children in the school.

Peninah Nabwire, a pupil said the new facilities will help them stay longer in school. She said some of the pupils had abandon school due to poor sanitation facilities.

“The old facilities had no water, bathrooms and space. It was hard for us girls to change sanitary linen whenever were experiencing our menstrual periods,” Nabwire said.

He said Iceland also constructed sanitation facilities in the six primary schools of Bumeru, Isinde, Buchumba, Bukewa, Mutumba and Busiro in phase one and two of the project implementation. He said in addition to

sanitation facilities, the Iceland government constructed classrooms, teachers’ houses, administration block, kitchen with modern energy saving stoves, among others.

Sanitation improvement campaigns and bylaws

Alfred Bwire, a resident of Lutolo village said that the village council came up with resolutions aimed at improving sanitation in the area.

“We introduced a fine of sh50, 000 for any household without a pit- latrine. This has compelled some family heads to construct sanitation facilities in their homesteads,” Bwire said.

He added that the objective is to end open defecation and to promote sanitation and hygiene in the communities.

“Hygiene promotion in rural settings needs to take up a collaborative approach that empowers communities. As area leaders together with the health team, we are identifying hygiene practices that are culturally appropriate,” Bwire said.



Pupils pose for a photograph after the launch of a sanitation facility at Lufudu P.S

