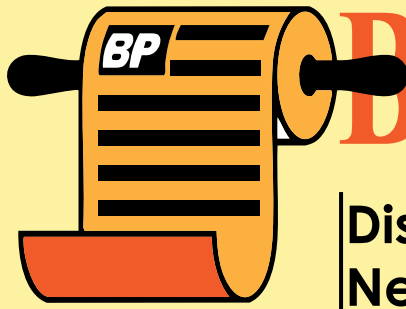




BUNYORO POST

District Communicators'
Newsletter

Date September 2026

Monthly Edition

VOL. 22



Inside Stories

BULIISA:
Community
Hatchery Turns
Local Eggs Into
New Poultry
Opportunities

Pg 4

MASINDI:
Health Facility
Managers Urged
To Put Patients
At The Centre Of
Care

Pg 11

MASINDI: New
Lions Club
Takes Aim at
School Dropout,
Environmental
Challenges

Pg 16



Ndagano Faridah

Editor's Note

Editor-in-Chief

Bunyoro Post Magazine

Tel: +256 777410031

Email: bunyoropost@gmail.com

Welcome to this month's edition of Bunyoro Post Magazine.

Across Bunyoro, development is increasingly being measured not only by the projects delivered, but by what those interventions mean in the daily lives of communities. In this edition, we bring you stories that reflect this people-centred approach—from efforts to improve sanitation and healthcare to initiatives supporting farmers, women, young fathers, older persons and refugee communities.

We also examine social protection and community wellbeing. Stories from Masindi and Kiryandongo highlight the concerns of older persons around healthcare, income security and access to social protection, while in Kikuube, support for elderly refugees and programmes engaging young fathers

demonstrate the importance of inclusive approaches to family and community development.

Health remains central to the region's progress. From measles-rubella vaccination and improved facility management to sanitation campaigns, the message is clear: prevention, accountability and community participation are essential to healthier communities.

As always, Bunyoro Post Magazine seeks to go beyond reporting activities. We ask what these interventions mean for people, what challenges remain, and what more needs to be done.

Enjoy the read.

KEY CONTRIBUTORS

Faridah Ndagano

Communication Officer, Kikuube District

Alex Tumuhimbise

Communication officer, Hoima district

Brian Atuhura

Communication Officer, Masindi District

Hannington Tibaijuka

Communications Officer, Buliisa District

Emmanuel Murungi,

Communication Officer, Kiryandongo District

George Gulyetonda

Communication Officer, Kagadi District

Vincent Muganzi

Communications Officer Kibaale District

BULIISA: Farmers Turn To Better Pastures To Strengthen Goat Farming

By Tibaijuka Hannington Communication Officer- Buliisa District

For goat farmers in Kigwera Sub-county, improving production may depend on something as basic as ensuring animals have enough quality feed throughout the year.

More than 25 members of the Kirama Goat Breeders Association have received follow-up training and improved pasture planting materials as part of efforts to strengthen goat farming and address dry-season feed shortages.

The training was conducted by the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)-Bulindi Zonal Agricultural Research and Development Institute (ZARDI), building on interventions supported by ASERECA Uganda in 2025.

Led by NARO-Bulindi goat production expert Dr Guma William, the follow-up focused on assessing progress and

strengthening farmers' skills in pasture establishment and improved goat management.

Farmers received planting materials including Brachiaria and Rhodes grass, alongside training in housing, feeding, disease and parasite control, and breed improvement.

"This is a follow-up to what we started last year with ASERECA. We found that farmers had picked up well but needed more support on pastures and improved management," Dr Guma said.

The intervention responds to a practical challenge facing livestock farmers: maintaining adequate feed during dry periods. Establishing improved pastures can give farmers a more reliable source of feed while supporting better management of their herds.

The training was overseen by Buliisa



NARO-Bulindi Team Leader Dr Guma William and members of the Kirama Goat Breeders Association display improved pasture materials during the follow-up training in Kigwera Sub-county.

District Veterinary Officer Dr Ssekamanje Ronald and the LCIII Chairperson of Kigwera Sub-county.

Dr Ssekamanje commended NARO-Bulindi and ASERECA Uganda for supporting goat farmers in Buliisa, noting that goats are among the enterprises promoted under the Parish Development Model (PDM).

He also pointed to opportunities presented by the oil and gas economy, saying goats have a ready market in the sector.

For the farmers, the intervention offers practical knowledge and materials they can use beyond the training session. The photograph accompanying the district report shows NARO-Bulindi staff

and members of the Kirama Goat Breeders Association handling hay and Brachiaria planting materials during the exercise.

The follow-up approach also provides an important lesson for agricultural programmes: initial support may help farmers adopt a new practice, but continued monitoring and targeted assistance can be necessary to address challenges that emerge during implementation.

For Buliisa's goat farmers, the immediate task is to establish and maintain the improved pastures, apply the management practices learnt and turn the additional feed into healthier and more productive herds.

BULIISA: Community Hatchery Turns Local Eggs Into New Poultry Opportunities

By Tibaijuka Hannington Communication Officer- Buliisa District

For farmers in Biiso Town Council, keeping local chickens is becoming more than a household activity. A new community hatchery is giving them a faster way to multiply their birds and explore growing opportunities in the local poultry market.

The 1,056-egg automatic incubator, procured by Buliisa District Local Government under the Production and Marketing Grant (PMG) for the 2025/26 financial year at a cost of Shs30 million, is already operating at full capacity at the home of model farmer Asinguza Norah in Kihuuha Cell.

Just weeks after installation, farmers

were bringing their local chicken eggs to the hatchery in numbers, according to a monitoring visit by District Veterinary Officer Dr Ssekamanje Ronald.

The facility is intended to reduce farmers' reliance on traditional brooding and expensive purchases of chicks from outside the district.

"When we visited, we found the incubator filling up to capacity for each round. This shows farmers have embraced the technology," Dr Ssekamanje said.

The incubator maintains a temperature of 37.8°C and automatically turns the eggs during the 21-day incubation period, according to the information



District Veterinary Officer Dr Ssekamanje Ronald interacts with host farmer Asinguza Norah and a beneficiary at the community hatchery in Kihuuha Cell, Biiso Town Council

accompanying the machine's photograph on page four of the district report. The veterinary team is monitoring temperature, humidity and egg handling, with a target of achieving more than 80 per cent hatchability.

For the host farmer, community mobilisation has been key to the facility's uptake.

Asinguza said she has been using church gatherings and Parish Development Model groups to encourage farmers to bring larger quantities of eggs for incubation.

Instead of relying on a hen to hatch a small number of eggs, she encourages farmers to bring 30 or 50 eggs to the hatchery and receive chicks after the incubation period.

The benefit is already being felt by farmers such as Ayenyo Margaret of Kihuuha, who brought 40 local chicken eggs to the facility.

"Before, I would get only 8 chicks because the hen would break some eggs. Now I brought 40 eggs and I am sure I will get more than 30 chicks," Ayenyo said.

She sees an opportunity to expand

poultry production and supply chicken to workers in the oil and gas sector.

Buliisa is among the districts hosting the Tilenga and EACOP oil projects, creating opportunities for local enterprises to supply goods and services to the expanding economy.

For the district, the hatchery offers a practical link between public investment, agricultural production and local enterprise. By making artificial incubation available within the community, farmers can increase the number of chicks produced from their own local breeds and potentially build larger poultry enterprises.

The initiative also demonstrates the value of placing productive infrastructure within reach of farmers rather than expecting individual households to meet the cost of equipment on their own.

With the machine already filling up each cycle, the next test will be whether the increased availability of chicks translates into larger and more sustainable poultry enterprises for farmers in Biiso and surrounding communities.

BULIISA: OPM Sewing Machines Target Women's Livelihoods

By Tibaijuka Hannington Communication Officer- Buliisa District



Buliisa district leaders and officials the commissioning of sewing machines donated to women groups by the Office of the Prime Minister

Ten women groups in Buliisa District are set to receive support to develop tailoring and other income-generating activities following the donation of 10 modern sewing machines valued at Shs25 million by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM).

Each of the district's 10 lower local governments received one machine under the initiative, which targets women groups in sub-counties and town councils.

The equipment was commissioned at the Buliisa District Resource Centre in an initiative coordinated by the District Community Development Office together with the Senior Probation and Social Welfare Office.

Deputy Resident District Commissioner Silvesta Tumukurate urged the beneficiary groups to put the machines to productive use, including generating income, creating employment opportunities and improving household livelihoods.

"The government is committed to empowering women as a cornerstone for community development. These machines should not be kept idle. Use them to generate income, create jobs for other women, and transform your families," Tumukurate said.

District Chairperson Wandera Atuhairwe Twaili said the support was in line with government efforts to promote women's economic empowerment and self-reliance.

He called on the Community Development Office to monitor the beneficiary groups and ensure the equipment is properly used.

“This is a practical step towards self-reliance. When you empower a woman, you empower a whole community,” Twaili said.

The district administration also pledged to support accountability and sustainability of the initiative. The Chief Administrative Officer was represented at the commissioning by Assistant Secretary Katusiime Prisco.

For the beneficiary groups, the machines provide an opportunity to move from skills training to practical enterprise. The groups said they intend to use the equipment to establish tailoring businesses and train other

women in their communities.

The machines were distributed to Kihungya, Biiso, Butiaba, Buliisa, Kigwera and Ngwedo sub-counties, as well as Biiso, Butiaba, Buliisa and Wanseko town councils.

Beyond providing equipment, the initiative places responsibility on the beneficiary groups and district structures to ensure the machines remain productive. Regular use, skills development, access to customers and proper management will determine whether the investment translates into sustainable livelihoods.

For the women groups, the immediate task is to turn the machines into working enterprises that can generate income, develop skills and create opportunities for others in their communities.

KIKUUBE: Over 260 Elderly Refugees To Benefit From Social Cash Support

By Faridah Ndagano, Communication Officer- Kikuube

Two hundred and sixty elderly refugees in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement are set to receive targeted social protection support under a programme designed to strengthen their income security, health and wellbeing.

The Social Cash Transfer for Elderly Refugees (SCTER) targets refugees aged 80 years and above in Kikuube District, providing regular cash assistance alongside health, nutrition and financial-literacy support.

Each beneficiary will receive Shs75,000

every quarter, equivalent to Shs25,000 per month. The support is intended to help elderly refugees meet basic needs and improve their wellbeing.

The three-year programme, launched in August 2024, is funded by Ireland through the World Food Programme (WFP).

Beyond the cash transfer, beneficiaries will receive financial-literacy training and nutrition and health education tailored to the needs of older people. The programme will also provide health screening at payment points, treatment



for minor ailments and referrals where further medical attention is required.

The approach recognises that older refugees may face challenges that go beyond lack of income, including access to healthcare, nutrition and appropriate support within their households.

The District Principal Assistant Secretary, Denis Kirungi, welcomed the programme on behalf of Kikuube District Local Government, saying it would complement government efforts to support older people.

He urged stakeholders to work together to ensure that the assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries.

Leadership in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement, including officials from the Office of the Prime Minister,

also welcomed the programme and pledged cooperation with the implementing team.

For elderly refugees, the intervention provides a combination of financial and social support at a stage of life when access to regular income and essential services can be limited.

Its success will depend on effective identification of beneficiaries, reliable payment systems and continued coordination between district authorities, settlement leadership and programme implementers.

For Kikuube, the SCTER programme adds another layer to the district's social protection efforts, extending targeted assistance to elderly refugees while linking cash support with health and nutrition services.

Masindi CSOs Hailed for Empowering Women to Fight GBV

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer –Masindi District

Masindi District Vice Chairperson Bright Mugume has commended Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for amplifying the voices of women, particularly marginalised women in rural communities.

Mugume said programmes implemented by NGOs, including community training and leadership initiatives, have empowered women to understand their rights and confidently report cases of abuse and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV).

He made the remarks on Tuesday while addressing stakeholders during a quarterly review meeting on Gender-Based Violence, organised by Masindi District with support from BRAC at the district headquarters.

Mugume said continued support for women is important in strengthening their ability to speak out against abuse and seek justice.

A police report presented during the meeting showed that police recorded five defilement cases in April, 2026 while in May, 2026, police recorded three cases of aggravated defilement and

four cases of defilement, alongside two rape cases, one case of indecent assault and one case of homosexuality.

In June, police recorded two cases of aggravated defilement, four defilement cases, two cases of indecent assault and one rape case.

The Masindi District Probation and Social Welfare Officer, Annet Karamagi, said the district has recorded at least 68 GBV cases since January, excluding cases involving grievous harm.

Karamagi said the continued rise in reported cases requires concerted efforts from government, civil society organisations, communities and other stakeholders to prevent and combat gender-based violence.

She called for stronger community awareness programmes, improved reporting mechanisms and enhanced support systems for survivors of GBV.

The quarterly review meeting brought together stakeholders to assess the GBV situation in the district and strengthen coordinated efforts to prevent violence, improve reporting and support survivors.

Masindi District Leads National Cleaning Exercise in Kabango

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer –Masindi District



The CAO with support from the Ag.DEO Monica Kiiza, lifting a sack of rubbish onto the truck during the cleaning exercise.

Masindi District has intensified efforts to promote cleanliness and public health after leading a community cleaning exercise in Kabango Town Council as part of the National Cleaning Exercise.

The exercise, held on Saturday, 29, 2026, brought together district leaders, religious leaders, schools, members of the business community, and residents who joined hands to clean public spaces and improve sanitation across the town council.

Launching the exercise, Masindi Resident District Commissioner Darius Nandinda

commended the various stakeholders for embracing the initiative and actively participating in the cleaning exercise.

Nandinda said the involvement of religious institutions, schools and the business community demonstrates the importance of collective responsibility in maintaining clean and healthy communities.

Masindi District Chairperson Patrick Wobusobozi appreciated the President's Office for championing initiatives aimed at improving public health and encouraging Ugandans to live in clean environments.



The District Chairperson addressing residents of Kabango Town Council, after the cleaning exercise.

Wobusobozi urged residents to make personal hygiene, environmental conservation and cleanliness part of their daily lives by regularly cleaning their surroundings and planting trees.

“Some of you take two to three weeks without bathing,” Wobusobozi remarked, while emphasising the need for residents to improve their personal hygiene.

Meanwhile, the Masindi District Health Officer, Dr Nicholas Kwikiriza, said many diseases affecting communities can be prevented through improved personal hygiene, healthy lifestyles and proper

sanitation.

He explained that the Ministry of Health has shifted greater emphasis from treating diseases to promoting health and preventing illnesses.

“Ensure you remain healthy and live a productive life,” Dr Kwikiriza urged residents.

The leaders called on residents to take ownership of cleanliness in their communities and ensure that the National Cleaning Exercise becomes a sustained habit rather than a one-day activity.

MASINDI: Health Facility Managers Urged To Put Patients At The Centre Of Care

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer –Masindi District



Masindi District health facility in-charges attend a capacity-building training focused on leadership and service delivery

Improving the quality of health services requires more than equipping facilities and deploying health workers. It also depends on how patients are received, how facilities are managed and how effectively health workers respond to the needs of the communities they serve.

This was the message to health facility in-charges in Masindi District as they completed a two-day capacity-building training aimed at strengthening leadership, management and service delivery.

District Chairperson Patrick Wobusobozi

urged health workers to serve patients with empathy, humility and professionalism, saying their conduct can influence public confidence in health services.

“Patients come to health facilities seeking help, and they deserve to be received with humility, respect and empathy,” Wobusobozi said.

He also encouraged health workers to approach their responsibilities with discipline and commitment, emphasising that the quality of their service can leave a lasting impression on the communities they serve.

The training also placed emphasis on preventive health care.

Masindi District Secretary for Social Services William Mwambu challenged health workers to give greater attention to disease prevention rather than concentrating mainly on treatment.

He said healthier communities are better able to participate in economic and social activities, contributing to the wellbeing of households and communities.

For facility managers, the training addressed practical areas that directly affect service delivery. District Health Officer Dr Nicholas Kwikiriza Magambo said participants were equipped with skills in facility management, leadership and supervision, human resource and performance management, financial accountability, resource utilisation, data management and reporting.

The training also covered evidence-based decision-making, quality improvement and infection prevention practices.

Together, these areas are intended to help health facility managers make better use of available resources, strengthen supervision and improve the quality and safety of services delivered to patients.

Chief Administrative Officer Samuel Ruhweza Kaija commended the District Health Office for organising the training and emphasised the importance of continuous capacity building for health facility managers.

He also highlighted communication as an important part of service delivery, urging health workers to use appropriate and reliable channels when communicating with colleagues, patients, communities and other stakeholders.

Poor communication can undermine otherwise useful health interventions if patients and communities do not clearly understand the information being provided.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, Lawrence Baleke, In-Charge of Kyatiri Health Centre III, pledged that the health facility managers would apply the knowledge and skills gained from the training in their respective facilities.

For Masindi, the measure of the training will therefore come after participants return to their facilities—through stronger management, clearer communication, better prevention practices and, ultimately, a more respectful experience for the people seeking care.



District Chairperson addressing the Health In-Charges

MASINDI: Leaders Mobilise Communities For Measles–Rubella Vaccination

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer – Masindi District



The new staff attending one of the induction sessions

Masindi District has intensified community mobilisation ahead of the Measles–Rubella immunisation campaign, with leaders urging parents, schools, places of worship and community structures to help ensure that every eligible child is reached.

The campaign runs from 1 to 5 October 2026 and targets children aged nine months to five years. The district health team expects to reach approximately 59,000 children, with a target of more than 95 per cent vaccination coverage.

Addressing members of the Masindi

District Social Services Committee, District Vice Chairperson Bright Mugume called on parents and caretakers to take responsibility for presenting eligible children for vaccination.

He urged committee members to use schools, places of worship and other community platforms to provide information about the campaign and encourage families to participate.

“I appeal to all parents and caretakers to ensure that they present their children for immunisation against Measles–Rubella,” Mugume said.

The mobilisation effort is also intended to address concerns that may discourage some parents from having their children vaccinated.

Assistant District Health Officer in charge of Maternal and Child Health, Brian Mugisha, urged leaders to provide parents and caretakers with accurate information about the vaccine and its purpose.

Mugisha explained that some children may experience a mild fever after receiving the Measles-Rubella vaccine, describing this as a possible minor reaction. He encouraged leaders to reassure communities and address misconceptions that could affect participation in the campaign.

Effective communication, he said, will be important in ensuring that families understand the importance of presenting eligible children during the

campaign period.

For the district, the mobilisation effort places communities at the centre of the vaccination campaign. Health workers can provide the vaccines, but reaching the targeted children will depend on parents and caretakers bringing them forward and on local leaders helping communities understand when and where vaccination will take place.

With about 59,000 children expected to be reached, the district's target of exceeding 95 per cent coverage will require broad participation across communities.

The immediate task for Masindi is therefore clear: use every available community platform to ensure that eligible children are identified, informed and presented for vaccination before the campaign closes on 5 October.

MASINDI: Leaders Mobilise Parents Ahead of National Measles-Rubella Vaccination Campaign

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer -Masindi

Masindi District leaders have urged parents and caregivers to present all eligible children for the national Measles-Rubella Vaccination campaign scheduled for October 1-5, 2026.

The campaign targets children aged between nine and 59 months and seeks to strengthen protection against measles and rubella amid concerns over outbreaks reported in parts of the country.

The call was made during a district

coordination meeting held at the District Health Officer's Resource Centre to assess preparations for the five-day immunisation exercise.

Representing the District Chairperson, the Chairperson of the Social Services Committee of Council, Nicholas Babwetera, reminded parents of their responsibility to ensure that eligible children receive the vaccine.

He encouraged caregivers to take advantage of the campaign and present their children at designated

vaccination points throughout the exercise.

The Deputy Mayor of Masindi Municipality, Aisha Nakamya, who represented the Mayor, commended the District Health Office for engaging stakeholders in preparations for the campaign.

Nakamya called for coordinated efforts among local leaders, health workers, parents, schools and communities to improve health service delivery and protect children's health.

The Masindi District Health Officer, Dr. Nicholas Kwikiriza Magambo, said Uganda has experienced measles outbreaks in recent years, with cases reported in neighbouring districts, including Kiryandongo and Hoima.

He said the outbreak underscored the need for concerted efforts to prevent further transmission of measles and

rubella, prompting the Ministry of Health to organise a nationwide vaccination campaign.

The Assistant District Health Officer in Charge of Maternal and Child Health, Brian Mugisha, revealed that Masindi District is targeting approximately 59,000 children during the exercise.

He said vaccination services will be provided through schools, health facilities and designated outreach posts across the district to improve access for parents and caregivers.

To support the campaign, Masindi District has received 9,000 doses of the Measles-Rubella Vaccine.

Health workers are expected to work with stakeholders to coordinate vaccine distribution and ensure that as many eligible children as possible are reached during the five-day exercise.

Masindi Team Targets Trophies at National Ball Games

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer – Masindi District Local Government



The District Vice Chairperson, Bright Mugume handing over a football to one of the participants as a sign of flagging off the team.

Masindi District has challenged its 34-pupil team representing the district at the National Ball Games in Mubende Municipality to work hard and return home with trophies.

The challenge was made recently by Masindi District Vice Chairperson Bright Mugume while flagging off the team at the Masindi District headquarters.

Mugume encouraged the pupils to give their best during the competition and pledged to reward the team with a big prize if it returns with at least one trophy.

The District Sports Officer, Joseph Isingoma, said the team comprises Under-14 players who were selected to represent Masindi District at the national competition.

The games will be held at Mubende Army Secondary School from August 26 to September 4, 2026, bringing together school teams from across the country to compete in various sporting disciplines.

According to Isingoma, Masindi will

compete in football, volleyball and girls' netball. The boys will participate in football and volleyball.

The District Secretary for Social Services, William Mwambu, urged the pupils to take their sporting talents seriously, saying sports can provide rewarding career opportunities.

"You should take your talents seriously because sports is rewarding and can earn you a good living," Mwambu said.

The Acting District Education Officer, Monica Kiiza, commended the coaches and trainers for adequately preparing the team for the national competition.

Kiiza also urged the pupils to remain disciplined, prayerful and committed as they compete for honours and seek to win trophies for Masindi District.

The National Ball Games provide an opportunity for school teams from across Uganda to showcase their talent and compete in different sporting disciplines.

MURCHISON: Phased Fencing Targets Human-Wildlife Conflict As New Management Plan Takes Shape

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer – Masindi District Local Government

Masindi District has recorded improved performance in several key health indicators, with immunisation, HIV treatment, tuberculosis management and maternal health services meeting or surpassing national targets.

The gains are contained in the district's Annual Health Performance Report compiled by District Biostatistician Geoffrey Bagonza, which also highlights gaps in cervical cancer screening, antenatal care attendance and the elimination of mother-to-child



Wilson Kagoro, the Conservation Education Officer from UWA addressing stakeholders

transmission of HIV.

Immunisation was among the strongest performing areas, with both DPT1 and DPT3 coverage reaching 100 per cent, exceeding the target of 99 per cent.

HIV treatment also performed above target, with Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) coverage standing at 99.6 per cent against a target of 95 per cent.

However, the district recorded 83 per cent in the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV, below the 95 per cent target, indicating the need for stronger interventions to prevent new infections among children.

Tuberculosis case notification reached 201 cases per 100,000 population, exceeding the target of 172 cases. The report attributes the performance to improved case detection and reporting.

Maternal health indicators also showed mixed results. Health facility deliveries reached 76.7 per cent, surpassing the target of 68 per cent, while maternal death reviews achieved 100 per cent

against a target of 80 per cent.

However, first antenatal care attendance stood at 86 per cent, below the 95 per cent target. Fourth ANC attendance reached the target of 50 per cent.

Cancer screening remains another area requiring improvement. Cervical cancer screening among women aged 15 to 49 years stood at 19 per cent, against a target of 24 per cent, while breast cancer screening reached 23 per cent.

The district recorded teenage pregnancy prevalence of 20 per cent, better than the target threshold of 25 per cent, suggesting progress in addressing adolescent reproductive health challenges.

Overall, the report shows a district making significant progress in several areas while facing persistent gaps that require targeted interventions.

Health authorities have called for increased efforts to improve early

antenatal care attendance, expand cervical cancer screening and strengthen interventions to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

The district's next challenge will be to

sustain the gains already made while closing the remaining gaps to ensure more residents have access to quality preventive and curative health services.

Older Persons Push For Better Healthcare And Social Protection

By Brian Atuhura, Communication Officer – Masindi DLG & Emmanuel Murungi, Communication Officer, Kiryandongo District

Older persons in Masindi and Kiryandongo are calling for stronger healthcare and social protection, as government outlines efforts to improve access to essential services while acknowledging gaps that still affect senior citizens.

Recent engagements with older persons' councils in the two districts highlighted proposed improvements to the Social Assistance Grants for

Empowerment (SAGE), healthcare for non-communicable diseases and stronger representation of older people in community development.

In Kiryandongo, District Chairperson Nelson Osaga said the district has about 11,846 older persons, but only 1,331 currently benefit from SAGE.

Minister of State for Older Persons Jackline Mbabazi said Cabinet had



agreed to increase the monthly SAGE grant from Shs25,000 to Shs35,000 and lower the eligibility age from 80 to 65 years.

However, implementation is awaiting funding. Mbabazi said the proposed changes require an additional Shs252 billion, which is not available in the current financial year. She said she would continue engaging Cabinet to have the funding considered from July 2027.

The proposed reduction in the eligibility age was also supported in Masindi, where District Chairperson Patrick Wobusobozi said it would enable more older persons to access assistance and meet basic needs.

Healthcare was another major concern.

In Masindi, Mbabazi said government is engaging the Ministry of Health to ensure Health Centre IIIs receive medicines for conditions such as hypertension and diabetes, bringing treatment closer to older persons.

She also said a proposal for a health insurance scheme for older persons had been presented to Cabinet.

Masindi's older persons called for specialised clinics or designated

clinic days to provide more age-responsive services, while Kiryandongo Older Persons Council Chairperson Deogratious Bazaale called for greater attention to non-communicable diseases and improved access to healthcare.

The challenges extend beyond health and income. Masindi's council cited poor housing, limited income-generating opportunities, lack of affordable health insurance and delays in pensions and gratuity. In Kiryandongo, Bazaale called for stronger funding of older persons' councils and groups, operationalisation of district older persons' offices and better support for monitoring programmes.

Despite these challenges, leaders emphasised that older persons remain an important resource to their communities. Osaga urged them to share their experience and mentor younger generations.

For both districts, the priority is clear: ensure that older persons have greater access to healthcare and social protection while strengthening the structures that enable them to participate actively and with dignity in community development.

GET FREE
ADVERTISING WITH
BUNYORO POST
MONTHLY BULLETIN!

Get in touch with Bunyoro Post Magazine
Tel: +256 777410031 | Email: bunyoropost@gmail.com

Reach a dedicated audience in
the Bunyoro region and beyond.
Limited time offer,
don't miss out!

Thank you for reading Bunyoro Post Weekly
Bulletin! Stay informed, stay engaged!

*Bunyoro Post is published by the District Communication
Officers of Bunyoro Sub-Region.*

BUNYORO POST