



Feature Story | Pg. 03

CEDOVIP Trains Officials on How to Integrate GBV Prevention Into Wetland Restoration Work in Pallisa District

THE EDITORS NOTE

Dear Readers,

Connecting Communities, Celebrating Progress: Welcome to Bukedi Post Edition Two

Welcome to the second edition of Bukedi Post, our mission is to bring you stories that not only inform but also inspire action, highlighting initiatives that improve livelihoods, enhance service delivery, and promote inclusive development across the region.

In this edition, we share how newly established town councils have received ICT equipment to boost revenue mobilization and streamline governance, reflecting a commitment to modern, efficient local administration. We also spotlight Butebo District, where the distribution of improved breed heifers is supporting wetland restoration while increasing household income, demonstrating the power of environmentally conscious agricultural programs.

Busia District takes center stage with two key initiatives: a proactive stakeholder engagement to combat the rising malaria burden and a SACCO membership drive aimed at strengthening financial security for local government staff.

Through these stories, Bukedi Post continues to connect communities, celebrate progress, and encourage shared learning across districts, reinforcing the values of participation, resilience, and sustainable development.

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CEDOVIP Trains Officials on How to Integrate GBV Prevention Into Wetland Restoration Work in Pallisa District.

**By Akello Pricilla, Communication
Officer Pallisa**

The Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) organized a training aimed at integrating gender-based violence (GBV) prevention into wetland restoration and climate resilience work. The three-day workshop held at Pallisa District headquarters started on December 01, 2025, bringing together an estimated 30 district officials, including heads of departments, sector representatives, and staff from the Gender-Based

Violence Shelter.

The initiative is part of the Green Climate Fund-supported Wetland Restoration and Climate Resilience Project implemented locally by the District Environment Office and the Natural Resources Department. It seeks to strengthen the district's ability to deliver safer, gender-responsive public services.

Speaking at the opening session, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Areu Simon Peter applauded CEDOVIP for empowering officials with practical skills to identify and address GBV within development work.

"As we implement climate and wetland restoration activities, we must ensure that no one is harmed in the process. This training helps us promote cooperation, reduce conflict, and uphold dignity within our communities," Areu said.

According to CEDOVIP, the training was prompted by reports of rising community tensions linked to resource use, land access, and shifting livelihood activities around restored wetlands. CEDOVIP program officers noted that when communities experience pressure from environmental changes or project activities, risks of violence can increase. This is the reason why they are helping district teams integrate GBV prevention into their everyday work so that climate solutions remain safe and inclusive.

Participants were taken through key topics including forms of violence, the cycle of abuse, effective activism, and practical strategies for preventing and responding to GBV. Officials from the Environment, Agriculture, Community Development, Health, Production, and Administration departments were represented, alongside officers working

directly in wetland restoration sites. The training is expected to enhance coordination, strengthen community engagement, and support the district's commitment to delivering inclusive, sustainable development



Deputy CAO, Areu Simon Peter giving opening remarks during the training.



Officials taking part in the CEDOVIP GBV training to strengthen gender responsive wetland restoration.



Participants in a group photo moment

Busia Engages Stakeholders to Tackle Rising Malaria Burden

By Mangeni Moses, Communication Officer Busia

The Ministry of Health convened a multi-stakeholder meeting to strengthen coordinated strategies for malaria prevention and control in response to the persistently high malaria burden in Busia District.

The engagement, which convened on December 02, 2025, followed recent Health Management Information Systems (HMIS) data indicating malaria as the second leading cause of outpatient morbidity in the 2024/2025 financial year, with 118,761 cases recorded, representing 20% of all patients seen. Among children, malaria ranked first among children with 27,477 cases, making up 37.5% of all child outpatient visits.

The meeting brought together district health officials, community leaders, civil society representatives, and partners committed to improving public health outcomes. Authorities noted that sub-counties such as Buhehe, Busime, Lunyo, Majanji, and Buteba remain malaria hot spots due to geographic and environmental factors.

Fredrick Ouma, a senior health educator, emphasized that the government's ongoing distribution of long-lasting

insecticide-treated mosquito nets remains one of the most effective tools in reducing transmission.

“The Ministry of Health has ensured that treated mosquito nets reach households across the district because they have proven to significantly reduce mosquito bites and malaria infection,” Ouma explained.

He, however, noted that some new cases stem from misuse of mosquito nets, especially in fishing communities.

“We are concerned about the continued use of mosquito nets for fishing or trapping white ants. This undermines government efforts and exposes families to preventable illness. Proper use of nets is essential, and we are intensifying sensitization to address this,” Ouma added.

Stakeholders were guided on correct mosquito net use, environmental management, and the need for early testing and treatment. They pledged full cooperation with government efforts, praising the Ministry of Health for sustaining malaria prevention

programs.

District leaders concluded by reaffirming that collaborative action is key to ensuring healthier, more resilient communities in Busia.



Stakeholders during the engagement

Busia District Pledges United Front to Protect Women and Girls against SGBV.

By Mangeni Moses, Communication Officer Busia

Busia District has renewed its commitment to protecting women and girls against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) by creating a dialogue to raise critical concerns about the vice which continues to limit their economic, social, and political opportunities.

The renewed resolve was made during a districtled commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), aimed at advancing safety, equality, and development across the Great Lakes Region. The district hosted the multistakeholder dialogue at the Goldstar Hotel on 28 November 2025, where participants discussed how to strengthen crossborder cooperation to prevent SGBV and support survivors.

Speaking during the event, Busia District Vice Chairperson Christine Nasisamba reaffirmed the government's commitment to tackling both the economic and social causes of SGBV. She noted that persistent neglect of family responsibilities by some men contributes to women's vulnerability.

"As a district, we continue engaging the central government to secure a waiver on gold royalties from Wagagai Mining Company so that these resources can support families recovering from SGBV," Nasisamba said.

The event which run under the theme; "End Digital Violence Against All Women and Girls," was organized by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and brought together district leaders, women's groups, cross-border traders, Tiira gold miners, security agencies, URA officials, immigration officers, and civil society organizations.

The gathering sought to raise awareness, amplify women's voices, and inspire collective action against SGBV, while also marking 30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Participants highlighted how SGBV undermines economic stability, disrupts trade, and affects social cohesion, particularly among women

engaged in cross-border work.

Hon. Dora Byamukama, Research and Knowledge Expert at the ICGLR Regional Training Facility, emphasized the importance of the initiative

"SGBV is not only a personal tragedy; it weakens unity and slows development across our region. The 16 Days campaign reminds us that this fight is global, and we must stand together," Byamukama said. Government empowerment initiatives such as UWEP, GROW, Emyooga, and the Parish Development Model (PDM) were applauded as critical tools for reducing vulnerability and expanding women's economic independence, key factors in preventing SGBV.

The district pledged to continue strengthening community protection systems, promoting crossborder collaboration, and advancing policies that safeguard women and girls. Stakeholders also committed to coordinated response mechanisms to improve reporting, prevention, and survivor support. District demonstrated a unified and positive resolve to address SGBV at its roots and build a safer, more empowered Great Lakes Region through open dialogue, partnership, and policy engagement.



Stakeholders pose for a group photo during the commemoration



Left: Members listening as District Vice Chairperson, Christine Nasisamba (Right) Responds to some of the issues raised by Cross border Women traders and women from Tiira artisanal mining association

New Town Councils Receive ICT Boost to Enhance Revenue Mobilization and Governance

By Moses Mangeni, Communication Officer, Busia DLG

Busia District has intensified its efforts to improve local service delivery by equipping four newly established town councils with essential ICT tools designed to enhance administrative efficiency and revenue mobilization. This initiative shows government's commitment to decentralization and bringing services closer to the people.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Lubuuka David, officiated the handover ceremony at the district headquarters, where four complete sets of ICT equipment including computers, printers, and UPS units were

delivered to the Acting Town Clerks of Lumino-Majanji, Tiira, Namungodi, and Masafu Town Councils. The equipment was supplied by the Ministry of Local Government as part of a national strategy to strengthen newly created administrative units.

During the ceremony, CAO Lubuuka highlighted that this support reflects the government's ongoing investment in modernizing local governance systems and improving public sector efficiency. He stressed that the equipment will be instrumental in enhancing revenue collection, digital record-keeping, and communication

within the councils.

“This ICT support equips our new town councils with the tools they need to operate more effectively, respond promptly, and plan strategically for their communities. I urge our Town Clerks to safeguard this equipment and ensure it is used to serve the people,” Lubuuka said.

The CAO also emphasized the importance of proper handling, maintenance, and security of the devices, noting that many public institutions suffer losses due to poor management of ICT resources. He encouraged leaders to adopt responsible stewardship to protect the government’s investment.

These four town councils are expected to benefit significantly from the digital upgrade. They are positioned to streamline daily operations, strengthen data management, and promote greater transparency in local governance.

The ICT equipment is anticipated to

accelerate service delivery, support effective planning, and address the growing needs of residents. With continued collaboration between the Ministry and local authorities, the new town councils will become stronger engines of development and community transformation.



Town Clerks: (L-R) Nasinyama Peter (Masafu TC), Wanjala Paul (Lumino –Majanji TC), Nabiro Humphreys (Tiira TC), Lubuuka David (CAO), Ochieng Peter (ITO), Wanjala James (Namungodi TC)

Modern Slaughterhouse in Tororo to Enhance Hygiene, Create Jobs

By Mathew Okello, Communication officer of Tororo municipality

Tororo Municipality has announced plans to construct a modern slaughterhouse aimed at promoting the consumption of quality meat, improving public health, and fostering a more productive population. The initiative comes as part of the municipality’s broader effort to enhance food safety and urban health standards.

The municipality revealed that the new abattoir will provide a hygienic environment for meat processing, reducing the risk of foodborne illnesses and ensuring that

residents have access to safe, high-quality meat. Officials believe that healthy residents will contribute to increased productivity and overall community well-being.

The Deputy Town Clerk Okoth RhamnusKitong, while receiving the draft design for the proposed abattoir, emphasized the health and productivity benefits of the project.

“The construction of this modern slaughterhouse will promote the consumption of quality meat in Tororo, leading to healthier lives,” Okoth said. The draft design for a modern abattoir valued at 7.7 billion shillings is a project expected to improve food safety, promote healthy living, and boost productivity among residents. The design was handed over on 2 December 2025 and is set to be built on council land at Mukuju Central Village in Tororo North County, along the Tororo-Mbale Road.

While presenting the draft design, Michael Kayenzi, Senior Architect at Infrastructure Cost & Management (ICM) Consultant Ltd (ICM), said the feasibility study had confirmed that the allocated land can comfortably accommodate the abattoir. He urged the municipality to ensure a reliable water and electricity supply to the site.

“Tororo is among the few municipalities qualified to benefit from this multi-million project. If funding is limited, we recommend implementing the project in phases, starting with core facilities such as the slaughterhouse, which alone could cost over 3 billion shillings,” Kayenzi said.

The project is being developed by ICM on behalf of the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development and is set to be funded by the World Bank under the Uganda Cities and Municipalities Infrastructure Development (UCMID) program.

The proposed abattoir will feature modern facilities, including a slaughterhouse, lairage, generator house, waste collection point, dormitory, canteen, and animal holding centers. The design also incorporates provisions for electricity and water connections to ensure smooth operations.

Uganda Cities and Municipalities Infrastructure Development (UCMID) Coordinator Emmanuel Odongo Owinocalled on the public to cooperate with municipal authorities, particularly regarding land acquisition and rights of way for ongoing UCMID projects, including roads.

The draft design marks the first step towards a transformative project expected to set new standards for hygiene and food safety in Tororo Municipality while creating jobs and supporting local economic growth.



Busia District SACCO Launches Membership Drive to Strengthen Financial Security for Staff

By Moses Mangeni , Communication officer, Busia DLG

Busia District Local Government has embarked on a renewed effort to strengthen financial stability among its workforce by revitalizing the Busia District Local Government Staff SACCO and opening membership to all district staff.



Amoiti Carolyn, Ag. District Commercial Officer

The initiative aims to boost savings, expand the loan portfolio, and promote responsible financial management as part of the district's wider commitment to staff welfare and development.

The Acting District Commercial Officer, Carolyn Amoiti, emphasized that the revitalization of the SACCO is central to improving staff welfare and fostering a culture of collective growth. She was speaking during a senior management meeting held in the Chango Macho Hall on December 02, 2025.

"This is a call to all our colleagues in the district. The more we save together, the stronger we become," Amoiti said.

The decision follows years of declining membership that resulted from staff transfers, retirement, and other natural attrition. The SACCO seeks to mobilize more employees to build a stronger fund base that can support affordable loans, tailored savings plans, and emergency financial assistance hence reducing reliance on high-interest moneylenders.

The meeting, attended by key district leaders including Principal Human Resource Officer Madaba

Daniel, Principal Assistant Secretary Kayira Muhamud, and SACCO executives, highlighted plans to intensify staff mobilization throughout December. According to Amoiti, interested staff will sign consent forms during this period, while formal registration begins in January.

She added that the district plans to engage the Microfinance Support Centre to explore possible funding support that could further strengthen the SACCO's credit capacity and ensure

long-term sustainability.

Staff had been resorting to moneylenders who charge interest rates as high as 25%. This stronger SACCO will offer a safer, more affordable alternative and empower staff to meet financial needs without falling into exploitative debt cycles.

Busia District Local Government Staff SACCO is positioning itself to reclaim its role as a pillar of financial empowerment, unity, and development for all district employees with the renewed support from district leadership and a growing sense of collective purpose.

Improved Road Network Strengthens Access to Health and Markets in Butebo

By Tavuga Musa, Communications Officer Butebo District

The completion of the new 13.2-kilometer road connecting Kanyum Market to Kabelai and extending to Kanyum Health Centre III is expected to strengthen local trade and improve service delivery. The road, constructed by Newton Construction Ltd, is already easing movement for traders, farmers, and residents who previously struggled with poor road access.

Butebo District Chairperson, James Okurut, while inspecting the works on December 06, 2025 commended the government for prioritizing rural infrastructure that directly supports community development.

"This road is a great boost to our connectivity. It is going to improve service delivery, business, and movement for our people," Okurut said.

The road is already attracting more buyers to the market and facilitating the



The new 13.2km Road From Kanyum Market to Kabelai

movement of farm produce to trading centers because of the reduced transport costs, increased customer flow, and safer travel.

Health access is also expected to improve significantly, as Kanyum Health Centre III now sits along a wellgraded and reliable road, making it easier for expectant mothers, patients, and health workers

to reach the facility without delays. Leaders believe the improved accessibility will open the door for further investment, stimulate economic activities, and enhance public service delivery in education, health, and agriculture. They added that the new road aligns with ongoing government efforts to promote inclusive and

sustainable development across rural communities.

The completion of the Kanyum–Kabelai road marks a major step forward for Butebo District, with residents expressing hope that the improved infrastructure will continue to transform lives and foster long term growth.

Heifer Distribution Spurs Wetland Restoration and Household Income Growth in Butebo

By Tavuga Musa Communications Officer Butebo

The government's ongoing effort to restore degraded wetlands while providing communities with sustainable, environmentfriendly sources of income has improved livelihoods in Butebo District. The supported wetland restoration program is improving livelihoods and strengthening environmental conservation in Butebo District, following the recent distribution of improvedbreed heifers to households participating in the initiative.

The program running in the parishes of Kakunyu, Kabwangasi, and Kachango is part of an ongoing effort to restore degraded wetlands while providing communities with sustainable, environmentfriendly sources of income.

Butebo District Natural Resources Officer, Galy Muhammad, said the program is already shifting community attitudes toward conservation. This intervention

not only supports the rehabilitation of vital ecosystems but also provides communities with sustainable and environmentally friendly sources of income, demonstrating the government's commitment to sustainable development and ecological stewardship.

"This programme has helped people improve their livelihoods while contributing to wetland restoration. We thank the government for prioritizing both environmental protection and community welfare," Galy said.

The Ministry of Local Government rolled out the program in August 2025 in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and Butebo District Local Government. Selected farmers are supported with dairy heifers as an alternative livelihood that reduces

reliance on wetland activities such as cultivation and brick-making.

According to the District Production and Natural Resources Department, 32 households were selected based on vulnerability, land availability, commitment to wetland restoration, and ability to manage dairy cattle. The district veterinary officer confirmed that 10 of the distributed heifers have calved, resulting in a combined increase of approximately 20 litres of milk per day across the beneficiary homes.

OkurutVicent, a farmer from Kakunyu Parish is one of the beneficiaries who reveals that his family now benefits from improved nutrition and income.

"I want to thank the government for this boost. The milk we get has improved our diet, and the surplus we sell helps us meet daily needs," Okurut said.

The programme is aligned with Uganda's national wetland restoration strategy, which encourages climate resilient livelihoods to safeguard vital ecosystems. Restored wetlands in Butebo are already showing signs of regeneration, with reduced encroachment and community willingness to protect buffer zones.

The success of the initiative is expected to motivate more farmers to embrace conservation-focused economic activities, ensuring long-term sustainability of wetlands and



stronger household incomes. The Residents believe the programme is laying a foundation for a healthier environment, improved livelihoods, and a more resilient future for Butebo District as the heifers are continuing to multiply and production rising

Some of the Heifers given for wetland restoration.



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