ELGON REGION DISTRICT COMMUNICATORS NEWS LETTER
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The Microfinance Support Centre takes affordable financing drive to Bugisu cooperatives

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EDITOR'S NOTE



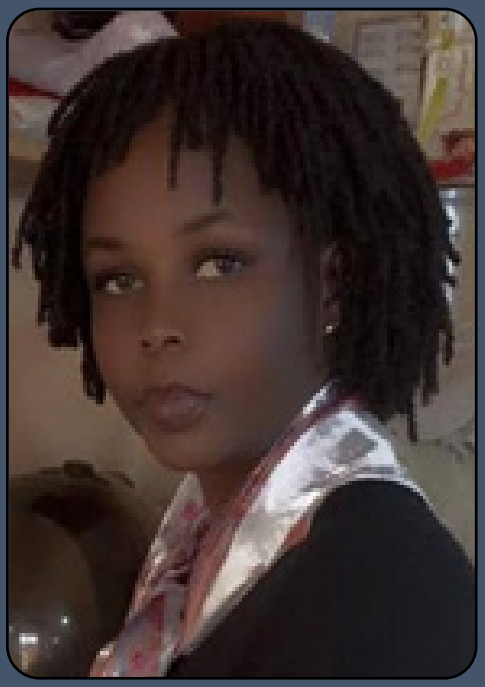
Chief Editor

This collection of stories reflects a powerful wave of transformation driven by strategic investments and community action. Across sectors, the initiatives demonstrate how targeted interventions are reshaping lives and building resilience.

The construction of multi-billion shilling projects in healthcare and education underscores a commitment to strengthening social infrastructure and expanding opportunities for future generations. Financial literacy campaigns are equipping teachers with the tools to secure their livelihoods, while clean energy programmes are lighting up thousands of homes, reducing reliance on harmful fuels, and advancing sustainability.

The mobilization of faith leaders in the fight against HIV/AIDS highlights the importance of trusted voices in driving behavioral change and reducing stigma. Meanwhile, the inspiring journey of a fish farmer and his SACCO illustrates how collective effort, savings, and innovation can transform agriculture into a sustainable livelihood, with ripple effects across households and communities.

Together, these initiatives reveal a holistic approach to development—where health, education, energy, financial empowerment, and agriculture converge to uplift communities. They are not just projects; they are catalysts of hope, resilience, and transformation, laying the foundation for a more secure and prosperous future.



Sub Editor

Namaganda Edith Linda

Greetings our Esteemed Readers,

Welcome to the May edition of Elgon Post.

Thank you for your continued support. As the editorial team, we work to polish every article so it is accurate, clear, and consistent with our style guide. We focus on positive, practical solutions and outcomes that benefit our communities.

This issue highlights the latest developments across the Elgon Zone, including the swearing-in of H.E. and Members of Parliament, and new government priorities for the region. We feature donor- and government-funded projects in health, education, production, infrastructure, and value addition, from agro- industry and tourism to job creation.

Produced by the communication officers of Kapchorwa, Bukwo, Kween, Mbale, Manafwa, Bududa, Namasindwa, Sironko, Bulambuli, Mbale City and Kapchorwa Municipality, this publication aims to inform, represent, and inspire our stakeholders, your voices, experience, and ideas shape out content.

Join us in supporting this initiative: contribute your stories and suggestions, and stay tuned for our Monthly updates. Together we will transform our communities and strengthen the Elgon Zone.

The Microfinance Support Centre takes affordable financing drive to Bugisu cooperatives

By Namaganda Edith, Communication Officer



MSC official training participant's s at council hall at Manafwa district headquarters

Cooperatives and SACCOs in the Bugisu sub-region are being encouraged to take advantage of affordable financing opportunities to expand businesses, increase production and create more economic opportunities within their communities.
The Microfinance Support Centre (MSC) has launched a regional sensitisation and training drive aimed at helping cooperatives and SACCOs understand and access its concessional loans and grants.
The initiative, conducted through a loans clinic at Manafwa District headquarters, brought together cooperative leaders, SACCO officials and commercial officers from Manafwa, Bududa and Namisindwa districts.
The programme is aimed at closing information gaps that have prevented some community-based financial organisations from fully utilising affordable financing available to them.
Manafwa hosted the regional engagement, providing an opportunity for MSC officials to interact directly with cooperatives and SACCOs operating across the three districts.
During the sensitisation, MSC officials said several cooperatives in the region have been underutilising its financing facilities despite the favourable terms attached to the loans.
The loans clinic therefore focused on helping participants understand the available products, improve their loan applications and learn how to manage borrowed funds responsibly.
Participants were introduced to

agricultural loans that can support farmers to purchase inputs, acquire productive assets, undertake bulk purchases and invest in farm infrastructure.

They were also introduced to group loans, which allow registered groups, SACCOs, NGOs and other eligible organisations to access financing through partner microfinance institutions.

Commercial loans were presented as an option for institutions supporting members involved in trade, small-scale manufacturing and service businesses, while asset finance can help enterprises acquire equipment needed for production and value addition.

Under the asset finance arrangement, MSC can finance up to 80 percent of the cost of a productive asset, with the beneficiary contributing the remaining 20 percent.

Participants were also introduced to common-user facilities and community asset financing, which allow groups such as metal fabricators, brick makers and tailors to access machinery and equipment without having to meet the full cost of purchasing the assets upfront.

The equipment can be leased to beneficiaries for an agreed period and fee, with an option for ownership to be transferred later depending on the arrangement.

MSC commercial officers used practical examples to guide participants on preparing viable loan proposals, maintaining proper records and managing cash flows.

The interactive sessions also allowed cooperative leaders to discuss challenges they face when seeking financing and how they can improve their organisations to meet loan appraisal requirements.

Officials encouraged SACCOs and cooperatives to first assess their businesses and identify areas where financing can generate income before applying for loans.

They were also urged to strengthen governance, financial records and accountability systems, which are important when seeking financing.

The participants were further encouraged to consider group lending and community asset models where appropriate, as these can allow small producers to access productive equipment and expand their operations without carrying the full cost individually.

MSC officials also advised cooperatives to match their financing arrangements with the timelines and cash flows of the projects being financed.

The engagement is expected to help community organisations move beyond simply saving money and begin using affordable credit to finance activities that generate income, create employment and increase production.

For farmers, traders and small producers, access to affordable financing can support the purchase of inputs, equipment and working capital, while enabling cooperatives to strengthen the enterprises of their members.

The sensitisation drive is part of MSC's wider effort to take financial services closer to grassroots organisations and ensure that concessional financing reaches communities where it can support productive economic activity.

By strengthening the capacity of cooperatives and SACCOs in Manafwa, Bududa and Namisindwa, the programme seeks to promote financial inclusion and help local enterprises grow into stronger sources of household income and community development.

Manafwa CAO urges new recruits to serve with integrity and plan for the future

By Namaganda Edith, Communication Officer



CAO, Ssenku addressing the new recruits at the district council hall

Newly recruited public servants in Manafwa District have been urged to embrace integrity, professionalism and financial discipline as they begin their careers in government service.

The call was made by Manafwa Chief Administrative Officer Ssenku Samuel Kimuli during a one-day induction and orientation for newly recruited staff held at the district headquarters on June 5, 2026.

Kimuli welcomed the new employees into public service, reminding them that government employment comes with a responsibility to serve communities and contribute to better service delivery.

He urged the recruits to approach their work professionally, respect their colleagues and remain flexible as they work in different environments and with people from diverse backgrounds.

“Public service must be guided by responsibility,” Kimuli told the new staff.

He also encouraged the recruits to develop good financial habits early in their careers, warning them against excessive borrowing and taking multiple loans without considering their ability to repay.

Kimuli said some civil servants have struggled financially after borrowing heavily, particularly after salary increases, and encouraged the new

employees to make saving a priority.
He advised them to consider investing in small businesses and other productive activities that could provide additional income and offer financial security after retirement.
The CAO also reminded the recruits that their careers should not be built around salary alone, urging them to invest in continuous professional development and deliberately plan for career growth.
He encouraged them to acquire new skills, pursue further training and take advantage of opportunities that can improve their performance and professional experience.
Kimuli further stressed the importance of maintaining good working relationships, saying cooperation and mutual respect among employees are essential for an effective workplace.
He called on the new staff to maintain professional standards in their appearance and conduct, saying public servants should present themselves in a manner that maintains public confidence in government institutions.
On financial integrity, he issued a strong warning against theft, misuse and mismanagement of public resources.
He urged the recruits to protect public resources and understand that their positions come with obligations to the communities they serve.
The CAO also encouraged the new employees to maintain a healthy balance between their professional and family responsibilities.
“Work will always end and you go back to your family. Do not join the service and bring suffering to your loved ones,” he said.
He advised staff to make responsible personal decisions and build stable lives alongside their careers.
Kimuli described a public service career as a journey that begins with recruitment, continues through induction and retraining, retention in service and eventually retirement with the benefits provided under government policy.
He said understanding this career path would help the new employees make informed decisions about their professional and financial futures.
Principal Human Resource Officer Namono Betty took the recruits through public service policies, responsibilities and expectations governing government employees.
She also emphasised the Code of Ethics for the public service, reminding the new staff that ethical conduct is central to maintaining professionalism and public trust.
The recruits formally entered service after taking the Official Oath and Oath of Secrecy, administered during the induction.
The orientation is part of Manafwa District Local Government’s efforts to strengthen its workforce by equipping new employees with the knowledge, values and professional standards required to serve communities effectively.
The district says investing in staff induction will help new employees settle into their roles, understand their responsibilities and contribute more effectively to service delivery across Manafwa.

UNICEF, Gavi boost immunisation in Manafwa with motorcycles, protective gear

By Namaganda Edith, Communication Officer



Left CAO Manafwa DLG handing over motorcycles to in charges health facilities. Right a group photo with recipients



Immunisation services in Manafwa District are set for a boost after the district received five motorcycles and other equipment to help health workers reach communities and strengthen supervision of vaccination activities.

The equipment was supplied through the Ministry of Health's Uganda National Expanded Programme on Immunization (UNEPI), with funding from Gavi, the

Vaccine Alliance, and delivered to the district by UNICEF.

The package includes five motorcycles, camping tents, 28 sleeping bags, 39 backpacks, 39 umbrellas, 23 pairs of gumboots, 60 mountain-climbing helmets and 15 raincoats.

The motorcycles were handed over to the District Health Educator and four health facilities — Bugobero Health Centre IV, Bukewa Health Centre, Lwanjusi Health Centre and Bukimanayi Health Centre III.

The motorcycles are expected to ease movement of health workers during immunisation outreach activities, supervision and rapid provision of technical support to health facilities.

Manafwa Chief Administrative Officer Ssenku Samuel Kimuli welcomed the support, saying the equipment would help improve the district's ability to deliver immunisation services, particularly in hard-to-reach communities.

He cautioned the beneficiaries against misuse of the motorcycles and other equipment, stressing that the items were provided specifically to support health service delivery.

"Take good care of the equipment. Use it to intensify support supervision, speed up movement for technical support and improve outreach immunisation services," Ssenku said.

He also warned staff against exchanging, giving away or misusing the motorcycles, saying such practices could lead to premature breakdown and undermine service delivery.

The Acting District Health Officer, Ephraim Nakhokho, thanked the Ministry of Health and Gavi for supporting the district's immunisation programme.

He said the equipment would strengthen Manafwa's capacity to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases by improving supervision and enabling health workers to reach more children.

Nakhokho urged the beneficiaries to safeguard the equipment and ensure it continues to serve the communities for which it was provided.

Accountability measures

The handover was accompanied by measures aimed at ensuring the equipment is properly managed and accounted for.

The Ministry of Health and Manafwa District Local Government signed a memorandum of understanding covering the management and use of the items.

Under the agreement, the equipment is required to be recorded in the district asset register through the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) and tagged to Gavi.

The assets are also expected to be allocated according to the approved distribution list and managed in accordance with the Rights-of-Use agreement, the Public Finance Management Act, 2015, and the Government of Uganda Asset Management Framework and Guidelines, 2020.

The accountability measures are intended to ensure that the equipment remains available for immunisation activities and is not diverted from its intended purpose.

Reaching more children

The support comes as health workers continue to rely on outreach programmes to take vaccines closer to children and communities that may face difficulties accessing health facilities.

The motorcycles are expected to make it easier for health teams to travel to outreach sites, conduct supervision and respond quickly when technical support is required.

UNEPI remains responsible for coordinating Uganda's national

immunisation efforts, working with local governments and development partners to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases.

For Manafwa, health officials say the new equipment will strengthen the link between health facilities and communities, allowing health workers to move more efficiently and support vaccination activities beyond the walls of health centres.

The intervention is expected to contribute to efforts to protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases while strengthening the district's broader immunisation system.

Left CAO Manafwa DLG handing over motorcycles to in charges health facilities. Right a group photo with recipients

The Ministry of Health, through the Uganda National Expanded Programme on Immunization (UNEPI) and with funding from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, has supplied Manafwa District with a range of equipment to strengthen delivery of immunization services. UNICEF delivered the items to the district on Thursday this week

The package includes camping tents, 2 sleeping bags 08, 39 backpacks, 39 umbrellas, 23 gumboots, 60 mountain-climbing helmets, 15 raincoats and 5 motorcycles. The motorcycles were distributed to the District Health Educator (DHE) and four health centres; - Bugobero HC IV, Bukewa, Lwanjusi and Bukimanayi HCIII to facilitate supervision and rapid technical support during outreach activities.

Speaking during the handover, Manafwa Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Ssenku Samuel Kimuli thanked UNICEF and the Ministry of Health for the support.

He urged staff to use the equipment strictly for their intended purposes and warned against exchanging or giving away motorcycles, which could cause premature breakdowns and undermine service delivery. "Take good care of the equipment's. Use it to intensify support supervision, speed up movement for technical support and improve outreach immunization services," Mr. Ssenku said.

The Ag District Health Officer Dr. Ephraim Nakhokho also expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Health and Gavi for the strategic partnership.

He noted that the equipment will significantly strengthen the district's capacity to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases and appealed to beneficiaries to safe guard the items as they continue to serve their intended purpose

To ensure accountability, the Ministry of Health and Manafwa District Local Government signed a memorandum of understanding at the time of delivery. The agreement requires all items to be recorded in the district asset register within the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) and tagged to Gavi. The asset allocations must follow the attached allocation list and be managed in line with the Rights-of-Use agreement, the Uganda Public Finance management act 2015/ section 34 and the government of Uganda asset management framework and guidelines 2020

The Ministry of Health - UNEPI continues to play a central role in protecting Ugandans from vaccine-preventable diseases. Success depends on collaboration with partners and local governments where immunization services are delivered. The new equipment will support health workers in Manafwa to reach more children and communities through strengthened outreach and supervision

Manafwa schools strengthen learning as district steps up assessment preparedness

By Namaganda Edith, Communication Officer





On left DEO madam Nambuya Rachael addressing P7 class at bubulo mixed Ps,left DEO engaging headmistress Bubulo mixed Ps

Schools in Manafwa District are strengthening teaching, record keeping and learner support as the Education Department steps up preparations for district and national assessments.

The district has launched a mock assessment exercise covering primary and secondary schools, giving head teachers and teachers an opportunity to review their preparedness, identify areas that need improvement and strengthen their response to the national assessment framework.

The exercise is being led by District Education Officer Nambuya Rachael and is intended to help schools understand assessment requirements while improving overall performance.

Rather than waiting for the main assessment, the district is using the exercise to give schools an opportunity to identify gaps early and take corrective action.

Nambuya said the exercise would help school managers better understand the national assessment tools and organise their teams around the requirements.

The district has also simplified key parameters contained in the assessment manual to make it easier for schools to implement the requirements.

During engagements with schools, Nambuya encouraged head teachers to strengthen teamwork and delegate responsibilities among staff so that school activities can be handled more efficiently.

She said effective teamwork would allow school managers to improve supervision while giving teachers and other staff greater responsibility in the running of their schools.

The education department is also placing emphasis on strengthening reading among learners, particularly in the lower primary classes.

Nambuya said schools need to give greater attention to English and reading throughout the primary cycle so that learners develop strong reading skills early and can confidently cope with the demands of upper primary.

The district is also encouraging schools to strengthen systems for handling

learner and staff grievances through case management.
Nambuya said clear systems for handling cases would enable schools to address concerns promptly and create a better learning environment for both learners and teachers.
The assessment exercise is also providing an opportunity for schools to improve their use of the balanced scorecard, a tool used to support performance management.
Where teachers require additional support, the district is encouraging refresher training to improve understanding and proper use of the system.
The education office has further urged schools to make inspection and monitoring reports part of regular staff discussions.
Nambuya said discussing findings immediately would allow teachers and school managers to address challenges before they grow into larger problems.
She also encouraged school managers to participate in the discussions and support teachers in implementing recommendations from inspection visits.
The exercise has brought together education officials and school managers at a time when schools are also working to maintain stable enrolment.
Head teachers said frequent movement of learners between schools can disrupt learning, particularly when children change schools several times during their education cycle.
They called for greater cooperation between parents and schools to ensure that children remain in stable learning environments and receive consistent support.
At Bubulo Mixed Primary School, Nambuya engaged with Primary Seven learners and the school administration as part of the exercise, reinforcing the importance of preparation, teamwork and effective school management.
The district education department says the mock assessment is ultimately intended to support schools rather than simply measure them.
By identifying areas requiring support before the main assessment, officials hope to help teachers improve classroom practices, strengthen school management and give learners a better environment in which to learn.
For Manafwa, the exercise provides an opportunity for schools, teachers, parents and education officials to work together towards stronger learning outcomes and better prepared learners.

Manafwa strengthens local planning to improve service delivery

By Namaganda Edith, Communication Officer



District planner,rBamwete going through guidelines during the meeting, on the right is CAO Ssenku

Manafwa District is strengthening planning and financial management at lower local government level to improve the implementation of development projects and ensure public resources are directed towards community priorities.

The District Planning Unit has brought together town clerks, senior assistant secretaries, community development officers and accountants to review Discretionary Development Equalization Grant (DDEG) work plans and strengthen their capacity in planning and reporting.

The meeting focused on reviewing and finalising lower local government work plans for the 2025/26 financial year, understanding the DDEG guidelines, preparing plans for 2026/27 and improving the skills of officials responsible for planning, budgeting and reporting.

District officials said better planning at sub-county and town council level is critical because it determines how available resources are translated into services and development projects for communities.

During the meeting, Chief Administrative Officer Ssenku Samuel Kimuli encouraged lower local government officials to strengthen supervision and ensure that public institutions remain functional and responsive to the communities they serve.

He said addressing staff absenteeism would be important in improving service delivery, particularly at lower local government level where communities directly interact with government officials.

Ssenku also emphasised teamwork in financial management, urging town clerks and sub-county chiefs to work closely with accountants during budget

implementation.
He encouraged town clerks to formally involve town engineers as vote controllers for the road fund to strengthen technical oversight and accountability in the implementation of road projects.
The CAO further encouraged staff to embrace dialogue and internal mechanisms when resolving administrative challenges, saying constructive engagement can help maintain effective working relationships and ensure that attention remains focused on service delivery.
He also encouraged district employees to pursue professional development opportunities, including taking up positions outside the district where such opportunities arise, to broaden their experience and build their capacity.
District Planner Bamwete James challenged lower local governments to rethink local revenue mobilisation and set more ambitious targets.
He encouraged officials to identify new and innovative sources of local revenue, noting that stronger locally generated revenue would give the district greater capacity to finance priority services and reduce dependence on central government transfers.
“Local revenue is important if we are to increase our capacity to finance priority services,” Bamwete told participants.
The meeting also focused on improving the quality of DDEG work plans, with the Planning Unit identifying planning gaps that can affect the implementation of development activities during the financial year.
Bamwete said some work plans have previously contained large contingency allocations, sometimes reaching up to half of the planned budget, resulting in significant changes during implementation.
The participants were guided on how to prepare more realistic work plans that align proposed activities with available resources and community priorities.
The Planning Unit presented the reviewed DDEG work plan for the 2026/27 financial year, updated guidelines and new planning and reporting formats.
Officials then worked through the documents to ensure that activities were properly aligned with available resources, budgets were accurately prepared and reporting was standardised.
The approach is expected to make it easier for the district to monitor projects, track expenditure and assess whether planned activities are delivering the intended benefits to communities.
The meeting also brought technical and financial officers together, creating an opportunity for them to improve coordination and develop a common understanding of their responsibilities.
Participants were tasked with finalising lower local government work plans in line with the reviewed guidelines and adopting the new reporting formats.
The Planning Unit also recommended continued training and support supervision to strengthen planning, improve local revenue mobilisation and address gaps identified during the review.
For Manafwa, the initiative is part of efforts to ensure that planning at the local level is closely connected to the needs of communities and that available public resources are translated into visible and sustainable development.

Manafwa coffee farmers embrace traceability as climate challenges threaten production

By Namaganda Edith Chief Communications Officer Manafa





On the left inter cropping of coffee and banana garden, right production department supplies coffee seedlings to farmers

Coffee farmers in Manafwa District are being supported to strengthen traceability and climate resilience as unpredictable weather, crop diseases and changing farming preferences continue to threaten coffee production.

The district has adopted the Symos traceability system, also known as Farmer Link, to improve the collection and management of information from farmers across the coffee value chain.

The system is expected to help farmers and other players in the sector keep accurate production records and demonstrate compliance with emerging international market requirements.

The initiative is being facilitated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and will run for 18 months as part of efforts to strengthen Uganda's coffee sector.

The move comes at a time when farmers are facing a number of challenges linked to weather variability.

These include increasing interest in early-maturing crops such as legumes, uncertainty associated with El Niño forecasts, difficulties in post-harvest handling and increased risks of crop diseases as weather conditions change.

Stakeholders say better access to timely weather information and stronger disease surveillance will be crucial in helping farmers prepare for changing conditions and protect their coffee plantations.

"Timely weather information enables farmers to plan their activities, while effective disease surveillance can help detect problems before they spread widely," stakeholders said.

The traceability drive is also linked to new requirements governing coffee exports to the European Union.

MAAIF is rolling out a national traceability enrolment system through ASGMA in the Elgon region to support farmers and exporters in meeting the requirements of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Under the EUDR, coffee exported to the European Union must be traceable and shown to have originated from land that has not been affected by deforestation.

For farmers in Manafwa, this means that information about farms and coffee production is becoming increasingly important.

The traceability system is expected to help establish where coffee is produced and provide the documentation required to maintain access to international markets.

Climate pressures

Farmers say weather changes are also affecting decisions about what to grow, with some increasingly considering crops that mature faster and can provide quicker returns.

This is putting additional pressure on coffee, which requires sustained management and investment before farmers realise returns.

Changing weather conditions are also raising concerns about pests and diseases, while poor post-harvest handling can affect the quality of coffe and ultimately its market value.

The district is therefore calling for stronger collaboration between agricultural extension workers, farmers and weather information providers.

The push for traceability is also expected to improve accountability across the coffee value chain and strengthen buyer confidence in coffee produced in the region.

MAAIF's continued support includes farmer enrolment and the introduction of systems that can capture information needed to demonstrate compliance with international market standards.

At the farm level, the Production Department has also been supplying coffee seedlings to farmers, supporting efforts to maintain and expand coffee production.

Some farmers are combining coffee with other crops, including bananas, allowing them to generate food and additional income while their coffee trees mature.

For Manafwa's coffee farmers, the challenge is now not only to increase production but to ensure that the coffee can withstand changing weather conditions and remain competitive in demanding international markets.

The district hopes that improved traceability, better access to weather information, stronger disease monitoring and continued farmer support will help protect coffee as an important source of household income.[1]

Manafwa farmers turn to beekeeping as climate-resilient livelihood

By Edith Namaganda senior communications officer Manafwa



On left a beehive displayed, right production dept supplies beehives to farmers in manafwa

More than 100 beekeepers and farmers in Manafwa District are benefiting from efforts to expand beekeeping as the district promotes alternative sources of income and climate-resilient livelihoods.

The Production Department has supplied improved KTB beehives to individual farmers, with about 30 beekeepers receiving four hives each.

The intervention has resulted in the distribution of 125 new hives, according to the district.

Officials say the support is intended to help households diversify their incomes while increasing access to honey and other hive products used for food, medicine and household needs.

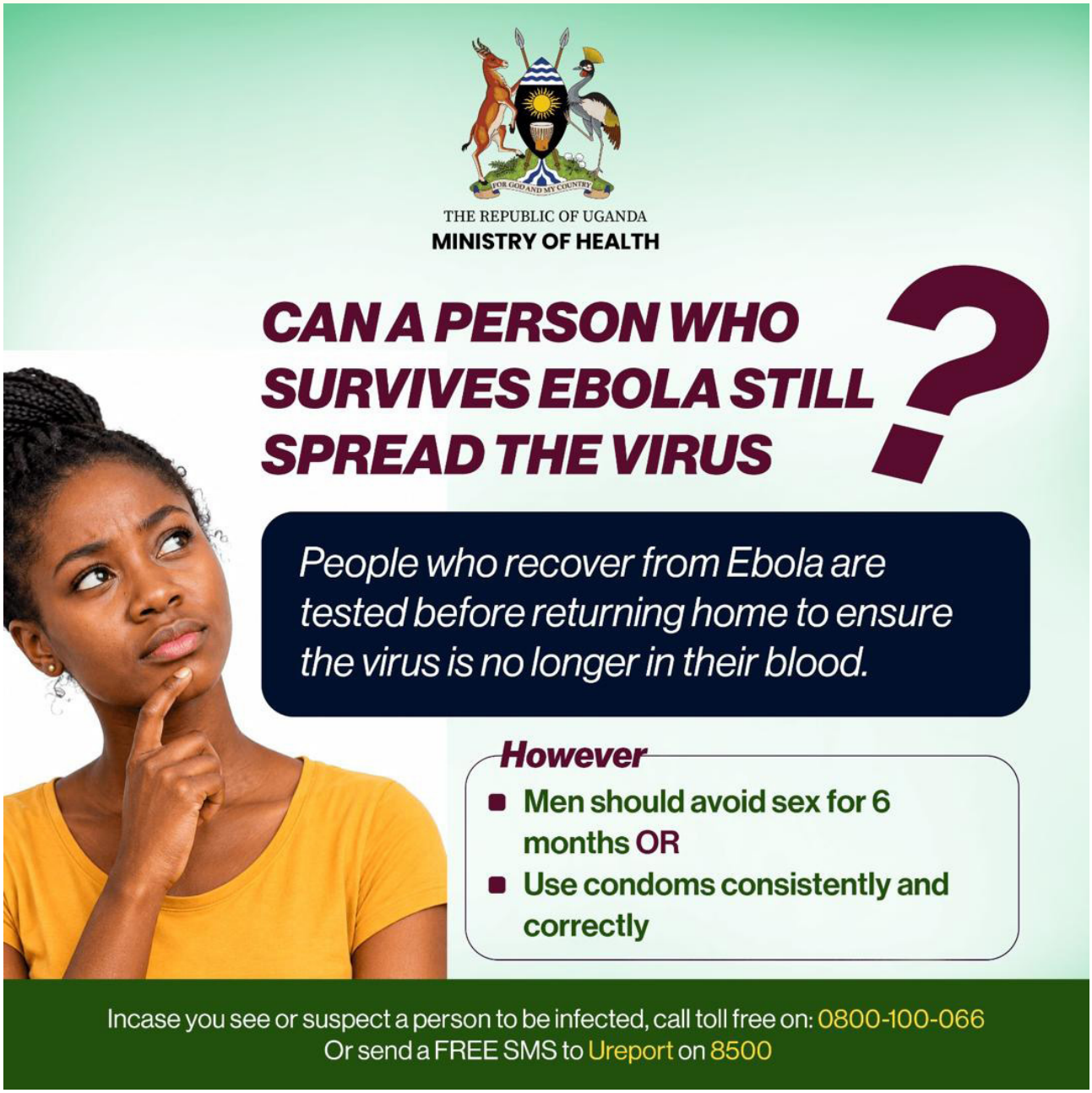
Beekeeping also contributes to crop pollination, making it an important activity for farming communities that depend on crop production.

However, weather conditions remain one of the major factors affecting bee colonies and honey production in the district.

Hot and prolonged dry spells can reduce nectar availability, forcing bees to travel further in search of forage and increasing stress on colonies.

Heavy rains and storms can also restrict bee movement, while excessive moisture can contribute to problems inside hives.

Sudden changes in temperature may interfere with brood development and wax production, while strong winds can damage hives and reduce bee activity.
The district's senior entomologist says the number of people involved in beekeeping demonstrates the potential for the sector to grow and contribute more to household incomes.
Adapting to the weather
Manafwa generally experiences two major rainy seasons, roughly between March and June and September and November, followed by periods of relatively dry weather.
The district receives about 1,500 millimetres of rainfall annually, while average temperatures generally range from about 15°C at night to 27°C during the day.
These conditions influence the availability of flowering plants and nectar, which are critical to bee colonies.
During dry periods, beekeepers are encouraged to diversify forage sources and consider supplemental feeding where necessary.
During wet periods, farmers are advised to improve hive ventilation and moisture management to protect colonies.
The district is also encouraging beekeepers to monitor rainfall, temperature and wind conditions when planning hive inspections and honey harvesting.
"Farmers need to understand how weather patterns affect their colonies so that they can adjust feeding, hive management and harvesting," an official involved in the programme said.
The district is also encouraging the planting of bee-friendly vegetation and better planning of forage sources around expected nectar flows.
Challenges remain
Despite the support, beekeepers continue to face several challenges.
These include limited knowledge of modern apiary management, inadequate protective and harvesting equipment, pest infestations and limited funding for the sector.
Poor management can result in low honey yields, reducing the economic benefits farmers receive from their colonies.
The district therefore says training remains critical if farmers are to make full use of the new hives.
Improving farmers' knowledge of weather patterns, hive ventilation, moisture control, pest management and feeding could help reduce losses and improve production.
Beyond honey production, officials say beekeeping can strengthen rural livelihoods by providing households with another source of income while supporting pollination in surrounding agricultural gardens.
The distribution of the 125 hives is therefore being viewed as more than an equipment handout, with the district seeking to establish a stronger beekeeping sector capable of supporting household incomes and adapting to changing environmental conditions.
For farmers in Manafwa, the hope is that better hive management, access to equipment and improved understanding of weather patterns will turn beekeeping into a more reliable source of income while strengthening the resilience of rural communities.


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Spotlight awaits!
Your story could be featured in our next edition – shining a light on your district's progress, project, and inspiring change across the region.

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