

## FLOODS IN KASESE MUNICIPALITY, RWENZORI, UGANDA.

September 14, 2024

Kasese municipal area has been hit with heavy floods as a result of the river Nyamwambwa bursting its banks. The water poured into the communities here in Kasese town and its surroundings. It happened on Sept 7, 2024, at 6: 30 am causing a lot of damage to people's properties, businesses and to people themselves. By the morning of the Saturday, water had covered the large areas of land and flooded people's homes. 4 people died; a nurse, a mother and her child and then a man who was trying to help others cross the water. More people are still missing. Many properties were destroyed or damaged.

The municipality and the District Authorities / Leaders have set up rescue camps in some safe places, including Muhokya camp, for the people affected and those who have nowhere to go. Others have joined their relatives, moving away from Kasese Town to their respective villages, still fearing what will happen in the month of October, as more rain is expected in that month.



The Kasese Municipality identified this site for people who had to abandon their homes to gather; the elderly, the vulnerable and people with disabilities, i.e. those who are not easily able to find a safe place themselves.



Biira Mackline, above left, 27 year old disabled woman and a resident of Nyamwamba Cell Kasese municipality, stranded after water entered the house and looking for people to help to rescue items from her house.



Peluce Muyinga, above right, 59 and blind. She was severely affected; all her 3-week-old chicks were swept away by the water; she was unable to rescue them because the water was running so fast.



This photo (left) shows Brian, a 29-year-old blind man, who was caught unawares whilst going to town church for prayers; water blocked the way to the church. He asked for a guide so that he could be helped to the safe place.

Boda Boda (i.e. motorcycle riders) rescued most of the people affected by heavy running water on Kasese Town streets. Most of them were people with disabilities and the elderly who could not cross the running floods without help, nor could they save any property from their homes.



Red Cross team members came in to give a hand to rescue these vulnerable people and transferring them to safe places.

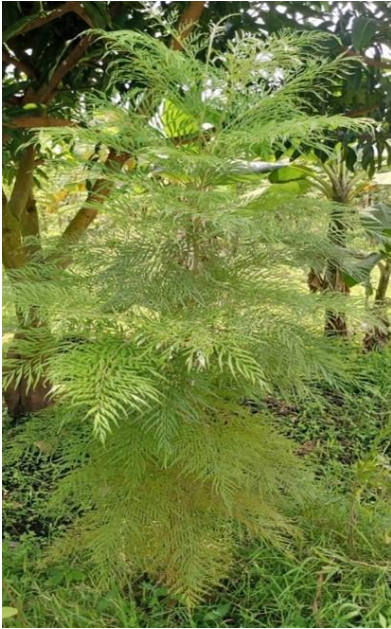
### What can be done?

The only solution to the problem of climate change disasters here in the Rwenzori Region is to plant trees; trees have many benefits to people, both directly and indirectly, to the land and to the air.



This picture shows bamboo plants that we planted along the banks of River Mubuku in Maliba. They are growing well and will stabilize the riverbanks. They will thus help to prevent the river water from causing flash flooding and damaging people's land and homes.

We are fighting the results of climate change with the only solution we have: planting trees!



These pictures show grevillea (left) and Musizi (right) planted in gardens of other crops. They are growing well. They improve the soil fertility and prevent the land being washed away by floods or blown away by the wind.



This picture demonstrates the importance of agroforestry, in which trees and crops are grown together. The whole area is green, and the environment is cool.

Any land that is bare will continue to cause the problems or disasters Kasese is facing today.

Giving the country money to help flood victims in camps gives immediate help to the victims but does not prevent future disasters. The only solution is to plant trees, to look after them, and to stabilize the riverbanks. Nature and the environment need to be restored.

Please keep praying for the Rwenzori Region as the season for rain has just started.

Robert Bwambale, Bumbura (Discover) Maliba, below the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda.