

Mr Collins Kafeero attributed the rising GBV cases to alcoholism, drug abuse, poverty and moral degeneration, saying local leaders and other stakeholders have a critical role to play in addressing the vice.

BY FRED MUZAALÉ

Authorities at Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital (KRRH) have called on local leaders to urgently put in place measures to curb the increasing cases of gender-based violence (GBV).

Dr Arthur Sserumaga, a surgeon at the facility, said the hospital attends to at least four GBV victims every day, many of whom present with physical injuries or psychological trauma. KRRH serves the districts of Kayunga, Mukono, Buwuma, Buikwe, Luweero, and Nakaseke.

Dr Sserumaga said many victims sustain severe injuries that require costly surgical procedures, placing a heavy burden on the hospital's limited resources.

Due to the overwhelming number of GBV cases, KRRH on Wednesday last week held a community engagement sensitisation meeting involving local leaders, Village Health Team (VHT) members, and religious leaders from Kayunga Town Council, Kayunga and Busaana sub-counties, as well as police officers. The meeting aimed to equip

Kayunga Hospital asks leaders to curb increased GBV cases



Dr Robert Ssentongo, the Kayunga Regional Referral Hospital director, addresses local leaders during the meeting last week in Kayunga. PHOTO/FRED MUZAALÉ

stakeholders with knowledge to help prevent GBV and handle reported cases more effectively.

"We have noticed a big increase in the number of gender-based violence victims seeking treatment every day. For every four GBV-related patients we attend to, at least three are women, and one is a man. Because of the severity of

their injuries, we spend a lot of time attending to them, time that would otherwise be used to treat patients with other unavoidable ailments," Dr Sserumaga said.

The Kayunga District Probation and Social Welfare Officer, Mr Collins Kafeero, revealed that due to GBV, 10,698,913 households in Uganda are headed by

women, according to the 2024 National Population and Housing Census.

Mr Kafeero attributed the rising GBV cases to alcoholism, drug abuse, poverty and moral degeneration, saying local leaders and other stakeholders have a critical role to play in addressing the vice, which in some cases leads to loss of life and permanent disability.



GBV.
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"Women should understand that men are heads of families and desire respect, while men should also provide for their families if GBV cases are to be reduced," Mr Kafeero said.

He added that cultural practices, limited livelihood opportunities, idleness, discrimination and certain religious beliefs continue to reinforce GBV in Kayunga District.

Mr Kenneth Egesa, a social worker at KRRH, urged local leaders to report all GBV cases to the authorities for proper redress, while emphasising the importance of confidentiality for affected families.

"Previously, men feared reporting abuse by their wives due to stigma, but they are now seeking help from us and other authorities," Mr Egesa said.

Dr Joan Nalwoga, a gynaecologist at KRRH, said the hospital has attended to many women who suffered miscarriages as a result of GBV.

She added that victims require not only medical care but also psychosocial support to help them rebuild their lives, and called on stakeholders to ensure survivors are protected from repeat abuse.

The KRRH Director, Dr Robert Ssentongo, encouraged all GBV victims to seek treatment at the hospital, stressing that services offered are free of charge.