

BY SHABIBAH NAKIRIGYA

ADJUMANI. For decades, residents of Adjumani District endured severe water shortages during the dry season as rivers dried up and groundwater levels declined, forcing many families to walk long distances in search of water.

This disrupted education, reduced productivity in homes and farms, and, according to local leaders, contributed to domestic conflicts and family breakdowns.

However, the situation is expected to improve following the completion of the Adjumani Water Supply and Sanitation Project, a Shs60 billion intervention implemented by China Communications Construction Company Limited (CCCC) under the supervision of the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC).

Funded by the World Bank at a cost of about Shs59 billion, the project introduces a modern water supply system designed to serve both host communi-

Shs60b water project gives relief to Adjumani residents

ties and refugee settlements in Adjumani District.

Former Adjumani District chairperson Ben Anyama said the project marks a major shift from previous water systems that depended on unreliable underground water sources.

"The new system taps directly into the permanent waters of the White Nile, which guarantees a more reliable water supply for the district," Mr Anyama said.

He explained that the project begins with an intake facility at Arra Village, where raw water is drawn from the river and transported through a nine-kilometre ductile iron pipeline to a treatment plant in Pachara Village.

After treatment and purification to safe drinking standards, the water is stored in a 655 cubic metre reservoir before being distributed to Adjumani Town and surrounding areas, including

BENEFICIARIES

The supply network serves Adjumani Town and surrounding areas, including Ciforo, Pakele and Dzaipi.

The project also established boreholes in refugee settlements such as Pagirinya, Nyumanzi and Olua.

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Mr Anyama also praised the use of Micro-Tunneling Technology (MTT), which was used to install intake pipes beneath the riverbed without interfering with the Nile ecosystem.

Adjumani District engineer Nick Afayo described the project as a milestone in Uganda's engineering sector.

Given Adjumani's status as a major refugee-hosting district, the project also extended water services to refugee settlements through borehole-powered water networks in Pagirinya, Nyumanzi and Olua.

According to Mr Afayo, the intervention has significantly reduced the long distances residents previously walked to access clean water and eased pressure on existing water points.

Mr Afayo urged residents and businesses to make use of the affordable sludge treatment facility, saying it would help improve sanitation while reducing transport expenses.

Under its Corporate Social Responsibility programme, CCCC also constructed seven public sanitation facilities in markets, taxi parks and trading centres across the district.

Mr Godfrey Chandiga, a sociologist at

CCCC, said the project also boosted the local economy by creating jobs during the construction phase.

"More than 260 Ugandans were employed during the two years of construction, which helped improve household incomes," he said.

NWSC Adjumani area manager Paul Ghona said the project reflects government's commitment to increasing access to clean and safe water across the country. "I encourage residents to connect to the new water network and use the resource responsibly," he said.

For residents such as Mr Muroga Syliver, chairperson of Arro Central, the project has brought hope to communities that struggled with water shortages for years.

"Access to clean water has always been a painful challenge for us. This project is a blessing to the community," he said.