

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department Promotes Portable Filtration Systems to Fight Contamination

In a bid to promote clean and safe water for home consumption, the Ministry of Water and Environment has embarked on a campaign to promote portable filtration systems in the country.

This is being spearheaded by the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department to enhance improved consumption of clean and safe water.

Engineer Joseph Eriono Eyatu, the Commissioner, emphasizes that the Department is working with different partners to develop and popularize the

portable filtration systems across the country.

“We encourage communities, especially, those in areas where they use mechanisms that are not good for treating water, to embrace these new technologies,” he says.

He says that the Department, through a number of providers, is promoting the use of Tablets, to ensure that communities doze their water with the right quantity of tablets.



Eng. Joseph Eriono Eyatu Commissioner RWSD (L) with Ms. Florence Grace Adong, Director Directorate of Water Resources Management (R)

“We got feedback that most people feared to use tablets just because of the smell. But we realised that majority of them were over-doing their water. Now, we are giving them the right doze through adjourning the tablet such that it can fit the 20 liters’ jerrycan, which is very easy for the rural person, “he explains.

The survey conducted by the Civil Society Organizations, according to him, shows that 60% of rural people are now treating their water through boiling or using a tablet, which is a good gesture.

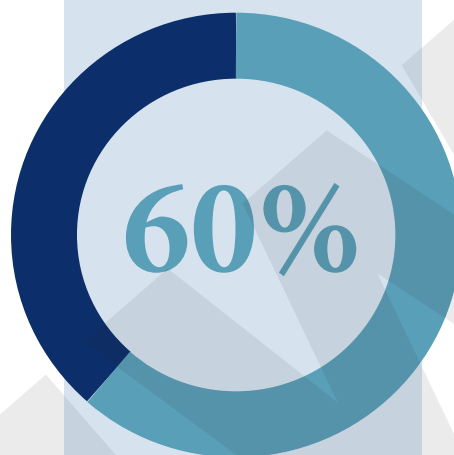
“This study is good news for us. It’s a good jump from about 15% a few years ago, a sign that we are heading to the right direction,” he elucidates.

“Our idea is about encouraging everyone to wash their hands with clean soap and clean water after visiting a toilet and before handling water. This goes with treating water collected from any source and making sure it is kept in clean containers,” Eng. Eyatu explains.

He further recommends the use of two cups for collecting water and ensuring that if a mother cleans the baby bottles, she washes her hands before and after feeding the baby, “he advises.

He observes that children under five (05) years are the most vulnerable to diarrhea saying that once there is diarrhea in a home, the chances of contaminating other things increase.

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Eng. Joseph Eriono Eyatu, Commissioner Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department

The Engineer reiterates that the Department is currently educating communities on how to keep hands clean, through washing them with soap before handling and touching water in clean containers.

Engineer Eyatu also advises that for any water in the house, everybody must ensure that it is boiled to ensure its safety.

“Hand-washing can save us 70% of communicable diseases which can help us to divert resources (money) from treating ourselves and instead use the resources to develop our economic activities,”

“As a new strategy, we are trying to talk to all political leaders and opinion leaders to make sure that they talk to their communities about washing hands with clean soap and clean water because it is very critical for our survival and for production,” he reports.

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