

Five dead as cholera hits 40 Moroto villages

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By Richard Otim

Moroto

The cholera epidemic in Moroto District has spread out to 40 villages, authorities have said.

About 220 cases and five deaths have reported since the outbreak was detected on April 16.

According to the World Health Organisation's 'health action in crisis' officer in charge, Mr Innocent Komakech, 20 to 25 cases of cholera are diagnosed each day at the treatment unit in Moroto District.

"About 48 patients are admitted in the wards. The treatment units are congested and we are preparing to create new units across the district," Mr Komakech told Saturday Monitor on Thursday.

He said the sub-counties of Nadunget, Rupa and North, East and South divisions in Moroto municipality have been hit the hardest by the outbreak.

"There a risk of the epidemic spreading out to other parts of Karamoja if not checked properly," he said.

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Health workers attached to various organisations currently in the region to help control the outbreak have since been working under arduous conditions.

The outbreak comes at a time several parts of Karamoja sub region are still battling effects of another epidemic of the water borne Hepatitis E.

“Cholera is more deadly. It kills human beings within the first 6 hours of infection if fast treatment is not sought for the patient,” Martin Eyura, the district health officer said.

He said latrine coverage in Moroto is still very low at 10 per cent with much of the latrines not utilised.