

Advancing island healthcare

Dr Batuusa Florence is the Director of Health Centre IV on Bugala Island. With the arrival of KIS, her patients can receive better healthcare services.

Dr Florence explains that, before Kalangala Infrastructure Services (KIS) brought reliable electricity to the island, delivering medical care was difficult: **“Imagine a midwife, supporting a mother, putting their phone in their mouth to access light from the phone.”**

She explains how electricity plays a vital role in the day-to-day running of the health centre: **“We need electricity to power the machines we use during operating procedures. For example, we need to put patients under anaesthesia, so that the patient does not feel pain; but without reliable electricity, our machines could not function, and operations could not go on.”**

Dr Florence has seen significant improvements in the services her team can offer patients since the centre connected to KIS’ solar hybrid mini-grid.

“We have light available for delivering babies safely at night, for monitoring inpatients and for

handling emergencies. We can analyse lab results under microscopes later in the day and it even helps us to see into dental patients’ mouths.”

She also believes that KIS’s multi-sector approach to infrastructure development has had a direct impact upon patient safety: **“With safe water available right here, we know we can keep the hospital clean to prevent the spread of infections. Also, ambulances can transport patients who require specialist care to mainland hospitals more quickly and safely via the newly resurfaced road and scheduled ferry service. KIS has made a real difference.**

Currently, we are a Level Four facility and there are some procedures we cannot do here. Now that we have good transport links, reliable power and water supplies, my prayer for this centre is that it can be recognised as the region’s first hospital.”