

Sustaining healthy lives

Nabukenya Goreti runs a shop and is a tap manager for KIS, ensuring that customers can access clean water from a standpipe at the centre of her village.

Nabukenya has run a shop in Beta Trading Centre on Bugala Island for 10 years. She remembers what life was like before Kalangala Infrastructure Services (KIS) established clean, piped water to the village: **“People used to catch diseases from drinking lake water, we used to suffer diarrhoea and dysentery, but we don’t anymore.”**

To overcome the challenge of providing clean water to dispersed fishing villages, KIS initially engaged a Ugandan engineering student who devised a pioneering, low-technology solution to extract, purify and distribute lake water. Initially reliant on gravity to pump the water, the system now uses KIS’s 1.6MW solar hybrid power plant to distribute water from five water points – Kalangala Town Council (KTC), Kasekulo, Bugoma, Betta and Mulabana – serving 19 stand taps. Local tap managers ensure that the stand taps are well-maintained and handle customer payments.

“When I started out as a tap manager, people didn’t want to pay for water if they could still use the lake,” says Nabukenya. **“Now, the mindset in the communities has changed – people understand that lake water is contaminated, and they want to buy this water.”** Tap managers like Nabukenya charge a fixed fee for a jerrycan of water. The price is set by KIS and tap managers keep half of the money they earn.

Nabukenya now employs someone to help her with the shop and tap management. She says: **“It has increased my income, and I feel good because I don’t have to walk all that distance to the lake to fetch water. It feels good to have clean water at home.”**