



IMPACT REPORT 2019:

Kachumbala Maternity Unit

The impact of the Kachumbala Maternity unit in rural eastern Uganda reaches far beyond the metrics. Built by local community members who used local materials and construction methods that didn't require electricity, the design is an authentic, culturally appropriate and fully passive solution. It's a building that does more with less, operating 24/7 even when the power supply isn't. It respects the area's scarce natural resources while improving the health of Kachumbala's mothers, children and community members.

Built in the 1950s, the original maternity ward had just two cramped rooms to accommodate labor, delivery and recovery for a regional population of 160,000 people. The ward often exceeded capacity, and 40% of women chose to give birth at home without medical supervision, which could jeopardize both mothers and infants. Uganda has a high maternal and infant mortality rate—almost double the global average. The new facility's main goals are: add capacity to reduce the number of home births; ensure mothers remain under medical supervision for 24 hours (aligned with WHO guidelines); and promote primary health care.

Environmental Impact

95% of the building materials used were sourced within 20 miles of the site.

96% reduction in predicted energy usage intensity compared to a typical U.S. clinic in a similar climate.

Comparison based on the Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) 2003 Baseline for a medical office in Key West, Florida.

51% of power needs to the new maternity unit are supplied by on-site renewable energy.

75% of water needs to the site are supplied by a rainwater harvest system.
(5,000-liter capacity)

100% of occupied area achieves adequate lighting levels without artificial lighting during daytime.

Human Impact

9.77 out of 10 Patient Satisfaction Rating Average

9.76 Accommodations; 9.83 Medical Care; 9.72 Experience

"My heart just likes this place because it is really clean and I feel very safe." –Akello, Mother

"Some [mothers] say they don't want to be discharged and others wish to have more babies so they can deliver here." –Staff

Business & Community Impact

29% More Deliveries per Month

58 deliveries in old ward; 75 in new ward

18% Fewer Mothers Referred to Other Facilities per Month

7.7 mothers referred to other facilities in old ward; 6.3 in new ward

40 local men, both skilled and unskilled, built the unit.

They were paid a living wage and learned construction techniques from visiting apprentices, creating opportunities for future employment.

In addition to maternity care, **the unit can offer additional health services to the community.**

These include cervical cancer screening, dental exam and treatment, eye exam, tuberculosis and HIV treatment and public health promotion.