

Lalogi Health Centre IV is the main community health centre for Omoro District. The facility provides health services to over 1,000 people monthly. It also serves residents of the neighbouring district of Oyam.

BY DANIEL OJARA

The breakdown of an ultrasound scanner machine at Lalogi Health Centre IV in Omoro District in March 2025 has brought medical services to a standstill.

Averagely, 500 people require scanning services at the facility every month.

The scanner was donated by Good Partners, a Korean organisation, but became non-functional after developing mechanical problems.

This breakdown reportedly resulted from a fire outbreak in the unit where the machine was installed, causing significant damage to it.

"That machine was donated in 2018, and the breakdown has had critical implications. We have to refer patients to other facilities in Gulu because we cannot handle them from here. Its repair alone needs about Shs10 million," explained a medical worker at the facility who preferred anonymity.

Lalogi Health Centre IV is the main community health centre for Omoro. The facility provides health services to over 1,000 residents of Omoro District and those from the neighbouring district of Oyam monthly.

The *Daily Monitor* has established that medical workers at the facility now refer patients to Gulu Regional Referral Hospital in Gulu City or dig deeper into their pockets to secure the services from private facilities.

Ms Scovia Atim, a patient's caretaker at the facility, said, "My husband sustained injuries from an accident, and I was asked to travel to Gulu for a scan that took me more than one day because the resources were not sufficient."

"When I brought him in January this year, we were told that the machine is

Breakdown of scanner hinders health services



A medical officer displays the damaged ultrasound scanner at Lalogi Health Centre IV in Omoro District on Tuesday. PHOTO/ JAMES OWICH

THE DELAY EXPLAINED

The health department has sent the information to the Ministry of Health regarding the repair of the machine. However, the delay in repairs is because there are no specialists who can fix it locally in the region.

Centre IV has all the health equipment, making it attractive to other people in different districts," Mr Ongu said.

Dr Stephen Oringtho, the Omoro District Health Officer, said the facility continues to provide other medical services despite the breakdown pending its repair.

"The health department has sent the information to the Ministry of Health regarding the repair of the machine. The ministry has confirmed that they will send a technician to come and make repairs on the machine soon," he said.

Dr Oringtho said the services at the outpatients and maternity departments, as well as laboratory services have no challenges.

"The facility is operating actively, giving health services to the population in Omoro and Oyam districts."

"The delay is because there are no specialists who can fix it locally in the region here. We can only wait for the experts, who are yet to be dispatched by the Health ministry," Dr Oringtho explained.

"The health department has allocated Shs7 million to conduct repairs on the machine. Any time within this month, we are expecting the technician to arrive to repair it," he added.

Lalogi Health Centre IV was established in 2004 when Omoro was under Gulu District, at the level of a health centre III.

The facility was established by a non-governmental organisation called Médecins Sans Frontières through the Global Fund.

non-functional. From the private clinic, we spent Shs25,000 to secure the scan, yet at Lalogi Health Centre IV, the service is free. On that very day, we spent Shs70,000 on the scan and buying medicine," Atim

added.

Mr Walter Ongu, a resident of Acet Town Council in Omoro, said the breakdown of the scanning machine has caused a burden to poor people who cannot afford the

money to pay private clinics for the services.

"Lalogi Health Centre IV is nearer to us; we don't have the resources to travel to Gulu City for such services. Lalogi Health