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Resilient nations.

NAMIBIA “SOLAR FOR HEALTH”

1. Namibia Energy Sector challenges

- Security of supplies, both nationally and regionally, is not guaranteed. Regional electricity supply capacities have become substantially constrained.
- Namibia has only 550MW installed capacity of power generation, mainly from Hydro and thermal sources. Only 45% of the population has access to power. Namibian urban households’ electrification is estimated at 70%, whereas for rural households is 19%.

The country faces challenges that are negatively affecting the smooth running of the health system:

- Modern health services require stable and reliable energy supply
- The supply chain of health commodities requires correct temperature conditions, essential for the quality of medicines, diagnostics, equipment and reagents
- Many of storage facilities are in remote areas, and not connected to the national grid, and their energy supply can be erratic

2. UNDP add value

- UNDP is spearheading a global Solar for Health programme to address the gap between the sustainable development goals towards universal health coverage and universal access to efficient modern energy services
- Through the Solar for health initiative, UNDP pursues its mandate as a development organization and the humanitarian development nexus to support the implementation of the sustainable development goals 3; 7
- In 2017, UNDP provided solar energy to more than 500 health facilities in Libya, Namibia, South Sudan, Sudan, Zambia and Zimbabwe with a total installed capacity of 6.5 MWh

3. Project background

UNDP Namibia received UNDP country investment facility to conduct a feasibility study of the solar for health, identifying a sustainable business model which considers different innovative financing options, such as blended finance or social impact bonds, to increase access to health services while contributing to a reduction of the health sector CO2 emission. The proposed feasibility study will provide the evidence needed to assess concrete options to help the Ministry of Health and Social services (MoHSS) and UNDP CO mobilise resources for solar for health from private investors.

4. Activities 2018:

17-28 September: technical Study – assessment of new health facilities
 October 2018: evaluate procurement specifications and technical expert recommendations
 October / November 2018: initiate procurement process, as applicable and according to available funds
 October / December 2018: procure solar PV system

2019:

January – March: installation of solar PV system; design of feasibility study; in country missions
 January – June: data collection
 July – September: data analyses
 October – December: Final Report (Feasibility Study validated)
 January – December: identification of investors



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5. Development Results

By 31 December 2019:

- Feasibility study for Namibia Country, validated by national stakeholders

This will provide the decision makers in the Governments of Namibia, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and the UNDP with sufficient information to justify acceptance, modification or rejection of the proposed Solar for Health financing model for further financing and implementation.

Expected long term impact:

- Improved storage conditions for health products
- Improved quality of medicines and diagnostics
- Reducing the operational costs of the health facilities
- Reduced carbon emissions
- Decreasing of the pressure on the national grid while contributing to the overall power supply
- Improved availability of renewable energy technologies through a stronger market empowered with an improved regulatory framework
- Increased ratio of renewable energies in the overall energy mix