

Thirteenth session of the IRENA Assembly

Ministerial Dinner on Energizing Healthcare with Renewables *Launch of the Report ‘Energizing Health - Accelerating Electricity Access in Healthcare Facilities’*

14 January 2023, 18:30 – 20:30 GST
St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

Background

To achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all humans, requires global, national and local decision makers, implementers and communities to work together to reduce maternal mortality, end preventable deaths of new-borns and children, end neglected tropical diseases and attain universal health coverage, among other goals. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, particularly electricity is a critical input and enabling condition for providing health services that addresses these concerns and facilitates human thriving. Electricity is required for operation and use of a wide variety of vital medical equipment and information and communication technologies. Access to reliable electricity also greatly improves the quality, reliability and availability of many basic services, such as refrigeration, lighting, clean and safe water and proper sanitation, space conditioning, etc.

The ‘Energizing health – Accelerating electricity access in healthcare facilities’ report is led by the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and developed with the technical support of Duke University, the University of North Carolina, and the World Resources Institute, and with the technical contribution of SELCO Foundation. The report provides the most fundamental data on energy access and energy requirements for health facilities in much of the world, as well as shares consistent benchmarks in terms of the various facilities that are required.

Objectives

The Ministerial dinner is organised to launch the joint report by IRENA, WHO, the World Bank and SEforAll, and to inform Members and the relevant stakeholders, including development partners and the financing institutions, on the following aspects:

- the status of health facility electrification in multiple regions across the world.
- obstacles as well as successful and scalable models for sustained electrification of health care facilities.
- key techno-economic considerations for powering health care facilities, in particular technologies that are environmentally sustainable like renewables.
- assessment of the investment needs to achieve global access to reliable electricity for all healthcare facilities.