AFRICAN SCHOOL OF REGULATION

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

INTERNATIONAL ONLINE CONFERENCE

Electrification of Healthcare Facilities in Africa

December 10th, 11th, and 12th 2024

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm GMT; 1 pm to 3 pm CET, 3 to 5 pm EAT

Updates on this program can be found at the African School of Regulation website:
https: //africanschoolregulation.org

The African School of Regulation (ASR) and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll) invite you to a high-level online conference on the regulatory interventions, business model designs, and financial approaches necessary to electrify health facilities in Africa. This conference will be an in-depth continuation of an initial conversation on Electricity Access and Healthcare in Sub-Saharan Africa.[1]

Electrifying healthcare facilities improves health outcomes, promotes access to sustainable energy for all, supports sustainable industrialization and innovation, and contributes to global efforts to combat climate change and SDG 3 achievement. According to the World Health Organization, 1 billion people in low and lower-middle-income countries are served by healthcare facilities without reliable electricity access or with no electricity access at all. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, a staggering 25,000 health facilities have no access to electricity, and approximately 70,000 health centres have unreliable power supplies. This inadequacy severely hampers the ability to deliver essential healthcare services, affecting patient care, medical procedures, and the storage of vital medicines and vaccines.[2]

Currently, 82% of electrification initiatives have chosen stand-alone solar technology, reflecting its reliability and sustainability. Among mini-grid options, hybrid mini-grids are becoming more popular than solar mini-grids. However, the duration of these initiatives is decreasing, indicating that the provision for operations and maintenance (O&M) may lack a long-term perspective. The State of the Market report suggests that this trend needs to be reversed. The emerging emphasis on the Energy Service Company (ESCO) model suggests a significant increase in the duration of health facility initiatives, reflecting their inherently long-term nature. Climate finance is also emerging as a promising avenue for financing the electrification of health facilities. Donors and investors need to adjust their funding cycles to align with the long-term nature of these projects and ensure robust financial support.[3]

Advances in spatial tools and big data processing are changing the landscape. Decision-makers are using geospatial technology to fill data gaps and prioritize electrification initiatives. Remote monitoring technologies are also being integrated into healthcare electrification initiatives, providing real-time data on service quality. Financial, technical, and institutional challenges must be considered in the design of future interventions to ensure their long-term sustainability.[4]

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[1] ASR, 2024. Electricity Access and Healthcare in Sub-Saharan Africa: An Initial Conversation. https://africanschoolregulation.org/event/electricity-access-and-healthcare-in-sub-saharan-africa-an-initial-conversation/

[1]34 SEforAll, 2024. State of the Market Report for Healthcare Facility Electrification. https://www.seforall.org/system/files/2024-03/SOTM_report_26Mar_compressed.pdf

The conference will focus on the two main lines of progress that can accelerate the sustainable electrification of health centres in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere: i) the use of advanced technologies and design methodologies to electrify health centres, and ii) the adoption of sustainable and scalable business models. The first day of the conference will focus on understanding the current situation and the barriers to progress. On the second day, expert participants will discuss proposals to make progress in the two directions described. Finally, the third day will be devoted to agreeing on and formulating the lessons learned and clearly proposing actionable measures to disseminate and implement what has been learned during the previous days.

The conference will bring together a limited number of invited, experienced participants—representatives from international organizations and NGOs, healthcare providers and administrators, policymakers, regulatory agencies, development financial institutions, think tanks, and academia—who will debate online in a panel format. The debates will be open and free of charge to any interested registered participants, who may send questions and provide comments. These contributions will be used by the moderators and made available to all participants.

Preparatory reading material will be provided to all participants before the conference. Following the conference, the ASR team will publish a brief summary of the key findings and takeaways and organize follow-up events—interviews, podcasts, and debates on specific aspects—to further examine the topics discussed.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Time	Session Name	Session Description
Day 1: The Present Situation - Experiences and Challenges *Overview of the reality and immediate prospects for electrification of health facilities in Africa including data and current barriers*		
3:00 - 3:15	Conference opening	• Welcome by Frederick Nyang (Director, African School of Regulation, ASR). • Opening words by Rahul Srinivasan (Senior Energy Specialist, Powering Healthcare, SEforAll).
3:15 – 3:50	Present approaches and challenges and best worldwide practices	• Current situation of electrification of health facilities in Africa – with a focus on data. • Best international practices and current barriers to regional electricity access for healthcare facilities • Sustainable Energy Policy Hub as a tool that can inform the development of policy and regulatory frameworks for PHC
3:50 - 4:00	**BREAK**	
4:00 - 4:55	Panel 1 – The current state of electrification of healthcare facilities	What does the current state of HFE look like in Africa. This can include an update and reminder of the SEforALL's State of the Market report from January 2024, what's changed and what progress has been made since then. Is the sector still facing the same challenges, and what opportunities are there and what can be done to accelerate scale up of the sector. Have there been significant developments this year.
4:55 – 5:00	Closing for the day	

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Time	Session Name	Session Description
Day 2: Surmounting the Challenges *Evaluating different approaches, key market players and delivery models dedicated to improving access to reliable electricity for healthcare facilities*		
3:00 - 3:05	Introduction and schedule of the day	TBD
3:05 – 3:55	Panel 2 – The Multilateral Energy Compact for Health Facility Electrification and Other Approaches	What is happening with the Energy Compact currently and what progress is being made with this agreement? What are other targets that could be covered through the Compact? What are the next steps and immediate objectives to consider? How can we increase impact for the sector, and what are the barriers to consider?
3:55 - 4:05	**BREAK**	
4:05 - 4:55	Panel 3 – Regulatory modifications to remove barriers and facilitate delivery	What is currently happening in this area and what progress is taking place or which areas are working well. What are the main barriers and how are they impacting the sector, in particular in relation to slowing down the rate of progress. What are the key factors that need to change to aid progress and how do we implement these changes.
4:55 – 5:00	Closing for the day	

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Time	Session Name	Session Description
Day 3: Looking Ahead and Innovating Together Recap of Days 1 and 2, followed by roundtable to define an action plan and a long-term vision		
3:00 - 3:05	Introduction and schedule of the day	
3:05 – 3:35	Wrap-up of Days 1 and 2	Open issues and key lessons learned.
3:35 – 4:50	Panel 4 – A call to action. What works, what can be improved and the need for a comprehensive and long-term vision.	This final session will underscore and consolidate the key messages on the potential of the approaches to increase healthcare facilities electrification in Africa, the necessary regulatory interventions, the business model design, the financial instruments, and the important roles of all actors across the power sector. What are the key challenges and what do we need to do to overcome these. What are the next steps and actions needed to scale up HFE.
4:50 - 5:00	Conference closure	Closing words by the co-organisers of the conference.