Libya hospital energy storage

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The UNDP has confirmed that it has installed solar panels for back-up power in 15 different hospitals across Libya as well as one municipality building between 2016 and 2017. It plans to install more in other hospitals and public facilities such as schools and municipal buildings in 2018 - subject to obtaining funding.

Nowadays, many people are aware that renewable energy, specifically solar energy, is an efficient alternative source of power which reduce the carbon footprint and can help a country to insulate from price fluctuations in global energy markets.

UNDP"s goal in Libya is to support the authorities to improve access to basic services through ensuring constant and cost-effective access to electricity, while also mitigating the impact of climate change and advancing multiple Sustainable Development Goals.

If this system is introduced widely in Libya, it can contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions, providing a long term and sustainable solution, while addressing the imperative needs of the people.

During the crises in Libya, UNDP decided to harness this clean energy and install solar energy in health facilities to give power supply continuity in a time that health facilities are facing power interruption during critical surgical operations, as well as heating needs and refrigerating critical medicines. Due to the conflict, now people are facing challenges to access to health services. It is now when they need a swift response and with the solar systems we are providing both a swift and a long-term solution.

Patients using these hospitals have now access to uninterrupted health services. The capacity for each hospital is between 15 and 20 KVA and the system is modular and can be upgraded to tens of times of its capacity, if the needed space for the upgrade is available, whether on the roof or on a ground fields. Meanwhile, other system components can be upgraded as well, like the batteries bank and Inverters.

So far, the funding covers 15 hospitals though the needs are much bigger for hospitals to fully function their critical units. If more funding is made available, UNDP Libya hopes to install solar power panels in other hospitals and public facilities such as schools and municipal buildings.

We faced some logistical challenges, especially in places like Benghazi, a war-ton city. However, the hospital personnel were very thrilled to have this new energy system. Even though, some of them did not know about it before, they were all very excited about this initiative and they were engaged in the process since the beginning.

UNDP has been informed by doctors that power used to go off during surgical procedures and they had to stop the operation until the generator was turned on and this was putting at risk the patient"s life. However, since

the solar panel were installed, they are continuing the medical procedures without interruption. They also mentioned that equipment such as ventilators and anesthetic machine that were at risk of damage due to the power cut, are now safe.

For example, during the blackout of power grids in all major cities of Libya, the ICU unit in Abusleem hospital in Tripoli was fully functioning using solar energy. They were using the direct solar power during the day and during the night the system switched to the power stored in the high-capacity batteries, so there was no cut whatsoever.

The system is not only providing them with a sustainable long-term energy solution, but is also helping them financially because the electricity bill will be reduced thanks to the solar grid.

Solar system in health facilities can also help Libya to achieve some of the Sustainable Development Goals such as good health and well-being, affordable and clean energy, climate action and partnership. It can also make a significant contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its commitment to "leave no one behind.

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