
Photovoltaic Systems for Rural Health Facilities



Georg Bopp, Adnan Al-Akori

Fraunhofer Institute for Solar
Energy Systems ISE

Off-Grid Power Forum

12.06.2015

Introduction and methodology

- Work was done inside International Energy Agency Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme IEA-PVPS task 9 “deploying PV services for regional development”
- Report: “PV Systems for Rural Health Facilities in Developing Areas – A completion of lessons” learnt is available at www.iea-pvps.org
- Methodology Applied
 - Using survey templates/ questionnaire*
 - Contact international organizations

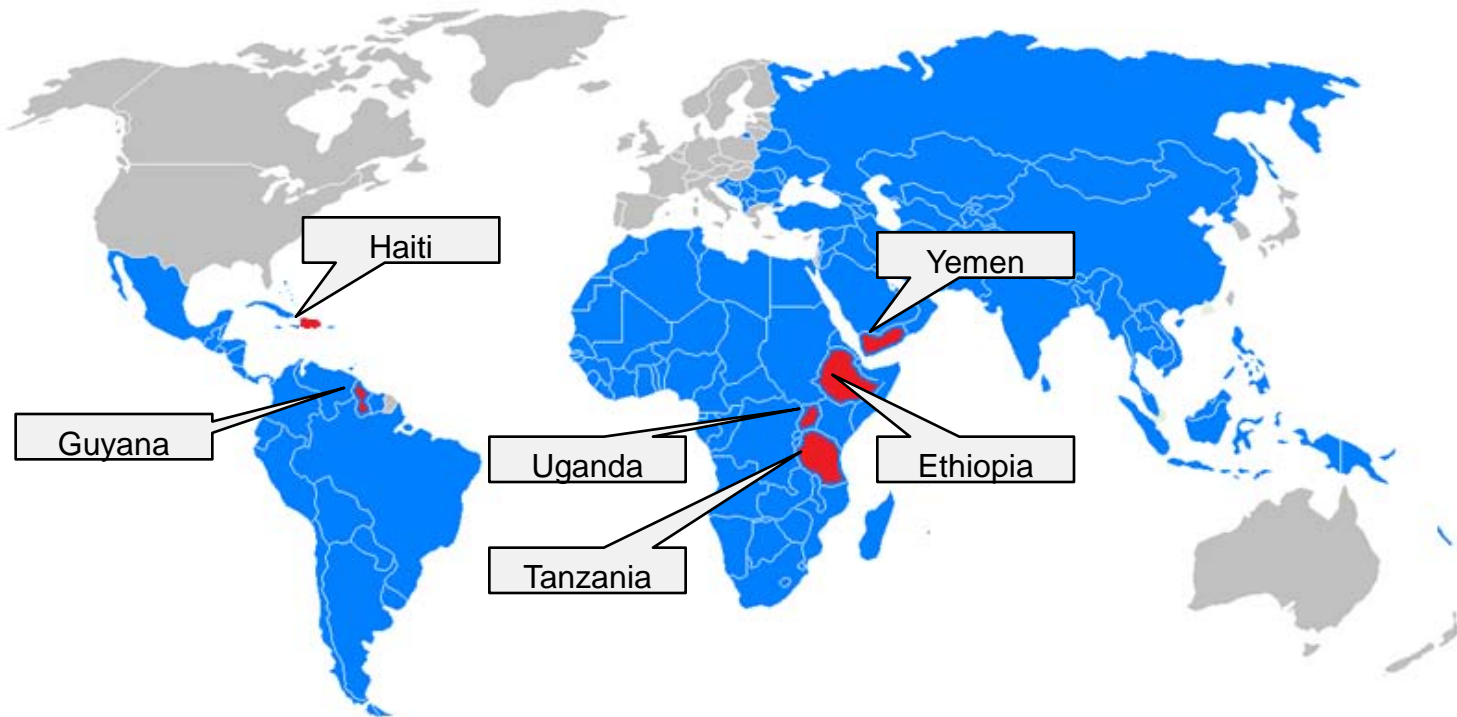


- Contact PV companies
- Analysis existed projects

International Experience in Developing Countries

■ Selected Countries

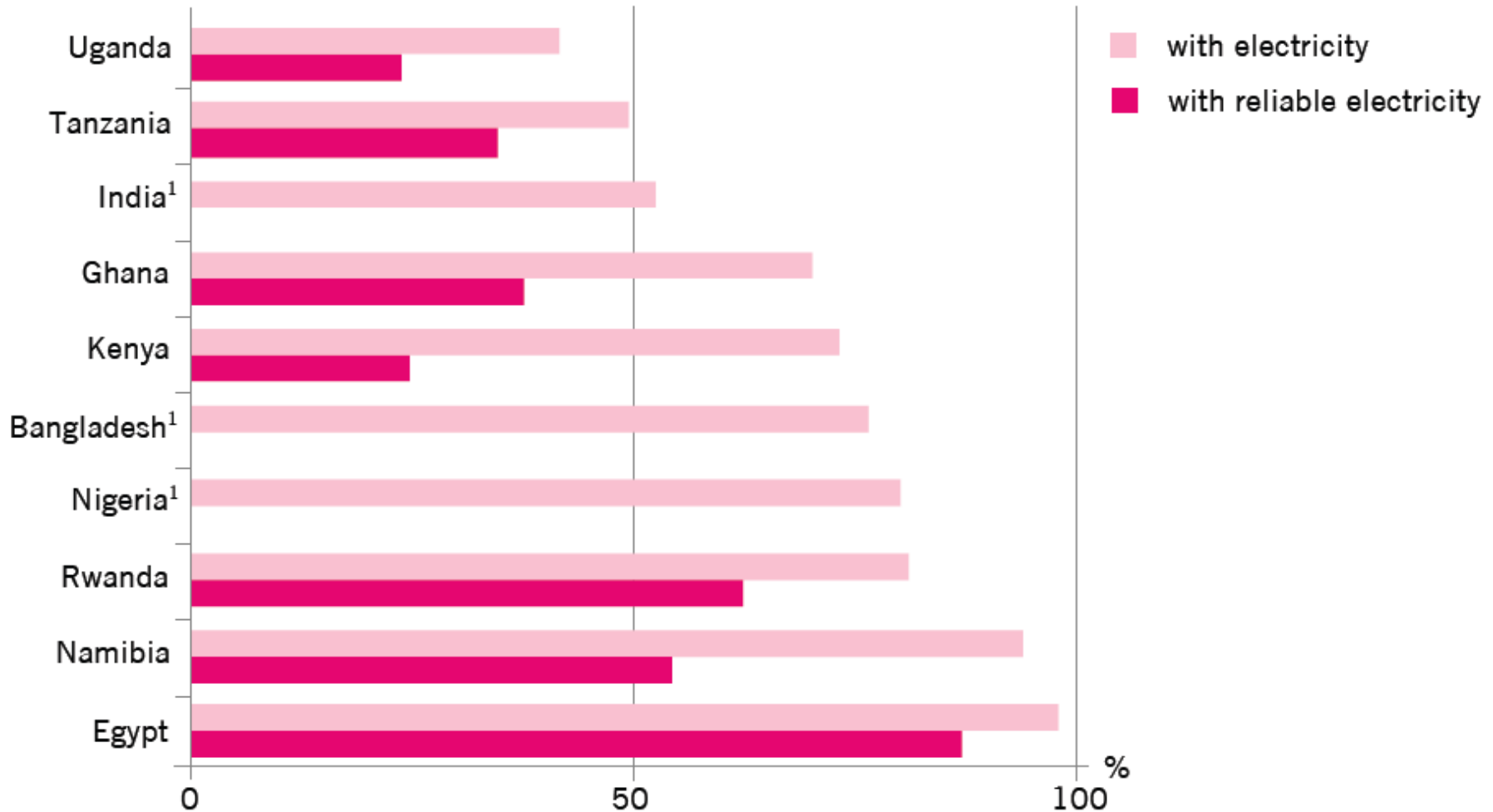
■ Involved Organizations



Source: Wikipedia (adapted)

International Experience of PV in Health Facilities

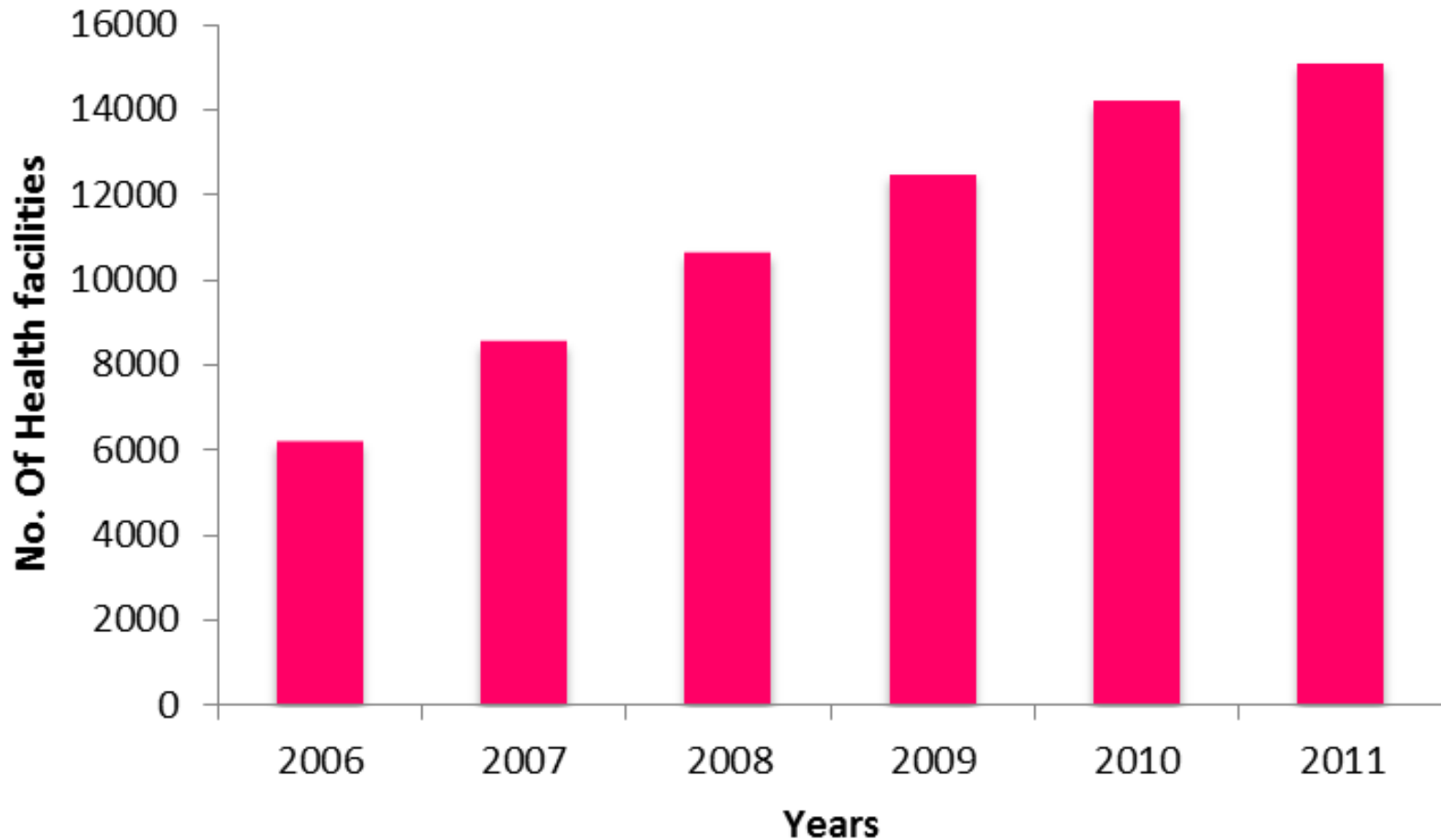
Electricity Access in health facilities



Source: Poor People's Energy Outlook 2013

International Experience of PV in Health Facilities

Growth in number of small health facilities in Ethiopia



Source: Poor People's Energy Outlook 2013

Energy demand in health facilities

■ Classification of health facilities / *daily energy consumption*

- Small size also called health posts: basic services

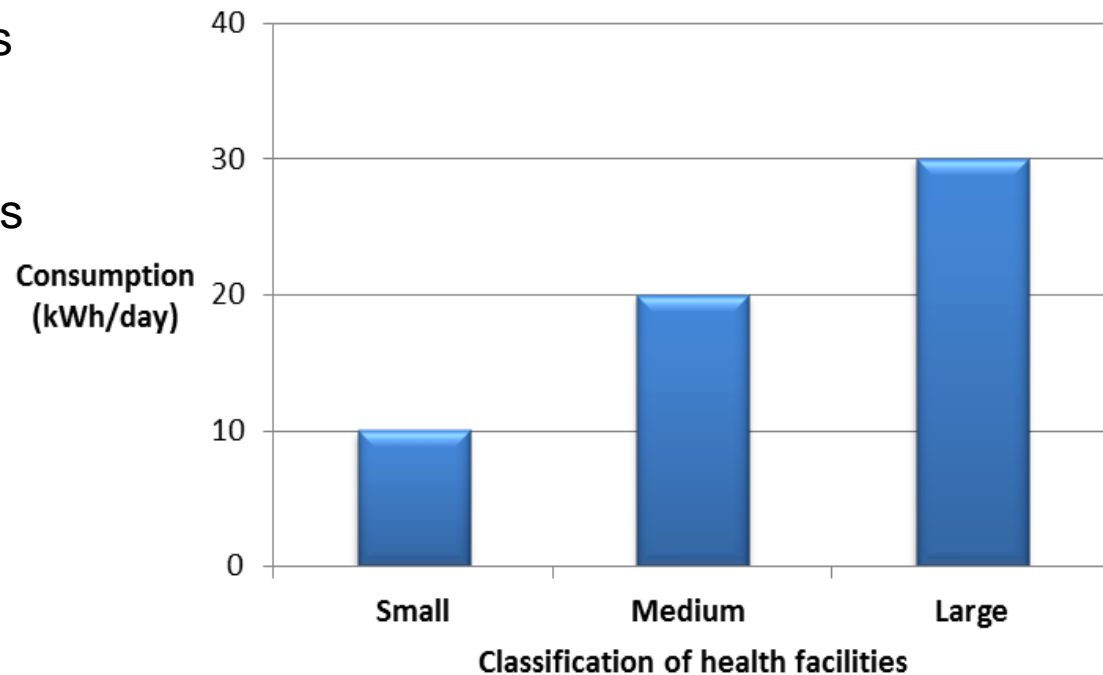
up to 10kWh/day

- Medium size: basic services + blood testing, dental,..

up to 20kWh/day

- Large size: small hospitals > 120 beds

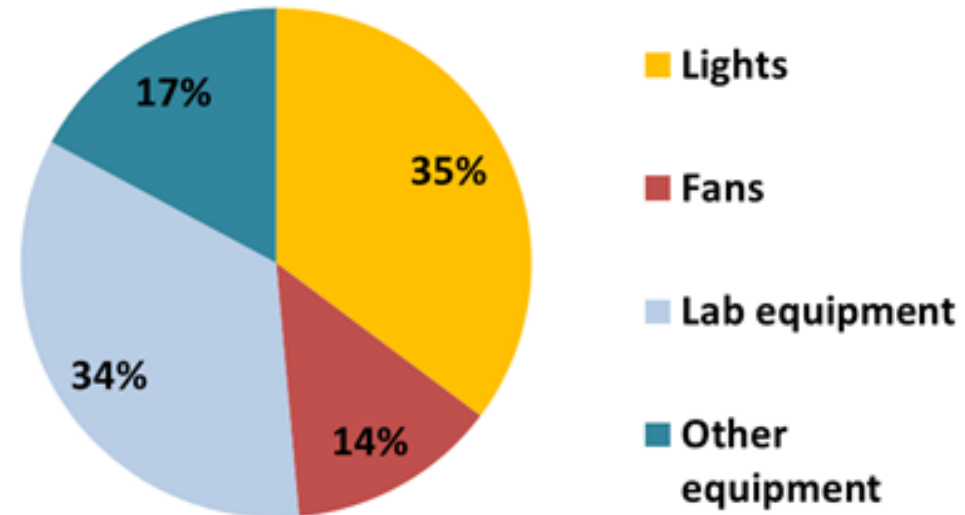
over 20kWh/day



Distribution of Energy demand in small health facilities

■ Main load

- Vaccine refrigeration shares 30% of the total load when its included
- Lights and fans
- Lab equipment



- Other equipment (computer, etc)

System design

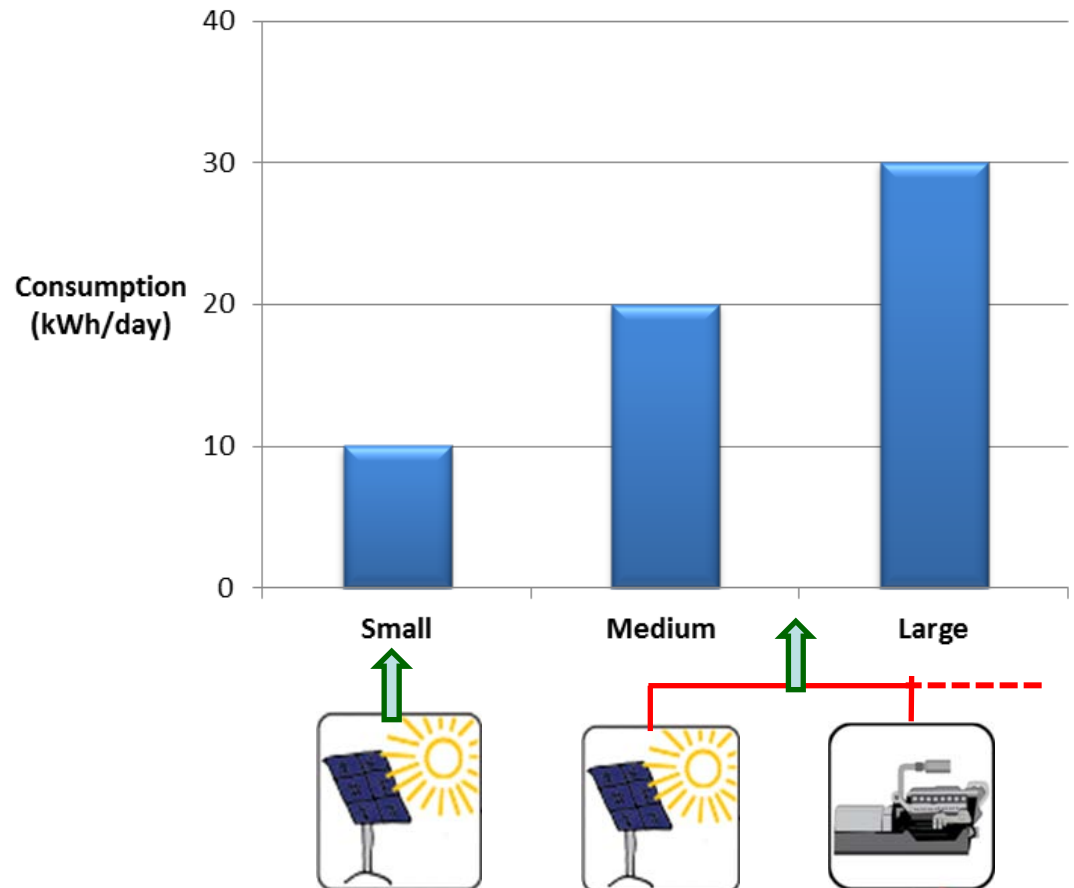
- Load estimation
- Power generation options
- Solar radiation
- System configuration
 - Voltage
 - DC& AC coupling
 - Backup generator
 - System components
 - Losses
- Designing tools (Homer, RETSreen, Pvsol, Pvsyst,..)
- Design optimizations
- International standards



System design

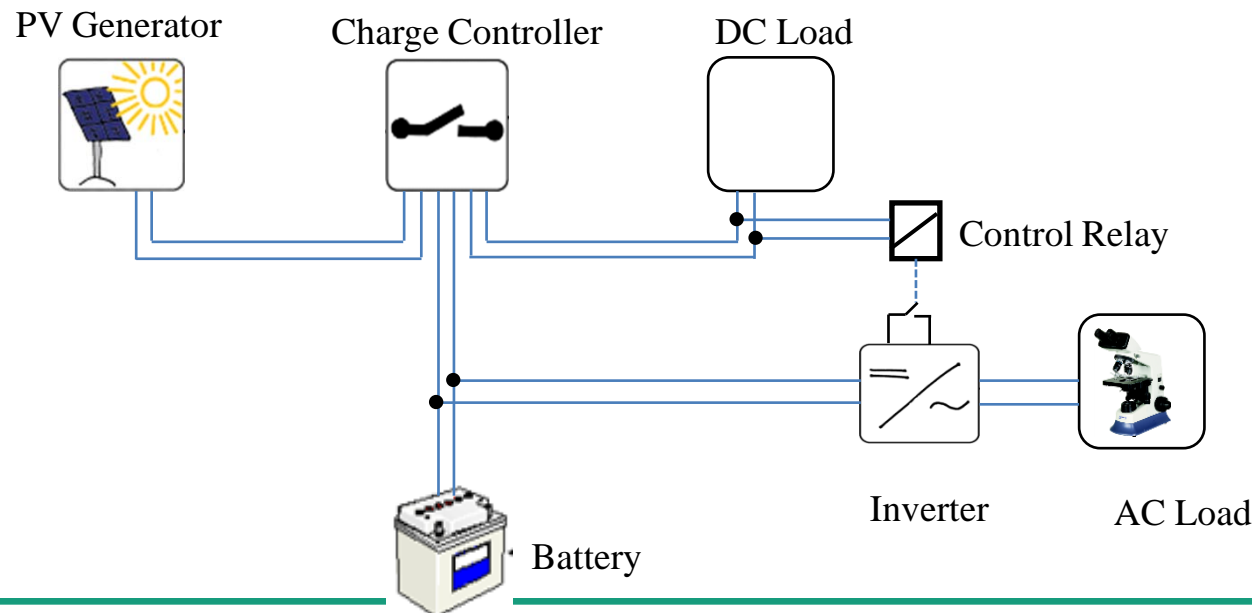
■ Power generation options

- Small:
 - PV stand-alone system
 - mainly DC coupled
- Medium and Large:
 - PV Hybrid system
 - DC or AC coupled

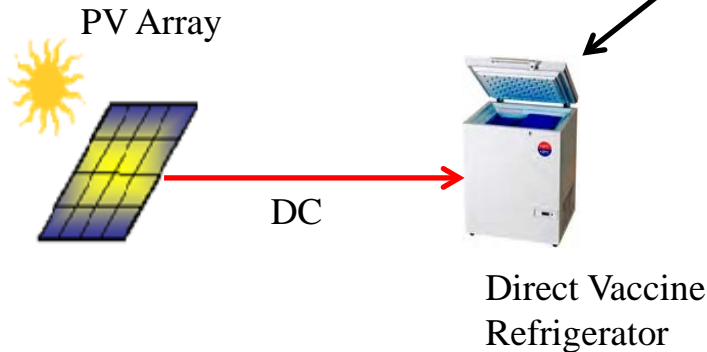
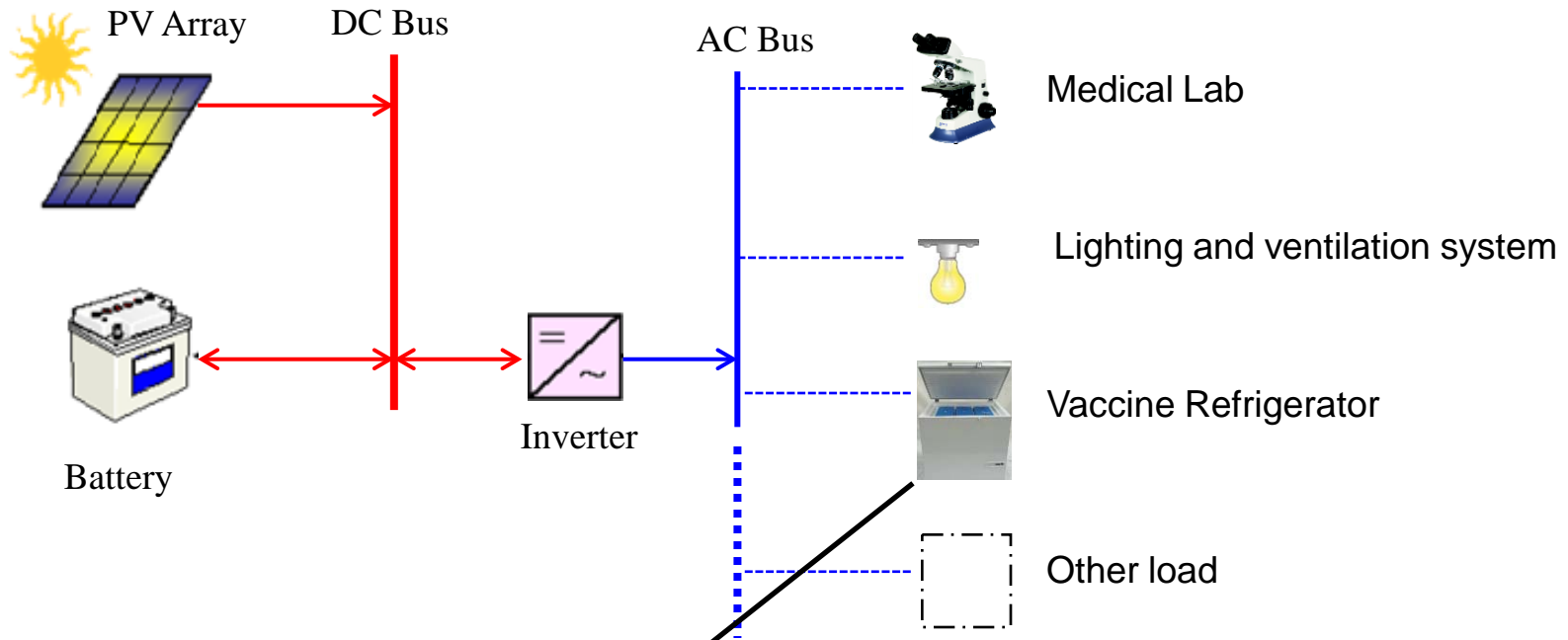


Technical lessons learnt

- Compressor refrigerators are more efficient than absorption refrigerators (about 5 times less energy), but not independent
- An independent PV supply system only for a vaccine refrigerator is recommended
- Direct-drive refrigerator is independent from rest of energy system
- Do not connect inverter directly to battery, instead use a control relay



Reliable operation of Vaccine Refrigerator



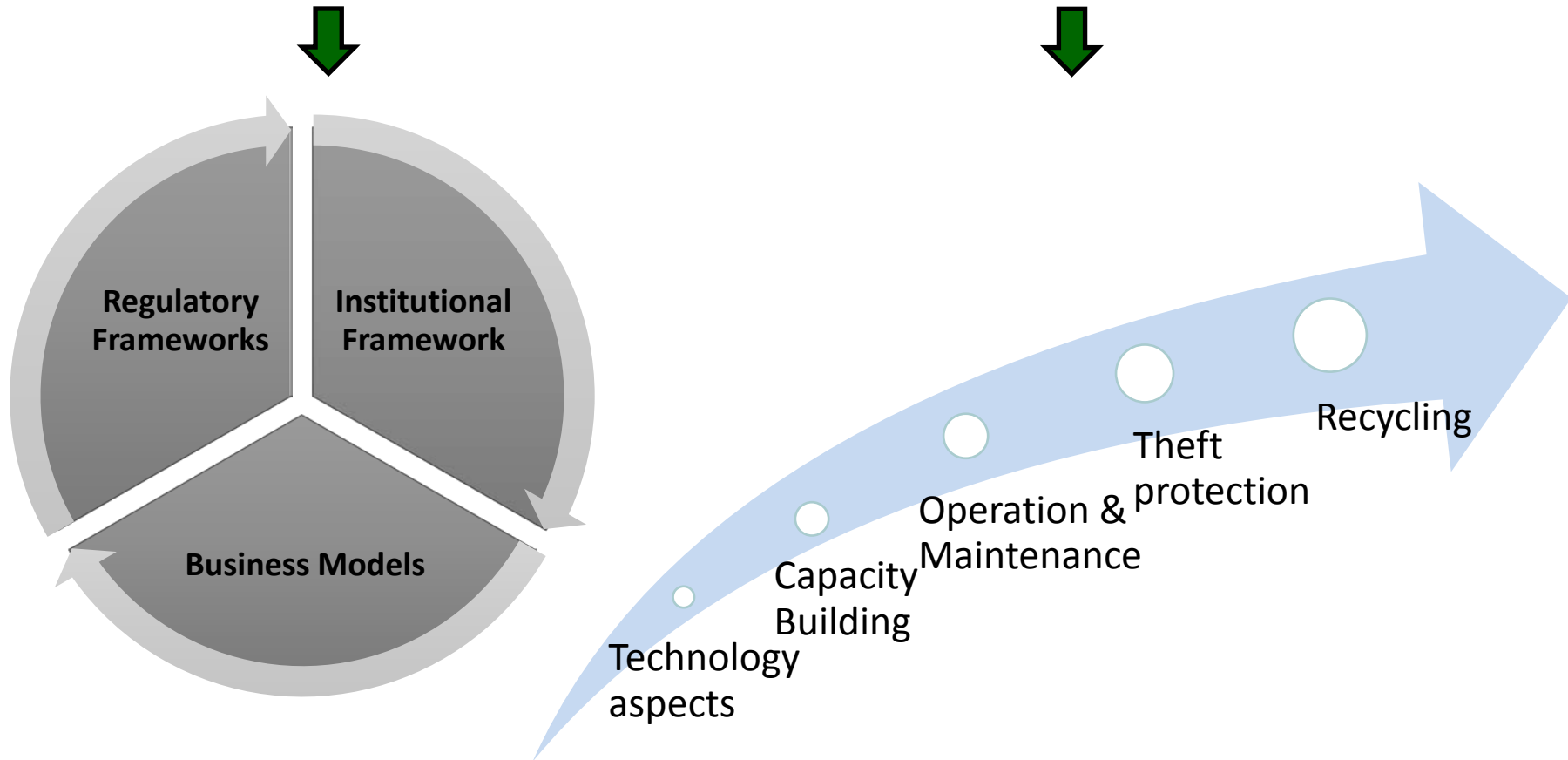
■ Typical Direct Vaccine Refrigerator DSR Specification (Dulas)

- » Approved by WHO
- » 330 Wp PV array
- » 83hrs Autonomy

Lessons learned concerning sustainable elements

■ Support factors for PV supply

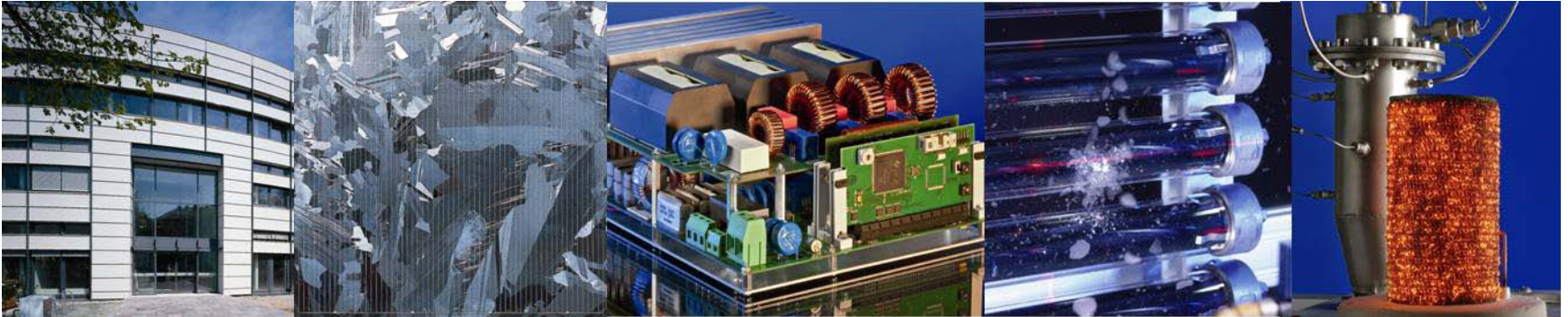
■ Factors enhancing the sustainability



Conclusion

- PV stand-alone systems became an attractive power generation option, mainly for small rural facilities;
- As there are success stories of utilizing PV systems, however some barriers and mistakes are still existed;
- Matching energy demand and supply is an important task of PV systems planning;
- Direct-drive vaccine refrigerators most probably will be the most suitable type for rural health facilities;
- Allocating a regular finance for maintenance is the backbone of sustainability of PV systems.

Thank you



Georg Bopp

Fraunhofer-Institut für Solare Energiesysteme ISE

The report “PV Systems for Rural Health Facilities in Developing Areas – A completion of lessons learnt” is available at www.iea-pvps.org task 9