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# **Renewable Energy and Health**

Insights from Chhattisgarh, India

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# **Evaluation of Solar PHCs in Chhattisgarh**



- 20 million people (three-quarters living in rural areas)
- 25% (of the total 27 districts) had more than 80% fully immunized children
- One-third of PHCs are un-electrified or without regular power supply
- Close to 90% of primary health centers report power cuts during peak operating hours

Source: DLHS-4



# **Solar for primary health centers**



- Chhattisgarh Renewable Energy Development Agency (CREDA) + National Health Mission
- 2 kWh Off-grid Solar PV systems
- 3-4 Hours of back-up, depending on load
- 600+ Primary Health Centres (PHCs) since 2012







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# Tools

- Administered a questionnaire to medical officers of all the health centres
  - Electricity supply (including back up)
  - Infrastructure including equipment inventory
  - Perceptions and experience of the solar system
  - Manpower availability
- Collected data on in-patient, out-patient and deliveries from the registers of the PHCs (aggregated by month for the last 12 months)
- Information on technical performance of the solar panels themselves (downtime, need for maintenance) from Chhattisgarh Renewable Development Authority



## Are the PHCs with solar performing better?



### Better service provision in health facilities with solar

70% of health facilities with solar provided 24 x 7 services compared to 48% of those without solar



#### **Perceptions of health staff in PHCs**

Proportion of PHCs reporting service improvement due to solar



**Perceptions of health staff in PHCs** 

"PHC services less affected by power cuts"

"Services during the night, especially delivery and emergency services, have significantly benefitted from Solar"

*"We face less equipment damage as solar has also helped reduce voltage fluctuations"* 

"We would like the capacity of these systems to be expanded"



## Lens for analysis



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#### **Impacts on health services**

Average in-patients treated in a month

Average Deliveries in a month





#### **Inpatients treated and deliveries**



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SOURCE: CEEW Analysis 2017

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# Strengthening coordination across energy and health



# Thank you

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