Powering Healthcare Innovation Fund

Powering Healthcare

SEforALL's Powering Healthcare (PHC) workstream acts as an 'engine room', providing the impetus and solutions needed by governments and their partners to increase investment in and the sustainability of health facility electrification efforts.

Context

Healthcare facility electrification (HFE) contributes to the improvement of health outcomes, promotes access to sustainable energy for all, fosters sustainable industrialization and innovation, and contributes to global efforts to combat climate change.

While substantial progress has been made, challenges persist, particularly in regions with weak infrastructure and limited financial resources. According to the WHO, an estimated 1 billion individuals across the globe currently have local healthcare facilities with no access to power or unreliable power supply. There are serious funding and data gaps, and more collaboration is needed between stakeholders, especially those in government health and energy departments. Currently the business-as-usual approach to HFE is proving inadequate, with the sector lagging behind in the adoption of new ideas and innovations that can help it scale and become more sustainable.

However, there are many opportunities too, such as prospects for private sector involvement in innovative financing and delivery models like Energy-as-a-Service, which provide more sustainable O&M frameworks. Data gaps can be bridged by utilising new systems, smart meters and AI to improve data driven decision making. With the advancements in solar technology and energy-efficient appliances, and the increasing recognition of the importance of energy needs assessments, there is also scope for innovation in these fields.

The **Powering Healthcare Innovation Fund** is a small-grants facility aimed at unlocking such opportunities and ideas and growing innovation in the HFE sector. This project is funded with UK aid via the Transforming Energy Access (TEA) platform.

TEA will offer a [Technical Assistance Facility](#), delivered by [EED Advisory](#), to a certain number of prospective applicants to enhance their skills in making grant applications. The TA Facility will be open for applications from 3rd-9th June and a certain number of applications will be selected to receive support between 10th June – 7th July ahead of the Powering Healthcare Innovation Fund deadline – more information about the facility on Page 5.

Powering Healthcare Innovation Fund - Objective

The overall objective of the fund is to drive innovation in how healthcare facilities are electrified.

SEforALL's Powering Healthcare Innovation Fund will support the deployment of catalytic innovations that can improve access to electricity in healthcare facilities and potentially transform the sector. Through small grants in the range of USD 50,000 to 100,000 each, the fund will uncover new solutions to address the market more effectively than current approaches. i.e. they must be different to approaches that are already common in the sector. There will be two funding rounds, one in 2024 and a second in 2025.

The solutions can be from the following fields:

1. **Data** (e.g. how to collect and analyse better data)

2. **Technology** (e.g. piloting energy-efficient appliances)

3. **Delivery** (e.g. fostering intersectoral partnerships or piloting innovative business / financial models)

Eligibility and Selection criteria

- The fund will focus on small and medium sized organisations, including SMEs, commercial organisations and NGOs, registered in certain implementation countries. A consortium can qualify for a grant but must have one lead contracting entity. Regional or country offices can apply if they have their own legal entity/registration in their host country. The maximum size of the legal entity or lead applicant organisation must be no more than 40 full-time permanent staff.

- The lead applicant must be legally registered in one of the countries on the FCDO list (Annex 1) but can undertake work in any country on the same list. The applicant can also target more than one country.

The selection criteria include:

- Considerations of the technical ability to carry out the work (in terms of thematic and geographic knowledge), within agreed timeframes and budgets, i.e, the organisations' track record of similar work, and the technical skills and experience of the proposed team.

- How realistic and viable the workplan, budget and project management aspects are, to ensure that grants will provide good value for money and add value to the sector from an innovation perspective.

- Areas such as scalability, replicability, potential impact, and synergy with government, SEforALL and TEA Programme plans.

- Proposals will be selected based on pre-determined criteria, which are set out in Annex 2.

- Geographies – maximum 1 grant per country so the fund can be spread out, provided minimum criteria are met.

Selection Committee

- The committee will comprise 7 experts with a range of skills and experience to cover the three main fields of innovation mentioned above.

- Additionally, the committee will cover relevant areas of expertise such as healthcare electrification, energy access, technology and delivery/finance models, and geographies, essential to assess a broad array of applications.

- The experts will be based in or have extensive experience in the target countries and continents, and at least half of the committee will be female.

Terms and Conditions of the grant

Grant Expectations and Payment
- The timeframe for the work under each grant contract will likely be six to eight months. Preferably starting in September 2024 and finishing no later than April 2025.

- Payments will be staggered during the grant period, in three or four tranches, and will be disbursed at the start of the contracting period and at further milestones during and at the end of the contract.

- Grants will be disbursed based on pre-agreed milestones and grantees will be required to periodically report against a predetermined list of indicators.

- A minimum of 10% of the grant will be held back until contract completion.

- The first payment will be a maximum of 20% and may be dependent on a deliverable (e.g. workplan or inception report 2-3 weeks after contract signing).

Co-Financing Contribution
- Each organisation or consortium must provide a minimum 20% or a maximum 50% of co-financing as part of the overall project budget, either themselves and/or as other funding leveraged from other funding streams.

- Co-financing provided by the organisation themselves can be in the form of cash or in-kind equity.

Due Diligence
- All applications will need to provide relevant documents as described below. If a consortium applies, only the lead applicant will be subject to due diligence by SEforALL, and the lead applicant will be responsible for all consortium partners.

- Financial checks will be needed, to ensure that all organisations have a good financial history. This will include:

  o Audited accounts or 12-24 months of financial accounts (including details on sources of income and types of expenditure etc.)

  o SEforALL may request independent financial statements during the due diligence process, but this is not mandatory initially

  o Tax and regulatory compliance certificates

- Relevant company insurance documentation (if the organisation does not currently have this, they may need to acquire it)

- Governance and management structures that are appropriate for this work

- Code of conduct or ways of working to include considerations such as:

  o Sustainability/environmental considerations

  o Gender policy

  o Anti-terrorism/corruption/bribery/fraud etc.

  o Data security

  o Safeguarding

- Minimum track record of two years (i.e. the organisation must have been founded at least two years ago), as well as having managed at least one grant or project of a similar value to this application

- Applicants must disclose if they have any potential Conflict of Interests. If so, they must contact the SEforALL procurement team on this email: procurement@seforall.org

Application Process

This will be a two-stage process that utilises a single application form for both stages.

- **Stage one:** open to all applicants, where proposals will be assessed by the PHC team.

- **Stage two:** shortlisted applications from the first stage will be assessed by the selection committee of external and internal sector experts. Grants will be awarded on set criteria based on the committee's recommendations.

The full process for applicants is as follows:

- **Request for Proposals (RfP)** - SEforALL will issue a request for proposals to invite organisations to apply for funding.

- **Clarification questions** - Applicants can ask questions about the application process or fund and PHC will clarify any queries they may have at any time during the RfP window. An open online call will also be hosted by PHC for a more interactive Q&A session during the application window.

- **Application form submission** - Each applicant must submit a full application, using the online form, as well as ensuring that they meet the minimum requirements and all checks, by the given deadline.

- **Initial due diligence checks** - SEforALL will conduct basic organisation checks, such as company, financial and sanction list checks, to ensure there is full compliance and no red flags at this stage, before the technical proposal is fully assessed.

- **Shortlisted organisations** - All applications will be reviewed by the PHC team, and the best proposals, selected against fixed criteria, will be put forward to the final selection stage, which will involve a selection committee.

- **Selection committee** - The best shortlisted proposals will appear before the selection committee for final selection. Once again, a set criterion will be used to assess the proposals before making final recommendations as to who should be eligible to receive funding. There will not be another application form for this process, but the committee will ask further clarifying questions.

- **Final due diligence** - When successful proposals have been selected, any final due diligence necessary will be conducted. Successful applicants will need to provide photos and comms materials for the grant announcement.

- **Contracting** - Once all checks have been undertaken the contracting will be conducted.

- **Project initiation** - When contracting has been completed the project will commence.

- **Grant disbursal** - Grants will be disbursed as per the agreed contract in terms of amounts, timelines and reporting requirements. Each grant payment will be subject to achieving certain milestones during the project.

- **Project completion** - The project must be completed within the agreed timeline and budget.

- **Project reporting and evaluation** - All projects will be subject to regular, pre-agreed reporting to track progress, disburse grants, and assess work against set indicators. This will include a monthly progress report, for which a template will be provided. There will also be post evaluation assessments.

Application form
The application form is available in English and French, however all contracting and reporting documents will be in English. Applicants are expected to provide the following information through the form:

- Background about the organisation and the year it was founded

- The organisation's experience in carrying out similar work including relevant skills, qualifications and knowledge

- The technical proposal outlining the objectives, work approach and methodology

- A work plan, including timings, a list of activities and key indicators for tracking progress

- A brief risk register along with mitigation strategies

- Two relevant organisational or client references from the last two years (detailing source of funding, amount of funding, details of implementation, team members etc.)

- CVs of key personnel (including one team member with demonstrated financial management skills)

- An estimated budget to show how the grant will be used, and how this is linked to the overall impact of the work. Terms of payment will follow a deliverable-based framework. All costs must be in USD and inclusive of all taxes.

Timeline for the Innovation Fund

The below timelines are indicative; there may be slight changes which will be communicated.

Activity	Week/commencing date														
	27-May	03-Jun	10-Jun	17-Jun	24-Jun	01-Jul	08-Jul	15-Jul	22-Jul	29-Jul	05-Aug	12-Aug	19-Aug	26-Aug	02-Sep
Promote upcoming RfP	31st														
Launch RfP		3rd				7th									
Open online Q&A session				18th											
RfP deadline closes						7th									
Initial DD and sanction checks							8th to 12th								
Stage 1 evaluation of all proposals							10th	19th							
Stage 1 shortlisting								19th							
Stage 2 selection committee interviews									22nd	26th					
Final grantee recommendations										29th to 30th					
Final DD checks										30th	2nd				
Final grant decisions											5th				
Contracting											5th			30th	
Award announcement															3rd

Monitoring and evaluation

- SEforALL will carry out extensive monitoring and evaluation on the supported interventions up until 2026, including an end-line evaluation to assess the impact of each grant and the value for money. The lessons learnt and key findings will be published as a report and disseminated through various channels. This activity aims to provide the sector with catalytic innovations and correspondingly valuable knowledge that can both accelerate the deployment of power solutions as well as make the process more efficient.

- Every funded innovation will be required to report against a predetermined list of indicators for this purpose.

TEA Technical Assistance Facility

In parallel to the fund run by SEforALL, the TEA platform is launching a Technical Assistance (TA) Facility to maximise the potential of local partners to successfully access grant funding, unlocking opportunities to drive impact in the markets they know best. The TA Facility will be open for applications from 3rd-9th June and a certain number of applications will be selected to receive support between 10th June – 7th July ahead of the Powering Healthcare Innovation Fund deadline. The TA Facility is funded with UK aid via the TEA platform, and delivered by an independent, pan-African consulting firm, EED Advisory.

If you are selected to receive the TA support, this does not guarantee grant funding from Powering Healthcare. If you are not selected to receive the TA support, you are still encouraged to apply for the Powering Healthcare Innovation Fund. At no point will the Powering Healthcare team know who has applied and/or received the TA support, as it is delivered and managed independently by EED Advisory.

The TA Facility will have their own independent selection criteria and they can only offer support in English, but this will have no impact on the grant selection process.

Timelines:

- TA open for applications 3rd June
- TA applications close 9th June 23:59 UTC
- TA support between 10th June – 7th July

Relevant examples of innovation grants

Here are some relevant examples of innovation grants. Please note that these examples are not all directly linked to HFE, and not necessarily what the fund is seeking:

- The Global Innovation Fund (GIF) supports Sierra Leone's emergency COVID-19 response work, via behavioural change messaging and in-person support from community health workers. This work helped strengthen the health system. BRAC | Global Innovation Fund

- The Zero Emission Generators (ZE-Gen) Innovation Fund launched a Circularity Challenge, focused on Nigeria, to address the reuse and end-of-life processing of displaced fossil-fuelled generators. Circularity Challenge - ZE-gen

- The GIF supports a pilot a life-saving neonatal technology that screens new-born babies for infections like pneumonia and congenital heart defects in the Philippines and China. BORN Project | Global Innovation Fund

- ZE-Gen is collaborating with the Green Genset Facility (GGF) to make it simple and transparent for distributors to buy solar-powered generators, accelerating a move away from fossil fuel alternatives, addressing the challenge of the lack of accessible and affordable working capital. Current Activities - ZE-gen

- The GIF supports research and development and business development to establish and deploy a full suite of certified smart metering technologies for microgrids and central grid utilities in emerging markets. SparkMeter | Global Innovation Fund

Funded by

ANNEX 1 - List of FCDO target countries (ODA eligible)

UK aid is restricted to ODA eligible countries which currently includes:

South Asia

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- India
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Pakistan
- Sri Lanka

Indo-Pacific (ODA-eligible ASEAN)

- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Laos
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Vietnam
- Timor-Leste (not officially part of ASEAN)

Indo-Pacific (Pacific Islands)

- Federated States of Micronesia
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Marshall islands
- Nauru
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Sub-Saharan Africa

All countries in sub-Saharan Africa, except South Africa.

ANNEX 2 – Selection Criteria

Minimum criteria are 60% overall and at least 2/5 or 1/2 on individual scores.

#	Criteria	Description	Scoring
1	Innovation	How innovative and new is the proposal compared to what is already in the market for HFE	0 - 5 (0 = low, 5 = high)
2	Scalability/ replicability	Ability of proposed initiative to be easily replicated and scaled up	0 - 5 (0 = low, 5 = high)
3	Impact	Ability of proposed initiative to impact and scale up the HFE sector	0 - 5 (0 = low, 5 = high)
4	Technical skills	Technical ability of the organisation(s) to be able to deliver the work	0 - 5 (0 = low, 5 = high)
5	Experience	Experience of the organisation(s) and team listed to be able to deliver the work	0 - 5 (0 = low, 5 = high)
6	Finance	How realistic is the proposed budget and how strong are the financial management systems	0 - 5 (0 = low, 5 = high)
7	Gender	How strong is the gender policy in place and how high is the proportion of females involved in the work	0 - 5 (0 = low, 5 = high)
8	Alignment of plans	How does the proposal align with national/regional government country plans	0 - 5 (0 = low, 5 = high)
9	Geographical footprint	How far and wide is the impact, now and for scale up	0 - 2 (0 = low, 2 = high)
10	Climate	How strong are the climate impact considerations of the proposal	0 - 2 (0 = low, 2 = high)

Scoring System

For questions 1-8 the following guidelines apply:
0 = required information not provided or irrelevant to the criteria
1 = poorly meets the criteria
2 = partially meets the criteria
3 = adequately meets the criteria
4 = satisfyingly meets the criteria
5 = entirely meets the criteria

For questions 9-10 the following guidelines apply:
0 = poorly meets the criteria
1 = adequately meets the criteria
2 = entirely meets the criteria