

# **Partnerships for Sustainable Development: the People- First approach to Public-Private Partnerships**

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# Some case studies of PPPs helping to fight the new coronavirus



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Some examples of Public-Private Partnerships helping to fight the new coronavirus:

- Develop new drugs to beat the coronavirus (US-based biotech Gilead and Beijing's China-Japan Friendship Hospital)
- Build a new Hospital in Wuhan, the Huoshenshan Hospital, with 1,000 hospital beds in 10 days (China Construction Third Engineering Bureau Co. Ltd and Wuhan Urban and Rural Construction Administration)
- Sewage water equipment construction and inspection for the new Huoshenshan Hospital (Kaiquan Group and Huoshenshan Hospital)

# Importance of partnerships in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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In 2015, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** and its **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** were adopted.

The 2030 Agenda calls for a stronger **commitment to partnerships** and cooperation to achieve the SDGs:

- SDG 17 is both a goal and a cross-cutting transversal mean of implementation
- Need to **mobilize efforts of governments, the private sector and civil society** to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



# Need for a new approach to PPPs for the SDGs



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**Why:** Addis Ababa Action Agenda echoes the need to move towards a new approach and calls for the promulgation of guidelines for the appropriate structure and use of PPPs

**Objective:** Achieve the SDGs by mobilizing investment in infrastructure and public services

**What is at stake:** Governments to fill the infrastructure gap while complying with the SDGs. The point is not to analyze the projects; it is to change the world!

**Challenges:** The “traditional” PPP model is not fit for purpose for the SDGs

**Solution:** Adopt a new model of PPPs that brings not only “value for money” but also “value for people”: the **People-first approach to PPPs**

**The People First approach to PPPs** is derived from the SDGs and is a new generation of infrastructure, utility and social service projects done through PPP, putting people's interest at their core, generating both 'value for people' and 'value for the planet'

### **Advantages of the approach:**

- Alignment with the SDGs and 2030 Agenda
- Clear outcomes and benefits
- Evaluating the benefits and the degree to which projects comply with the SDGs
- Towards a next generation of PPPs

### **People-first desirable outcomes:**

1. Increase access to essential services and lessen social inequality and injustice
2. Enhance resilience and responsibility towards environmental sustainability
3. Improve economic effectiveness and fiscal sustainability
4. Promote replicability and the development of further projects
5. Fully involve all stakeholders in the projects

**Whereas traditional PPPs only deal with economic effectiveness...**

# How to mainstream the People-first approach to PPPs?



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### Guidelines

- **UNECE Guiding Principles for People-first PPPs** to support governments in designing and implementing comprehensive People-first PPP policies, programmes and pipelines of projects

### Sectoral Standards

- UNECE Standard on PPPs in **Railways**
- UNECE Standard on PPPs in **Renewable Energy**
- UNECE Standard on PPPs in **Roads**
- UNECE Standard on PPPs in **Urban Rail Transit**
- UNECE Standard on PPPs in **Airports** (in development)
- UNECE Standard on PPPs in **Health policy** (in development)
- UNECE Standard on PPPs in **Waste to Energy** (in development)
- UNECE Standard on PPPs in **Water and Sanitation** (in development)

### Cross-sectoral Standards and tools

- UNECE Standard on a **Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption** in PPP Procurement
- **People-first Model PPP Law by UNECE and EBRD**
- **Project Impact Assessment Tool**: an evaluation methodology to score projects against the People-first criteria and the SDGs

- Traditional PPP is only a procurement methodology and should not be evaluated according to so many ambitious indicators
- Minds need to change to seriously implement the People-first approach



Resilience is a critically important outcomes in order to counter the risks the world faces today:

- Climate change
- The new Coronavirus
- Increased risk of dangerous climatic events
- Weaknesses of local authorities to develop effective projects

Need to integrate resiliency into infrastructure projects and PPPs

- Make one of the criteria for private companies to win competitive tenders
- Create capacity within governments (especially at local levels), e.g. Resilience Officers
- Makes sense as it will save public sector's resources: "prevention is better than cure"



# How to mainstream resiliency into People-first PPPs?



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- UNECE works with Centres of Excellence to disseminate its PPP Standards and the People-first approach to PPPs.
- Visit to Louisiana to show how the US State is using resilient Partnerships to ‘build back better’ after hurricanes and State-wide floods.
- Semi-Annual Meeting of the Centres of Excellence affiliated to the UNECE International PPP Centre of Excellence (New Orleans, Louisiana, US, 3-6 March 2020) will produce guidelines on People-first Resilient PPPs.



**Thank you!**

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