

## PRIVATE SECTOR PEER LEARNING: PARTNERSHIP PROFILES

### PPPLab

**Description:** The [PPPLab](#) is an action research and joint learning and support initiative that aims to enhance the relevance, effectiveness and quality of Dutch-supported public-private partnerships (PPPs). It is mandated by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to generate knowledge and methodological lessons from and on PPPs that can be used to improve policy and implementation. Currently, the PPPLab is focusing on a range of PPPs funded by the Sustainable Water Fund and the Facility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Food Security of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, which are in the initial stages of implementing their project plans.

**Objectives:** The PPPLab seeks to improve the relevance, effectiveness and quality of PPPs as targeted instruments in Dutch international co-operation in the fields of water and food security and private sector development.

**Partners:** The PPPLab is implemented by a consortium comprised of the Partnerships Resource Centre, Aqua for All, Centre for Development Innovation at Wageningen University and Research Centre, and SNV Netherlands Development Organisation. It works in close co-operation with the Sustainable Water Fund and Facility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Food Security and co-ordinates activities with VIA Water, a knowledge platform for the Dutch water sector, and the Food & Business Knowledge Platform.

The PPPLab's target audience is all stakeholders involved in PPPs, including the public and private sectors, civil society and knowledge institutions. It distinguishes stakeholders at two levels: 1) directly involved parties, specifically the partners in PPPs funded by the Sustainable Water Fund and Facility for Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Food Security; and 2) indirectly involved parties, such as the broader national and international communities that are interested in being informed on the latest developments related to PPPs on water and food security and private sector development.

**Activities:** The PPPLab plays four basic knowledge roles: 1) sense making; 2) moderation of exchange and learning; 3) focused innovation, study and action research trajectories; and 4) policy and strategy analysis and advice. Its overarching research and learning questions are: how do PPPs contribute to the realisation of Dutch policy goals regarding water and food security and private sector development? What challenges are met and what successes are achieved? What (potential) improvements can thus be identified?

The PPPLab has four areas of work: 1) business models, with the focus being the development of an analytical tool and broader application to strengthen business sustainability and improve understanding of various partnership business models; 2) scaling up and system change, specifically scaling up outcomes of and system change resulting from individual PPPs; 3) governance and government, providing insight into partnership governance (e.g. partners' identities, roles and contributions including the ways they work together) and the public sector's role within PPPs (e.g. engagement by local public entities); and 4) partnership performance tracking, particularly monitoring processes that partnerships can use to track how they are performing as partnerships and study the correlation between how a partnership functions and how well it delivers outcomes.

**Monitoring and evaluation:** Facilitated by an external consultant, the PPPLab will conduct a mid-term self-evaluation in 2016. The aim of this review is to determine whether it is successfully implementing its Knowledge Agenda and other working plans. In 2018, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs will appoint and fund an external evaluator to determine whether the PPPLab's intended purposes have been achieved.

**Results:** To date, the consortium has prepared several major documents on the PPPLab's governance and budget to guide work and collaboration, in addition to launching a website and newsletters. The PPPLab has produced many publications, which are available on its website, and participated in as well as convened various events.

**Development Assistance Committee member:** Netherlands

**Budget:** EUR 1 857 million  
(plus EUR 650 000 in co-financing from partners)

**Duration:** 2014-18

**Location:** Global

**Sector:** Water and food security and private sector development

**Activities:** Knowledge products, advice and partnership brokering

**Beneficiaries:** Various

**Insights:** The PPPLab is an example of what can happen when a consortium of different knowledge partners, covering perspectives from academia and applied research as well as experience from practice is brought together – the initiative guides learning alongside the implementation of a diverse range of PPPs.

**SOURCE:**

PPPLab (n.d.), PPPLab website, [www.ppplab.org](http://www.ppplab.org) (accessed 1 July 2016).