Infrastructure planning: new era, new partnerships and a People-first approach in the post COVID-19 period

GEORGE KATAPODIS
HSPPA CHAIRMAN – UNECE WP-PPP CO-CHAIR
Public procurement strategies prove to be frontline of countries’ responses to the COVID-19 crisis to accelerate the pace of infrastructure development in order to mitigate negative growth effects. Most countries.
Infrastructure planning: new era, new partnerships and a People-first approach in the post COVID-19 period

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs call for PPPs

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**

**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.

**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
People-first Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) ensure that out of all stakeholders, ‘People’ are at the epicentre.

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’.

Its focus is on improving the quality of life of the communities, particularly those that are fighting poverty, by creating local and sustainable jobs those that fight hunger and promote well-being, promote gender equality, access to water, energy, transport and education for all, and that promote social cohesion, justice, and reject all forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, creed and culture.

Therefore, PPPs contribute to achieve most of the SDGs.

Advantages of the approach:
- Alignment with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Clear outcomes and benefits
- Evaluating the benefits and the degree to which projects comply with the SDGs
- Towards a next generation of PPPs

Need to transform projects from “value for money” into “value for people” with five 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