

Public private partnership in ghana for solar power generation

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However, despite decades of PPP investments in Africa, the results have been underwhelming. Africa accounts for only 7% of global PPP investment, reflecting its limited success in attracting and sustaining these initiatives. Further, the PPP market in Africa is heavily concentrated in a few countries, notably Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, and Uganda, which account for over half of all PPP projects by value. Despite this concentration, many projects have failed to achieve their intended outcomes.

In addition, the persistence of private sector-induced corruption, bribery, and complex contracts designed to minimise private-sector risks further undermines the potential of PPPs to bridge Africa's infrastructure gap. In many cases, these unethical practices have resulted in projects costing more than originally projected, with taxpayers bearing the burden of failed or underperforming initiatives.

This imbalance in priorities has led to a stagnation in the success rate of PPP projects across the continent and raises critical (ethical) questions about the private sector's role in PPPs in Africa.

For public-private partnerships (PPPs) to succeed, both sectors must demonstrate strength and responsibility due to the complexity and scale of infrastructure projects and their potential impact in Africa. A strong public sector is crucial to regulate and oversee PPPs, ensuring that projects align with national development goals, and serve the public interest. The public sector must thus be empowered to negotiate, monitor, and enforce these agreements effectively.

While we acknowledge that PPPs alone cannot fully resolve Africa's challenges, they offer significant potential for improved infrastructure delivery. However, to realise this potential, there must be a stronger alignment of interests between the public and private sectors. Governments must ensure that PPPs are structured to benefit the public, while the private sector must adopt a more ethical approach, prioritising long-term social benefits over short-term financial gains. But what happens where governments are weak?

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This second version of the PPP Reference Guide, as the first one, presents a global overview of the diversity of approaches and experiences in the implementation of public-private partnerships (PPPs), providing an entry



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point to the substantial body of knowledge on PPPs that has been built up by practitioners in governments, the private sector, international institutions, and academia. With due care not to increase the overall size of the Guide, this version includes new references and examples.

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