



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



PPIAF
Enabling Infrastructure Investment



Concept Note

2025 Workshop Series on Public-Private Partnership Hot Topics

Date: April – June 2025

Jointly organized by MCDF, Egyptian Ministry of Finance, AfDB, ADB, PPIAF, World Bank, and World Association of PPP Units and Professionals (WAPPP)

Background

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) enable governments to procure and deliver public infrastructure and leverage the resources and expertise of the private sector – through risk-sharing arrangements. When properly designed and executed, PPPs can create social value through on-time and on-cost delivery, generating efficiency gains and offering innovation in project design, incorporation of global expertise, and accessing new sources of capital. Conversely, poorly designed and executed PPPs can fail to deliver on these promises and create additional risks compared to traditional financing modalities. Capacity building of developing country governments is therefore important to ensure that their benefits are harnessed and risks mitigated.

As part of its mandate to promote high-quality and sustainable connectivity infrastructure, the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF), in collaboration with several partners, delivered the first Workshop Series on Public-Private Partnership Hot Topics in 2024.

This series of workshops covered four “hot topics” on PPPs, identified by partners based on their clients' needs:

- How to deal with inflation, exchange rate and interest rate risks in PPPs
- PPP Project Preparation Funds
- PPPs for New Technologies
- New Sources of Public Financing for PPPs

The Workshop Series was very successful, with 374 participants attending from 75 economies and a wide range of institutions representing the PPP ‘ecosystem’: PPP units, Ministries of Finance and Planning, project developers, financiers and 24 international organizations. 100% of respondents were either ‘Satisfied’ or ‘Very Satisfied’ with its quality and relevance to their work, and a significant number expressed interest in further training with a similar format combining theoretical and practical content through case studies.

Given the success achieved with the first Workshop Series, the six partners are interested in delivering the second series in 2025.

As with the initial workshop series, the following factors will be considered in the design and delivery:

- Focus the audience on PPP units and professionals in Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia (Central, West, South, and East)
- Avoid duplication with existing training resources that are available. For instance, many IFIs provide their own training on the basics of PPPs, and ADB, EBRD, IDB, IsDB, and WBG have partnered with APMG with funding from the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) to create the [APMG PPP Certification Program](#) (CP³P) for more in-depth training.
- Strengthen the positive aspects identified in the evaluation of the first workshop series and incorporate suggestions from participants.

Objectives

The main objective is to share knowledge on PPPs that adds value for PPP units and professionals in Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia, compared to the training and capacity building currently available.

Approach

Considering the training that is already available, it is suggested that the following can add value for PPP units:

- Addressing hot topics or PPP issues where IFIs have recently developed new tools.
- Emphasizing knowledge-sharing from experienced PPP units in developing countries, since they know the practical issues faced in a developing-country context and can provide credible advice on addressing them.
- Supplementing this with expertise from IFI partners.

Virtual workshops can reach the largest number of participants. If requested, MCDF and its IFI partners can then potentially provide follow-up tailored support in-country.

Topics

In consultation with partners, the following four topics of high relevance to their clients and stakeholders have been identified:

- **Small-scale PPPs (2 April):** Many of the infrastructure needs of developing countries are in small-scale projects that require tailored approaches to their size. This session will review the emerging practice in this area to enable small-scale PPPs to be delivered in a cost-effective manner.
- **Ensuring fiscal affordability of PPPs (7 May, TBD):** including fiscal commitments in the current environment of high indebtedness levels, contingent liabilities arising from PPPs, and the World Bank PPP Fiscal Risk Management Tool (PFRAM).

- **Innovation on transport PPPs (21 May, TBD):** including performance-based contracting (e.g., CREMA approach), green and smart mobility PPPs, nature-based solutions and nature-positive arrangements.
- **Building bankability of PPPs (9-10 June, TBD):** This session will review mechanisms governments use to ensure affordability of private participation, services to the poor, and climate action. These mechanisms include hybrid PPPs, blended finance (including with global climate funds and philanthropic funding), and Viability Gap Funds.

Design

Target audience: This workshop's target audience includes staff from PPP units, ministries of finance and planning, and PPP practitioners from Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia. Financiers, including international financial institutions, national infrastructure and development banks, and commercial banks and project developers, will also be invited.

Language: English.

Format: Each of the four workshops will last between two and two-and-a-half hours. Given the time difference for the global nature of the audience and presenters, the workshops will be held in early evening Asia time, mid-day Africa time, and early morning Americas time.

Participant Interaction: this will be promoted through the following:

- Participants asked to flag key questions upon registration for each session;
- Use of polls to gauge audience thinking on particular issues;
- Q&A at the end of each panel.

Post-Workshop Support

Participants will receive the following materials through MCDF's JIGSAW digital platform: session videos, presentations, and reference materials.

All participants will be invited to join JIGSAW to continue the discussion and for peer-to-peer learning.

If the presentations and discussions are to the expected standard, a knowledge product will be produced to disseminate the content further.

Feedback and Evaluation

All participants will be sent an online feedback form to assess their satisfaction with the workshop and learning and seek their suggestions on how to improve it.