Welcome to the 2019-2020 Report for the PPP Legal Resources Center (formerly known as PPPIRC). This year, the site has been busy preparing for a brand-new look and a revamped back-end. The revamped site combines an updated design with the same depth of content that users expect from PPPLRC. It also upgrades the platform of the site to allow for more efficient uploading of content, allowing the team to bring new resources quicker than ever. The new PPPLRC design is now up and running, so please do go to https://ppp.worldbank.org and check it out!

While the team was focusing on the site upgrade, the site had one of its best years yet in terms of performance. From July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, PPPLRC generated 1,535,682 views (↑9.6 % from the previous reporting period) over 750,150 unique visitors (↑25.7 % from the previous reporting period). Close to 194,000 visitors had an “interaction” with the site, such as downloading a document, or visiting multiple pages, and over 200 countries or regions were represented.

This past year has been a challenging one for all of us. Like many others, the PPPLRC have been trying to support governments on how to address the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic through its resources. To review links which may be helpful for those PPPs impacted by Covid, please see the mailer here. The PPPLRC is currently undertaking work on how to make PPPs more resilient to shocks such as Covid-19, through legal and practical mechanisms available to the parties.

Speaking of natural disasters, in an age where the majority of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is associated with infrastructure construction and operation, designing, building and operating climate-smart PPPs is more important than ever. The PPPLRC is pleased to announce its “greening” through the full launch of the Climate Smart PPPs page, which showcases legal frameworks, procurement criteria, contractual obligations, and other considerations when designing climate smart PPPs. The section also includes sector specific information on climate smart PPPs in energy, water and transport.

2019-2020 also saw the release of an updated section on Gender Impacts of PPPs, which discusses various entry points for applying a gender lens throughout a PPP cycle. Upcoming new content include the launch of a new section on Fragile and Conflict States (FCS) and PPPs, and updated core pages on ICT, Energy and Transport. In particular, ICT has seen a lot of changes over the past decade and a half since the site was founded, and so a complete overhaul of that page is planned, with new materials on net neutrality, satellite regulations, and universal access will be launched in the coming weeks.

The PPPLRC would like to take this opportunity to thank its partners and readers for their support. We look forward to another successful year.

Warmest regards, Jenny Chao, TTL of PPPLRC
Development of Pages on PPPs in Fragile and Conflict States

Fragile and Conflict Affected States could benefit from PPPs, especially in light of the fact that the Government often is not able to provide basic infrastructure services. However, such PPPs face some unique challenges—such as an insecure operating environment, which must be addressed for the PPP to be successful. This new section of the PPPLRC developed in 2019-2020 will examine some of these challenges and discuss ways to mitigate them. Topics to be considered include the role of multilateral development banks or other bilateral or non-profit actors, the role of local sponsors, security concerns and unique aspects of risk allocation in the contract. The new section will also draw on examples and case studies of PPPs in FCS countries.

New Resources on Energy, ICT and Transport Sector Pages

In 2019-2020, the PPPLRC partnered with law firm King & Wood to overhaul the Energy, ICT and Transport pages. The overhaul will include new introductory text, updated materials and agreements (such as power purchase agreements and concession agreements) and new sub-sections about legal issues pertinent to each sector, especially ICT. These new resources will be launched in 2021.

Research on PPP Contract Resiliency in an Era of Disruption

We are currently in an age where the world is rapidly changing. Disruption is a fact of life, whether through new technologies such as batteries which can store the energy from the sun, or apps which fundamentally change urban transport paradigms. We also continue to live through natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires. And in 2020, the world witnessed a once in a lifetime pandemic, which has challenged fundamental assumptions about growth, work and travel.

At the same time, PPP contracts are long term, designed for 20 years or more. How can one reconcile the tension between the need for visibility and certainty of a PPP, and the changing world we live in? The PPPLRC team is working on a new report on how to make PPPs more resilient in an age of disruption, to be launched in 2021.

WEBSITE ENGAGEMENT (Adobe Analytics and Google Analytics: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

Traffic to the site also remained primarily organic (77.3%), or from search engines, particularly through Google. However, a good number of loyal users directly typing out the URL or had the PPPLRC bookmarked remained strong at 20.8% (↑ from 12% in 2018).

Languages Report:
While the majority access the site in English (1,171,305), a good number searched the site in the following languages:
- French: 53,111
- Spanish: 114,972
- Chinese: 33,058
- Russian: 18,093
- Portuguese: 11,036
- Arabic: 3,721

80% of total views in 2019
1% of total views in 2019
19% of total views in 2019

What devices do they use to access the site?

- Upgrades are being implemented to make PPPLRC more mobile-friendly to cater to the increasing number of users who are accessing the site through mobile devices.

Engagement via Email:
- The PPPLRC team received over 2,399 emails during the Reporting Period.

6% within the month
9% within the week
21% within the day
44% Return within the year

9% within the week
21% within the day
44% Return within the year

Visits with Events:
• The PPPLRC saw 418,000 downloads, or an average of 35,000 monthly

Research on PPP Contract Resiliency in an Era of Disruption

We are currently in an age where the world is rapidly changing. Disruption is a fact of life, whether through new technologies such as batteries which can store the energy from the sun, or apps which fundamentally change urban transport paradigms. We also continue to live through natural disasters, such as hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires. And in 2020, the world witnessed a once in a lifetime pandemic, which has challenged fundamental assumptions about growth, work and travel.

At the same time, PPP contracts are long term, designed for 20 years or more. How can one reconcile the tension between the need for visibility and certainty of a PPP, and the changing world we live in? The PPPLRC team is working on a new report on how to make PPPs more resilient in an age of disruption, to be launched in 2021.

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS
The team will continue to pursue initiatives with our partners, such the recently published Gender Equality, Infrastructure and PPPs publication (in partnership with PPIAF and Canadian Government) and Guidance on Government Guarantees (in partnership with the Global Infrastructure Facility). The team is also currently undertaking work with PPIAF on Covid-19 Rapid Response, including research into how to improve PPP contract resiliency in the face of disruption.