



Regional event on INFF  
21 MARCH 2024



**UNECE**

**UNECE PPP and Infrastructure  
Evaluation and Rating System  
(PIERS):  
An Evaluation Methodology for  
the SDGs**

# UNECE PPPs for the SDGs

## Overview



- SDG-compliant PPPs in infrastructure and the delivery of public services that achieve:



*“Value for Money”*



*“Value for People”*



*“Value for the Planet”*

- Aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs
- A new generation of infrastructure and public service projects done through PPP, putting people’s interest at their core, generating both ‘value for people’ and ‘value for the planet’.
- 5 desirable outcomes that derive from the SDGs as it concerns infrastructure:



**Access and Equity**



**Economic effectiveness and fiscal sustainability**



**Resilience and environmental sustainability**



**Replicability**



**Stakeholder engagement**

# Flagship Practical tools

## UNECE PPPs for the SDGs



**UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS):** An evaluation methodology to score projects against the SDGs



**UNECE PPP/Concession legal framework for the SDGs:** Standard on PPP/Concession Legal Framework in support of the SDGs

### UNECE Standards and Guidelines

- Standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP Procurement
- Guidelines on PPPs for the SDGs in Waste-to-Energy Projects for Non-Recyclable Waste: Pathways towards a Circular Economy
- Guidelines on Promoting Circular Economy in PPPs for the SDGs

# The UNECE PIERS sustainability methodology



## Measuring infrastructure projects against the SDGs



### What?

- Methodology to score infrastructure projects against the SDGs & the 5 PPPs for the SDGs outcomes
- Self-Assessment Tool (available online and in Excel)

### How?

- Developed by 100+ experts
- Officially launched in 2022
- Used in over 200 projects from more than 30 countries

### Features

- 22 criteria and 95 indicators
- Weighting and scoring system
- Flexible and adaptable to all countries, PPP and infrastructure projects irrespective of size and sector

200+  
projects  
evaluated

from  
40+  
countries



Adopted by

2

MDB



### Access and Equity

1. Provide essential services.
2. Advance affordability and universal access.
3. Improve equity and social justice.
4. Plan for long-term access and equity.
5. Avoid/minimise and mitigate physical and economic displacement



### Economic effectiveness and fiscal sustainability

6. Avoid corruption and encourage transparent procurement.
7. Maximise economic viability and fiscal sustainability.
8. Maximise long-term financial viability.
9. Enhance employment and economic opportunities.



### Resilience and environmental sustainability

10. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy efficiency.
11. Reduce waste and restore degraded land.
12. Water consumption and wastewater discharge.
13. Protect biodiversity.
14. Assess risk and prepare for disaster management.



### Replicability

15. Encourage replicability and scalability.
16. Standardise PPP preparation and tender
17. Enhance government, industry and community capacity.
18. Support innovation and technology transfer.

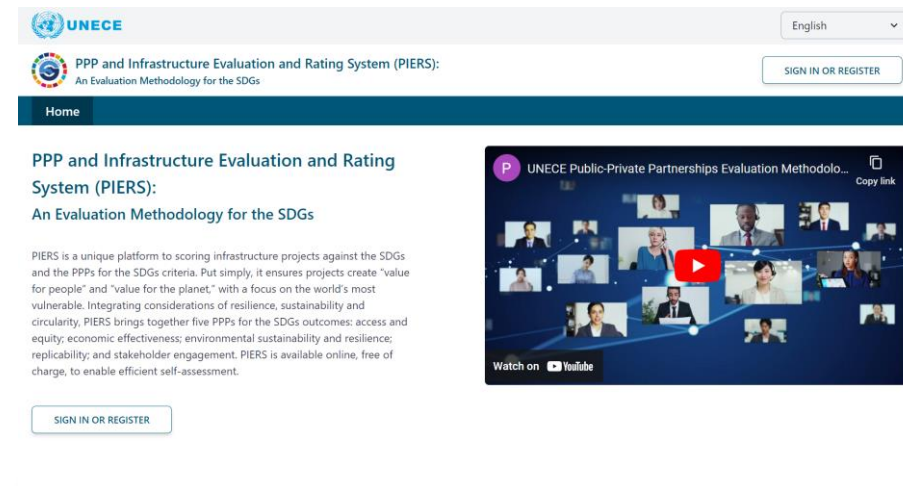


### Stakeholder engagement

19. Plan for stakeholder engagement and public participation.
20. Maximise stakeholder engagement and public participation.
21. Provide transparent and quality project information.
22. Manage public grievances and end user feedback.

# Demo

## PIERS online platform



The screenshot shows the homepage of the PERS online platform. At the top left is the UNECE logo. To its right is a language dropdown menu set to "English". Below the logo is the title "PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS): An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs" and a "SIGN IN OR REGISTER" button. A dark blue navigation bar contains the word "Home". The main content area features a heading "PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS): An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs" followed by a paragraph describing the platform's purpose. A video player is embedded on the right, showing a grid of participants in a virtual meeting. A "Watch on YouTube" button is located below the video player. At the bottom left of the content area is another "SIGN IN OR REGISTER" button.

<https://piers.unece.org>

# PIERS online

## Basic features

English

English  
Русский  
Español  
Українська

### Edit Profile

Please fill out the fields below with your updated information to update your profile.

**NAME**  **E-MAIL**

Update first name and last name here. ↗

**COUNTRY \***  **ORGANIZATION \***

[EDIT PROFILE](#)

PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS):  
An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs

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Home Assessments

### Start Project Evaluation

The Self-Assessment Tool assesses the compliance of an infrastructure project with the PPP for the SDGs outcomes using the criteria and indicators of the UNECE PPP Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs

[START A NEW ASSESSMENT](#)

#### FILTER ASSESSMENT

**COUNTRY**  **PROJECT STAGE**  **STATUS**

[CLEAR FILTERS](#) [APPLY FILTERS](#)

#### 3 Assessments

| PROJECT NAME ▲ ▼                         | COUNTRY ▲ ▼ | PROJECT STAGE ▲ ▼ | STATUS ▲ ▼       | CREATED ON ▲ ▼ |
|--|-------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Construction of 10 preschools in Bishkek | Kyrgyzstan  | Development       | <b>COMPLETED</b> | 18 March 2024  |



# PIERS online

## Initial questions

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Home Assessments

Test project (demo)  
Switzerland

PERFORMANCE: Good | STATUS: COMPLETED

Project Overview | Access and Equity | Economic Effectiveness and Fiscal Sustainability | Environmental Sustainability and Resilience | Replicability | Stakeholder Engagement | Overall Results

**Important:** Please read the introduction to PIERS here.

**Initial questions**  
(\* Mandatory)

LOCATION OF INVESTMENT \* | ENVIRONMENTAL SETTINGS \*  
Switzerland | All other environmentally unspecified areas

PROJECT STAGE \* | VERIFIABLE AND MEASURABLE DATA \*  
Identification | Yes

STATEMENT OF INTENT \*  
Yes (basic statement)

**Project information**

NAME OF THE PROJECT \*  
Test project (demo)

PROJECT SECTOR \*  
Renewable Energy

VALUE OF THE PROJECT (USD)  
\$10,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / OVERVIEW \*  
This is a test

TESTIMONIAL OF THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT (HOW THE PROJECT IS OR IS PLANNING TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON PEOPLE'S LIVES)  
The project contributes to the SDGs

# PIERS online Guidance (initial)

**Introduction to PIERS**

This online platform is an easy-to-use tool that presents the UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS) in a simplified format. PIERS provides an indicative PPP for the SDGs score as well as qualitative feedback to assist projects improve PPP for the SDGs outcomes. The qualitative feedback is generated automatically based on responses provided in the PIERS online tool.

**Where does PIERS apply?**

PIERS applies to all types, sizes, and PPP models<sup>[1]</sup>, anywhere around the world, in any sector. A PPP can be defined as:

- A physical infrastructure which is the support of a public service designed, financed, built or rehabilitated and operated by a commercial company selected by way of competitive bidding and operating the service in accordance with the provisions of a contract, entered into with the public authority in charge of delivering such a service.
- The contract, based on functional specifications and performance criteria, provides for a compensation of the company by the public authority or by the end users (or a combination of both). The service is rendered for a time period calculated in such a way that the company may amortize all costs and make a reasonable profit.
- At the expiry of the term, the infrastructure is transferred in good operating conditions to the public authority, generally without compensation unless, such a compensation is provided for the contract.  
Example PPPs include:
- Economic infrastructure<sup>[2]</sup> such as transportation facilities and utility networks (e.g., water, sewage, communications, electricity);
- Social infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, libraries, parks and other amenities, public housing; or
- Green infrastructure / community-based PPPs.

**Who should use PIERS?**

PIERS is intended to provide a common language for or basis of understanding PPPs for the SDGs. It is intended to be used by governments, the private sector, civil society organisations, academia and international organisations who work together to achieve PPPs for the SDGs.

**Project Overview**

First and Cont  
Ukraine

**STATUS**  
COMPLETED

**Overall Results**

**Important:** Plea

**Initial questions**  
(\* Mandatory)

**LOCATION OF INVEST**  
Ukraine

**PROJECT STAGE \***  
Development

**STATEMENT OF INTEN**  
Yes (basic statement

**Project informa**

**NAME OF THE PROJECT \***

# PIERS online Indicators

PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS):  
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Home Assessments

Test project (demo)  
Switzerland

PERFORMANCE: Good STATUS: COMPLETED

Project Overview Access and Equity Economic Effectiveness and Fiscal Sustainability Environmental Sustainability and Resilience Replicability Stakeholder Engagement Overall Results

### Access and Equity

Across the 17 SDGs, a key focus is improving access to critical public services for social development and poverty eradication, recognizing that depriving access to one service can have huge negative impacts on people's livelihoods and wellbeing.

Equity could be broadly defined as equal access to the infrastructure and PPP project outputs/services, and that proactive measures are employed, where necessary, to ensure that all citizens interested by the service with due regard to the economically disadvantaged and those who suffer from social exclusion have access to the service in an equitable manner.

**AE1 - Provide Essential Services**  
75%

**AE2 - Advance Affordability and Universal Access**  
70.8%

**AE3 - Improve Equity and Social Justice**  
100%

**AE4 - Plan for Long-Term Access and Equity**  
82.5%

**AE5 - Avoid/Minimise and Mitigate Physical and Economic Displacement**  
91.7%

**Access and Equity**  
89.8%  
Performance: Excellent

**Intent**  
Provide new or improved access to essential services to people.

**Metric**  
The extent to which the project provides new or improved access to essential services

**Description** **Applicability**

**\* AE1.1 - Is the project identifying and taking into account the real needs of the people by reference to their economic and social situation as established through the stakeholder engagement process?**

5 - Excellent  4 - Very Good  3 - Satisfactory  2 - Marginal  1 - Unsatisfactory

(\* Mandatory)

**AE1.2 - Is the project contributing in an organised manner to the expansion and improvement (for example including but not limited to circular economy processes) of essential services?**

5 - Excellent  4 - Very Good  3 - Satisfactory  2 - Marginal  1 - Unsatisfactory

**AE1.3 - Is there evidence that stakeholder lives will be / have been / are being transformed as a result of the project providing new or improved access to essential services?**

5 - Excellent  4 - Very Good  3 - Satisfactory  2 - Marginal  1 - Unsatisfactory

**AE1.4 - Is the project avoiding, eliminating, mitigating, and/or offsetting impacts to existing essential services?**

5 - Excellent  4 - Very Good  3 - Satisfactory  2 - Marginal  1 - Unsatisfactory  N/A

SAVE & NEXT

# PIERS online

## Guidance (indicators)

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**AE1 - Provide Essential Services**  
Intent: Ensure equity and social justice considerations are included within project processes and decision making.

**AE2 - Advance Affordability and Universal Access**

**AE3 - Improve Equity and Social Justice**

**AE4 - Plan for Long-term Resilience**

**AE5 - Avoid/Minimize Adverse Impacts and Economic Displacement**

**Performance: Good**

**Indicator Guidance (AE3.1)**

To rate this indicator as "5-excellent", the user needs to undertake a preliminary assessment of the historic context of equity and social justice within the project's host and affected communities (i.e., the project's service area), with special consideration being given to the needs and issues of sovereign peoples, especially indigenous peoples (if applicable).

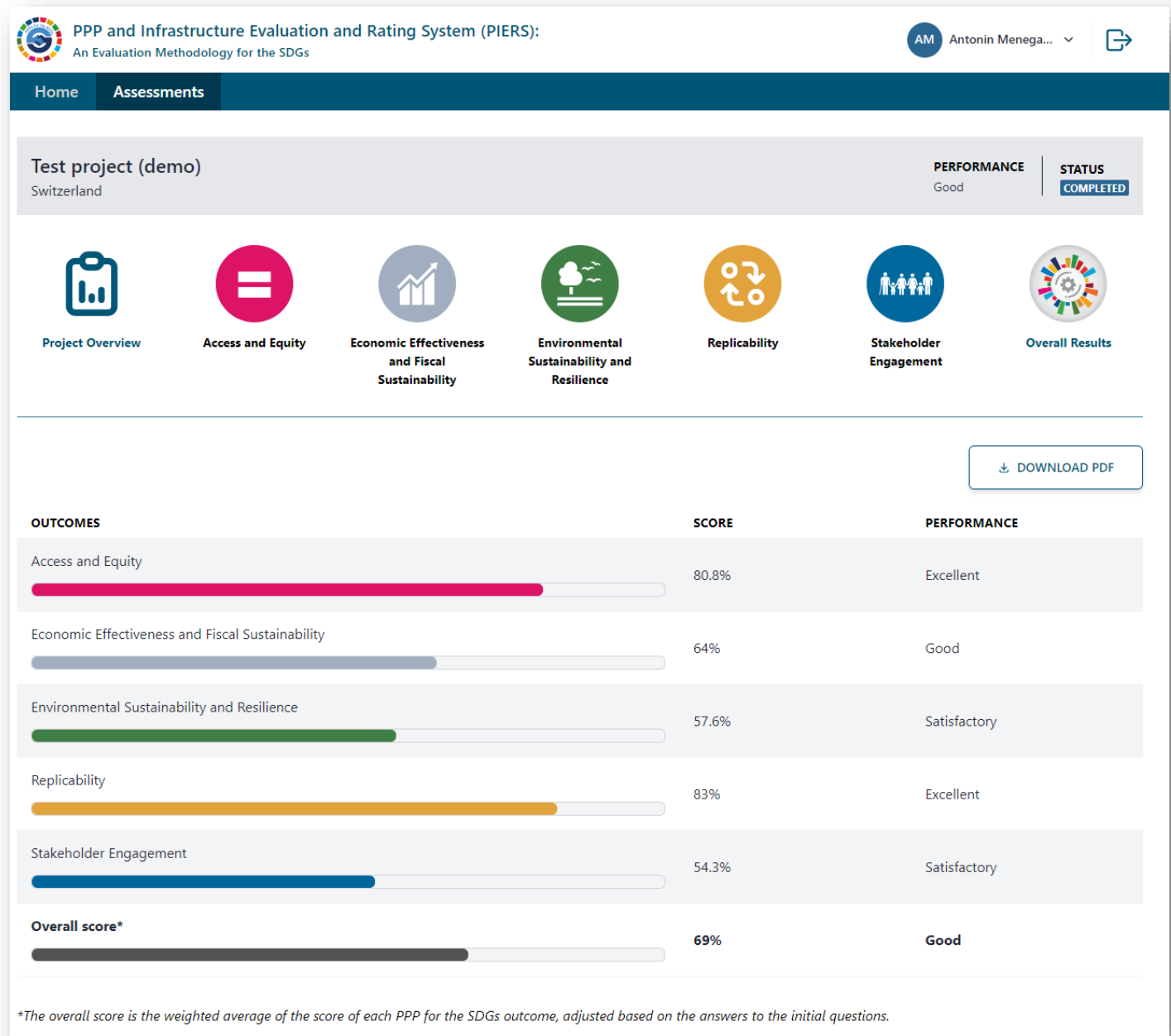
This assessment goes beyond the assessments conducted with respect to affordability and access per criterion AE2 Advance Affordability and Universal Access. This criterion requires the team to consider the historic context of social equity and justice which needs to take into account a wide range of demographic data, gender equality, health data, income rate, education, level of historic infrastructure investment and any other relevant factors. To undertake such an assessment, formal community planning documents, and/or other socio-economic and demographic information/data or other related reports (such as those produced by governmental and/or non-governmental organisations) could be reviewed and analysed. In the absence of the availability of existing documentation, the user could undertake this assessment on their own for the project, in consultation with stakeholders (including the public). Such an assessment of social equity and justice considerations could be done as part of a larger "Stakeholder Needs Assessment" or "Environmental and Social Impact Assessment". The focus should not be on the title of the report or assessment, rather, the focus should be on its content, which is understanding the historic context of equity and social justice in the project service area to avoid exacerbating equity and social justice concerns and to identify any potential opportunities to rectify historical injustices.

This preliminary assessment should be included in the project PPP development strategy, concept document, prefeasibility study or equivalent documentation. The user should take care to compile any source documents or other reference materials used to undertake this assessment.

**SAVE & NEXT**

# PIERS online

## Overall results



# PIERS online

## Qualitative comments

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### Strengths

- The project generates positive "value-for-money" meaning the costs net of benefits of the selected PPP contractual model are lower vs. a modern public procurement model.
  - The project has conducted an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) (or initial environmental assessment (IEE) for category B projects).
  - The project has implemented the stakeholder engagement and public participation plan(s) throughout the project's lifecycle in an effective, timely, and inclusive fashion.
  - The project's private sponsor/shareholder is of adequate technical, financial and reputational standing to successfully finance, implement, operate and maintain the project over its life, including having access to necessary resources to fulfil its contractual obligations under various economic scenarios and to adapt the services provided to the potentially evolving needs.
  - Opportunities for the transfer of knowledge/know-how, technologies, and skills from the private party to the public party and/or local community stakeholders have been assessed and/or successfully implemented.
  - Quality and pertinent information about the project relative to the PPP for the SDGs outcomes is readily available to all stakeholders, including members of the public, and provided in a transparent, timely, understandable, and accessible fashion and is incorporated in the PPP contract.
  - The project delivers "value-for-people" meaning the project offers net tangible and intangible benefits to society by providing services to a consistently and verifiably higher standard over the life of the project.
- ...

### Areas of Improvements

- Consider assessing the fiscal sustainability of the PPP contract and creditworthiness of the public authority.
- Consider undertaking a stakeholder mapping exercise to determine all stakeholders that are directly and indirectly affected by and/or interested in the project.
- Consider maximising the development impact of the project and facilitating women's empowerment throughout project procurement, project decision-making, entrepreneurship support and capacity building, occupational training and support, work flexibility and equal pay for equal work.

# PIERS online Certificate

## PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS)

An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs

Overall results

| First and Container Terminals-Port of Chornomorsk<br>Ukraine |              | PERFORMANCE<br>Good |
|--|--------------|---------------------|
| Outcomes   | Score        | Performance         |
| Access and Equity  | 56.7%        | Satisfactory        |
| Economic Effectiveness and Fiscal Sustainability             | 77%          | Good                |
| Environmental Sustainability and Resilience                  | 54.6%        | Satisfactory        |
| Replicability  | 89.1%        | Excellent           |
| Stakeholder Engagement                                       | 85%          | Excellent           |
| <b>Overall score*</b>  | <b>71.7%</b> | <b>Good</b>         |

\*The overall score is the weighted average of the score of each PPP for the SDGs outcome, adjusted based on the answers to the initial questions.

Note: UNECE is not responsible for the use of the score given by this tool. The score is only an information of a project compliance with the PPP for the SDGs outcomes and is based on the answers given by the user.

### Strengths

- The project generates positive "value-for-money" meaning the costs net of benefits of the selected PPP contractual model are lower vs. a modern public procurement model.
- The project has conducted an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) (or initial environmental assessment (IEE) for category B projects).
- The project has implemented the stakeholder engagement and public participation plan(s) throughout the project's lifecycle in an effective, timely, and inclusive fashion.
- The project's private sponsor/shareholder is of adequate technical, financial and reputational standing to successfully finance, implement, operate and maintain the project over its life, including having access to necessary resources to fulfil its contractual obligations under various economic scenarios and to adapt the services provided to the potentially evolving needs.
- Opportunities for the transfer of knowledge/know-how, technologies, and skills from the private party to the public party and/or local community stakeholders have been assessed and/or successfully implemented.
- Quality and pertinent information about the project relative to the PPP for the SDGs outcomes is readily available to all stakeholders, including members of the public, and provided in a transparent, timely, understandable, and accessible fashion and is incorporated in the PPP contract.
- The project delivers "value-for-people" meaning the project offers net tangible and intangible benefits to society by providing services to a consistently and verifiably higher standard over the life of the project.
- The project has investigated the potential to utilise unwanted waste and/or excess resources from another local project or by finding local destinations for the beneficial use/reuse of its unwanted waste and/or excess resources.

- The project is implementing one or more innovative methods, technologies, or processes that eliminate or substantially reduce significant problems, barriers or limitations, and/or create scalable and transferrable solutions.
- The fiscal sustainability of the PPP contract and the creditworthiness of the public authority were positively assessed and the transparently reflecting in public accounts.
- The project has developed a well-articulated risk reduction and mitigation strategy for the project involving a response and recovery coordination mechanism being put in place with the host and the affected communities.
- The project has generally followed or adhered to the UNECE Standard on a Zero Tolerance Approach to Corruption in PPP Procurement (ZTC) or the principles contained therein.
- The project has undertaken a stakeholder mapping exercise to determine all stakeholders that are directly and indirectly affected by and/or interested in the project.
- The project has taken into account the real needs of the people by reference to their economic and social situation.
- The project has created a significant number of new local jobs during project identification, development, and implementation.
- The project has conducted an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and assessed and mitigated the project's range of potential direct and indirect social impacts (e.g., direct impacts on cultural, historical, recreational, or other resources and services resulting from the project and associated activities; impacts from independent secondary development or actions that may occur as a result of the project; indirect impacts on cultural, historic, recreational or other resource or services that are important to the local community) the project will have on the citizens and more particularly the host communities and affected people (i.e., the project service area).
- The project has developed a plan/identified strategies to reduce or offset greenhouse gas emissions over the life of the project.
- The project is including a transfer of technology (e.g. to enable a circular economy) or know-how that contributes to inclusive growth, service quality, sustainability and replicability.
- A stakeholder engagement and public participation plan has been developed for the project that takes into account the specific needs of each stakeholder and considers the broad range of project issues, as related to the PPP for the SDGs outcomes, that need to be addressed.
- The project has quantified the number of people who will have new or improved access to one or more essential services as a direct and/or indirect result of the project who previously had no or unsatisfactory access to these services.
- The project is creating quality jobs that are in line with the ILO Decent Work Indicators.
- The project has implemented all measures possible to ensure members of the public, including environmental defenders, are able to express their views and participate freely without fear of being penalised, persecuted or harassed for their involvement.
- The project is developing a plan/identifying strategies to improve the energy efficiency/reduce energy consumption of the project.
- The project is increasing government capacity and/or project/industry capacity.

### Areas of Improvements

- Consider developing and implementing an environmental management plan (EMP) to avoid, mitigate impacts to, or restore the impact area.
- Consider maximising the development impact of the project and facilitating women's empowerment through-out project procurement, project decision-making, entrepreneurship support and capacity building, occupational training and support, work flexibility and equal pay for equal work.


# Resources

## Using PIERS



Resources available on the UNECE website  
<https://unece.org/ppp/em>

**UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS)**  
An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs



PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS)  
An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs

The UNECE PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS) is a new assessment platform that puts people and sustainable development front and centre.

| Documents   | EN                  | FR                  | RU                    |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| PPP and Infrastructure Evaluation and Rating System (PIERS): An Evaluation Methodology for the SDGs | <a href="#">pdf</a> | <a href="#">pdf</a> | <a href="#">pdf</a>   |
| PIERS Self-Assessment Tool  | <a href="#">xls</a> |                     | <a href="#">xls</a>   |
| User's Guide to the Self-Assessment Tool  | <a href="#">pdf</a> |                     | <a href="#">pdf</a>   |
| Video   |                     |                     | <a href="#">video</a> |

PIERS online platform:  
[piers.unece.org](https://piers.unece.org)



# Thank you!

Antonin Menegaux  
Cooperation and Partnerships Section

**UNECE**



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