

Public Private Partnerships in the Health Sector: opportunities, risks and issues of congruence with the Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract

This article first maps the current forms of PPPs in the health sector by reviewing pertinent literature and reflecting on current financing arrangements of health care through traditional (ODA, science research) and non-traditional means (Philanthropy, Market intermediaries). As a second step, the author critically assesses the benefits and risks of the various forms of PPPs in the health sector from the perspective of the Sustainable Development Goals.

One of the main findings is a lack of inclusion of the civil society sector be that consumer groups, professional associations of health care providers or patient associations. This insufficient involvement and participation of civil society runs counter to the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals and particularly runs in opposition of the SDGs principles which are inclusiveness, participation and transparency.

The conclusion offers solutions to the current overemphasis of private sector- new public management approaches and suggests a more comprehensive but also a more sustainable approach consisting of an expansion of the PPP formula to a PPSP formula (Public-Private-Social-Partnership).

