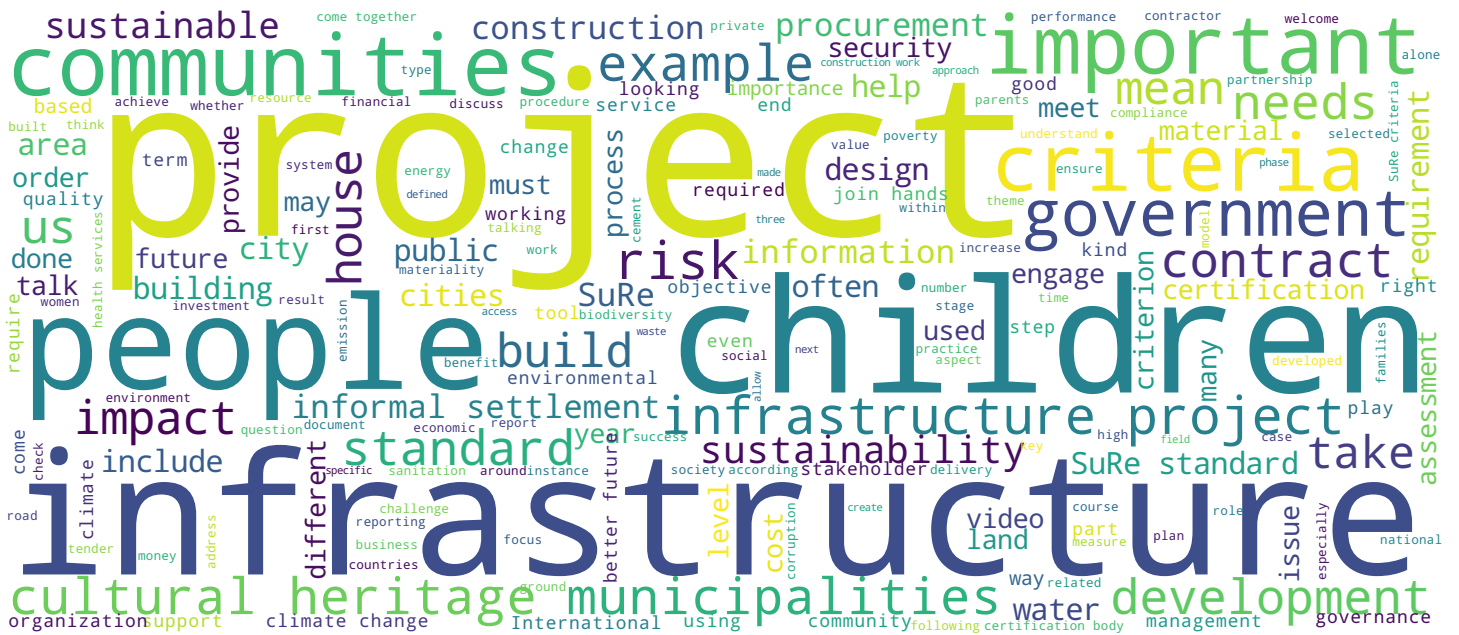


Louis Downing



# Impacts of Infrastructure on Children



Hi and welcome. In this video we're going to take a look at how the social criteria of 'The SuRe standard' can make a real impact on infrastructure projects and the societies that surround them. We've selected two different issues to focus on. Firstly, the impact of infrastructure on children which cuts across several of the SuRe criteria and secondly, we'll take a look at cultural heritage and how considering cultural heritage issues early in a projects development, is really important to making sure that the project runs smoothly. There are several ways that infrastructure can affect children negatively. Some of the obvious ones are through child labor, sexual exploitation around construction sites and safety issues. When a large infrastructure project is built there is often an influx of workers and their families that can overwhelm the capacity of local schools and health services and put pressure on local food supplies. The children of migrant workers might not even be eligible for education and health services. Some do not have birth certificates. When housing is not arranged for migrant workers there is often a risk that families will be forced into informal settlements where the risks of children can multiply from health issues to early exposure to criminal activities.

Notes

Summary





Most infrastructure projects place huge risks to children. They're also really important for promoting the positive development of children by providing schools, hospitals, electricity, sanitation and public transport. In 2016, there were around a 152 million children in child labor globally. Many of these were in the building and construction industry, where they're exposed to hazardous tasks. We spoke to a leader in stakeholder engagement and the rights of people living in informal settlements. Rose Molokoane is the president of FEDUP and the coordinator of Slum-Dwellers International, SDI. She grew up in an informal settlement called Lucasi in South Africa. Rose sits on a number of national and international bodies concerned with land, housing, urban policy and practice. Rose was selected as the chair of the world urban campaign where she champions the role of Grassroots communities and Local Government Partnership for implementing global agendas. This is what Rose told us. My name is the Rose Molokoane. I'm the coordinator of my organization called FEDUP, which is part of the Alliance of South Africa called South African SDI Alliance. I am also the member of the management committee of SDI, Slum-Dwellers International.

Notes

Summary

1m 32s





When we talk about infrastructure in the communities, we are talking about the needs of the people that don't have any development in their communities, especially when we refer to the children. When we talk about children, we firstly talk about the safety of the children, health of the children, education of the children and other amenities. So it is important that in our communities we do have conducive infrastructure that will meet the needs of the children. For instance, in our communities we are having informal settlements whereby people don't have any development within their communities. We don't, we have people who don't have security of trainer so it is important that our municipalities recognize that factor that they should address the needs of the people. In my organization, we have decided to organize ourselves around savings, putting women at the center, using the savings as the engine to direct us on what the needs of the people are and then we are looking at issues of homelessness, landlessness and poverty. When we look at these issues, we are looking at security of tenure. If communities and families don't have security of tenure, then the children don't have a better life.

Notes

Summary

3m 05s







If we don't have land where we can build our houses then our children don't have security. If we don't have any way of dealing with the poverty into our communities then our children won't have better health that they need. So it is important to work with our municipalities more especially, in order for us to address these needs but it won't be addressed if we as the communities don't have information about ourselves. That is why in my organization, we are using data collection as a tool to mobilize and collect information in order for us to be able to talk to our municipalities and our government. It is important that we realize that our children need safer space for themselves. For instance, if we don't have sanitation, our children has to go to the field to help themselves. If we don't have water, our children will have to go to the river to drink dirty water. If we don't have schools, our children won't have good education. If we don't have playing facilities like recreation centers, our children won't have enough space for their mind to be healthy. So it is important that we recognize the needs of our children.

Notes

Summary

4m 38s





If we don't have all this in our communities and our municipalities are not working with us, we will never ever have a good development for our communities. Yes, it is important that we have good, a development for our communities. But we can't do it alone, if we don't join hands with our government. I'm talking about this in order to emphasize the importance of partnership. We should have a good partnership with our municipalities, our local government, our provincial government and our national government. What we are doing on the ground, should be areas of importance to our communities where we use them to engage with our municipalities. We need water and sanitation. We need electricity. We need roads. Let alone, we need houses. We have to build our own houses where there's a need and municipalities should allow us to do that and we can't do it if we don't own a piece of land. So municipalities should release land for the landless people so that they can also do it themselves. On the other hand, there are some areas where municipalities are giving subsidies and governments are also giving subsidies to the communities.

Notes

Summary



6m 06s



So we want government to release subsidies directly to organize communities with the support of their professionals that can help them to do it in a better way but they should also rent the technical assistance to the people so that we can build our own houses. If I build my house, my children will have a privacy, my children will have protected when it comes to their health issues. We will build a family that is connected; the children will be easily connecting to their parents because every time we will be together in their house. So we would like to raise this issue in formal settlements. It's a means to an end, no! It is not a means to an end for our poor people. We have just got informal settlements because we don't have any money to build our houses or we don't have any means to meet what government needs us to do. So it is good that government understand what our people need and they support what our people need. I am part of the people who are staying in an informal settlement. We have done it by engaging with our government and they have offered us infrastructure, basic infrastructure but the other important thing is the maintenance of this infrastructure.

Notes

Summary



7m 28s



You can offer infrastructure but if there's no maintenance, technical maintenance, within ten to fifteen years that infrastructure can be dilapidated and then you will find that infrastructure is flowing on the street. I mean to say, sewer is flowing on the street because there's no one taking care of it like what is happening in my community and if that happens, health-wise to our children will be a disaster. So we want to have a monitory system, violation system to check on what our government is done to our people and whether they are really taking care of the delivery that they've done or maybe engaging those people, train them, educate them to understand how to take care of the services that are rendered to them. We can do it as the communities only if we can get proper support from our government. If we can join hands together, create a partnership that is implementable, allow what people brings on the table to influence the policies, listen to the people when they talk to us, I think we will be building a better future for our children. Our children need us. They need safer spaces. They need safer infrastructure. They need safer family. They need safer government.

Notes

Summary

8m 53s





# Cultural Heritage and Infrastructure



They need government that can plan better future for them. It is important that communities we come together, we join hands together, we organize each other, we make our voices to be heard and we make sure we engage with our municipalities, we engage with our provincial government, we engage with our national government, we create a space where we discuss, we argue, and we agree on the type of development that the people need. If we do that, then our cities will be cities for all, our cities will be cities that accommodate the poor, the rich and everyone. So let's come together because the future of our children lies in the hands of the people who are preparing that for them and those people are their parents and those people are our politicians and those people are our governments. If we all come together, we'll make a better life and a better future for our journey. Now we will turn to another social topic related to infrastructure, Cultural Heritage. Infrastructure can play a huge impact on Cultural Heritage; playing an important role in protecting it and enabling access to the public to experience it or infrastructure can play a swift role in destroying cultural heritage.

Notes

Summary



10m 18s



There are many examples of construction works either knowingly or unknowingly destroying millennia of historical relics in a matter of days or even seconds. Likewise, cultural heritage can play a large impact on infrastructure projects by either improving infrastructure services and adding value to customer experience or when not discovered early can also cause huge time delays and cost blowouts. Greece is an area rich in cultural heritage both above and below ground. As the birthplace of democratic society and according to many the cradle of Western civilization. Greece enjoys a plethora of ancient relics and heritage sites. One outstanding example is the City of Thessaloniki. Built in the fourth century BC, Thessaloniki was an important hub for the Roman Empire and later became the second city of the Byzantine Empire. Today it is the second largest city in Greece and a thriving center for both tourists and locals alike. How does this relate to infrastructure? The city of Thessaloniki has been constructing a new underground metro service which uncovered a vast amount of cultural relics buried under the main streets of the city. The construction works brought to light a central 6th century highway and other urban works.

Notes

Summary

11m 45s



# Cultural Heritage and Infrastructure



The Metro design was altered as a result and will now include an open museum integrated with stations to exhibit these relics. This sounds like a fantastic outcome but the excavations caused a huge controversy in the city. Attiko Metro, the company leading the construction, wanted to remove the antiquities and reassemble them elsewhere whilst the city's archaeological Services wanted the company to alter the depth of the line and the station entrances. The archaeological finds have led to a huge disruption to the Metro causing huge delays to a project which is now been under construction for more than a decade. The archaeological excavations that were originally budgeted at 15 million euros have exploded to a 132 million euros. The Metro has been redesigned, sinking tunnel depths from fourteen meters to thirty-one meters also inflicting massive time and budget blowouts for the project. With the construction lasting so long, economic activities along the rail alignment have also been majorly disrupted. What used to be an economically thriving street comprises now largely of vacant buildings. The Thessaloniki metro project represents an interesting case of success but at great cost.

Notes

Summary



13m 19s

# Cultural Heritage and Infrastructure



On the one hand, priceless pieces of history have been saved and will be preserved in innovative station-mini museums. This adds great value to the metro, its users and our understanding of the past. However, this is current significant financial and economic cost to the city. So what can we learn? By considering cultural heritage early in a projects development, designs can be optimized, costs can be kept down and public decision-makers can make informed decisions about the allocation of funds between infrastructure projects and the preservation of cultural heritage alike.

Notes

Summary



14m 42s