

IMPACT STORY FROM ASSURANCE BARAZA MEETINGS

“Improving stakeholders' Engagement in Transparency and Accountability in the Delivery of Infrastructure projects”



In February 2025, CoST Uganda facilitated two impactful community baraza meetings in the districts of Nwoya and Gomba. They provided a platform for communities to engage directly with government officials and offering an opportunity to discuss Transparency and Accountability in delivery of Road infrastructure projects- “Goo Dero Wii Lacor and Kyabagamba-Kyayi Roads”. Interestingly, the community in Nwoya expressed gratitude for the baraza in their village, which marked the first of its kind. One participant remarked, *“Without CoST Uganda arranged Baraza Meeting, we would not know how much this road costs and why it did not reach the planned area of Wii Lacor”. The meeting revealed that Goo Dero Wii Lacor Road, initially planned for 5.2Km, had been extended to 7.9Km, reaching our Mulila trading Centre*. “This transparency allowed the community to better understand the project scope and progress.



A notable outcome of the of the baraza was the community’s proactive response to healthcare challenges, *“Our family has agreed to donate land for construction of a health Centre II to address the challenges of inaccessibility to health care within Mulila viallge. We witnessed women delivering along the way due to bad roads. Now, the government can plan to add onto this offer”*, Mr. Ochen Martin shared. This land initiative comes as a direct contribution from the community Baraza meeting under the 6th Independent Review Process.

The desk review findings presented at the event encouraged the community to maintain proper road utilization and hold officials accountable for the construction of Goo Dero Wii lacor road as part of Project for the Restoration of Livelihood in Northern Uganda (PRELNOR) program and many other road projects.

By adopting a community civic engagement strategy, CoST Uganda has enhanced citizens' commitment and active participation in the implementation of local infrastructure projects and collaboration with public officials to promote development. This engagement promotes a sense of ownership and sustainability of infrastructure projects by the communities.

Whereas there is willingness by the district leadership to promote transparency and accountability in the delivery of infrastructure projects, the Chief Administrative Officer expressed the need for capacity building on procurement data publication given the districts’ limited digital disclosure practices while claiming they mostly disclose manually through the **notice boards**, than authorized government digital platforms.

The baraza meeting attracted strong participation from both District leads and subcounty/village leadership with Over 200 community members underlining their widespread interest in ensuring accountable Infrastructure delivery.

In a related development, another baraza meeting was held in Gomba district, focusing on the Construction of Kyabagamba - Kyayi Road Project implemented under the Local Economic Growth Support (LEGS) program:

With the Title “[connecting the wheels, healing the wounds](#)”, communities praised the government for construction Kyayi road. Initially,



RDC, LCV Gomba, and Area MP addressing the community during the baraza meeting.

Kyabagamba residents, faced long travel times, high transport costs, and limited access to healthcare, particularly for expectant mothers as they would deliver along the road before reaching the health Facility or from home helped by traditional birth attendant and this was perpetuating maternal death in the area.

With the road’s completion, accessibility to social services and trade have been greatly improved. However, the Contractor left without paying the suppliers for

materials and hotel/food supplied to them during the construction period which created deeper



Area MP addressing the community during the baraza meeting. Pledged to follow up with contractor to pay service providers

wounds in hearts of providers. Through the baraza meeting in Gomba district, along the Kyabagamba-Kayi road, the district leaders picked interest on the issues and promised to do follow up. Therefore, strengthening community engagement in the implementation of infrastructure projects empowers communities to demand accountability from the public officials and the private sector, like contractors who

implement road projects on behalf of the district.

Whereas the Kyabagamba-Kyayi and Goo Dero Wii Lacor roads both underscored the importance of community involvement in infrastructure projects, residents called for better consultation, adequate compensation, and transparent communication. They recommended future infrastructure projects should prioritize safety measures like speed humps, along the trading centre and ensure environmental sustainability through tree planting along the roads.

The CoST Uganda Manager also emphasized the role of data transparency in ensuring that infrastructure projects deliver value for money and meet community needs. “Citizens' participation is essential- the manager Noted while pledging that Baraza meetings would continue to empower citizens and encourage public officials to remain accountable to the communities they serve.