

“ADVANCING ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS”

MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER



**Mr. Gilbert Sendugwa, ED- AFIC &
Host CoST Uganda**

NewsLetter Overview

Our newsletter highlights key achievements in promoting transparency and accountability in infrastructure.

- The 2nd Infrastructure Transparency Index (ITI) improved by 11%, with KCCA scoring highest
- Our conducted 6th Assurance process and earned the OC4IDS badge for data disclosure through PPDA
- Dive into our civic engagement efforts
- Discover our partnerships in strengthening transparency
- Find our call for infrastructure improvements
- Discover our upcoming events and follow through
- Close with our commitment to open data, fair procurement, environmental sustainability, climate finance and empowering stakeholders through transparency and accountability in public Infrastructure.

WELCOME!

Dear stake holder,

As CoST Uganda, we are pleased to present and welcome you to our first annual newsletter, May 2025 edition. We have got exciting highlights, milestones, updates and can't miss our events of our ongoing commitment to promoting Transparency, Accountability, with community engagements in the delivery of infrastructure projects!

Check out key insights from recent discussions, the 6th Assurance Process, community Barazas, Responsible Infrastructure development in Uganda, and be sure to register, follow, and subscribe to our social platforms

We have been able to implement two major projects since September 2024. These projects are: The 6th Assurance Process and The Responsible Infrastructure project. While through these projects we grew our media coverage, reactions and responses, entity reactions and outputs in terms of community responses, standards and infrastructure data publications. Still we can do better to enhance reach for our programs.

For God and My country!

[CoST Uganda](https://www.cost.or.ug)

(The Construction sector Transparency Initiative)



'A Snapshot of 2024'

- **ITI:** Published 2nd Infrastructure Transparency Index (ITI) report. with 11% improvement to 32.26%. From findings, enabling environment dimension is still a major problem. We thank KCCA for scoring highly (80.26%). Among the 58 entities evaluated, UEDCI & NSSF scored worst. We urge compliance in infrastructure data disclosure standards, transparency and uplift of accountability in delivery of projects. (Follow ups on recommendations to entities ongoing).
- **Programme Directors' Visit to Uganda:** Mr. John Hawkins made visits, with a number of establishments and discussions between our Champion -Hon. Katumba Wamala Ministry of Works and Transport, his team, Africa Freedom of Information centre and private sector partners.



Mr. John Hawkins-CoST IS, Hon. Katumba Wamala- MoWT, Mr. Gilbert Sendugwa -AFIC, Mr. Geoffrey Odong -CoST Uganda Manager and team during visit at MoWT 2024

CoST Uganda Awarded the OC4IDS Badge



The prestigious recognition comes Based on our increasing publication of projects on Government procurement Portal (GPP) under Public Procurement and disposal Authority (PPDA). On behalf of CoST Uganda, PPDA received the Open contracting for Infrastructure Data standards (Oc4ids) badge as a validated publisher which demonstrates our commitment to transparency through Infrastructure data disclosure.

Thanks to all our partners and stakeholders for being part of this incredible journey! However, *we alarm emphasis on completeness of the published data and data use to make meaningful outcomes of the infrastructure projects.*

CoST- Africa Regional Workshop 2024



In December 2024, all CoST team members together with private sector partners within Africa attended a Regional Workshop in Uganda under the theme *"Galvanizing the private sector to face the challenges of public infrastructure in Africa"*.

The workshop brought up key learnings. Analysis of data on infrastructure procurement across Africa, showed that **Ethiopia** and Uganda demonstrated high levels of data completeness. However, Uganda's total value for projects was worn by few local firms while larger contract values are awarded to foreign firms.

This implies, there is need for transparency which can be done through data open ness and publication. It would also call for a research study to ascertain why local firms are losing out, and engagement with procuring entities for inclusive, and competitive tendering processes. Private sectors were called upon to ensure proper channels for procurement

Our Work

- **Assurance process**/independent Review Process: 5 Assurance reports published, Currently in stages of final reviews for 6th Report to be published this year.
- **Data Disclosure:** PPDA received an OC4IDS Badge early this year as a certified publisher for infrastructure data. Four countries certified so far in the CoST operation countries. *247 infrastructure projects were published in 2024 valued at 352bn. For 2025, 4 projects valued at 213bn shillings- this calls for more disclosure of projects*
- **New Data points** for Open contracting for infrastructure data standards: Uganda has integrated the 32 new data points onto GPP(Government procurement portal).
- **Civic Engagements:** We have facilitated a number of trainings between private sector, CSO's and Journalists on different modules for standards, compliance, transparency, accountability and procurement for Public infrastructure projects.



1. The 6th Assurance Process



Team shares a group photo after Assurance commissioning event at Hilton Garden Inn, Kampala.

We commissioned our 6th Assurance (Independent Review) Process in February this year, which is a pivotal initiative aimed at ensuring the integrity of infrastructure projects in Uganda. Through a hired independent Consultant, we have carried our 6th Assurance on 10 Road infrastructure projects directly under Ministry of Local Government.

The consultant assessed several projects under MoLG where he selected 10 road infrastructure projects within 5 districts including Gomba, Kabarole, Ntoroko, Nwoya and Kitgum for a study to ensure they meet the necessary standards on project performance, including disclosure levels, procurement efficiency, project timelines, overall adherence to health, safety, environmental standards and serve the public interests.

The Process involved rigorous monitoring of key stages at both desk Review, Proactive and Reactive study of all selected projects right from project implementation, design through to completion while providing Transparency and making critical information available to the public.

Throughout the process, CoST Uganda has worked tirelessly to ensure that project documentation, procurement practices, and contractor performance are open for public scrutiny. Our ongoing efforts have focused on improving the flow of information between project implementers, government agencies, contractors, and the community. This not only builds public trust but also drives the successful delivery of infrastructure projects that contribute to national development.

The 6th Assurance Process also underscored the importance of community. Without community participation and feedback, projects risk misalignment with local needs and priorities. Through our barazas in Gomba and Nwoya districts, we empowered citizens to take an active role in the monitoring of projects and holding stakeholders accountable.



consultant, manager, Gomba district (LCV and Planner)



Uganda's Procurement data is entered into [Government procurement portal \(GPP\)](#).



The 6th Final Assurance report is under peer reviews and will be validated and disseminated, upon which its publication will later take place this year. Est. June

2. The Responsible Infrastructure Projects: Addressing community concerns

CoST Uganda has long advocated for Responsible Infrastructure development, emphasizing the need for projects to be implemented with the community's best interests at heart.

Through this project, in partnership with Kampala Capital City Authority, KCCA, we are piloting modelling of the 32 New data points of Open contracting for infrastructure data standards (OC4IDS).

12 road infrastructure projects were selected and analyzed together with the data points to assess whether they provide sufficient data on infrastructure project selection and appraisal in the procurement process. [Meet our KCCA Modelling team](#)
Other Activities that transpired include;

Training of Journalists and CSO's



[Journalists and CSOs](#) we equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to interpret the findings from the infrastructure project modeling exercise to empower them to investigate and monitor infrastructure project delivery in Uganda. Topics were focused on Application of 32 data points of the OC4IDS to monitor and report on infrastructure projects, and how projects are selected and appraised.

A selected team of 5 journalists are in field for comprehensive stories, learnings and findings that will share for public opinions on how public entities select and appraise public infrastructure projects with specific reference to climate finance investments and sustainability standards

Baraza meetings



After analysis, the preliminary findings gathered, guided our recent Baraza meetings held in the communities of Nakawa, Makindye and Rubaga divisions. These showcased challenges faced by citizens as they interact with infrastructure projects, and how infrastructure projects impact their daily lives.

Key issues raised during these Barazas included poor communication, lack of adequate safety features, poor communications structures, and concerns about no/poor compensation, the environmental and social impacts of infrastructure projects.



Our Impact

Nwoya Local offers his land for health facility construction during our baraza event. Read more: [Readmore](#)

Read our blog

[Strengthening-public-scrutiny-in-infrastructure-projects-delivery-for-greater-transparency-and-accountability: Readmore](#)

Dive through our event's Photos : [Link](#)

3. Strengthening Partnerships for Effective Project Delivery

CoST Uganda has worked closely with partners such as Africa Freedom of Information Centre, KCCA, PPDA, MoLG, MoWT, UNABSEC, media and other civil society organizations like Community Integrated Development Initiatives (CIDI), and ACTogether, to strengthen the delivery of infrastructure projects.

Through these partnerships, we aim to ensure that these projects are not only executed with the utmost responsibility but also that they align with the expectations of the communities they impact. They are crucial to achieving the level of transparency and accountability that stakeholders expect.

Our partnership with KCCA has particularly been beneficial in addressing concerns regarding infrastructure development for the modelled projects in Kampala. We aim to expand our collaborations with both government agencies and the private sector to continue advocating for responsible and community-centered infrastructure development. [KCCA names 68 flood hotspots after our baraza engagements](#)

Programme Director, John Hawkins visits Uganda 2024



Director Gilbert (AFIC) left, Violet (CoST Uganda)-next, Director Hawkins (CoST IS) next & Manager Geoffrey (CoST Uganda) right

The CoST Programme Director, Mr John Hawkins visited both MoWT and Africa freedom of Information Centre. His emphasis was on their continued support as CoST IS to Uganda and with a plea for the country to establish its formalization as an MSG while maintaining great focus on productivity of the CoST Uganda teams.

CoST Managers workshop 2025

Our CoST Uganda Manager, Goeffrey Odong attended the CoST Managers' Workshop in London. The team shared their experience with CoST work, discussed opportunities and synergies between their countries' infrastructure transparency work using the CoST approach, tools and standards. <https://infrastructuretransparency.org/news/managers-workshop-25/>



Manager Geoffrey, middle -receives certificate from Director Hawkins during workshop

Civic Engagements

We are engaging the media bodies to advocate and report on infrastructure projects in relation to open contracting for infrastructure data standards, procurement processes, public awareness and engagements in public infrastructure. see through our [upcoming events on our website](#)

Our community barazas recently conducted this year shed intensity and need for more public engagement, called for streamlined information flow, incorporation of People with disabilities in road construction safety measures, land compensations for those displaced on constructions and expansions.

We note the need for Government of Uganda to incorporate road maintenance structures and budgets.

Lets build sustainable infrastructure, be open to tools of transparency, and manage open contracting for national impact.

Uganda, and globally!

4. A call for Continued Engagement

As we continue to push for responsible infrastructure projects in Uganda, CoST Uganda calls for a collective effort from all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, contractors, private sector and the public, to ensure that projects are carried out by promoting accountability, transparency, standards and sustainability.

Our call goes to all government entities to publish more data on infrastructure projects onto the [Government procurement portal](#) (GPP).
[Infrastructure Transparency Dilemma A Call To Action](#)

We call upon the public to monitor closely and engage in accountability and procurement processes for infrastructure projects, embrace right to information.

[A call To entities to embrace tools for transparency](#)

We encourage everyone to sign up for our [newsletters](#) to keep informed and discuss the publications with us through our website.

Our call goes finally to all stakeholders to subscribe to our news letters, [check](#) like and follow us on all our social platforms [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), and our [website](#)



We thank all our partners, community members, and stakeholders for continued support and active participation. Together we will continue to build a brighter, a more sustainable Infrastructure future.

Sincerely,

CoST Uganda Team

For Transparency, Accountability, and Responsible Infrastructure Development

Our Upcoming Quarterly Activities

Training Public officials on Data collection for project selection and appraisal---[June 5th 2025](#)

A validation/dissemination meeting for the Modelling Report under KCCA---June 2025

A validation and dissemination meeting for 6th Assurance (Independent Review) Report---June 2025

Press conference on the Infrastructure Transparency Index report (ITI)---June 2025

Produce Impact reports for projects---June 2025

Follow up of project activities and entities on recommendations ---Ongoing

Our Commitment to Better Infrastructure

CoST Uganda remains committed to:

- Advocating for Responsible, transparent, and sustainable infrastructure projects that prioritize the needs of the community.
- Advocate fair procurement processes
- Sustainability and environmental protection for infrastructure projects
- Fostering standards through OC4IDS
- Barazas and Consultations Remain a Priority: to ensure that citizens are fully informed and involved in the infrastructure projects
- Ensure Information Sharing is Improved to foster greater trust in citizens and government institutions.
- Ensure proactive Infrastructure Data disclosure
- Ensure Better Coordination Between Stakeholders: Contractors, service providers, & local authorities

With Support from;



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