

CoST Uganda's Responsible Infrastructure Project: How the Pilot Recommendations are being Turned into Action

In September 2024, [CoST Uganda](#), supported by [CoST-The Infrastructure Transparency Initiative](#)—secured £22,502 from the UK's [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office](#) (FCDO). The funding powered the [Responsible Infrastructure Campaign](#), a pilot project in Uganda that tested whether 32 new CoST data standards on sustainability and climate finance could improve infrastructure project selection, appraisal, and delivery. The partnership attracted [CoST Uganda](#), its host [Africa Freedom of Information Centre](#)(AFIC) and [Kampala Capital City Authority](#) (KCCA).

Data from 12 road infrastructure projects implemented by KCCA were selected by the mapping team and carefully analyzed by the CoST Help Desk team while testing whether insights from the new standards could expose risks, strengthen appraisal processes, and support more transparent decision-making. Communities were consulted (through baraza meetings in Nakawa, Makindye and Rubaga divisions of Kampala) on whether they were engaged in the selection and appraisals for these projects and any contributions or challenges that arose from the projects. Different trainings were conducted for media, CSO's and KCCA public officials—all aimed at supporting them on data collection on the new data points.

Upon including all findings, a [pilot report](#) revealed Internationally funded projects often came with detailed technical assessments, documenting economic, environmental, climate, and social data considerations contrary to domestically funded projects, which had gaps in transparency, accountability, and planning rigor. The report also revealed the need for stronger tracking of climate finance, clearer documentation of environmental impact assessments, collecting data on green gas emissions, disclosure of all projects, and more public participation in the early phases of project selection. The same pilot was carried out in Mexico—another CoST Country.

What truly mattered is what happened next.

At the validation and launch of the Responsible Infrastructure report in June 2025, [KCCA](#) pledged to apply the recommendations from the pilot, by embedding sustainability and climate data points into their projects and sharing lessons with peers across Uganda.

Since then, change is becoming visible:

1. Publication of infrastructure projects:

Currently, KCCA now publishes its pipeline of projects online, allowing citizens, businesses, and development partners to see what is coming and engage earlier. Currently the authority continues to implement GKMA, KCRRP and Colas projects. About the COLAS project: <https://www.kcca.go.ug/news/979/kcca-colas-sign-deal-to-upgrade-over-118-city-roads>

2. Real time Reporting on greenhouse gas emissions

KCCA procured and installed a real time air quality monitoring equipment along areas of Kampala metropolitan roads, which reports on greenhouse gas emissions and pollution levels, giving Kampala real-time data to inform healthier urban planning. <https://www.kcca.go.ug/kampala-air-quality-monitoring-network> and <https://www.aqi.in/dashboard/uganda/kampala/kampala/kcca-division-office>

3. Community engagements (MDFs)



Orientation for batch 1 roads at central div. GKMA-UDP/ Stake holder engagement at the bus terminal

Through Municipal Development Forums (MDFs), KCCA currently visit different communities, consult them on their pressing issues/priorities, and requests before project selection, and feed directly into KCCA's planning process. MDFs comprise of different representatives of every division within Kampala. Read:

<https://www.kcca.go.ug/news/935/kcca-metropolitan-development-forum-to-enhance-community-participation>



Speaking to [KCCA](#) through the procurement specialist - Mr. Ronald Emeru, informed Violet ([CoST](#)) that they were also working on a memo to respond to all the pending recommendations from CoST Uganda. These steps have made communities to feel heard in shaping the future of their neighborhoods. We believe having all recommendations incorporated shall comprehensively enable Citizens to see where public money is going, leaders to make decisions based on evidence rather than pressure and all planning-appraisal data for domestic funded projects shall achieve proper archives.

Complementing their best score of 80% in the Infrastructure Transparency Index (ITI) 2024, Kampala's journey under the [Responsible Infrastructure Investment campaign](#) proves that transparency as not just an abstract principle, but a practical tool for building cities that are inclusive, sustainable, and resilient. By linking accountability with action, [KCCA](#) is showing how infrastructure can truly serve the public, while setting a model for other Uganda municipalities.

[CoST Uganda](#) to continue engaging with KCCA for increased uptakes of the RII recommendations