



HOW RESPONSIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE HAS TRANSFORMED ROAD DELIVERY IN KAWEMPE DIVISION

In Kampala's fast-growing metropolitan landscape, road infrastructure decisions are no longer just about concrete materials, they are about people, climate resilience, accountability, and value for money. This reality came to life through CoST Uganda's Responsible Infrastructure Project, implemented 2024/25 in partnership with Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), which tested whether 32 Open Contracting for Infrastructure Data Standards (OC4IDS) data points provide sufficient information for effective project selection and appraisal. To implement this project, CoST-The infrastructure Transparency initiative received funding from Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). What began as a technical experiment in data soon evolved into a powerful impact story, visibly reshaping communities in Kawempe Division.

Kisasi-Central road Kawempe Division-KCCA



Earlier this year, CoST Uganda trained public officials from various KCCA divisions on how to apply the 32 Open contracting for infrastructure data standards (OC4IDS data points) during project selection and appraisal. Training emphasized early-stage planning incorporation for the data points: needs identification, feasibility, stakeholder engagement, environmental and climate considerations, cost control, and value for money.

Twelve road projects implemented by KCCA, were selected and tested under this initiative. The results were compelling: the data points provided sufficient, actionable information to guide better decisions. The outcome was a strong recommendation for their systematic use and publication across infrastructure projects.

Today December 2025, CoST Uganda representative- Jolly Violet engaged with Eng. Ssemujju Kizito, the Kawempe Division(KCCA) Engineer responsible for managing all roads in the division. As they stood along the newly constructed Lot4, Kisasi Central Road (KCRRP project) funded by African Development Bank, the impact of responsible infrastructure planning was impossible to miss.

"The road was designed differently because of the CoST Uganda's training," Eng. Kizito explained. "We were taught what to consider at selection and appraisal, and we applied it fully."

The road features a well-planned driveway and walkways on both sides, making it safe and accessible for pedestrians. Importantly, the project encountered minimal challenges—a rarity in urban road construction.

Community engagements, a game changer in Kawempe Division road development

Land acquisition is often one of the most contentious issues in road construction. One of the key lessons from the CoST Uganda training was the importance of stakeholder engagement specially the community-PAPS, a critical social data point in the Open contracting for infrastructure data standards (OC4IDS) framework. This principle proved decisive when the project faced land-related challenges.

Initially, land acquisition posed a serious risk. One local resident became hostile to disrupt construction. Rather than escalating conflict, Kawempe Division KCCA applied the stakeholder engagement approaches emphasized during the CoST training.

"We involved the area councilor, community leaders, and the local residents," Eng. Kizito said. "We held consultations and public hearings. People were listened to."

"Once people understood the value of the road, cooperation followed, they offered land freely for the road."



Climate Resilience Built into Design

Flooding has become one of Kampala's most urgent challenges, with recent events leading to loss of life and property. CoST Uganda's climate finance and environmental data points directly address such risks by encouraging climate mitigation and adaptation measures during planning and their publication for public scrutiny.

For this Road, these principles were put into action.

"Drainage was non-negotiable," "From the design stage, we incorporated drains on both sides of the road to manage flooding," Eng. Kizito emphasized.

Through integrating environmental and climate considerations early, the project now contributes to flood risk mitigation rather than exacerbating it. This proactive approach reflects the value of responsible infrastructure data in safeguarding communities against climate shocks.



Eng. Ssemujju Kizito poses for photo along Kisasi central road project signpost

No Cost over runs, no surprises

"We have not experienced cost overruns, everything was catered for at the planning and procurement stage," Eng. Kizito reported.

This success is closely tied to the CoST training, which stressed comprehensive design, accurate costing, and value-for-money assessments during project appraisal. By addressing risks early, the division avoided costly adjustments later.

Inclusive Design for All

Beyond efficiency and resilience, the roads are also inclusive. Cub stones are yet being laid, with sections deliberately lowered to ensure accessibility for persons with disabilities.

"We consulted sociologists during the design process, the project passed all social assessments."

The road now carries more than traffic, it connects schools, residential areas, and key transport corridors including links from Kisasi to Ntinda, Kikaya, and the Northern Bypass unlocking economic and social opportunities for thousands of citizens



Drainages fixed on Kisasi road

A Model for the Future Road Projects

Reflecting on the journey, Eng. Kizito expressed gratitude to CoST Uganda.

"The training opened our eyes to what really matters at project selection and appraisal," he said. "I hope this approach is applied to all future projects for better infrastructure delivery."

The Kawempe experience demonstrates that responsible infrastructure is not theoretical, it is practical, measurable, and transformative. By applying the 32 OC4IDS data points, Kawempe division was able to deliver resilient, inclusive, cost-effective, and community widely supported road project in Kisasi areas of Kampala Uganda.

CoST Uganda's Responsible Infrastructure Project attributes this story of change to infrastructure as a shared success. As the ongoing GPP system upgrades align with the new CoST data standards, we anticipate even greater outcomes aimed at strengthening infrastructure data reporting and its use in attracting investments, improving risk managements, and advancing accountability and transparency in Uganda.

We appreciate Kampala capital city authority (Kawempe division) for its leadership, and honoring commitment In applying responsible infrastructure knowledge to deliver people centered and value for money road infrastructure projects.

Know more on tested data-points:

<https://www.cost.or.ug/downloads/32-data-points-tested-in-the-rii-pilot/>

New local developments attributed to Kisasi road project



New look of Kisasi road project

