



CoST Uganda Shines Globally in improving Infrastructure Collaboratively

CoST-Uganda (The infrastructure transparency initiative) is helping transform infrastructure delivery by increasing transparency, accountability, and collaboration.

A survey on construction firms revealed only 14% of respondents in Africa believe that companies compete on a level playing field, Justine Wharton (Head Communications and advocacy), CoST IS writes.

However Uganda's experience shows how open data, multi-stakeholder engagement, citizen participation, and professional scrutiny can improve procurement, boost competition, and ensure high-quality infrastructure projects.

1. Through making information accessible and involving government, industry, and communities, CoST Uganda continues to strengthen data publication for over 1bn infrastructure projects through its partnerships with PPDA in championship of the Africa freedom of Information Centre.

1. Uganda strengthened relationships with government, private sector, and citizens leading to increased firms understanding of procurement laws and processes.

3. Conducted open public forum barazas' bringing communities, contractors, civil society and government for accountability. This resulted into enhancement of the PPDA ACT (2021) mandating citizens in monitoring public infrastructure contracts.

Read more: <https://infra.global/improving-infrastructure-transparency-through-collaboration-in-uganda/>

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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In Focus: CoST Holds a workshop to select OC4IDS data points



Stakeholders from government, civil society, government entities convened to prioritize the updated CoST sustainability data points of open contracting to facilitate the upgrade of government procurement portal.

CoST Ug. engages other stakeholders post workshop event



Post-workshop event, the Project Officer-CoST Uganda, Jolly Violet engaged with the procurement officials at Ministry of Health, the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry of Education and Sports whom contributed on the selection for the optional sustainability data points of Open contracting for infrastructure data standards(OC4IDS)

Catch-up stories:

Minister Edward Katumba launches the 6th CoST Independent Review



Hon. Minister (MoWT) hands the 6th Independent review report to Geoffrey Odong, CoST Uganda

"CoST Uganda serves as a third eye for transparency. I strongly with results for this study. I urge 30% of any new project budget must go to maintenance. I will engage other ministries to address these gaps, especially around road infrastructure project design, maintenance and sustainability." Minister Edward Katumba Wamala stated during the launch of the CoST 6th Independent Review.

Read more: <https://www.cost.or.ug/2025/07/17/cost-uganda-launches-its-6th-independent-review-report-on-road-infrastructure/>

CoST Uganda holds a use case workshop To Prioritize CoST Data standard

“Uganda’s government procurement system (GPP) serves as the central reporting tool for all public procurement data.

Following our collaboratives with PPDA on upgrades of OC4IDS in GPP (2021), Our international chapter CoST-The infrastructure Transparency Initiative is currently supporting us on the Data publication project. This project started in July 2025 is expected to end in March 2026. It will enhance infrastructure transparency by scaling up publication of infrastructure projects using the updated Open Contracting for Infrastructure Data Standard (OC4IDS) of reporting

On 13th November 2025, CoST Uganda, led by the Africa Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC) and in partnership with the public procurement Disposal of Authority (PPDA) convened a use-case workshop which discussed the mapping report, and use cases for the CoST sustainability data points. The workshop resulted into selection for 46% of the 78 CoST new data points (OC4IDS) for prioritization in upgrades for the GPP system.

The workshop was attended by different stakeholders from PPDA, Ministry of Local Government, Kampala Capital City Authority, Uganda Electricity Distribution Company, National environmental Authority, UNABSEC and media representatives. Others including Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Sports, and Office of the Prime Minister also contributed to the 46% data points.

As we upgrade GPP, Procuring entities shall be trained, enabling infrastructure project data publications and reform, with sustainable reporting and effective data use.



In his opening remarks, Dr. Aloysius Byaruhanga, Director for Performance Monitoring at PPDA, noted that their partnerships with AFIC and CoST Uganda enabled disclosure of 381 infrastructure projects on GPP (2021/22), and the upcoming upgrade will integrate sustainability and climate-finance indicators, expand data coverage across the project lifecycle- with operation, maintenance and decommissioning phases.

Dr. emphasized the need for full data coverage across the project lifecycle, including operation, maintenance, and decommissioning. He also reaffirmed PPDA’s commitment to integrating key economic, environmental, social, and climate data, building on existing ESHS and beneficial ownership regulations and to incorporating stakeholder-agreed data points into the upcoming GPP upgrade to improve data quality and strengthen procuring entities’ capacity to publish timely, complete infrastructure information.

Michael Chengkuru, a mapping and GPP upgrade consultant, highlighted the impact of the October 2025 Nakivubo Channel floods in Kampala, linking the devastation to gaps in “invisible infrastructure.”

He noted that GPP currently covers only limited 17.6% OC4IDS data, with

no structured sustainability data and 4.2% lifecycle tracking, underscoring the need to integrate sustainability indicators in line with PPDA regulations on ESHS and beneficial ownership.

“you can’t track what you can’t link.”

Closing the workshop, AFIC Executive Director Mr. Gilbert Sendugwa emphasized the timeliness of this work, referencing East Africa Procurement Forum resolutions on sustainability and emphasized importance of continued collaboration.

“What you don’t know, you can’t measure” He added.

Read More <https://www.cost.or.ug/2025/11/13/stakeholders-agree-on-cost-ugandas-sustainability-data-points-of-oc4ids-for-upcoming-gpp-upgrade/>



Dr. Aloysius Byaruhanga, Director Performance monitoring Central region, PPDA



Director Gilbert Sendugwa, AFIC/CoST, closing the workshop event

Eng. Ssemujju Kizitto, KCCA Shares How they Used the Knowledge Gained from CoST Uganda Training

On 17th December 2025, CoST Uganda was welcomed by Eng. Ssemujju Kizito in Kawempe Division. This came after earlier engagements between March to June 2025 where CoST Uganda held community barazas and trained public officials under Responsible infrastructure project in partnership with KCCA. The project modelled 32 data point indicators of open contracting as a pilot in Uganda.

Public officials gained knowledge on data collection and use in Selection and Appraisal of Public infrastructure Projects.



Eng. Ssemujju informed that the Division has incorporated the training knowledge and recommendations from CoST Uganda. During construction for Kisasi Central road funded by ADB, they had no cost overruns, engaged communities at project initiation, and integrated improved drainages attributing CoST Uganda's role in Kisasi road constructions while driving infrastructure accountability and transparency.

Watch full interview with Engineer Ssemujju Kizito on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWxEX-ih-sg>



CoST Uganda Attends a Grievance Meeting with KCCA

In Kawempe division, Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) is currently constructing the Katalamwa road a GMKA project funded by World bank.

However, the project was temporarily posed to first resolve land claims by Makerere university on the road path being though their land.

On 17th December 2025, we attended the meeting with KCCA, Makerere university, MULTIPLEX limited, JBN consults and planners- ESHS. Makerere University claimed the road path to be occupying their land. Despite the claims, they did-not present their land title. Other project affected persons had earlier presented their titles and okayed construction of Katalamwa road which they presumed high benefits upon completion. The meeting resolved requesting surveyors to provide map for the road paths.

Contractors plan to excavate and replace all drainage pipes to improve road safety and durability.

During the meeting, Violet Jolly, from CoST Uganda encouraged public consultation at planning stages of road projects. This meeting contributes to transparency and incorporation of our social data points for open contracting. We thank KCCA for engagements in grievance resolutions.

Read more: <https://www.cost.or.ug/2025/12/17/transparency-and-public-dialogue-on-katalamwa-road-construction/>