



Delivering better value public infrastructure

The Construction Sector Transparency (CoST) Initiative works with governments, industry and local communities around the world to get better value from public infrastructure investment by increasing transparency and accountability.

As a multi-stakeholder initiative with 15 participating countries, CoST promotes transparency by disclosing data from public infrastructure investment. This helps to inform and empower citizens, enabling them to hold decision-makers to account. Informed citizens and responsive public institutions can lead to the introduction of reforms that will reduce mismanagement, inefficiency, corruption and the risks posed to the public from poor infrastructure. Check out some of our success stories to see how CoST is working to deliver better value public infrastructure globally.

Preventing waste in Malawi through open contracting



CoST Malawi identified a cost increase of over US\$7.4 million on the Nkhotakota-Msulira Road.

CoST Malawi is ensuring transparency in the awarding of public infrastructure contracts. Contracts have been cancelled and re-tendered with greater transparency, following CoST Malawi's assurance report which highlighted that several recent investments in public infrastructure had wasted billions of Malawi Kwacha.

In one case, CoST Malawi identified a 262% – more than 3 billion Malawi Kwacha (US\$7.4 million) – cost increase on the rehabilitation of the Nkhotakota-Msulira Road. The Ministry of Transport and Public Works subsequently cancelled the contract on the 33km road, as well as two other road contracts, due to poor performance and in order to prevent further waste.

CoST Malawi and its Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) have followed the re-tendering process and are working with all stakeholders to strengthen transparency and accountability in public infrastructure.

Find out more at www.costmalawi.org

Empowering citizens to demand accountability in Honduras

CoST Honduras has enabled citizens to monitor public infrastructure delivery in their local communities. Following training workshops on open data and how it can be used to demand accountability, local citizens organised their own meetings to discuss specific infrastructure projects affecting their community. Working together to use the information and support provided by CoST Honduras, they demanded that local policy-makers deliver better value from local road maintenance works.

The citizens now regularly meet with the CoST Honduras Assurance Team to discuss their findings and monitor the continued works. This has highlighted where works have been completed insufficiently or where certain areas of the town have been bypassed. Together with CoST Honduras, the citizens have put pressure on the construction and supervision firms to improve their practices in accordance with their contracts.

Find out more at www.costhonduras.hn



Citizens in La Paz-Tutule-Marcala monitoring their local infrastructure projects.

CoST is a catalyst for governance reforms in Guatemala

CoST Guatemala has highlighted several issues that have been a catalyst for government reform. For example, CoST Guatemala assurance reports have identified numerous projects where the budget was not in place prior to awarding the construction contract which leads to delays and increased expenditure. Following recommendations from the Assurance Team and MSG to the Vice Presidency, an amendment was passed in 2013 requiring all Procuring Entities to ensure that sufficient budget is in place before contracting firms. This measure will help to deliver better value from public infrastructure.

As part of its first and second assurance process, the CoST Guatemala Assurance Team and MSG also recommended that Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) should be precluded for bidding for contracts. This is due to the issue of NGOs often being established as a means of by-passing procurement regulations to siphon off funding intended for public infrastructure projects. In 2013, a Decree was subsequently issued to disqualify NGOs from the bidding process and it has since been ratified by Congress.

Find out more at www.cost-guatemala.org



This farmer reported that his income had more than doubled since the Gindeber to Gobensa road opened.

Since the first sections of the road opened in 2011, it is reported that the income of local farmers has more than doubled.

Increasing income for Ethiopia's rural community through reduced construction time

CoST Ethiopia's disclosure of information on a rural road project led to a reduction in construction time by six months, bringing the benefits to the rural community earlier than expected. Since the first sections of the road opened in 2011, it is reported that the income of local farmers has more than doubled.

CoST Ethiopia's Assurance Team highlighted that original plans for the road in Eastern Ethiopia exaggerated the volume of retaining wall and excavation required for the road-building project. CoST Ethiopia's MSG then held a workshop involving the media and civil society organisations, sparking considerable interest in reviewing costs. As a result, the Government of Ethiopia adopted an alternative design for the road project. Furthermore, the original designers were debarred from Government contracts for two years.

The alternative design led to a cost saving of US\$3.5 million. As Eyasu Yimer, Vice Chair of Transparency Ethiopia explained, this saving can then be used to "build a two-block school that may allow 500 students to attend class".

Watch the full story on CoST's YouTube channel

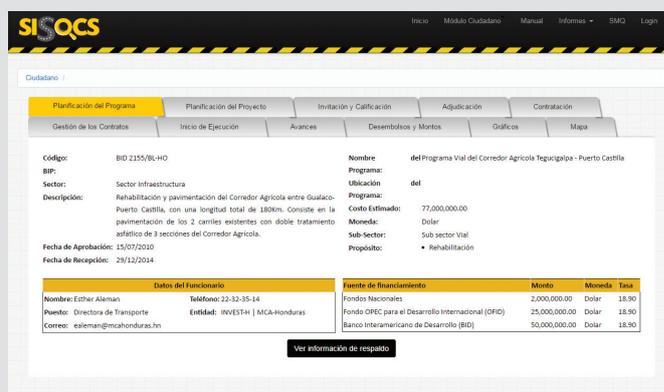
Driving innovative web-based disclosure portals worldwide

CoST has been driving innovations that enable the disclosure of data from public infrastructure investments.

This includes enhancing existing e-procurement portals in Guatemala and the Philippines, in addition to creating new websites in Ethiopia and Thailand. For example since its re-development, Guatemala's national e-procurement portal *Guatecompras* has disclosed data on over 3,000 infrastructure projects.

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CoST Honduras has also created *SISOCS*, a dynamic subsystem for its national e-procurement portal. *SISOCS* draws together disaggregated data on public infrastructure into a single location to make it easier for the public to find the information they need. Since its launch in 2015, over 400 projects with a total value exceeding US\$560 million have been disclosed on *SISOCS*.



The screenshot shows the SISOCS web portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the SISOCS logo and links for Inicio, Módulo Ciudadano, Manual, Informar, SMO, and Login. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar labeled 'Ciudadano'. The main content area is divided into several tabs: Planificación del Programa, Planificación del Proyecto, Invitación y Calificación, Adjudicación, Contratación, Gestión de los Contratos, Inicio de Ejecución, Avances, Desembolsos y Montos, Gáficos, and Mapa. The 'Planificación del Programa' tab is selected, displaying the following information:

Código:	BID 215/RL-HO	Nombre:	del Programa Vial del Corredor Agrícola Tegucigalpa - Puerto Castilla
BIP:	Sector Infraestructura	Programa:	del
Descripción:	Rehabilitación y pavimentación del Corredor Agrícola entre Quetzaltenango y Puerto Castilla, con una longitud total de 180km. Consiste en la pavimentación de los 2 carriles existentes con doble tratamiento asfáltico de 3 secciones del Corredor Agrícola.	Ubicación:	del
Fecha de Aprobación:	15/07/2010	Costo Estimado:	77,000,000.00
Fecha de Recepción:	29/12/2014	Moneda:	Dolar
		Sub-Sector:	Sub sector Vial
		Propósito:	Rehabilitación

Below this information, there are two tables: 'Datos del Funcionario' and 'Fuente de financiamiento'.

Nombre:	Teléfono:	Moneda:	Monto:	Tasa:
Nombre: Esther Aleman	Teléfono: 22-32-35-14	Fondos Nacionales	2,000,000.00	Dolar 18.90
Puesto: Directora de Transporte	Entidad: INVESTA MCA-Honduras	Fondo OPEC para el Desarrollo Internacional (OFID)	25,000,000.00	Dolar 18.90
Correo: ealeman@mcachonduras.hn		Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID)	50,000,000.00	Dolar 18.90

At the bottom of the table, there is a button labeled 'Ver información de respaldo'.

A Formal Disclosure Requirement, established in January 2015 through a Presidential Executive Decree, also requires Procuring Entities in Honduras to proactively disclose all data contained in the CoST Infrastructure Data Standard via *SISOCS*.

Since its launch in 2015, over 400 projects with a total value exceeding US\$560 million have been disclosed on SISOCS.

Find out more at www.insep.gov.hn/sisocs

CoST Guatemala improves the quality of construction and saves US\$5 million



CoST Guatemala saved US\$5 million through their intervention in the Belize Bridge project.

CoST Guatemala's Assurance Team highlighted that the use of emergency procedures for awarding the Belize Bridge contract in Guatemala City was inappropriate, leading to a contract annulment and saving of US\$5 million. Furthermore, the Assurance Team's report demonstrated that the bridge did not require rehabilitation and that the planned work could have made the bridge dangerous.

CoST Guatemala also increased the transparency levels from 16% to 80% on the Chichavac road project, infrastructure which now allows the local community to access life-changing markets and healthcare.

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CoST has enabled better integration and coordination between the project's construction companies, supervisions companies and the General Directorate of Roads and Highways. Through this project, the quality of construction has improved.

Ariel Alvarado, Chief of Pre-Investment and Planning, General Directorate of Roads, attributed the improvements in the quality this infrastructure to the project's inclusion in the CoST programme: "CoST has enabled better integration and coordination between the project's construction companies, supervision companies and the General Directorate of Roads and Highways. Through this project, the quality of construction has improved."

Watch the full story on CoST's YouTube channel



CoST International



Construction Sector Transparency Initiative (CoST)



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www.constructiontransparency.org

CoST – the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative – is a multi-stakeholder initiative funded by the UK Government's Department for International Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. CoST works with governments, the private sector and civil society to get better value from public infrastructure investments by increasing transparency and accountability. To find out more, please visit the [CoST website](http://www.constructiontransparency.org).

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands