

CoST Tanzania

History of CoST Tanzania

Tanzania was one of the first countries to sign up to participate in CoST, and in 2007 an Interim Working Group (IWG) was established under the leadership of the National Construction Council (NCC). The Working Group's terms of reference included setting up a CoST Forum and inviting interested individuals and institutions to join. After the launch in November 2008, members of the CoST Forum elected the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) which took over from the IWG. NCC became the CoST host.

Commitment, participation, and management

CoST Tanzania has been supported by the Minister for Good Governance, acting as Champion, as well as by senior officials in that Ministry. These included the Permanent Secretary, who participated in a meeting of champions from four African countries held in Addis Ababa in April 2010. Support has also been forthcoming from the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) which signed a Memorandum of Understanding with CoST under which the two organisations agreed to collaborate to promote transparency and accountability in the construction sector. This collaboration is critical, because the PPRA has a legal mandate under the Public Procurement Act (2004) to collect and disclose information, as well as a mandate to ensure that procuring entities comply with the requirements of the Act.

Unwavering support to CoST is also shown by the MSG, which has remained active and committed throughout. The MSG includes three permanent representatives from key government agencies (NCC, PPRA, and the anti-corruption bureau PCCB) plus two other representatives from government, three from industry, and four from civil society. The MSG is supported by a highly competent and committed manager.

Achievements and lessons

The following notable achievements have been realised:

- The multi-stakeholder approach has proved successful in bringing diverse actors together on a voluntary basis. But CoST Tanzania requires independent legal status in order to function effectively.
- The Tanzanian baseline study was the first to be completed and overcame a number of challenges, including PEs' initial resistance to participation. The baseline study revealed wide differences among PEs in their observance of regulations on information disclosure, as well as in procurement and project management.
- The feasibility of the CoST assurance process was first demonstrated in Tanzania through a 'test run' on a completed project. The test run highlighted the danger of duplicating government audit functions and pointed to the importance of presenting only the facts and avoiding expressing opinions.
- As in other pilot countries, CoST in Tanzania could not persuade PEs to disclose project information in the absence of a legal requirement for them to do so. Instead, an assurance exercise was carried out on six projects in which the ATs collated project information from source documents, analysed the information, and produced reports highlighting any 'causes for concern'.
- After delay due to an election and change of government, information on the six projects, including the causes for concern, was published in a national newspaper: the full AT and baseline reports are available on the CoST Tanzania website <http://costtanzania.ncc.or.tz>

Extending CoST Tanzania beyond the Pilot

All those involved in CoST Tanzania remain committed to continuing their work after the completion of the pilot. The CoST multi-stakeholder group has decided that it will continue to operate and will become an independent legal entity as CoST Philippines. The MSG has identified influencing discussions to extend the disclosure requirements in the PPA (currently under review), as a priority