# EXPANDING EXPANDING THE BORDERS OFINDACT 2019 Half-Year Report

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**budg T** info@yourbudgit.com f BudgITng @BudgITng



# INTRODUCTION

Nigeria's 2019 general elections, set the tone for practically all the activities that happened in the country within the first half of the year, and still dictating [to an extent] the direction of things as government at the national level is yet to be fully formed.

BudgIT was not left out of the frenzy caused by the elections, especially as we seized the opportunity to contribute our quota to the electioneering process. As it is our mission to use data to intersect citizens and institutional reform, we did just that with an Election Factbook that we produced and disseminated prior to the election. The factbook is an outcome of a deep dive research aimed at providing eligible voters with the right information needed to make better decisions throughout the election process.

We likewise held a road rally tagged the "Value of a Vote Campaign" in 15 states across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. Our driving force was to contribute to the transparency of the election process and make citizens understand the value of their vote as well as what the right values to vote for. In our core programme activities, we continue to facilitate budget access to citizens and advocacy for open budget, especially at the subnational level. Part of the successes recorded this year for us, was the fruitful collaboration with the World Bank to support a process that incentivizes states that are able to make their budget available online and in a simplified version. This resulted in 25 states making their budget available without the usual hassle we go through yearly to get a copy of the different state budget details.

In similar light, we are seeing positive actions from the federal government's quarters to willingly take the lead through some transparency and accountability inspired activities that hitherto we were at the forefront of leading. For the first time, the budget office of the federation went a step further this year to simplify the national budget into a citizens' version.

This for us is another huge success, as our aim is not to take over government responsibilities but to fill a gap and incite required development actions. In the same vein, our project tracking activities took a new turn positively as the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) extended a hand of partnership to BudgIT and other CSOs to jointly continue the project tracking exercise using our Tracka platform.



Since the ICPC joined this process, the successes recorded under our Tracka project has been on an upward trajectory.

Furthermore, we gained yet another win through the legislative arm of government as our #OpenNASS campaign brought about the release of the National Assembly's 2018 budget to the public.

In our operational and administrative process, our organization continues to thrive despite the operational break embarked upon by the Director. While he made his official return to the organisation in June, we continue to run the organization without his deep involvement as a way to give him the time to attend to his family and other personal plans.

Two other roles that were filled during this 1st half of the year were that of our Head of Research and Communication Associate and we must say that both personnel have brought dynamism into the team and are contributing actively to our success stories.

Estimatedly, we have reached over 10millions persons in the first half of 2019 both online and offline. Details are provided in our programme figures section of this report.

As we look forward to the remaining half of 2019, we remain optimistic in our

resolve to facilitate transparency and accountability in Nigeria as well as institutional reforms. We will be kick starting the implementation of some new projects to help us achieve our goal.

We are also planning the launch of our 'State of States' Report later in the year, which will also serve as an avenue to showcase our work on the research on investment in the critical sectors that impact of human development in Nigeria.

## **Programmes Statistics**



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#### **BUDGET ACCESS**

One thousand (1,000) copies of this report were shared offline and were also sent to the National Assembly to engage the lawmakers during budget public hearings.

The BudgIT research team championed the budget advocacy cause by disseminating simplified versions of both national and sub-national budgets. To a large extent, our work relies on the pulse of current affairs within the nation, thus creating targeted messages and content.

To this effect, the team created voters education material in the wake of February's elections and issued a press release to stop a controversial capital project in a South-South state. This is in addition to periodic policy and analysis papers released.

The team's online and offline engagements cut across social media, print media, blog posts, newsletters, as well as conferences and have reached an estimated 9.5 million Nigerians this year.

On budget access and tracking, the Research team analyzed the Federal Government's Q3 2018 Budget Implementation report and identified the differences between budgeted figures and the actuals. With the release of the 2019 proposed budget, the team produced and distributed 500 copies of The 2019 Budget Analysis, a report which simplified and contextualized the proposed budget and particularly aimed at enhancing the understanding of legislators during the process of budget defence. In addition, the Frivolous and Suspicious Items document was released.

This report identified overvalued line items, projects without a specific location and projects that are susceptible to fraud within the budget.

One thousand (1,000) copies of this report were shared offline and were also sent to the National Assembly to engage the lawmakers during budget public hearings. Upon the approval of the budget, the team produced a citizen budget in infographics format. This was shared on various social media platforms and was also used in engaging citizens on different digital platforms and radio programmes and onTV.



Furthermore, in response to current affairs, the Research department produced an Election Factbook both at the Federal and State level to educate the citizens on the profile and past records of candidates.

The team also issued a press release on the Cross-River Highway project and an open letter was sent to the Vice President, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of National Planning, the Cross River State Government and the Cross River State House of Assembly to stop the controversial Superhighway project on the grounds that it could place undue financial hazard and avoidable hardship on the state for the next hundred years by compounding the government's existing debt burden.

A detailed analysis of security sector allocation, health sector allocation and education sector allocation was also done in the period under review.

A comprehensive research paper was also produced to review Nigeria's debt status both at the Federal and State levels.

In this period under review, over 150 infographics have been developed and disseminated. We also responded to 753 data requests during this period through emails and the organization's chatbox.

### **9.5**m

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#### FISCAL FRAMEWORK

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#### EXTRACTIVE TRANSPARENCY

BudgIT also continued to demand for improved disclosure of oil and gas data especially for the timely release of NNPC Monthly Financial and Operations

In the first half of 2019, we crystallized extractives reform activities to revolve around four long term strategic objectives. These include: To improve the disclosure, dissemination and use of disclosed data in the extractives sector; To improve institutional learning based on observations from disclosed data; To improve accountability in the sector and finally; To contribute to improved efficiency and innovation in the governance of natural resources.

On objective one, to improve data disclosure, dissemination and use, BudgIT worked on developing what would become the federal government's commitments for improving data disclosure in the second National Action Plan within the Open Government Partnership, OGP.

BudgIT also continued to demand for improved disclosure of oil and gas data especially for the timely release of NNPC Monthly Financial and Operations Report, although with little success as reports for February to June 2019 had not been published online as at the end of June 2019.

We developed a framework for an Extractives Transparency Ranking and Support Initiative for regulatory agencies and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) meant to encourage data transparency, accessibility and accountability in the Extractives sector. Implementation of this framework will be tested in the second half of 2019.

For the dissemination of extractives data, we have reached over 1.04m citizens in Lagos, Ogun and Oyo states offline through at least 5 radio sessions with our findings and recommendations in the oil and gas sector to spark public debate.

Through our social media platforms, we shared extractives data in simplified formats and were viewed by 1,040,548 citizens online which also helped spark





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To improve institutional learning based on observations from disclosed data, BudgIT organized learning sessions during our Q1 Extractives Consultative Roundtable Meeting, where we engaged with key civil society actors in the extractives industry reform to share our insights based on our analysis of industry data and to co-create advocacy strategies aimed at transforming reform findings to actions by policy makers in the oil and gas sector.

We analyzed NNPC's last financial and operations performance and published a report called, "NNPC's 2018 Performance Analysis" where we shared our findings and recommendations for optimization with critical stakeholders during the 2019 Oil and Gas Industry Stakeholder Roundtable session.

On objective three, to improve

accountability in the sector, we wrote letters to over 100 senators and house of assembly members to ensure those responsible for resolving remediation issues that were highlighted in the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) Audit report published in December 2018, were held accountable.

Follow up with the legislators will be done in the second half of 2019 and also with the executive arm to revitalize the Inter-Ministerial Task Team (IMTT) responsible for interagency collaboration to resolve remediation issues.

For improved efficiency and innovation in the governance of natural resources, BudgIT published policy briefs containing insights and recommendations for policy reforms that would improve efficiency and governance of critical areas in the oil and gas sectors. They include, "Inside Nigeria's Local Refineries" and "Nigeria's Subsidy Regime: Dilemma of the world's most populous black nation".

We also completed research for two other policy briefs which will be published and disseminated in the second half of 2019. These are: "Beneficial Ownership Reform in Nigeria: The long walk to EITI's 2020 deadline for full disclosure" and "Solid Minerals Beneficiation in Nigeria: A sure path to economic prosperity for citizens.



#### TRACKA

Tracka and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences (ICPC) are working in collaboration to track Federal government zonal intervention projects from 2015 till date.





The Tracka model has been expanded from the initial 22 states to now 25 states plus the FCT namely; Kogi, Ogun, Oyo, Kano, Edo, Delta, Sokoto, Kaduna, Niger, Gombe, Lagos, Ondo, Imo, Cross River, Ekiti, Osun, Kwara, Akwa Ibom, Kebbi, Bayelsa, Katsina, Nasarawa, FCT, Anambra and Enugu.

To increase impact and promote inclusive development of the states, especially at the rural communities, we have engaged 28 tracking officers to closely monitor the implementation of the Federal government zonal intervention projects.

From January to June 2019, the team held 578 town hall meetings across the focus states to sensitize citizens on the budgetary provisions and encouraged them to take ownership of government projects in their communities.

This has greatly enhanced inclusive participation of citizens in demanding for accountability, transparency and in the implementation of projects in their communities from their elected representatives.

Through town hall meetings and community sensitization exercises across the focus states, over 300,000 citizens were reached.

About 456 letters were sent out to representatives of the concerned



constituencies and ministries in charge. A major reason for the delay in project implementation, was due to the late release of funds. As at the end of June, about 70% of funds have been released to the respective ministries.

The Tracka team published 5 stories on the Tracka website page on the status of constituency projects in selective focus states. Through our advocacy, we have been able to facilitate the implementation of core projects in the focused states. These projects include roads, hospitals, schools, empowerment materials, streetlights and borehole projects some of which have not yet been implemented.

The team leveraged on traditional media outlets to reach a larger base of citizens through programs such as Office of the Citizen on Naija Info 99.3fm, Sweet fm 107.1 and Open Kaduna on Freedom 92.9 fm. These programs are designed for citizens to comment on issues around project implementation in each state. On social media, Tracka's followership on Twitter and Facebook has grown from 33k in January to 50k and from 4,793 to 6,542 respectively.

Expanding the reach of our community engagement activities, Tracka has launched "Proximity Meetings" holding across urban and rural communities in Nigeria. The goal is to intensify more efforts on project monitoring and indeed community engagement We have held nine meetings in nine states and also reached over 3,600 citizens.

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Exploring the collaboration with the ICPC is a strategic move to collectively combat corruption, illicit financial flows, as well as track and monitor to completion of development projects.

In the same vein, we signed an MoU with Citizens Gavel to support citizens' access to justice and legal education and commitment leveraging on town hall meetings and proximity meetings to address various degrees of injustices in the rural areas, aimed at increasing both personal and communal justice rate.





### OGP & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

BudgIT agrees that strategic partnerships are critical for any group of people looking to compete on a global scale.

The ability to bring a balance to civic engagement in governance can only be achieved by leveraging on partnerships for a common cause.



BudgIT agrees that strategic partnerships are critical for any group of people looking to compete on a global scale. We have since then, through partnerships with civic organizations and support from donors agencies, been able to bring a balance to civic engagement by bridging the gap between governments and the people. Open Government and Institutional Partnership functions to support willing institutions - media, civil society and government to advance transparency and civic engagement. Under the Open Alliance Coordination - a coalition working to strengthen civil society organizations working in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), we welcomed new members from across Nigeria, increasing membership to 163 by June 2019.

This includes members from Oyo, Ogun, Bauchi, Gombe, Anambra, Abia, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Niger, Edo, Enugu, Ebonyi. At the subnational Open Government Partnership level, 3 new states namely Imo, Oyo, Ekiti and Sokoto have all signified their interest to join the subnational OGP.

Open Alliance Nigeria continued its intense engagement with state and nonstate actors in Gombe, Oyo, Imo, Ondo, Ogun, Osun states on the co-creation



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process, capacity building on OGP to engage relevant stakeholders and, in some cases, assisted in developing a draft CSO state action plan.

#### Roadmap to 2nd Nation Action Plan:

Due to the urgent need for working group meetings, to enable more CSO representation and new ideas on how to measure the level of implementation of the commitments in the Ist NAP which will then help develop the draft Second NAP, Open Alliance brought together members of the working groups and other relevant civil society organisation to its two-day general meeting in Abuja on the 15th and 16th of April 2019.

This meeting is what formed the basis for the "road map to the 2nd NAP" and the draft which was submitted at the OGP global summit in Canada in May 2019.

The meeting also resulted in strengthening the discussions on



subnational OGP especially for CSO participants from Cross River whose government is set to commit to the ideals of subnational Open Government Partnership.

Another highlight in the period was the unveiling of the new Open Alliance website which had new and exciting features. At the end of May 2019, BudgIT shared three new reports to strengthen the engagement of civil society working groups in the OGP.

The three reports: Behind Closed Books, A Case Study on Anti-Corruption Commitments and The Long Road to Open Government Partnership in Nigeria, critically reviewed the present condition of the OGP initiative at Nigeria's federal and sub-national levels, assessed the progress of legislation on transparency and accountability issues as well as identified the challenges of the implementation of the first National Action Plan.

It also appraised the OGP leadership issues, the second National Action Plan and Nigeria's level of readiness in the political economy even as it establishes the political actors that can deliver results and the major hindrances to most of the commitments.

The documents have since begun to shape the basis of discourse for researchers and academia in the governance space in Nigeria.





#### The MacArthur project - Visualizing Education and Campaign Against Corruption looked at the proposed budget in 2019 presented to the National Assembly. The budget, which was analyzed and shared on social media platforms, reveals that the education sector maintains and receives an allocation of 7% of the total budget.

BudgIT joined the UBEC amendment coalition which has Malala Fund, Connected Development, and other organizations to advocate for the passage of the UBEC amendment bill, though it wasn't passed in the 8th Assembly despite the advocacy, it gave room for collaboration with the Basic and Primary Education Committee which will introduce the coalition to the new committee in the 9th Assembly.

On the Access Nigeria project, we looked at the cost of corruption in obtaining a driver's license and an international passport. BudgIT compared the actual price and inflated prices actually paid by citizens.

According to NBS/UNODC survey on bribery, Nigeria loses N400 billion to

bribery, especially from government agencies which includes Police, Customs etc. The campaign on corruption in obtaining international passport really gained attention and generated deliberations online, offline and on traditional media. Still, on the cost of corruption, we did a rally in 12 states on #ValueOfaVote which speaks on citizens staying away from vote trading.

The campaign talks of the myth of a wasted vote and the importance of a vote in selecting a credible political office holder. In April, BudgIT met with the 8th Senate President, Dr Bukola Saraki on Open NASS.

The meeting yielded a positive outcome as the 2018 budget of the National Assembly was made public. This was backed up with promises that a policy would be put in place for any assembly to publish her budget to the general public.

Inequality continues to be a major issue in Nigeria. From the budget which is not gender-responsive, to a lack of commitment from the government to bridge the inequality gap between the

#### N400bn

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rich and the poor, by reducing inequality as well as gender inequality which seems to marginalise women in Nigeria.

BudgIT in partnership with OXFAM, are working together on a project to reduce inequality in Nigeria. We attempt to steer the tide of disparity in the country through increased engagements with Citizens and the Government.

This year, we beamed our searchlight on pro-poor projects of the government, the goal was to highlight key projects of the government that are focused on the key social sectors of Education, Health and Agriculture.

We produced a short documentary animation series to enlighten the public on the key issues of inequality in the social sectors, this was also shared with project partners as an advocacy tool in a bid to amplify the voices of citizen groups and keep government attention to inequality and the budget-drivers (through budgetary misallocations).

We also engaged journalist and sectoral experts to write opinion pieces on inequality in Nigeria, the opinion pieces also mobilised public attention to inequality and how public policies, including budget appropriations, political systems deliberately escalate disparities.

We provided creative communication support for the campaign on Fair taxation in Nigeria, We also supported the research work on the commitment to reducing inequality in the West Africa region with creative designs and engagement on social media.







As part of building the community as well, four organizations that work out of the Hub - Citizens Gavel, Mamalette, EduPlana and African Founders - were able to have Ignite talk presentations during the course of the meeting, thereby introducing all participants to what they do and how they also solve some social problems facing Nigeria.



Civic Hive, the innovation centre of BudgIT, was founded in 2017 to help accelerate anyone who has a passion and a plan to create a solution to the social problems around.

Civic Hive has stayed atop in the space in

which it has been

organizations to



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push solutions that connect citizens to the government, foster institutional efficiency, and raise citizens' awareness of social issues around. Between January and June 2019, we have been able to support 60 organisations online and offline, this has been through our support that comes as training, partnerships, and community building.

Civic Hive has focused more on issues bordering on the country and has found the gaps to plug-in solutions that could help bring education and ease to the society in general.

Civic Hive Fellowship 2019 is also a very laudable project that is ongoing at the Hive.

This marks the second cohort of the fellowship program and we have made sure we placed our focus on solutions that hammer on Transparency and Accountability, Civic Participation, and Institutional Efficiency. We pride ourselves in being the nursery for civic tech products and innovation projects.

We currently provide support to six fellows incubating their ideas from



beginning to maturity. We always look out to creating echelons in the Civic Tech space to have more voices and more solutions tackling the myriad problems we have in our society.

Since the 2019 general elections formed the major talk in the first quarter of the year, Civic Hive was not left out of the conversation. In partnership with YALI Network Lagos, Civic Hive hosted all the





gubernatorial candidates of Lagos state to a town hall meeting.

This gave us and attendees the opportunity to have a clue of the ideologies each party represented. It also gave room to register ourselves as a thought leader when it comes to Nigeria elections. The event had over 100 people in attendance from all walks of life.

We have had some very important signature events in 2019 which has helped us to continue building a community of active citizens around the country. We took on AI and data science classes which ran for 13 weeks with the focus to build new leaders in technology. This was in partnership with AI Saturday.

**Civic Hive Boot Camp:** This was a very important milestone for us at the Hive, this was held in the last three days in March 2019, as this was the build-up to selecting the Civic Tech ideas that will be incubated at the Hive for six months. The Bootcamp hosted 12 potential associates, 4 judges and 7 speakers and 6 members of staff.

It was a super-packed three days of slugging it out between the potential fellows and also of learning new things that will help them on the Civic Tech journey.

The six ideas that made it to the final are focused on the following; Advocating Justice for indigents who are not capable of getting legal representation (The Flemer Project), Helping young children to understand civic education through cartoons (CartooningE), Advocating for the rights of pensioners (Pension Justice), Monitoring the activities of the local governments (Govmetre), Advocating for better services in public and private institutions (Servicorps) and Opening up the older population to how the Nigerian constitution works (ConstitutionLab)



#### **Open Gov Hub partners Civic Hive:**

March 29, 2019, marked the beginning of the selection to be partners with the Open Gov Hub under its Hub affiliate program. Numerous hubs applied and only 6 hubs were selected globally, 1 of which was the Civic Hive.

Being selected, gave us the opportunity to host Nada Zhody, Director of the Open Gov Hub, Washington D.C, United States in Nigeria for a whole week between the 17th and the 21st of June, 2019. The meeting consisted of a series of trainings



and step-down experience of what the Open Gov Hub has been able to achieve in the 7 years of its existence.

Civic Hive's first FireSide chat was graced by Nada, giving us the opportunity to host over 70 persons at the Hive who were also interested in learning from the wealth of experience she was ready to share. This presented everyone with the opportunity to ask questions and engage in the learning process the FireSide Chat afforded all participants. As part of building the community as well, four organizations that work out of the Hub - Citizens Gavel, Mamalette, EduPlana and African Founders - were able to have Ignite talk presentations during the course of the meeting, thereby introducing all participants to what they do and how they also solve some social problems facing Nigeria.

**Thursday Talks** which holds on the last Thursday of every month, has also been held for a year consistently. This has fostered inter-generational conversations every month providing solutions to any trending issues in the social space.

Civic Hive has partnered with organizations like Utiva Academy, Enough is Enough (EiE,) AccountabilityLab, Yali Network, Lagos, Walter Carrington Fellowship to hold a series of events focused on developing skills, building capacities, addressing social problems, and developing solutions that can be developed to combat social problems.

We have also partnered with Stand To End Rape (STER) to work together to create safe spaces for victims of sexual abuse and provide therapy sessions with psychologists to help them in their healing process.

We are enthusiastic about the next half of 2019, which involves us breaking new grounds as well as scaling the profitability of the Hive.



#### **Telling our Stories**

BudgIT has become a household name in contemporary Nigeria, and that only means one thing: the Nigerian people see themselves as BudgIT, finding their voice in our civic activities, exactly as the organization sees the people as the sole essence of its existence.

Thanks to active members of the Nigerian public, BudgIT has become a household name in the contemporary Nigeria, and that only means one thing: the Nigerian people now see themselves as BudgIT – finding their voice in our civic activities – exactly as the organization sees the people as the sole essence of its existence, advocacies and innovations. This explains why our stories represent that of the people.

How they are imparted by our work. How BudgIT is raising the bar of transparency, accountability, civic engagement and good governance in Nigeria.

With this being our reality, it is ingrained in our conviction that ceaseless advocacies are not enough. For the Nigerian masses to remain motivated and encouraged that their efforts in standing against odds to demand good governance would pay off, they need to hear success stories as frequently as possible. To this end, we are maximizing all available communication windows to amplify our work, most especially our humble accomplishments that, first, inspire Nigerians to get involved in matters of governance and, second, prove to those in government that real change is possible.

As enunciated throughout this report, our stories so far, this year, are of progress inspired by unrelenting efforts. But what we consider most imperative is how we tell the success stories in ways that stimulate further actions for greater results or better still, how we drive advocacies that break through the fortress of impossibilities.

From transparency advocacy to institutional partnerships to capacity building for CSOs and journalists to impact stories to research works in the oil and gas sector, our work and its results are well told through articles and blog posts, visual documentaries, newsletters, startling infographics, Vox



Pops, media appearances and social media reach. Having conducted a test run for new ideas like BudgIT Podcast and BudgIT TV, we are poised to do even more.

One of the human stories that inspire us to do more is the story of Kawu, a marginalized rural community in Niger State, which has lived in darkness for thirty years. Today, however, we share in the joy of Kawu people as they would be seeing electricity again after three decades thanks to our advocacy on budgetary allocations and project implementation across the country. To be humbly succinct, we would say that we have a plethora of impact stories of this similitude across Nigeria but for record purposes, it might be interesting to equally cite that our advocacy efforts led to the rehabilitation of Kaffe Primary HealthCare Centre where patients including nursing mothers and infant babies - formerly received treatments under trees in Sokoto State.

Our impact stories stretch further to education development in various nooks and crannies of the Nigeria. All these are icing on our successes in the area of fiscal transparency and accountability in the country.



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## SIMPLIFYING THE NIGERIAN BUDGET

At BudgIT, we believe it is the RIGHT of every citizen to have access to, and also understand, public budgets. We also believe budgets must be efficiently implemented for the GOOD of the people.

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