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Activity Report
January - June 2017

Current Partners

About BudgIT

BudgIT is a civic organisation driven to make the Nigerian budget and public data more comprehensible and accessible across every literacy span. BudgIT's innovation within the public sphere is fundamentally via a creative use of government data by either presenting these in simple tweets, interactive formats or infographic displays. Our primary goal is to use creative technology to intersect civic engagement and institutional reform.

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Key Milestone

BudgIT Nigeria ✔
@BudgITng

The @nassnigeria leadership led by SP @bukolasaraki has kept its promise to make NASS budget details OPEN. Analysis & full document soon.

6:51 PM - 11 May 2017

88 Retweets **27** Likes

💬 15   🔁 88   ♡ 27   �

The #OpenNASS campaign, a four-year extensive advocacy campaign finally hit a milestone on its key demand which was to make public the budget of the people's representatives and other institutions covered in the National Assembly budget.

This budget was last made available to the public in 2009. Since 2010, the National Assembly has spent almost $3.3 billion without public accountability, and in 2013, BudgIT & other stakeholders decided it was time for openness in the legislative arm. On May 11, 2017, the National Assembly published the 2017 detailed budget taking the budget from a one-line item to a 33-page document.

After rigorous review, the citizens proposed the reduction of the 2017 National Assembly Budget from the approved One Hundred and Twenty-Five Billion Naira (N125,000,000,000) to a leaner sum of Fifty-Two Billion, Eighty-Five Million, Three Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Naira (N52,085,370,750).

In reaching the final sum in the proposed budget, participants took into account all overhead costs, maintenance costs, personnel, research costs and all the line items contained in the 2017 National Assembly Budget.

Research Team

62
Infographics

12
Publications

Additional
403,156
people reached

Asides the dissemination of 62 infographics covering the 2017 proposed budget through our social media outlets, in the first six months of 2017, the Research and Data Team conceptualised and delivered the following publications and reports, under the Budget Access Project:

- 2017 Proposed Budget: A 14-page graphical publication which summarized the 2017 proposed budget of the federal government via infographics.

- Inside the 2017 Proposed Budget: A narrative and data-driven analysis of the 2017 proposed budget, with empirical-based projections included.

- Frivolous and Suspicious Item Publication: Extensive list of repeated and overly expensive items in the 2017 proposed budget; publication submitted to all lawmakers.

- Cost of Governance Publication: A narrative and data-driven analysis of the cost of government in Nigeria, comprising the federal and some State governments.

- Stears/BudgIT Public Finance Report: Data-driven report focused on the intersection of anti-corruption measures with foreign policy, security and developing economies

- Citizens' Lean Budget for NASS: Compilation of citizen reports and the presentation of a leaner budget for the National Assembly (including 10 sets of infographics and a press release)

- The Nigerian Economy: A short history of how oil pricing and production swings determined the fiscal fate of Africa's most populous nation.

- Buhari's 2nd year Economic Report: Sets of infographics on the Buhari government's economic performance across the board

- 2017 Health Budget Analysis (ONE): A narrative and data-driven report focused solely on the federal government's health budget.

Research Team

> *BudgIT kicked off campaigns that encouraged ordinary citizens to help identify all suspicious and frivolous items in the proposed 2017 budget. A full report was subsequently submitted to the National Assembly*

State of States Project

At the subnational level, BudgIT simplified the 2017 proposed and approved budget for Kaduna State, under the Open Kaduna Project. An advocacy campaign centred on the need for other States to voluntarily make their budgets public was also launched. Currently, BudgIT has the largest cache of sub-national data, with 15 States' budgets in user-friendly formats.

Most significantly, BudgIT undertook a research series covering all States' fiscal positions, including a survey on the frequency of salary payments for civil servants at sub-national level. Publications compiling facts around the States' reveue allocation and generation figures, their debts and other empirical insights were gathered and disseminated across social media, BudgIT's website and within local news media.

In summary, the Research and Data Team delivered the following publication and Reports under the State of States Project:

- State of State's 2017 Factsheet
- Lagos State 2017 Budget: Publication
- State of States' Policy Briefs on Bailout Funds
- State of States' Salary Survey 2017
- Short Videos : Importance of States to the economy
- Lagos' Informal sector: Taxation and contribution to the national economy.

Institutional Engagement

The team also worked on the Open Budget Survey for the International Budget Partnership, simultaneously making a presentation to top policymakers in Nigeria on the current state of the country's budgeting system, proposing a methodology for sustainably managing the Open Budget Survey.

A detailed memo on how Nigeria can improve on the Open budget Survey Index was also submitted to the Director-General of the Budget Office of the Federation.

On the citizen side, BudgIT kicked off campaigns that encouraged ordinary citizens to help identify all suspicious and frivolous items in the proposed 2017 budget. A full report was subsequently submitted to the National Assembly, with a follow-up press release and social media engagement deployed, to amplify the discrepancies in the budget.

We achieved our aim of seeking corrective measures from the government, on the back of public outrage, amid allegations and counter allegations from government officials.

Projections and analyses gleaned from the publication were tweeted on social media, as well as developed into news stories for print and electronic media including AIT, Silverbird, Channels TV, CNBC, TVC, Nigeria Info, and Rave FM.

Research Team

Key Links

Inside the 2017 Proposed budget
http://yourbudgit.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/2017-Proposed-Budget-Policy-Document.pdf

Frivolous & Suspicious Item Publication
http://yourbudgit.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/FRIVOLOUS-Items.pdf

Citizen Lean Budget for NASS
http://yourbudgit.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/OpenNASS-Citizen-Version-of-the-NASS-Budget.xlsx

State of States' Policy briefs - Bailout Funds
http://yourbudgit.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/STATE-OF-STATES-POLICY-BRIEF.pdf

The Nigerian Economy: A short history of how oil price and production swings determine the fate of a nation.
http://yourbudgit.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/An-Analysis-of-Nigerias-Economy-and-Vulnerability-to-Oil.pdf

State of State's 2017 Fact sheet
http://yourbudgit.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/State-of-States-Quick-Numbers.pdf

Tracka Team

The Tracka Team achieved the following, from January until June 2017:

Project tracking in
4 additional States

Signed Partnership
with Channels TV for
30-minute program

Held Project Tracking
Officers Annual Meeting

Documentary in
3 States

Relaunched Tracka
Web/Mobile Versions

The Cable NG publishing
partnership

894 projects tracked -
233 projects completed
nationwide, 71 nationwide
and 590 projects have
not started.

175 letters sent out to
representatives and
ministry officials.

3 stories published on
the Cable NG

Research Team

> "A total of 894 projects have been tracked and 233 have been completed, 71 are ongoing while 590 are yet to begin. Our Tracking Officers assisted communities to send out up to 175 letters to representatives of the concerned constituencies and the federal ministries in charge of projects. "

The Tracka model has been scaled up from an initial 16 to 20 States – Kogi, Ogun, Oyo, Kano, Edo, Delta, Sokoto, Kaduna, Niger, Gombe, Lagos, Ondo, Imo, Cross River, Ekiti, Osun, Kwara, Akwa Ibom, Kebbi, and Enugu. To increase impact and promote inclusive development of the States, especially within the rural communities, BudgIT engaged 22 more Tracking Officers, to enhance the monitoring of implementation rates of all capital projects outlined in the budget.

Tracka also held a training workshop in Kaduna with Tracking Officers, covering how to disseminate information about the Federal Government 2016 constituency projects citizens at grassroots level. We have improved the Tracka platform to simplify the user experience across all literacy levels, focusing on making the site interactive and appealing to Internet users across the states.

The new features allow for community feedback via SMS, personal notifications on interesting projects, geo-taggingfor every project on the platform, and a display encouraging user to contact officials responsible for project implementation in their neighbourhoods, as well as a secure chatroom, where active citizens can discuss projects in real time.

The Tracka Team travelled to Oyo, Niger and Edo States to shoot a documentary on tracked projects, which will serve as evidence for the UNDEF final report. Most importantly, this documentary will help tell the stories of ordinary citizens, and the impact of our work in local communities, where the projects are being tracked by citizens, for citizens.

Working with established media partners remains a priority. The Team applied the use of traditional media outlets to achieve wider audience figures, through programs such as 'Office of the Citizen' on Naija Info 99.3FM, Sweet FM, 107.1 and 'Open Kaduna' on Freedom 92.9FM.

These programs are designed for citizens to comment on issues around project implementation in each State. Online, Tracka's social media platform, has grown, with our Twitter and Facebook followers base growing from 4,955 in January to 6,570 and from 700 to 4,770 respectively. Also, Tracka published three stories on the status of constituency projects in the focus States online on the *The Cable* news website and other online news organisations.

With regards to television as a medium, the Tracka Team and the Channels TV crew embarked on a 2-week tour to 5 States (Niger, Gombe, Imo, Edo, and Ondo) to monitor project implementation, update the status of abandoned projects in communities that are infrastructurally underdeveloped and reinforce awareness among citizens. Proceedings will be televised nationwide on a TV program called Tracka+.

Our townhall meetings continue apace; from January to June 2017,   the Team have engaged with over 6,500 residents through advocacy meetings that provide basic civic education as well as sensitize and encourage them to actively consult with the public officials who work for them. A total of 894 projects have been tracked and 233 have been completed, 71 are ongoing while 590 are yet to begin. Our Tracking Officers assisted communities to send out up to 175 letters to representatives of the concerned constituencies and the federal ministries in charge of projects.

Research Team

Through the strategic use of these varied advocacy streams, we have been able to facilitate greater implementation rates for community projects that include roads, hospitals, schools, empowerment materials, streetlights and borehole projects.

Key Links

1.   Our impact in Kadna community in Niger state cable news
        https://www.thecable.ng/budgit-tracka-discovers-half-constructed-classrooms-kadna-
        community

2.   Tracka discovery in Ogun State
        https://www.thecable.ng/budgit-uncovers-n24m-ict-centre-constituency-project-ogun-
        rep-office

3.   Our Project Engagement in Kebbi state Tracka site
        http://www.tracka.ng/issues/view/5000

4.   Follow up video on tracka documentary in 3 states
        https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQRu7Wt9p0c

5   Observation in 2015 constituency project publish on the nation news
        http://thenationonlineng.net/constituency-projects-another-tale-monumental-waste/

Extractives Team

207 Infographics

211,315 Twitter Impressions

8 Tweet Sessions

6 Videos

2 Community Engagements

10 Policy Documents Analysed

Extractives Team

> " The much-anticipated Petroleum Industrial Governance Bill (PIGB) was finally passed by the House of Senate and later, by the House of Representatives, we examined the Bill and utilised graphics in relaying our findings with the general public. *The House of Representatives, we examined the Bill and utilised graphics in relaying our findings with the general public with 163,000 Facebook views* "

This project focused on the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, primarily because any discussion about the oil and gas industry in Nigeria without mention of the NNPC is incomplete. Therefore, highlights of the Fix Our Oil project included the engagement sessions with NNPC officials on 20 June 2017, where analyses and research on the corporation's Financial and Operations reports released for the year 2016 were shared with attendees.

In addition to that, we collated the operations figures for January, February and March, analysed these on a quarterly basis and disseminated this with our online community.

Other aspect of our work in Extractives included conceptualisation and/or collaboration on reports by the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) and the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI). We analysed the NEITI 2014 Audits, signposting noteworthy findings present therein; for example, our amplification of the deductions made from revenue accruing to the Federation went viral online and offline.

With NEITI, we also assessed its Policy Brief on Unremitted Funds, Economic Recovery and Oil Sector Reform, pulling out facts and figures for further dissemination amongst our community.

With the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), we conducted an empirial deconstruction of data and information contained within their publications called: Securing Fair Value For Nigeria's DSDP and the 2017 Resource Governance Index, focusing on assessing Nigeria's standing, with regards to the governance and management of her revenue from oil.

It is important to mention our work with Montrose International. Information specific to community development projects undertaken by relevant bodies, notably the Ministry of Niger Delta, certain International Oil Companies (IOCs) and legislation on Content Development in Nigeria's oil and gas industry, was researched on and converted to easily comprehensible stories and graphics for our colleagues at Montrose.

In the same vein, when the much-anticipated Petroleum Industrial Governance Bill (PIGB) was finally passed by the House of Senate and later, by the House of Representatives, we examined the Bill and utilised graphics in relaying our findings with the general public.

In order to widen our reach beyond our online community, we relied on radio campaigns at Nigeria Info 99.3, via the platform of the Office of the Citizen, where we discussed the joint paper by BudgIT and NEITI, as well as the #OpenNNPC campaign of NNPC on social media.

Extractives Team

Off air, other highlights in the period under review were the meetings we had with the oil-produing communities of Polaku in Bayelsa State and Ogu, in Rivers State.

The Fix Our Oil campaign is always looking for areas of growth and therefore two members of our Team undertook an online course on Natural Resource for Sustainable Development, with the Team Lead attending a two-week executive course on Extractive Industries and Sustainable Investment in Colombia University.

In addition to this, we continue to improve our website to global standards as seen in the extractives sector, moving to a new, relevant domain with up-to-date information about our activities and events; one which is now being uploaded on a more consistent and timely basis.

Key Links

1)   *NNPC's Q1 tweet session*
      https://storify.com/budgITng/nnpc-operations-and-financial-report-for-q1

2)   *Engagement with officials of the NNPC*
      https://medium.com/@BudgITng/5-things-we-learnt-in-our-engagement-with-nnpc-cca994047327

3)   *Community Engagement*
      https://medium.com/@BudgITng/polaku-ogu-oil-rich-communities-but-I
      mpoverished-by-political-leeches-21e4359af050

4)   *NRGI's Resource Governance Index*
      https://storify.com/budgITng/natural-resource-governance

5)   *NEITI's Policy Brief on Unremitted Funds*
      https://storify.com/budgITng/highlights

Sectoral Projects Team*

N448.4bn

Our work was the first to reveal that Education not only got a paltry 6.14% of the total budget for 2017, but that xxx percent of the N448.4bn allocated to the Education ministry would go into (recurrent expenditure of N398bn),

400,000

BudgIT reached over 400,000 citizens with this campaigns, raising awareness and prompting articulate questions from an enlightened citizenry to their leaders.

* Project Managed by Abuja Office

Firstly, we started the year with an analysis of the proposed budget for the education sector in 2017. Our work was the first to reveal that Education not only got a paltry 6.14% of the total budget for 2017. We also looked at the top five ministries and agencies under Education ministry, polytechnics, universities. BudgIT reached over 400,000 citizens with this campaigns, raising awareness and prompting articulate questions from an enlightened citizenry to their leaders.

Counterpart funding has been a major excuse of some state government in accessing the fund and they have pleaded that the 50% counterpart fund should be reduced or abolished. We also analyzed 2016 TETFund intervention for 2017 programme, 2011 and 2013 reconciled projects as published on their website.

To contribute to Nigeria achieving a more socially-inclusive education system, BudgIT opened up lines of communication with the executive secretary of the UBE Commission, facilitating a release of the addresses of 158 Almajiri schools in Nigeria. We tracked these Almajiri schools, finding one in Lagos which was functioning with pupils learning as the time of visit.

*Sectoral Projects Team**

"*BudgIT worked with OXFAM to collate and host the launch of the Inequality in Nigeria Report. The event was well-attended, with the report raising vigorous debate at the highest level on facets of inequality in Nigeria.* "

Our work helps us draw unbiased parallels of best practices; a case in point is Kaduna State.

In addition, BudgIT spoke on different platforms – especially on radio station Nigeria Info, Abuja to discuss budgetary allocation in the Education sector. Abuja was targeted as this is the seat of power. Animated videos were created to talk about the funding gaps in Education, while Twitter sessions in collaboration with local government focused non-profit Human Development Initiatives (HDI) covered the responsibility of State governments in providing basic education for her citizens. Our partner, PPDC, also invited BudgIT to speak on the topic "Facts vs Figures of UBEC funding."

In the next half of the year, BudgIT will further review the analysis of the approved budget, as there has been an increase in total allocations to the Education ministry. In September, BudgIT will hold a conference with the minister of Education and other stakeholders in the sector, following this up with a holistic, updated publication on the state of education in Nigeria.

Post-Ebola campaign

The team's analyses of the health budgets of Nigeria, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea started in June. It targeted: compliance rates of African countries on the Abuja declaration; adequacy of resources in terms of each country's ability to fund its health sector in general and in terms of preparedness for containment/eradication of Ebola; donor funding and transparency levels of same within countries, and standards for primary health centres with regards to look and basic equipment. All findings will be published before the end of August and made available via the BudgIT website.

Inequality Project

BudgIT worked with OXFAM to collate and host the launch of the Inequality in Nigeria Report. The event was well-attended, with the report raising vigorous debate at the highest level on facets of inequality in Nigeria.

Key Links

Tweet Chat with HDI
https://storify.com/budgITng/tweet-chat-with-hdi

Education Frivolous Item tweet
https://storify.com/budgITng/education-frivolous-item

Design on TETFund Interventions
http://yourbudgit.com/infographics/tetfunds-intervention-allocation-to-universities-2009-2013/

Proposed 2017 Education Budget Analysis
http://yourbudgit.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Ed.Public.pdf

Twitter session on Universal Basic Education
https://storify.com/budgITng/universal-basic-education-tweet-session

Open Governance Team

The Open Government Team focused on expanding collaboration and partnership with all stakeholders. The approach was to use new methods that is mutually beneficial to all stakeholders including capacity building, technical assistance and information sharing. The result of this approach will manifest in the second half of the year but the aim was to create visibility for the activities of the organization in a way that reaches more citizens and engages more institutions. The following activities have taken place:

In the Open Alliance, we grew membership to 42, from 30 members at the beginning of the year and organized the first 2017 Open Alliance general meeting

1. Open Government Partnership and Open Alliance: BudgIT continued to facilitate Nigeria's smooth entry into the global OGP cohort, through direct engagement with Nigeria's OGP Secretariat and coordination of the civil society organizations through an adhoc coalition called the Open Alliance. BudgIT provided technical assistance to the OGP Secretariat to prepare for the first OGP Nigeria Steering Committee Meeting. This was in the form of memos and agenda for the Committee to consider, which detailed the roles and responsibilities of the team that will push the OGP Secretariat. BudgIT co-wrote a memo to the OGP co-chairs mapping out the implementation of Nigeria's National Action Plan.

    In the Open Alliance, we grew membership to 42, from 30 members at the beginning of the year and organized the first Open Alliance general meeting, to build the capacity of new members and agree on engagement strategies for the implementation and monitoring phase of the OGP process.

    We also engaged with the Ministry of Budget and National Planning and Budget Office of the Federal Government, and worked with PartnersGlobal to facilitate the development of the Monitoring and Evaluation Logframe for the OGP National Action Plan. We also continue to build public awareness on the OGP as a whole, and Nigeria's commitment to its tenets.

2. Assistance to the Religious Leaders Anti-corruption Committee (RLAC): Working with the US Consulate in Lagos, we engaged with religious leaders to discuss their role in the anti-corruption campaign in Nigeria. The religious leaders agreed to explore soft technology, to be built by

Open Governance Team

We started the Media Fellowship as our approach to driving media visibility for our work while training the next generation of Nigerian journalists who will utilise technology to hold government accountable.

BudgIT. Working with a steering committee selected by the RLAC, we began work to build a platform for reporting petty corruption encountered by ordinary Nigerians., which will be launched in the second half of the year.

3. #FocusLagos: The Lagos State Government continued to resist efforts toward greater transparent in its management of taxpayers money. We started a campaign to share as much information on the State's finances, budget and expenditure using infographics, infomercial videos and media. The campaign will continue in the second half of the year, with direct institutional engagement with the Lagos State Government.

4. Religious leaders and Mambayya House Kano: With the support of the US Embassy in Abuja, we began collaborating with Mambayya House, Kano –a foremost research and knowledge centre—to start a conversation with religious leaders in the North on their role in the fight against corruption. Following the initial meeting, we will host a 'Train-the-Trainer' workshop for religious leaders in Kano and Kaduna. The overarching goal is to equip them relevant information about government processes and how their followers in turn can help in the fight against corruption.

5. BudgIT Media Fellowship: We started the Media Fellowship as our approach to driving media visibility for our work while training the next generation of Nigerian journalists who will utilise technology to hold government accountable. After an independent review of applications received for the Fellowship, six (6) journalists were selected. Their experience cuts across print, online and electronic media. The fellows are young journalists and we hope they will form a crop of new professionals, that will lead the future of advocacy-focused journalism on the continent.

6. BudgIT Civic Hive Project: We informally opened our civic tech and innovation project. The plan is to create a nest to harbour and build active citizens, taking them through curricula with the capability to initiate, articulate and maintain conversations on demanding effective governance. This is also a space to blend civic innovation with various facets of governance. We see a visible area that intersects art, design, data and advocacy with public finance and democracy—one with the capacity to birth social innovations that improve the quality of thought processes and thought leaders, ultimately driving Nigerians towards the highest levels of civic education.