2015 | ANNUAL REPORT

Spreading
Awesomeness

budgiT

About BudgIT

Founded in 2011, BudgIT is a civic organization that applies technology to intersect citizen engagement with institutional improvement to facilitate societal change. A pioneer in the field of social advocacy melded with technology, BudgIT utilises an array of technology-based tools to simplify the budget and matters of public spending for citizens, with the primary aim of raising standards of transparency and accountability in government.

We are in constant partnership with civil society, public institutions and the media, chiefly in the areas of fiscal analyses, civic technology and data representation. BudgIT's methodology is deploying refined data mining skillsets to creatively represent data and empower citizens to use the resulting information in demanding improved service delivery.

Beyond budget access, BudgIT functions on the premise that budgets must work for the people. Most emblematic is our project-tracking tool (Tracka), created in 2014. Tracka is now functional in 17 States, and allows Nigerians post pictures of developmental projects in their communities, with BudgIT's project officers aiding citizens offline to communicate with their elected representatives, and demand completion of the government projects in their neighbourhoods.

So far, BudgIT had been able to reach over 750,000 Nigerians via digital and physical spaces, leading online and offline conversations on government finance and public sector efficiency. With over 2,000 unique data requests monthly from private, corporate and development entities/individuals, BudgIT is now widely regarded as a trusted hub for public finance data in Nigeria.

Offline, and on the ground, BudgIT collaborates across the public-private sectors to deliver programs that shore up the capacity of its peers and willing government institutions. Relying on donor funding, we have worked with 23 civil society organizations to revamp their digital outlook, policy analyses and report presentation formats, and are currently experimenting with Nigeria's first Data Journalism platform. Our past, and recent engagements in the public sector include partnerships with the National Assembly, the National Assembly Budget and Research Office, the Budget Office of the Federation and the Kaduna State Government. On request, BudgIT has also provided support to the Nigerian Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), the Ministry of Budget and Planning and the Lagos State Ministry of Budget and Planning.

Simultaneously, BudgIT continues to influence the national agenda on public spending, with its policy papers covering government finance, subnational viability, Open Government schemes, as well as the analyses of anti-corruption and transparency initiatives. As a member of the Civicus Alliance and Open Alliance, BudgIT is also leading the charge to ensure Nigeria's membership of the global Open Government Partnership.

BudgIT, which began as an idea incubated by the co-Creation Hub in Lagos, Nigeria now has additional offices in Sierra Leone, and Ghana.

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Board of Directors

Ms. Ini Onuk - Chairperson, Advisory Board
Mr. Bosun Tijani - Member, Advisory Board
Mr. Tunji Lardner - Member, Advisory Board
Mr. Feyi Fawehinmi - Member, Advisory Board
Ms. Eloho Omame - Member, Advisory Board
Ms Ifeoma Malo - Member, Advisory Board
Mr. Oluseun Onigbinde - Member, Advisory Board
Mr. Joseph Agunbiade - Member, Advisory Board
Ms. Mariam Edun - Secretary, Advisory Board

Staff

Oluseun Onigbinde
Lead Partner

Joseph Agunbiade
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Stanley Achonu
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Creative Analyst

Charles Anusionwu
Services Lead

Ayomide Faleye
Data Analyst

Esohe Osinoiki
Data Analyst

Segun Olaleye
Admin. Officer

Tobiloba Babalola
Receptionist

Doing What We Can

Oluseun Onigbinde

Our work is greatly inspiring, but in turns just as tiring.

When we peer at the horizon to see that once again, what should be a given has turned into an impossible chore for our leaders, we are not excited. As a civic organization determined to break down the shackles of opacity, we see that our work is also in conflict with the interests of a privileged few who (rightly) believe Openness threatens the levers of graft.

Politicians have nurtured a culture of monarchy - an unquestionable system that divides the society into lords and peasants. The sanctity of the social contract, though undersigned by democracy remains threatened, as corruption in its cruelest forms is unleashed, subverting the pace of Nigeria's advancement. A simple FOI request by citizens to demand how State resources are spent is taken as an affront to leadership, and a license for intimidation. It saddens us, but strengthens our resolve to keep fighting and advocating for a wholly transparent society.

Sometimes these flagrant displays of impunity end up in Nigeria's courts, but by and large, our country's justice system remains a creaky locomotive, where the progress of repatriation of stolen funds is often stalled, and citizens denied their entitlement to speedy justice as cases are thrown out, mainly on the grounds of technicalities that only seem to support the privileged. The judiciary has failed to stand up for Nigeria, with relatively poor salaries for practitioners and a range of human foibles conspiring to blunt the bite of the nation's war on corruption. We are yet to have a system that tangibly deters others caught stealing from the public treasury.

Our Legislative arm has by and large remained adept at spending huge sums from the public treasury, but remain less skilled at opening their books to public scrutiny. This situation has unfortunately meant we had a busy year. We

> "We are constantly being bombarded by problems that we face and sometimes we can get completely overwhelmed.
> - Wangari Maathai"

have raised campaigns, lobbied institutions and educated the people offline, tweeted, used social media online with unceasing verve to see a more transparent National Assembly in the short term, and an open government in the medium term.

We remain firmly at the grassroots, working to track community projects, and acting as a buffer between the people and their elected representatives to seek implementation where due.

We continue to honk the budget figures in people's ears, show the perils of inequality, demanded transparency at every turn, and instigate citizens to demand accountability. We have developed a portal to simplify access to civic tools and everyday we interrogate data with design, asking citizens to utilise their esteemed office - the Office of the Citizen - to demand accountability of and from their governments.

BudgIT has provided infographics, visualization, civic technology and data comprehension support to over 750,000 citizens, 35 civil society organizations and also 15 public institutions in West Africa. BudgIT is leading the drive for fiscal transparency and also expanding to the fold of active citizens who demand accountability.

As American journalist and activist Dorothy Day sums it up "No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do."

Therefore, we are committed to constantly refocus our energies and work to save our continent and its peoples, understanding that there is a place for an entity with a multi-dimensional outlook - data and design driven by advocacy.

We see our work as intersecting the space of others - government, civil society, power - to facilitate the building of a better Nigeria. Our scope of work continues to grow, supported by like-minded partners including EiENigeria, the Cleen Foundation and Campaign for Good Governance. Advocacy for the common good is a shifting target, so in this our 4th year, we are well acquainted with the the reality that this is no race, but a marathon.

We therefore press on daily, hoping we can leave this country a better one by working to institute the processes and mindsets that make public resources fairer to everyone.

Because corruption does not relent, neither will we.

Feeds from Social Media

Amazing work, guys. Very helpful to have a reliable source of information and performance indices. Please keep it up.

Like   Comment   Share

Collaborating in the name of Democracy

Stanley Achonu

> "It is that tangible leap from saying "this is the problem" to adding: "and these are the exact steps we could take together to eradicate it" that puts the action in collaboration."
> Stanley Achonu

It is common for civil society organisations and groups campaigning for reforms to identify challenges with government systems and governance processes then suggest possible solutions. This can only bear fruit with governments willing to listen, and collaborate. Increasingly, such campaigns rarely achieve set goals as at when needed, consuming more time and resources in instances where any result is achieved.

So, does collaboration work? Can organisations and people advocating for change work collaboratively with government to achieve desired changes or reforms in line with the wishes of the larger population? I can say it is difficult when reform campaigners and civil society organisations begin trying to work with government, though not an impossible undertaking. The difficulty is in part driven by the fear that the organisations' credibility will be questioned by the very public they serve. There is also a problem if a lack of the capacity required to collaboratively work with government exists, as well as the moot point that governments change, more so with officials in selective posts who are literally changed at the whims of their Principal .

However, the challenges faced by the citizens in all countries where BudgIT operates leaves no room for self-doubt or undue hesitation over these difficulties; we are required not only to speedily identify challenges and articulately suggest solutions, but to roll up our sleeves to put in the manual work towards reforming governments at all levels.

Collaboration, in my experience, works when government institutions are led by reform-conscious officials who will be more receptive when solutions are not merely mooted, but implementation frameworks and partnerships are simultaneously offered. It is that tangible leap from saying "this is the problem" to adding: "these are the exact steps we could take together to eradicate it" that puts the action in collaboration.

This year, BudgIT intentionally chose to broaden its adoption of this approach, working with the Kaduna State Government on Nigeria's first Open Budget platform, with the Nigerian Police Force Intelligence Bureau on intelligence data gathering and analysis, as well as with the Office of the National Security Adviser (in partnership with Public and Private Development Centre as lead) on guidelines for FOI implementation in the security sector and the Nigerian Police Headquarters on a mapping of Police Stations in Lagos.

For organisations looking to use these methods, it is critical to: identify a champion, ambassador or "face" within the government institution clearly looking to implement reforms; prove then communicate your clear and unbiased understanding of the solutions being proffered; evaluate your capacity to carry out the work and find the resources required to implement the ideas. Where capacity is lacking, it is important to find similarly-driven partners who can help. Collaboration is an opportunity to invest your resources, and it is advised that the only gain should be seeing tangible change take root.

Reforming government through collaboration comes with organisational risks and is not - and should never be - an opportunity for financial gain from government. Regarding these risks, care must be taken to ensure that the values of the organisation are not compromised at any stage and the CSO must ensure it remains open about the collaboration at all stages of the project. Carrying the public along will ensure that their questions are answered, doubts cleared and the focus is persistently sharp, giving advocacy and reforms more bite.

It is pertinent to seek donors; avoid the exchange of money, especially between governments and your organisation. This will ensure operational independence to implement relevant

reforms to the best of your ability. Just as important is this: do not overstate what will be achieved. Rather, start with the simplest things to show what is possible, build trust and continue to improve on previous achievements, as project lifespans can be extended.

Funding collaborations with government institutions can be challenging, so early planning during programme design with donors and funding partners is essential. Donors understandably always have ideas about what they want to fund and have restrictions on what their funds can be used for. Therefore, it must be reiterated that CSOs must carefully design programmes in such a way that it will meet Donor conditions and simultaneously assist recipient organisations implement reform.

This approach, of collaboration and working for the people with the right government champion can lead to positive and lasting reforms that outlive government officials. There is an assurance that is established once initial success is achieved. It wins over any individuals initially opposed to the reforms, opens the gate for more to be done, bags you a seat at the table and earns you a reputation as an organisation that gets things done.

If there is one thing I must say, by virtue of having the privilege to be Operations Manager at BudgIT it would be this: with collaboration, it is never about the CSO, but about the people they seek to represent.

Therefore, in the name of democracy there can be no enemies when the goal is reform. If we must name one, then our collective enemy in the struggle for a better life for our fellow citizens should be: institutional opacity.

Spreading Awesomeness

Abiola Sosami

In the words of Pius Adesanmi, Professor at Canada's Carleton University: "Ushahidi and BudgIT are innovations of foresight by young people in Kenya and Nigeria who understand that the future of the continent cannot happen in the absence of a citizenry divorced from civics. BudgIT is also a warning to the African state. The imagination of the youth is unleashed and cannot be stopped. The innovation or invention that will make you accountable to the people is always just around the corner. The innovation that will bring you closer to good governance is always just around the corner."

In the operating year under review, BudgIT was forced to maintain a regional spread of its campaigns largely due to the unfortunate incidence of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). West Africa experienced a devastating EVD outbreak, which rapidly spread across Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, infecting at least 27,000 and killing about 11,300 people in total. Many believed the spread of the virus was mainly due to the mismanagement and embezzlement of funds donated to contain the disease.

BudgIT conducted qualitative research to track the usage of relief funds in the affected countries and our findings revealed each nation battle with the same demons: corruption, a lack of transparency and political will, as well as a dearth in disaster response management and innovation. These forces efficiently hampered developmental progress in general and with respect to the fight against Ebola.

Sierra Leone's Auditor General published an audit report on the management of EVD funds, revealing that at least $5.7 million of the initial $19 million donated was spent without supporting documentation. Similar issues were recorded in Liberia, where donated ambulances were converted for commercial purposes and in Nigeria, there was the case of mismanagement and fraud of N1.9 billion Ebola fund among top health officials in the Ministry.

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>
> Pius Adesanmi

Sustainability, for Broader Impact

Charles Anusionwu

BudgIT has transformed from solely a civic technology organization focused on the Nigerian budget to a leading source on the continent for statistics, empirical analyses and information on government expenditure and public data. We have also become the go-to-organisation for private and public entities who seek the interpretation and delivery of data in easily comprehensible form, accessible across a wide range of literacy capabilities.

The growing need for our work by citizens, CSOs and government institutions forces BudgIT to develop a sustainability framework and therefore, we have set up a business unit that will offer our services to private organizations, individuals and the public.

BudgIT For Business will deliver to clients on a for-profit basis, with resulting revenue less operating costs invested back into our work in BudgIT, the non-profit section. This consolidates our founding goal to move from a civic organisation to a social enterprise.

Based on our current fundraising model, our revenue streams are unpredictable, and remain dependent on the magnanimity of our donors and sponsors. We believe that by generating revenue through our corporate offering of data-related products; we will gradually attain sustainability and not be wholly dependent on grants, whilst maintaining the pace of our advocacy programmes and campaigns. Our team will also have the chance to innovate and become a leading organization in data related services, a move that will ultimately guarantee a consistent impact pattern for the greater good of the democracies we serve.

We are offering data-related services such as, but not limited to: Data Visualization, Creative Document Redesign, Data Science, Big Data Analytics, Social Media Analytics, Predictive Analysis, Data Journalism, Data Research through our Data Hub.

We believe this approach will ensure that by 2018, at least 40% of our revenue will be derived from our corporate offerings, making us less dependent on donors. We are therefore excited to discover what this model holds for the future of BudgIT.

> " Donors interested in transparency need to pay greater attention to supporting such institutions, as well as supporting efforts from civil society on the demand side of good governance, such as yourbudgIT.com, which educates citizens on how the national budget allocates resources "
>
> Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
> Chair, GAVI

Bukola Saraki ⬤ @bukolasaraki · 8 May 2016
During the last election, Nigerians spoke loudly on need for accountability & transparency at all levels. Therefore I support #OpenNASS

1. BudgIT has been at the forefront of the #OpenNASS campaign, with over 15,000 tweets posted by citizens to support the cause. The OpenNASS campaign is to get National Assembly to publish details of its budget. The Senate President, Bukola Saraki promised to do it via its social media page a n d   o t h e r forums.

2. BudgIT worked to ensure completion of projects in 8 local communities. A particular example was engaging the people of Iwoye-Ilogbo on a primary school project located in their community. Our advocacy got a block of five classrooms built for them, and the students have access to better learning.

Watch:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4QRB9sVNSg

3. BudgIT hosted the Post-Election Discussion Series to examine options & possibilities of Government revenue growth. The keynote was presented by the Statistician-General of the Federation and seasoned panelists including The Economist Africa Editor attended the event. Reports were sent to government officials and properly acknowledged.

4. BudgIT unearthed the outrageous spending of N78m (390,000 USD) in building a website for the former Governor of Lagos State, Babatunde Fashola, through review of the state contracts, posted on the Lagos State procurement website. These contracts were removed from the website, and the former Governor responded to the allegations. A non-governmental organization filed a petition to the Economic Financial Crimes Commission.

5. BudgIT published a seminal report on the fiscal status of Nigerian states. This report went viral in the press and public circles on the economic viability of states. The "State of States" has been quoted by leading policy analysts and BudgIT wants to expand the depth and also provide institutional support.

PROJECT REPORTS

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Signing the OpenKaduna Partnership with Kaduna State Government

Access Nigeria-Sierra Leone Project

Project Report

PROJECT: Accountable Governance in Security and Justice (Access Nigeria and Sierra leone)

The Access Nigeria-Sierra Leone Project is improving the effectiveness of government anti-corruption agencies, by enhancing their collaboration with civil society organisations (CSOs) in the fight against corruption, enabling the ability of citizens to succinctly demand accountability in the expenditure of security funding, and ensuring transparency is maintained in the justice and security sectors.

This project primarily utilises a collaborative, bottom-up approach and increased access to data. The guiding principle is that citizen access to reliable information from government institutions will allow the public (CSOs, government agencies, and businesses) to use data to improve the monitoring of public services, effectively tackling corruption and encouraging greater engagement between the government and citizens. It is expected that this will allow for a better understanding of which reforms are most effective in reaching both countries' development goals and catalyze the development of a data economy.

Access Nigeria-Sierra Leone Project

Project Report

Collaboration

The Access Nigeria project (twitter: #AccessNG) focuses on expanding CSO involvement in governance and accountability in the justice and security sectors in Nigeria. In the course of the project, BudgIT has co-hosted workshops with its partner the Public Private Development Centre (PPDC) which covered the Freedom of Information Ranking in security-focused ministries, agencies and departments. The workshop showcased the research by PPDC on responsiveness and the proactive disclosure pattern of 116 security agencies in Nigeria were ranked to enable a wider grasp of pertinent trends in the uptake and deployment of the FOI law in Nigeria..

BudgIT has worked with 17 civil society organisations during the project span on campaigns, workshops and via the provision of technical aid. Some of these include: our collaboration with CLEEN Foundation and Nigeria's Federal Road Safety Corps on an awareness campaign on the drivers' license application process in Abuja, Lagos, Imo, Delta, Oyo, Rivers and Nasarawa States. BudgIT provided communication support on campaigns, designed reports and supported advocacy engagement with government to CLEEN Foundation. To improve CLEEN's social media communication reach, we engaged them in Tweet-meet sessions to push online awareness about their ongoing and planned ground work in the 5 States.

Codeathon

BudgIT hosted 2 Codeathons in Nigeria and Sierra Leone and 1 Datathon in Sierra Leone, starting with pre-codeathon/datathon meetings in Lagos, Abuja and Freetown to gather ideas from policymakers, stakeholders, tech developers, data enthusiasts and the public. The ideas generated formed the basis for the Opengov tools developed

2
Countries
Nigeria and
Sierra Leone

6
Project Partners
P4DC, CLEEN, CGG
Sierra Leone, IWPR,
PPDC, CDD
West Africa

2
Hashtags
#AccessNG #AccessSL

17
CSOs engaged at various
stages of the project

Access Nigeria-Sierra Leone Project

Project Report

for this project. The teams continue to work collaboratively with relevant government agencies towards the full adoption of these tools.

OGP Nigeria

Open Alliance Nigeria was conceptualised and convened by BudgIT to bring together CSOs campaigning for various aspects of Nigeria's Open Government Partnership (OGP) eligibility criteria, to formally join resources and forces together in engaging government on the importance and need to join the global partnership. Open Alliance Nigeria is the collective under which CSOs focused on openness, transparency, inclusive socioeconomic development and efficient service delivery operate and advocate. The alliance began consultation to develop a draft National Action Plan for Nigeria on the OGP Process, the aim was to identify key commitments that will aid good and accountable governance, and enhance priority areas of the government.

Open Alliance Nigeria also organised weekly social media campaigns (#OGPNigeria,) with the active involvement of pundits to curate and explore aspects of the Open Government Partnership needing institutional response. This was done to push awareness and enlightenment about the OGP and the benefits therein for Nigeria, should she expedite the wishes of her citizens and become a member. Founded in 2011, the global Open Government Partnership now has 69 participating countries, and in each one government and civil society are working together to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms.

It is our hope that Nigeria becomes the 70th nation to ascend to OGP status.

13
Government institutions engaged

11
Number of tweet-meets

3m
Impressions on Twitter

1
Cost of Corruption video

5
OpenGov Tools developed

Access Nigeria-Sierra Leone Project

Project Report

OGP Sierra Leone

In Sierra Leone, BudgIT provided technical assistance to A coalition of Civil society organisations in drafting the country's first National Action Plan towards attaining global OGP membership, as well building a platform for Civil society organisations monitoring the OGP commitments made by the Sierra Leonean government. BudgIT also rendered training sessions to the CSOs on how to diplomatically engage government officials.

Institutional Engagement on Justice & Security

The project was anchored on collaborative engagement with government institutions, CSOs and media in Sierra Leone and Nigeria. It involved meetings with senior officials in Nigeria's Ministry of Information and Communication Technology; the EFCC; the Office of the National Security Adviser; ICPC; NAPTIP; the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation and the Nigeria Police Force. In Sierra Leone, the same approach was used to engage with its Judiciary; the Anti-Corruption Commission Sierra Leone; the Office of the National Security Adviser; the Chief Justice of Sierra Leone; the Sierra Leone Police; Sierra Leone Correctional Service, the Sierra Leone Fire Force, the Defence, Finance and Justice ministries; the National Ebola Response Centre and the Bureau for Public Sector Reform.

Infographics

In the course of the project in 2015, BudgIT designed 20 infographics, including some specifically covering Nigeria's budget for its security sector as the country's war on terror continued, to enable citizens ask if the sector was adequately funded. We also held regular Twitter chats on the details of the budget.

700,000+
Number of people reached

20
Infographics Design

22
Datasets collected and released to the public

Access Nigeria-Sierra Leone Project

Project Report

In addition, BudgIT conceptualised and broadcast graphics focused on the drivers' license to create awareness on the official rates for obtaining this license, highlighting the incidences of institutional corruption that comes with the process

Cost of corruption campaign

Addressing the dynamics of corruption and its implication in the lives of citizens, BudgIT, (under the Access Nigeria project) produced a campaign video advocating a wider realisation of the individual and collective impact of corruption, hinged on a tracing of the direct link between blue-collar crime and the livelihood of citizens.

The 2-minute video was widely publicised on social media, websites and popular blogs, attracting emotional stories from people on how corruption has cost many the lives of loved ones, jobs and various other opportunities. Based on the momentum of this campaign, BudgIT aims to augment the Cost of Corruption video with a related series of curated accounts from individual citizens in the nearest future.

" In Nigeria, citizens use BudgIT, a mobile app, to assess whether governments keep their spending promises "

Mark Zuckerberg & Bono, New York Times

BudgIT was honoured at the Open Data Institute Awards, winning the Open Data for Social Impact Category.

#FixOurOil

Project Report

PROJECT: Fix Our Oil Nigeria campaign

For over 40 years the Oil and Gas industry has been the main source of revenue for the Nigerian economy, providing about 75% of the nation's budgetary income. Yet, very few Nigerians understand the workings of this sector, to the detriment of the economy and by extension all Nigerians. This gulf of information is what the #FixOurOil campaign sought to rectify.

Until recently; the operations of the industry were shrouded in darkness, but the new administration of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, headed by Dr. Ibe Kachikwu, has begun releasing reports depicting, in acceptable detail, the individual performance of the various units that make up the NNPC.. This development, while worthy of commendation in the local and global struggle for transparency and accountability, is couched in technical language. This makes it difficult for the ordinary Nigerian to understand; this is where BudgIT comes in. The #FixOurOil campaign assists in alerting the people to all data made available in the public sphere by the government, graphically depicting it with consideration for all literacy levels in order to enable wider comprehension for everyday Nigerians.

Also, regular tweet sessions were held to reach the public and policymakers; we recently engaged with the heads of the NNPC as well as assisting in analysing reports from the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.
To extend the reach to homes, a video was created, to show the relation between inefficiency in the Oil Industry and underdevelopment in Nigeria; it has so far garnered over 3,000 views. Publications have also been printed and circulated, to lessen the level of ignorance and indifference some people may have about the workings of the oil industry and its effect on the economy. . This has been positively reviewed, with encouraging feedback received.

In particular, our document on falling Crude oil prices was intended as formal guide for institutional response.

More information about the extractives campaign by BudgIT can be seen at www.yourbudgit.com/oil.

Budget Access

Project Report

In 2015, we have been able to reach over 1,112,000 Nigerians through newspapers, field visits and town hall meetings; offline we have over 80,000 followers on social media. We sent out approximately 10,000 tweets, curated and distributed at least 10 publications and over 300 budget-related infographics, processing more than 3,000 data requests, and distributing over 70,000 copies of simplified budget documents to citizens across Nigeria, whilst building a budget data repository. We are the largest collector of budget documents for all States, which are mostly not publicly available.

BudgIT's Twitter stream, which had more than 51,000 followers in 2015, is a hive of daily commentary on the Budget by active citizens. It represents the first level of citizen engagement and because Twitter is an immediate medium, this stimulates discussions, articulating in real-time all demands for more transparency, and thereby fostering increased government accountability.

Our strategy centering around creating demographic tailored content out the the bulky budget document for easy understanding and need means we have been able to remarkably influence greater demand for public information, especially government budget data.

We have also been able to leverage on our work in the public sphere to establish contacts with government institutions, particularly those involved in budget preparation and resource allocation. In the course of the financial year BudgIT has met with, and continues to worth with government officials including Nigeria's Minister for Budget and Planning, the Minister of State for Budget and Planning, as well as the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Budget and Planning, the Director of the Budget Office and other top officials, discussing the relevant challenges and probable impact of inefficient resource allocation, whilst offering turn-key solutions (at no cost to government).

In 2015, we have been able to reach over

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80,000

followers on social media.

We sent out approximately

10,000

tweets,

Budget Access
Project Report

We have also extended our impact to the legislative arm of government. Beyond assisting the National Assembly Budget and Research Office with capacity building, we are presently spearheading an advocacy campaign to make the National Assembly budget more open, under the hashtag #OpenNass. With this campaign, we have been able to get a definite commitment from principal officers at the National Assembly - including the Senate President - towards the publishing of a detailed breakdown of the National Assembly's budget showing each programs and project, as opposed to the single line budget item currently represented in the budget document.

Most recently, we compiled and submitted to the National Assembly for action a list of frivolous expenditure embedded in the 2016 budget, as observed by the citizens and BudgIT staff, to augment the earlier production of three publications on the 2015 Proposed and Enacted Budget.

BudgIT's Twitter stream, which had more than **51,000** followers in 2015

10 Curated and distributed at least 10 publications

over **300** budget-related infographics

distributing over **70,000** copies of simplified budget documents to citizens across Nigeria,

BudgIT won Making All Voices Count 2015 Global Innovation Award

Inequality Campaign
Project Report

Even IT Up Nigeria Campaign

BudgIT collaborated with OXFAM on a campaign to empirically explore the scale of inequality in Nigeria. The project had a nationwide focus, as over 65m Nigeria still live in poverty. Digital and offline tools were utilised, to tie in with the Sustainable Development Goals, which has "Reduced Inequalities" as one of its tenets. B, o and these issues are not properly highlighted to the public.

In a design session, BudgIT reviewed OXFAM's Inequality In Nigeria report and developed relevant infographics and concise digital campaign materials that made citizens speedily understand the key issues around inequality and its various socioeconomic manifestations.

A photography session tagged: "SAME NIGERIA, EVEN IT UP" was carried out in some communities in Lagos State, to juxtapose extreme conditions of poverty with high-income areas, which amplified the contextual debates on what exactly are constitutes a more equal society.

To appeal to digitally literate citizens a web platform "http://www.evenitup.com.ng" was hosted, and made use of infographics, interactive applications, storytelling techniques and accounts gleaned offline and from the social media campaign to curate the scale of inequality in Nigeria.

This platform is still maintained.

A one-day stakeholder meeting on Inequality and the role of Civil Society was also held on 8 October 2015, with thirty-three (33) civil society organizations (CSOs) in attendance. The discussions centred on how CSOs can identify and strategise campaigns to combat inequality inherent in multiple taxations, gender, income, education, access to health care and unemployment in Nigeria.

BudgIT has also continued to reach out to citizens through weekly tweet session on Inequality, collaborating in the publication of Opinion articles on the subject - written by seven (7) experts and published on Premium Times.

OXFAM Nigeria/BudgIT project pictures depicting inequality in Nigeria

Project Report

Tracka is a social platform of/for active citizens who are interested in tracking budgets and public projects in their community. Layered on open data and also integrated with existing social media tools, brings people with a common interest in monitoring developmental projects in their neighbourhoods together to share photos, videos, documents and also post comments on existing projects.

In the Edo State 2015 budget, 24 communities were involved and 277 projects were tracked. These include 142 roads, 39 boreholes, 21 schools,1 8 agricultural schemes, 35 rural electrification projects and 5 health centres, including the general hospital in Benin.

Furthermore, town hall meetings were held in 21 communities of the 24 communities mapped out for fieldwork. Citizen participation in these meetings was significant.

Lagos State 114 Roads Tracked by our Officers

Based on our advocacy and consistent engagement through social media, as well as adhoc infographics and letters to various State governments and representatives, 75% of the projects tracked in the 2015 budget that were not implemented have been re-awarded in the 2016 budget. This is a clear indicator that advocacy and civic engagement remain the surest way to ensure progress in the 2016 fiscal year.

In 2015, Tracka also embarked on the mass tracking of 263 bad roads and streets around the Lagos Metropolis by engaging the State government on social media. By October, the Lagos State Government approved the construction of 114 roads; 95% of these were roads tracked by Tracka.

Tracka continues monitoring the work being done on these roads and holds weekly chats to report on the progress (or delay), as witnessed by its project officers who conduct weekly checks on the roads until repair is completed within six months, using the #KnowYourBudget.

More can be found on a short documentary via: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4QRB9sVNSg

Tracka is expanding to 16 States, to engage with more citizens and convert them to agitators for budget performance; we are also launching apps and matching these with intense social media campaigns. Tracka is now scalable to other countries with geo-tagging functionalities, and to keep up wth its progress, please visit tracka.ng

Tracka - Project Tracking
Project Report

BudgIT personnel at a community project engagement in Calabar, Cross River State

" BudgIT, a Lagos-based analysis group, reckons that the states got a bit less than $7 billion between January and September 2015 compared with almost $14 billion over the same period in 2013
The Economist "

Creative Communication Project for CSOs
Project Report

The project was established to enhance the work of Civil Society Organizations with an interest in transparency, accountability, citizen engagement and institutional reform. The primary objective was to eradicate any challenges CSOs experience in the delivery of information and campaigns to their target audience.

At BudgIT, we believe that by complementing the activities of these selected CSOs, our societies and nations stand a greater chance at eradicating citizen apathy and creating a generation that constantly ask questions and are alert to their civic responbilities.

Through support from the MacArthur Foundation, from a total of 72 applications we have successfully provided 17

Civil Society Organizations with personalized support in three thematic areas: Web Outlook, Social media strategies and Report publishing. Three training sessions were held in Lagos and Abuja to train the selected CSOs on improving their presentations, visualizations communication strategies, and techniques. The remaining CSOs were individually given remote support.

CSO Creative Communication Project with support from MacArthur Foundation

Ebola Fund Watch - Tracking Ebola Relief Funds in West Africa

Project Report

The project was established to track the relief funds and materials pledge and/or disbursed to manage the Ebola disease outbreak in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Nigeria. BudgIT worked with support from the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, worked with development partners Ebola Alert, Campaign for Good Governance and the Accountability Lab to deploy fieldworkers to all affected countries..

BudgIT personnel researched and documented first-hand testimonies of key stakeholders - Survivors, Healthcare workers, Caregivers and relevant Public Institutions.

The findings were structured into a report, which was translated into English and French, to inform citizens about the management and distribution of the Ebola relief funds, with a view to motivating them to monitor the implementation of emergency funds in their communities.

We also developed and built an interactive website (www.ebolafundwatch.org) to track and amplify

developments around the emergency funds. This platform was complemented with captivating Infographics to follow the number of people affected by the virus and highlight how much went into each country. These visuals are continuously shared on our various other platforms, to reach a larger audience..

This overriding aim of this project is to encourage Governments to publish received funds, Donors institutions release data on given funds, and the relevant public agencies to incorporate monitoring and evaluation frameworks to guide the disbursement and auditing of subsequent emergency funds.

Consolidated Statement Of Financial Activities (Including Income and Expenditure Account) For The Year ended DEC 2015

	FY 2015* NGN	FY 2015 USD	FY 2014 NGN	FY 2014 USD
Income				
Grants and Project Finances	128,270,666.00	641,353.33	129,202,439.84	783,045.09
Infographics Income	9,778,113.90	48,890.57	2,861,547.50	17,342.71
Other Income	18,759,847.90	93,799.24	10,483,900.00	63,538.79
Interest Income	968,607.30	4,843.04	46,099.90	279.39
Total Incoming resources	157,777,235.10	788,886.18	142,593,987.24	864,205.98
Expenditure				
Personnel Cost, Taxes and Benefits	52,527,953.33	262,639.77	27,542,179.68	166,922.30
Training Cost	250,000.00	1,250.00	968,450.00	5,869.39
Travelling Expenses	14,502,724.72	72,513.62	16,133,987.40	97,781.74
Infographics Expense	380,000.00	1,900.00	35,000.00	212.12
External Consultancy	16,043,600.00	80,218.00	3,120,000.00	18,909.09
Design Consultancy	3,182,600.00	15,913.00	7,940,000.00	7,151.52
IT Related Expenses (TRACKA & BUDGIT)	12,655,118.98	63,275.59	10,395,050.00	63,000.30
External Support	565,000.00	2,825.00	543,400.00	3,293.33
Rent	23,816,456.00	119,082.28	1,625,000.00	9,848.48
Staff Liabilities	6,290,000.00	31,450.00	1,200,000.00	7,272.73
Publications	6,956,000.00	34,780.00	1,853,600.00	11,233.94
Adverts and Promotions	8,458,855.00	42,294.28	6,674,457.00	40,451.25
Event	9,222,140.00	46,110.70	6,069,973.00	36,787.72
Bank Charges	1,690,078.62	8,450.39	522,988.55	3,169.63
Competition/Exhibition	1,012,844.56	5,064.22	50,000.00	303.03
General and Admin. Expenses	9,316,529.58	46,582.65	650,426.35	3,941.98
Total Expenditure	166,869,900.79	834,349.50	85,324,511.98	476,148.56
Net Incoming resources	-9,092,665.69	-45,463.33	57,269,475.26	388,057.43
Opening Balance	73,183,590.61	484,506.61	15,914,115.35	96,449.18
Carry-over funds**	64,090,924.92	439,043.28	73,183,590.61	484,506.61

2015: *1USD=200
2014 1USD=165

*This statement represents a fair position of the organization and the 2015 figures have not been certified by a reputable auditor

° °These funds are carried over into the next fiscal year, and they are tied to projects spanning beyond the current fiscal year. We have the commitment from donors extending the end of our fiscal year, and these funds are carried over to implement projects. As an organization with civic focus, BudgIT is not allowed to keep funds not private gain but solely for implementation of projects and remuneration of personnel involved as agreed with partners

Financial Performance

As at year-end 2015, BudgIT has raised a total revenue of N157.78m - a slight rise, compared to the total revenue of N142.59m for the year 2014. The FY2015 revenue comprises of grants advanced by international donors and as sourced from Infographics design and consultancy (majorly from private organizations, NGOs and International donor organizations).

The fluctuating growth in the current revenue model is stark when compared across quarters; N11.04m in Q1 2015 to N18.20m in Q2 2015 to N29.88m in Q3 2015 and N98.65m in Q4 2015. The marked upward swing was due to support from UNDEF (N16.15m in Q2) and N16.27m from FEPAR, received in Q3 2015.

Revenue in Q4 2015 quadrupled that for Q3 2015 because funds were received from other International donors (Omidyar and Partners For Change).

In 2015, Personnel Costs rose from 27.54m in 2014 to 51.46m . This is as a result of increased staff strength; BudgIT currently has 22 employees and 3 interns, with a monthly wage bill of N4.3m . There is simultaneously a decrease in training cost expenses, precipitated by a reduction in the number of untrained staff. Since inception, this has been BudgIT's biggest expense this year and therefore the organisation is currently exploring possible strategies for purposes of sustainability.

Conversely, travelling expenses have reduced, from N16.14m in 2014 to 14.50m in 2015. Our travelling rates are usually dependent on Donors' budgets and workplans for the year, as these determine the extent of staff travels.

There is a steady increment on Infographics expenses; up from N35,000 in 2014 to N380,000 this year. This is due to increased consultancy needs to assist the design team in delivering excellent quality. Our increased expenses on external consultancy from N3.12m in 2014 to N16.04m in 2015 arose from the additional hiring of consultants for project monitoring across the States.

Our rising spend on technology consulting slightly increased from N10.39m in 2014 to N12.65m in 2015, with a reduction in design consultancy costs, from N7.94m in 2014 to N3.18m in 2015. BudgIT was able to reduce its gross expense in this regard because permanent Technology officers were hired. The major cost in terms of technology upgrade was for Tracka (the project tracking tool) and our website upgrade, which cost N7.52m.

Our rent and operational costs rose from N1,625,000 in 2014 to N23,82m in 2015. We moved into a new office, where a charge of N5.2m was expended on rent, and the remaining expenses of N18.62m on office rehabilitation and maintenance. The current rent has been fully accounted for in the funds provided by donors.

Publication printing expenses rose from N1.85m in 2014 to N6.96m in 2015. This is based on increased printing activities as mandated by Donors' request per budget plan. Adverts and promotions rose from N6.67m in 2014 to N8.46m in 2015. BudgIT's expenses in these areas are bound to remain on the rise, as we are currently planning to focus more on publicity in the 2016 financial year.

Our bank charges remain on an upward trend as withdrawals and expenses are transacted, rising from N522,588 to N1.69m in 2014 to 2015. This increment is due to high rates from our bank. Our intention is to negotiate with a reduction, which prove more realistic for BudgIT and its and Donors.

List of Donors & Partners

A
ACTION AID

B
BATTABOX
BOVAS & COMPANY LTD
BROOKS & BLAKE

C
CO-CREATION HUB LIMITED
CLEEN FOUNDATION
CAMPAIGN FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

E
EIE NIGERIA
EDOREN
EIE NIGERIA

F
FEPAR/DFID
FBI NAIJA
FIRST E&P DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

I
INNOVATION MATTERS LIMITED
INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND REPORTING
IREX

K
KURAMO KNOWLEDGE VENDORS

L
LADY MECHANIC INITIATIVE

M
MACARTHUR FOUNDATION

O
ONE CAMPAIGN UK
OPEN OIL
OPEN KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION
OXFAM
OXFORD POLICY MANAGEMENT LTD
OPEN SOCIETY FOR WEST AFRICA
OMIDYAR NETWORK

P
PRIVATE PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER
PARTNERS FOR DEMOCRACTIC CHANGE
PARTNERSHIP FOR JUSTICE

T
TONY ELUMELU FOUNDATION

U
UNITED NATIONS
US STATE DEPARTMENT (INL)

Understanding What we do!

URBAN
www.yourbudgit.com

Join the fold of citizens asking questions, demanding transparency and accountability and knowledgeable about public finance. BudgIT's key is to make public data a social object and also build an extensive network of active citizens that demand institutional change.

We believe YOU as a citizen in a clear, timely and transparent manner need to know how government revenues are expended in delivery of public infrastructure, meeting debt obligations or funding the recurrent component of the budget.

2015 FG BUDGET SUMMARY

Source: Budget Office of the Federation

GRASSROOTS
www.tracka.ng

tracka

Tracka is a platform that allows citizens to track government project around them. We work in selected Nigerian states to monitor performance of government projects.

CIVIL SOCIETY & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

CREATIVE COMMUNICATION & INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

BudgIT works with over 40 civil society organizations and six public institutions in improving data access and also how to communicate their results better. We believe that we can get quicker results if we have more empowered civil society organizations pushing the issues across different frontiers and also public institutions willing to deepen transparency and accountability.

MEDIA
www.fitila.ng

Fitila

DATA JOURNALISM

BudgIT has a data journalism platform experiments how to use data-driven tools to present stories better. Fitila does explanatory journalism with a mix of tools — infographics, interactive applications, maps and other tools.