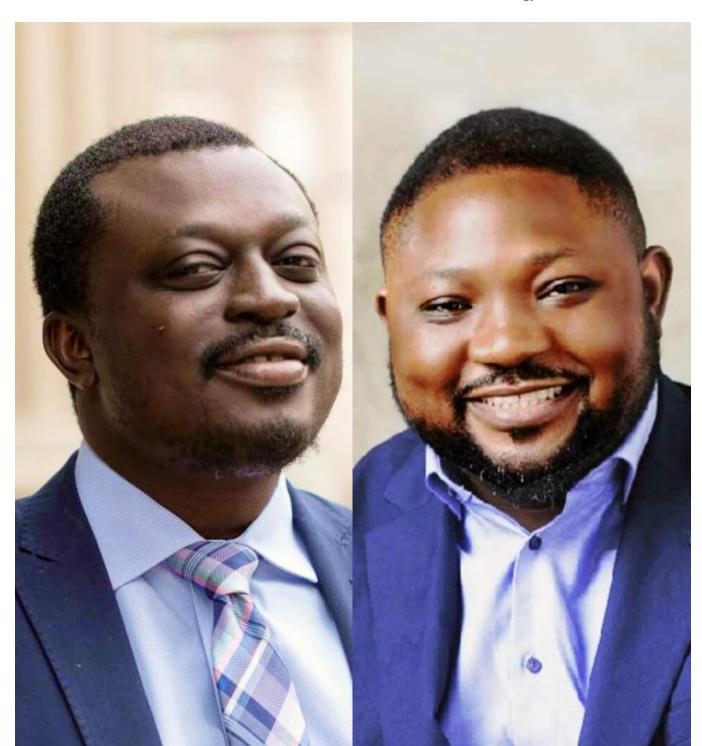




## Our Founders

#### Oluseun Onigbinde Co-Founder/Global Director

#### Joseph Agunbiade Co-Founder/Chief Technology Officer



## BudglT Advisory Board



**Nehemiah Attigah** Board Chair



Nkemdilim Uwaje Begho Advisor



Jamie Drummond
Advisor



**Ayisha Osori** Advisor



**Alexandra Gillies**Advisor



Nelson Olanipekun Advisor



Bukola Oladapo Advisor



Hauwa'u Evelyn Yusuf Advisor



Ashanut Okille

## Navigating Interesting Times



#### **Oluseun Onigbinde**

Global Director

The phrase "May you live in interesting times" has long been debated—purportedly a Chinese curse or perhaps just a loosely phrased English aphorism. Regardless of its origin, it has come to represent a jolt, a reminder that we are navigating an era of unpredictability and deep transformation. Far from a poetic warning, it echoes the current global atmosphere—one marked by heightened uncertainty, fading institutional solidarity, and fractured frameworks that once offered us a foundation for growth and resilience.

Indeed, we are witnessing a dramatic shift in global development architecture. The pillars that have long undergirded the nonprofit and development ecosystem—philanthropy, multilateralism, and international solidarity—are being shaken. USAID, historically a behemoth of global assistance, faced troubling headwinds, with its programming severely constrained by the United States government. This trend is mirrored by similar contractions in aid budgets from countries like the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. These shifts have cast a long shadow over many of our projects—whether in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, or Senegal—leading to halted initiatives, paused ambitions, and the quiet fading of

66

What must our next chapter look like in a world where the familiar pathways are narrowing? What hard decisions must we confront? Amidst all this, we remain deeply grateful for the unwavering support we continue to receive from private philanthropies—many of which are also confronting their uncertainties in the absence of traditional bilateral support.

many promising opportunities.

As we navigate this shifting landscape, we find ourselves in a moment of deep reflection. What must our next chapter look like in a world where the familiar pathways are narrowing? What hard decisions must we confront? Amidst all this, we remain deeply grateful for the unwavering support we continue to receive from private philanthropies—many of which are also confronting their uncertainties in the absence of traditional bilateral support. Their commitment sustains our ability to rethink and retool for what lies ahead.

Despite the prevailing headwinds, the past year has also been marked by resilience, ingenuity, and collective achievement. I remain immensely proud of what we accomplished together. From delivering the Active Citizens Festival—a vibrant celebration of Tracka, arguably Nigeria's most impactful service delivery platform—to our substantive engagement with the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee, our work has remained focused and consequential. We made bold strides in expanding our PHC Tracka initiative and continued to solidify our international presence, even acquiring permanent office spaces in Lagos and Abuja. These milestones speak to our adaptability and commitment to long-term impact.

Looking forward, we are excited to chart new territory with the launch of our dedicated "Al and Data for Society" unit. Our sixth programmatic unit aims to harness the power of machine learning and data intelligence to provide real-time, transparent, and accessible information about public financial management and has kicked off with Bimi (www.bimi.budgit.org). In partnership with

platforms like Kwerty, we envision a future where civic innovation scales across Africa, supported by intelligent systems trained to enhance accountability and citizen engagement.

Internally, we recognise that our people remain our greatest asset. Through targeted retention strategies, ongoing development opportunities, and a supportive rewards system, we are building a workplace that values growth and well-being. Yet, we acknowledge the challenges of sustaining talent in a competitive ecosystem, especially one where our culture of openness naturally amplifies the visibility—and desirability—of our staff. Balancing this with sustainable compensation remains a critical focus.

As we approach the end of our current strategy cycle in 2026, we are entering a period of strategic introspection for the next 4-year cycle. We will revisit our governance structures, leadership models, programmatic focus, and international ambitions. This is not just an operational review but a philosophical one. Are we structured to endure? Should we? What is the natural lifespan of an entity like ours—and how do we know when to transform, evolve, or even conclude?

These questions are not born out of despair but courage, shifting power and foresight. We remain committed to making the thoughtful, necessary decisions that will enable us to evaluate our mission. To all our partners, supporters, and colleagues who believe in this vision—thank you. We move forward, not just to survive "interesting times" but to shape them.

Phighinde

## CD's Desk



#### **Gabriel Okeowo**

Country Director

2024 was a defining epoch in Nigeria's democratic evolution—an inflection point marked by post-election transitions, economic turbulence, and an ever-expanding tide of public demand for accountability. As inflation surged and economic realities intensified, it became imperative to intensify our efforts in promoting fiscal transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance. We redoubled our commitment to narrowing the widening divide between the government and its citizens. We began the year with the State of States Series, a monthly civic engagement platform devised to mitigate the impact of economic shocks by making public finance at the subnational level accessible and intelligible to the general populace. By facilitating direct dialogue between citizens and State Commissioners of Finance, we provided an invaluable conduit for transparency and accountability, thus fostering an atmosphere of informed civic participation.

In our ceaseless drive to harness the power of technology for the public good, we embraced the transformative capabilities of artificial intelligence, 66

As inflation surged and economic realities intensified, it became imperative to intensify our efforts in promoting fiscal transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance. We redoubled our commitment to narrowing the widening divide between the government and its citizens.

introducing BIMI—our first civic-tech AI chatbot. Designed with precision, BIMI democratises access to critical public finance data, simplifying complex governance paradigms and rendering them comprehensible to the broader citizenry. In doing so, we reimagined how the governed engage with their government, empowering them with the tools for meaningful participation.

Tracka, BudgIT's service delivery arm, reached a monumental milestone in 2024—celebrating its 10th anniversary through the Active Citizens Festival. This commemoration marked a decade of empowering Nigerians with the knowledge and tools to hold their leaders accountable. The festival celebrated civic engagement, bringing together grassroots activists, thought leaders, and citizens who have championed transparency and accountability across Nigeria's diverse communities. Healthcare, as a central pillar of our service delivery framework, remained an unwavering priority. Through our PHC Accountability Tracka (PAT) initiative and sustained community-led advocacy efforts, we amplified the voices of local actors to demand equitable healthcare delivery.

Our flagship research publication, The State of States Report, maintained its preeminent position as a critical resource for fiscal analysis, offering a meticulous and comprehensive examination of

Nigeria's fiscal landscape. Our efforts in sustainable resource governance and climate action bore fruit through impactful collaborations with organisations like Publish What You Pay (PWYP), the Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), and Oxfam. Our contributions included reports such as the African Declaration on Climate Change, a Simplified Guide to Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan, and a gendered climate change impact study in Delta State, all of which demonstrated our unwavering commitment to addressing the nexus of climate change, gender inequality, and resource governance.

Amidst all these, we remain resolute in our strategic focus, deepening our partnerships with our funding partners, allies, and beneficiaries. We also fortified our internal ethos of continuous professional development, ensuring that our team had access to transformative learning opportunities through partial and full sponsorships, strengthening our capacity to drive change.

As we look to the year ahead, we are resolute in our dedication to furthering democratic accountability, advancing civic participation, and ensuring that public resources serve the interests of all.

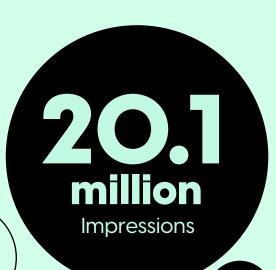


#### Our Impact Numbers



53,200,000

Radio Reach



132
Media
Appearance

899,465

**Followers** 



76 Policy Briefs

1,084 Media Mentions







Consultation Documents



Tech Product







Country Presence









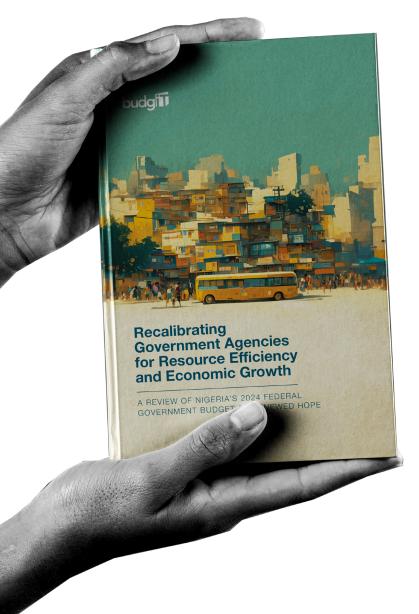






- 1.Launch of the State of States 2024 report
  2. Minister of Budget and Planning, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu launching the 2023 Joinbodi Report
  3. 2024 BudgIT Management retreat
  4. Stakeholders at the 2023 Joinbodi Report launch
  5. BudgIT and EiE at the Active Citizens Festival
  6. 2024 BudgIT staff retreat

#### Budget Access & Fiscal Governance



In 2024, the Research and Policy Advisory Unit built on previous initiatives to advance fiscal transparency and evidence-based policymaking. With support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the team conducted an in-depth analysis of the 2024 federal government budget, producing a comprehensive report, policy memo, and eye-catching infographics scrutinising budget 'padding' claims and legislative insertions by the National Assembly. This work clarified fiscal allocations and promoted calls for accountability in public spending.

Collaborating with the Strengthening Health Systems team, we contributed to primary healthcare accountability and analysed human capital development initiatives. Our research also played a key role in Nigeria's Open Budget Survey 2023 participation. The survey report, launched in May 2024, was supported by a robust dissemination plan featuring panel discussions and extensive social media engagement, ensuring our findings reached a broad audience. The launch of the Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Catalyst Fund Project marked another milestone. Aimed at mobilising local organisations to advance the National WEE Policy, this initiative saw us simplify and visualise the

policy into accessible formats. We produced a concise pamphlet outlining its key points and developed five audio-visual explainer videos—in English, Pidgin, Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba—to effectively communicate the policy's strategic goals and identify existing gaps.

Our department strengthened its

programmatic support by providing cross-cutting analytical insights to various organisational teams. Engaging with donor partners, multilateral agencies, media, state actors, academia, and citizens further reinforced our role as a strategic actor in Nigeria's civil society landscape.



Several flagship events underscored our other achievements. The 2024 State of States Report, themed "Moving Healthcare Delivery from Sub-Optimality to Optimality," assessed Primary Health Centres (PHCs) across all 36 states. The report highlighted challenges with infrastructure, equipment, staffing, and basic amenities through primary data collection, offering practical insights for improving PHC functionality. At the 2024 National Accountability Summit held at the Yar'Adua Center, our breakout session, "Economic Reform for Sustained Inclusive Growth – Why Accountability Matters," emphasised the necessity of strong institutions to enforce transparency and curb corruption. Esteemed panellists discussed the critical reforms needed for effective governance and accountability. During the 2024 West African Civil Society Week in Abuja, our "Technology and

Socio-Economic Accountability" session examined how digital tools transform fiscal transparency and public service delivery while addressing challenges such as digital exclusion and privacy concerns. Finally, the 2024 Womanity Index Report launch in Nigeria—aligned with research methodologies developed for Ghana and Senegal—involved extensive stakeholder engagement and rigorous analysis. This initiative furthered our commitment to gender-sensitive policy evaluation.

The Research and Policy Advisory
Department's 2024 activities advanced fiscal
transparency and civic engagement through
rigorous research, innovative and creative
communications, and strategic stakeholder
partnerships. These efforts reached over 1.5
million citizens and reinforced the foundation
for a more accountable governance
landscape.















- BudgIT State of States, 2024 Research and Editorial Team
   BudgIT team on a courtesy visit to the Minister of Budget Office, Abubakar Atiku Bagudu
   PLSI National Accountability Summit, 2024 Panel Session Moderated by Vahyala Kwaga (Head, OGIP)
   BudgIT State of States, 2024 BudgIT Abuja and Lagos Staff
   S 2024 Womanity Index Launch
   West Africa Civil Society Week 2024
   Group picture at the Womanity Index launch

#### Tracka - Our Service Delivery Promotion

In 2024, BudgIT reinforced its commitment to bridging the gap between citizens and the government through strategic advocacy, community engagement, and civic technology tools. Our interventions led to direct social impact, improved service delivery, and strengthened accountability in governance.

Throughout the year, we tracked 1,404 capital projects across 25 states, ensuring transparency and effectively utilising allocated funds. Our team profiled 195 Primary Health Centres in 13 states, assessing their operational status and advocating for necessary improvements. We facilitated 344 community meetings, reaching 18,705 people across 25 states, and issued 1,466 Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and institutional engagement letters to demand transparency and accountability. Through our interventions, we recorded 53 social impact projects that significantly transformed their respective communities, resulting in a remarkable cost-saving of 178 billion -63.12 % of the 282 billion allocated for projects in 2024. Some of the most notable interventions included healthcare advocacy in Ikeh Bassa, a community in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) that had suffered from

inadequate healthcare for over 50 years. In education, our advocacy efforts restored Irepodun High School in Erin Oke, Oriade LGA, Osun State, bringing it back to its former glory. In infrastructure, the Mutum Biyu community in Gassol, Taraba State, finally received a much-needed transformer after our intervention, addressing long-standing power challenges.

We also leveraged social media as a powerful advocacy tool, achieving significant engagement and reach. Our platforms recorded 12.2 million impressions with a 13.1% engagement rate. We garnered 60.6K interactions. 6.6K link clicks, 483.8K media views, and 100.8K video views. Additionally, we recorded 126.1K likes, 53.1K reposts, 3.9K bookmarks, and 2.1K shares. With 33.3K profile visits and 12.6K new followers, our total followership across all platforms now stands at 169.5 K. A significant milestone in 2024 was Tracka's 10th-anniversary celebration, which was marked by the Active Citizens Festival in September. Themed "A Decade of Connecting the People to the Government," the festival attracted over 2,000 young participants, engaging them in educational, interactive, and

## 2024 Year Wrapped

#### tracka

Overview of Projects Tracked



Total projects tracked

with an allocation of

1,404 / N282bn

Milestones Achieved

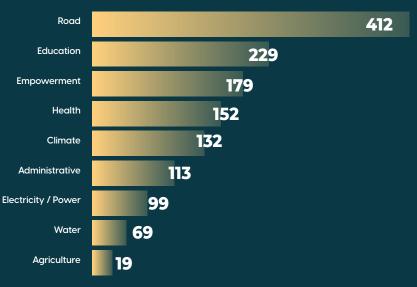
344

Townhall Meetings done

18,075

Direct Reach (persons)









entertaining sessions. Many attendees were exposed to BudgIT's civic tech tools for the first time, furthering our civic engagement and accountability mission.

We conducted two major research studies in 2024. The first focused on palliative distribution across the country, assessing the distribution of relief materials in response to Nigeria's economic challenges and providing the government with data-driven recommendations. The second research study examined Nigeria's primary education state, advocating for increased government investment in elementary education and emphasising its foundational importance. We also produced three investigative documentaries highlighting key governance and infrastructure issues. The first, focusing on the Nkari Dam in Akwa Ibom State, exposed decades of allocations without tangible development. The second, centred on Odo Ona Primary School in Oyo State, showcased the transformation of a previously burnt and dilapidated school. The third documentary, covering Saki Jiki Health Centre in Katsina State, revealed the dire conditions of a bat-infested facility, which was later rehabilitated after our intervention. Our community champions initiative witnessed significant growth, with 3,677

active members engaging in advocacy. Our new community engagement handles gained 330 new followers and generated over 500K impressions. We conducted seven training sessions and onboarded 1,309 new champions, strengthening grassroots civic engagement.

In 2024, we secured five key partnerships to enhance our advocacy work. Two collaborations were established with civil society organisations: Headfort, which focuses on social justice and primary education advocacy, and Hope for the Masses, which specialises in local government advocacy. Additionally, we formed three institutional partnerships and signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to escalate accountability measures. Furthermore, we partnered with the Gombe State Government under the Eye on the Project initiative to improve transparency in project execution. As we move into 2025, we aim to deepen our partnerships, amplify our reach, and continue to empower Nigerians to demand accountability from their government.













- 1. Cheques presentation to the essay winners of BudgIT's maiden Active Citizen Festival
  2. Town hall meeting with residents of Igando Ikotun LCDA, Lagos State.
  3. Group picture of Tracka team with the Covenant (CIMUN) Student.
  4. Town hall meeting with Kwali residents, FCT.
  5. An engaging session during with the CIMUN students of Covenant.
  6. Group picture of influencer Enioluwa, BudgIT's Country Director, Global Director, and the ACF planning committee.

# Institutions & Partnerships



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The Open Government and Institutional Partnership (OGIP) continued its work with the subnational governments by providing technical support for fiscal transparency, citizen budgeting, data visualization, and data analysis, which aims to improve the capacities of public institutions to deliver results for citizens. This team advanced transparency and civic engagement by publishing the States' Fiscal Transparency League table with in-depth insights and routinely auditing and updating documents on the Open States website. We ensured the timely upload of Federal Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) data from January to December 2024 on www.me.budgit.org, facilitating improved fiscal tracking and analysis. Monthly fiscal trend assessments and an eight-year FAAC study for Kogi State were conducted using BudgIT's Al data collection, further enhancing our analytical capabilities.

During the period under review, our team established strategic partnerships with the Delta and Ebonyi State governments to analyse their 2024 citizens' budgets. We enhanced the clarity and presentation of budget information to ensure citizens understood state priorities. We also collaborated with Abia State to develop a training program for its Ministry of Budget and Planning, bolstering government capacity.

A significant highlight was the Partners for

Democracy Day event, which reinforced civic engagement. Our contributions to the Federal Government Budget Sectoral Analysis and daily updates on GovSpend data underscored our commitment to transparency. The GovSpend Media Fellowship/Closeout Ceremony, followed by protests in which we participated, calling for the release of illegally detained Foundation for Investigative Journalism reporter Daniel Ojukwu, further highlighted our impact.



Our online platform, me.budgit.org, experienced notable growth in user engagement and increased subscriptions to the Open Alliance Newsletter. Through strategic media outreach, we reached over 60,000 citizens with civic education on FAAC, thereby activating the influence of the Open Alliance and other civil society coalitions in advancing Open Government Partnership initiatives. We also distributed

a survey on improvements that were needed to the Alliance.

Beyond state-level analysis, we reviewed the 2024 budgets of all 36 states, providing valuable insights into sectoral expenditures to promote public tracking and dialogue. We also conducted a timely review of the Federal Government's Open Treasury portal to ensure the availability of daily payment transactions for extraction to the GovSpend backend portal. We analysed key data pieces frequently referenced by major news agencies.

Our analysis extended to the budgets of Kano, Enugu, Bauchi, and the Federal Government, focusing on allocations in the education, health, and women sectors, particularly for programs aimed at reducing child marriage. The Child and Youth Protection Foundation utilised the fiscal data and infographics produced.

Furthermore, we conducted a policy analysis of the Nigerian Supreme Court's landmark judgment mandating direct payment of Local Government FAAC allocations. The resulting Policy Brief, "Money has Finally Changed Hands: The Implications of Financial Autonomy for Local Government in Nigeria," was prepared for

the Minister of Budget and Planning. We also contributed to a presentation on local government reforms at a Reflection Roundtable hosted by Yiaga Africa.

Our activities included desk research, analysing H1 2024 and H2 2023 Budget Implementation Reports for subnational governments, and coordinating the 2024 Freedom of Information (FOI) ranking among 250 federal agencies. This involved uploading FOI responses to the new FOI dashboard and participating as panellists at the FOI report unveiling.

Finally, we launched the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (Phase II) SIPAC Project across FCT, Anambra, Adamawa, Kano, and Lagos, organising key stakeholder meetings and formally launching the project with federal anti-corruption officials.



Project Launch of the Rule of Law & Anti-Corruption (Phase II) Strengthening Institutional Partnerships for Anti-Corruption and Service Delivery project at the Musa Yar'Adua Centre













- 1. Stakeholder visit by the BudglT RoLAC-SIPAC Project officials and the Kano State Head of Service, Alhaji Abdullahi Musa
  2. Stakeholder visit by the BudglT RoLAC-SIPAC Project officials and Senior officials of the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission
  3. Inception Meeting by the BudglT RoLAC-SIPAC Project officials and Senior officials of the Kano State Anti-Corruption and Public Complaints Commission
  4. Inception Meeting by the BudglT RoLAC-SIPAC Project officials and the Head of Service Anambra State Barr. (Mrs. Theodora Igwebe), and officials of the Anambra State Anti-Corruption Secretariat
- 5. (with Mr Gabriel Okeowo- BudgIT's Country Director Nigeria in the middle, flanked by Barr. Victor Muruako of the Fiscal Responsibility Commission on the left and Mr Dasuki Arabi of the Bureau of Public Service Reform): Project Launch of the Rule of Law & Anti-Corruption (Phase II) Strengthening Institutional Partnerships for Anti-Corruption and Service Delivery project at the Musa Yar'Adua Centre
- 6. Inception Meeting by the BudgIT RoLAC-SIPAC Project officials and the Head of Service Anambra State Barr. (Mrs. Theodora Igwebe), and officials of the Anambra State Anti-Corruption Secretariat



The Natural Resource and Climate
Governance Department is committed to
promoting sustainable resource
management and addressing climate
challenges. Our focus encompasses
prudent resource use, climate finance, just
and inclusive energy transition, and effective
governance to mitigate environmental
impact.

Working with partners, including Publish What You Pay (PWYP) and the Natural

Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), we conducted key research with recommendations on how the country can navigate this critical transition phase to clean energy while sustainably utilising natural resources. These include the African Declaration on Climate Change, simplified in an easily understandable format to promote engagement among all stakeholders, including citizens, governments, investors, civil society, and development partners; The Impact of



Climate Change on Women in Delta State; the Simplified Guidebook on Nigeria's Energy Transition and Strengthening Subnational Fiscal Resilience to Minimize the Impact of the Energy Transition.

With support from PWYP, through its social bonds project—a program delivered across several countries that aims to promote the inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable groups in decision-making and various levels—we brought together policymakers, civil society actors and the media in a

roundtable to discuss pathways to ensure climate budgeting in Nigeria is representative of the needs of its citizens especially those in marginalised communities. We also tracked 106 federal government-funded projects worth N8.5 billion across five states in five geopolitical regions—Bauchi for North East, Ebonyi in the South East, FCT in North Central, Kebbi in North West and Lagos for South West—to assess them for sustainability, value and effectiveness. We presented the findings and the community needs assessment results at the roundtable.



Town hall meeting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom

In collaboration with the Natural Resource and Climate Governance and Policy Alert, we researched and engaged with policymakers, community leaders, civil society, and the media in Akwa Ibom state on the importance and urgency of subnational fiscal resilience in preparing for the energy transition. Some key results from our engagements include the complete automation of revenue

collection by the state authorities and commitments by stakeholders to audit the state investments for efficiency and profitability.

With support from Oxfam and PWYP, BudgIT also conducted training to equip civil society organisations, journalists, and media practitioners. The training covered key topics such as energy transition, beneficial ownership, contract transparency, effective engagement, and advocacy. The capacity-building workshops benefited seventy-one journalists, media practitioners, and civil society representatives.

Furthermore, through direct community engagements, more than 400 men and women were sensitised on issues including Nigeria's energy transition and effective resource governance through community engagements and town halls in eight different communities across four states in the Niger Delta region—Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, and Rivers. In addition, radio campaigns in Abuja, Lagos, and surrounding towns expanded this reach to over 20 million listeners.

BudgIT was also a major player in regional and global events, including the Future

Energy Conference in Accra, Ghana; the Africa Climate Forum in Abuja, Nigeria; and COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. These events contributed to key issues, including climate finance, just energy transition, and energy and climate justice.

The Natural Resource and Climate
Governance Department has significantly
promoted sustainability and climate
resilience. With four publications, two
Twitter Spaces, four blog posts, six events,
and eight town halls, we engaged key
stakeholders and empowered
communities. We remain committed to
driving transparency, accountability, and
inclusive energy transition.



Policy Dialogue on strengthening subnational fiscal resilience; Uyo, Akwa Ibom













- 1.L-R: Dr Salisu Dahiru, former DG National Council on Climate Change; Enebi Opaluwa, Head, Natural Resources and Climate Governance, BudglT and Dr. Segun Adaju, CEO Consistent Energy Limited.
  2. Participants and the PWYP capacity building workshop held in Abuja on the September 10, 2024
  3. Press conference on the inclusion of national oil companies in global energy transition plans and commitments. 3rd from the left: Enebi Opaluwa, Head, Natural Resources and Climate Governance, BudgIT
  4. Cross section of participants at the stakeholders roundtable on climate budgeting, June 11, 2024
- 5.L-R: Olumide Idowu, Co-founder & CEO of the International Climate Change Development Initiative; Alice Arogbolo, Research Analyst, BudgIT; Enebi Opaluwa, Head, Natural Resources and Climate Governance, BudgIT.
  6. Data Journalism Training; Calabar, Cross River

## Africa Civic Innovation





CivicHive delegates at a courtsey visit to the Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy.

In 2024, through our innovative arm, CivicHive, we made significant progress in advancing our mission to empower young individuals and civic entities through civic-tech solutions, creativity, and youth-driven innovation. Central to this effort are our flagship programs: the Student Unions Leadership Fellowship (SULF), Creative Change Makers Fellowship (CCMF), CivicHive Civic-Tech Fellowship (CHF), and Learning with CivicHive (LWCH). These initiatives have successfully built

capacity among participants, equipping them with the skills and tools needed to address governance and social challenges.

CivicHive has also utilised platforms like X-space and social media to engage young people, fostering their ability to drive governance outcomes through talent and expertise. The organisation maintains strong ties with fellowship alumni, providing ongoing technical support to

help them scale their initiatives.

Additionally, its co-working hub in Lagos,
Nigeria, serves as a vibrant space for
collaboration, partnership-building, and
value-driven discussions, hosting
high-profile events on democracy,
elections, technology, and governance in
partnership with key stakeholders.

We strengthened our role in the civic-tech ecosystem by conducting critical research on Nigeria and Africa's civic-tech landscape. These studies highlight the sector's impact, lessons learned, and growth opportunities while promoting partnerships across the continent. We are particularly excited about leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) to scale and enhance civic-tech solutions.

A new report highlighting the state of civic tech solutions in West Africa will be launched and released in 2025. In the same year, we will offer accelerator support opportunities to carefully selected civic-tech entities in the subregion, particularly those from countries facing challenges related to democratic rule reversals. This initiative aims to help them refine their tech solutions to achieve desired outcomes, even amidst growing civic space limitations.

In elections, we expanded our observation and live results initiatives beyond Nigeria's general and off-cycle elections, including collaborating with BudgIT Foundation on Ghana's 2024 Presidential elections. These election reports are increasingly recognised as valuable tools for electoral reform advocacy, dispute resolution, and academic research, offering insights into Nigeria's electoral history and fostering public awareness.

Through these efforts, we drove innovation, collaboration, and youth-led change in civic tech, solidifying our impact across Nigeria and Africa.



Regional Hackathon for the Civic Tech Fellowship 2024.









- Stakeholders at the launch of the Civic Tech Landscape in Nigeria' Report .jpeg
   Civic-Hive at the 2024 Ghana Presidential Election
   Civic-Hive team at the Civic Tech Landscape in Nigeria' Report launch
   Civic-Hive Observing the Ondo Governorship Election

#### Telling Our Stories





2024 Screening of BudgIT's Documentaries

2024 was the year we unlocked new levels in storytelling—refining our craft, experimenting with fresh formats, and embracing narratives that genuinely resonated with Nigerians. We didn't just tell stories; we brought them to life, breaking down complex governance issues into bite-sized, relatable insights that made even the most technical policies feel like gist you'd want to share.

We understood that information alone wasn't enough. To capture hearts and minds, we needed to package it in ways that hit home. That's why we went all in on short, sharp, engaging videos. Whether

through reels, animations, documentaries, or satirical skits, we made governance conversations accessible and entertaining. Campaigns like The Budget is a Mess, Active Citizens Festival, and the State of States Report Launch weren't just about throwing numbers around; they sparked real conversations on budget transparency and fiscal accountability. We were intentional about our language—using words that Nigerians could relate to, stirring dialogue, and inspiring action.

The wave pointed towards visual storytelling, and we caught it early. That's

how Civic Bants was born—a dedicated video series under the BudgIT podcast. We wanted to bring governance discussions out of dry reports and into engaging, high-quality video content that made sense to everyday Nigerians. We also realised that humour is a powerful tool, so we created skits that simplified complex policy issues. These weren't just funny videos; they were crafted to make people laugh, reflect, and, most importantly, act.

The numbers proved that we were on the right track. In 2024, our digital footprint grew exponentially, hitting 19.3 million impressions with an engagement rate of 23.9 %—a strong sign that people weren't just scrolling past but actively engaging with our content. Our content amassed 983.8K media views and 357.6K video views, showcasing the power of dynamic storytelling. The #BudgetisaMess campaign alone crossed 1 million impressions, proving that Nigerians care deeply about managing public funds.

Beyond the numbers, the impact was real. Conversations moved from social media into real-life discussions. People started asking more questions, demanding transparency, and holding public officials accountable. That, ultimately, is why we tell these stories—not just to inform but to empower.

But this is just the beginning. We're not stopping here. As we move forward, we are committed to pushing the boundaries of storytelling in civic engagement. We will continue to explore new formats, test creative ideas, and refine our approach to ensure that governance issues remain at the top of Nigerians' minds.

Every video, post, and campaign serves a purpose—to inform, engage, and inspire action. BudgIT's story is one of transformation, and in 2024, we took it to new heights. The work continues.



Budget is a Mess Video









- 1.Civic Hive Team at the Active Citizens Festival
   2.Counntry Director and some guests at the Active Citizens Award dinner.
   3.Stakeholders at the State of States 2024 Report Launch 2
   4.Senior Communications Associate and Digital Designer at the NRCG Journalism Training.

## Our Landmark Creativity



In 2024, BudgIT leveraged cutting-edge technology, data-driven insights, and compelling storytelling to reshape civic engagement and advance government transparency across Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and the United States. Our efforts empowered citizens with the tools and knowledge to hold governments accountable, reinforcing our commitment to open governance and fiscal responsibility.

A key highlight of the year was the Joinbodi Cohort Civil Society Dialogue and Fair, which brought together diverse civil society organisations to showcase their impact on governance, advocacy, and community development. The event underscored the power of unity in driving progress, fostering collaboration, and sharing innovative solutions that promote effective governance.

BudgIT also celebrated excellence in the healthcare sector through the PHC Facility and Workers Award Ceremonies, recognising the dedication and resilience of primary healthcare workers and community-driven initiatives. This event reinforced the importance of frontline healthcare professionals and showcased how collective efforts can transform healthcare delivery across Nigeria.

One of our flagship events of the year was the launch of the State of States report. which provided a groundbreaking analysis of governance, fiscal sustainability, and state-level accountability across Nigeria. The 2024 edition assessed states based on their ability to generate revenue, manage debt, and ensure efficient public expenditure, sparking nationwide conversations on financial prudence and governance effectiveness. The report became a critical reference point for policymakers, civil society organisations, and citizens, leading to high-level engagements with state governments on improving fiscal responsibility.

Another significant milestone was Tracka's 10th anniversary, marked by the Active Citizens Festival, which energised youth



participation in governance. Expanding our footprint, we established a permanent Abuja office, solidifying our presence in Nigeria's policy and governance landscape. Additionally, we released an

engaging video simplifying new tax reforms, sparking nationwide conversations on fiscal policies and their impact on citizens.









1.Hosts of the 2023 Joinbodi Cohort 2. Stakeholders launching the 2023 Joinbodi report
 3. SCEAP PHC Workers Award Ceremony 4. BudgIT staff presenting an award to a recipient of the PHC facility and workers award ceremony



# International Programs















- BudgIT Liberia's parternship with NCSCL on CSOs advocacy with the Global Director of BudgIT Oluseun Onigbinde
   BudgIT at the preview of the International Budget Partnership's New Strategy
   BudgIT's International Growth Lead giving a presentation at the preview of the IBP's New Strategy
   Womanity Index group discussion in Senegal
   S. Civic education engagement with locals of the Haatso Bohye-Narhman community
   MFDP Advisory board meeting in Liberia
   Hewlett project on Promoting community leadership and citizen participation in Senegal and Ghana





Tracka Training Workshop for Project Officers, Regional Tracking Officers & Community Champions

In a year defined by heightened political activity and persistent economic uncertainty, BudgIT Ghana remained unwavering in its mission to deepen democratic engagement, promote fiscal transparency, and catalyse active citizenship. Our efforts in 2024 positioned the organisation as a pivotal actor in the governance ecosystem, strengthening both citizen voice and institutional accountability.

In October, we launched Tracka, Budgit Ghana's service delivery arm, marking a significant step forward in community-led accountability. Designed to empower citizens to monitor the implementation of government-funded projects nationwide, Tracka directly engaged 188 community stakeholders and mobilised over 3,151 online participants. These interactions unearthed critical governance lapses and triggered responsive advocacy actions. Further reinforcing our grassroots mobilisation efforts, the Active Citizenship 101 series offered tailored civic education to diverse audiences, equipping individuals with the tools to demand accountability and participate meaningfully in governance processes.

As Ghana approached a pivotal general election, BudgIT Ghana was instrumental

in ensuring transparency and countering electoral misinformation. Through the Roadmap to Elections 2024 campaign, we leveraged radio broadcasts, X (formerly Twitter) Spaces, and compelling infographics and video content to reach over 250,000 citizens nationwide. To support real-time electoral integrity, we trained and deployed 90 election observers, who provided live incident reports and data-driven analysis, bolstering public trust and reinforcing democratic norms.

budg UNDERSTANDING THE RIGHTS AND **RESPONSIBILITIES OF** A GHANAIAN CITIZEN IN GOVERNANCE.

Our Youth Participatory Forum (YPF) expanded its footprint to four universities, training over 120 emerging leaders in governance, advocacy, and digital citizenship. Through a blend of workshops, policy summits, and digital outreach, we engaged more than 1,000 youth, nurturing a new generation of civic actors committed to transparency and reform. Complementing this initiative were five civic education forums that empowered 175 community members with foundational knowledge of governance systems and participatory rights, cultivating local champions of accountability.

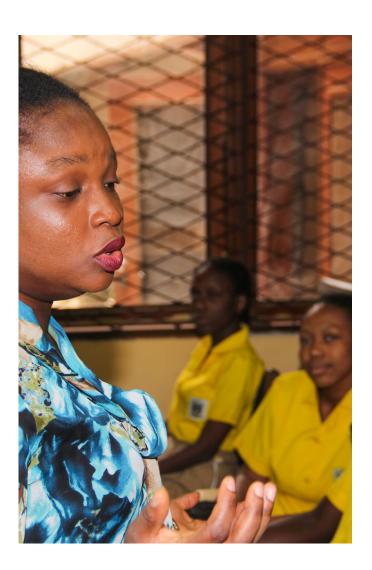
To ensure public finance data is accessible and actionable, we produced over 300 simplified budget booklets, infographics, and explainer videos. Our Community Budget Access Forums directly reached 280 citizens, while our radio programming engaged an additional 50,000 Ghanaians. A notable milestone was the successful archiving of the 2024 Simplified National Budget in Ghana's Parliamentary Library—an achievement that affirms our commitment to institutional transparency and historical documentation.

In pursuit of systemic change, BudgIT Ghana participated in 25 high-level policy and institutional dialogues. We

Civic education engagement with locals of the Haatso Bohye-Narhman community



Official Tracka Ghana launch in Accra with key stakeholders and partners



advanced strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, including the Parliament of Ghana, the Ministry of Finance, and leading civil society organisations. Our media partnerships with Channel One TV, Asaase Radio, and Adom TV further amplified our advocacy, ensuring that transparency and accountability narratives reached millions across the country.

As we reflect on a year of impactful interventions, we reaffirm our commitment to promoting a transparent, inclusive, and accountable governance culture. For 2025, we will build upon this momentum, expanding civic engagement programs, consolidating institutional partnerships, and driving policy reforms that uphold the rights and voices of all Ghanaians.

Budget literacy & civic education engagement with students at the Preset Senior High School, in the Atomic-Madina community.





Budget Club in Senegal

In a politically turbulent year marked by a contentious presidential transition, widespread civil unrest, and escalating concerns about human rights, BudgIT Senegal emerged as a vital pillar in the fight for democratic resilience, fiscal transparency, and inclusive governance. Our 2024 interventions not only protected democratic norms but also laid critical groundwork for citizen engagement in national and climate-related financial discourse.

Amid efforts to delay the presidential elections, BudgIT Senegal played a key role as a founding member of the Ar Sunu

Election platform—a coalition of civic actors that galvanised public demand for electoral integrity. Through coordinated advocacy, the platform effectively countered attempts to postpone the 2024 polls, safeguarding democratic continuity and reaffirming citizens' rights to free and fair elections.

In continuation of our youth engagement strategy, we launched the second edition of the Youth Budget Club, bringing together 50 university students and youth representatives for intensive learning and dialogue on fiscal governance. This increased our active membership base to

187 individuals, fostering a new generation of budget-literate young leaders dedicated to accountable governance.

To promote transparency and inclusivity in public finance, BudgIT Senegal produced a comprehensive 154-page simplified budget document and a Citizens' Budget. Thoughtfully designed with creative visuals, these materials effectively break down complex budget information, making it accessible to a broader demographic, including students,



activists, and local leaders. A total of 350 printed copies were disseminated through community forums and university engagements, while digital versions were widely shared via social media and BudglT's website.

To further expand access, particularly among women and rural communities, we developed two 5-minute interactive videos that explain the 2024 national budget in both Wolof and French, reaching over 20,000 individuals online.

BudgIT Senegal strengthened its collaboration with key media platforms, including West Africa Democracy Radio, SeneNews, Afia FM, and Seneweb, to produce biweekly and monthly radio segments focused on budget transparency and citizen engagement. These shows provided an open forum for real-time feedback, elevating citizen voices and public discourse on national priorities. Also, the introduction of SENBUDGET, a monthly webinar series, created a dynamic virtual space for expert-led conversations on budget allocations, public project implementation, and climate finance. The sessions drew 50 online participants and birthed a thriving WhatsApp community of 157 members, now a hub for ongoing dialogue and civic mobilisation around the national budget.

Recognising the urgent need for climate-responsive governance, BudgIT Senegal strategically shifted focus in 2024 to include climate change and energy transition in its programming. Through emerging partnerships, we have begun shaping a framework to monitor and enhance accountability in climate



Budget Club in Senegal

finance management, ensuring that funds earmarked for sustainability are used effectively and equitably.

As BudgIT Senegal reflects on a year of intense civic challenges and bold interventions, our commitment to a transparent, inclusive, and climate-conscious governance landscape remains resolute. In the year ahead, we aim to scale citizen engagement, deepen institutional partnerships, and solidify our position as a thought leader in fiscal and environmental accountability across francophone West Africa.



### Sierra Leone



Accountability through Dialogue: BudglT and Audit Service Sierra Leone host Stakeholder Engagement in Western Area Rural

In 2024, BudgIT Sierra Leone emerged as a vital force in the intersection of civic education, fiscal transparency, and grassroots mobilisation. Against the backdrop of growing demand for accountable governance, our approach focused on bridging the gap between policy and people, connecting communities to public finance discourse, amplifying citizen voices, and fostering institutional collaboration across all levels of governance. Through a deliberate mix of strategic engagements, multimedia platforms, and community outreach, we strengthened our

presence in Sierra Leone's civic space and positioned citizens as essential stakeholders in the budgeting process.

Traditional media, mainly Radio, remained a key medium for our outreach strategy. We hosted over 28 radio engagements across prominent stations, including Epic Radio, Radio Democracy, Citizen Radio, Culture Radio, True Tok Radio, Pekin Radio, Radio Bankasoka, and SLBC. These sessions provided timely and accessible insights into the 2024 national budget, dissecting key themes such as

the wage bill, debt transparency, and public expenditure. Through this platform, thousands of Sierra Leoneans gained critical knowledge on how national resources are managed and why their voices matter in fiscal decisions.

In collaboration with the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), we launched the report titled "Strengthening Partnerships for Equity and Accountability," which examined the socio-political dimensions of COVID-19 vaccine uptake, public hesitancy, and



systemic challenges in Sierra Leone's health governance. To democratise access to budget information, we unveiled a simplified version of the 2024 National Budget and collaborated with the District Budget Oversight Committees in Moyamba, Tonkolili, Bombali, and Bo to facilitate town hall meetings in remote communities such as Kamakwie (Karene District) and Pujehun (Southern Province). These forums bridged the knowledge gap on budget literacy, public expenditure, and citizens' roles in the national budgeting process.

Recognising the importance of youth in democratic sustainability, we launched the BudgIT Youth Clubs at Fourah Bay College and Milton Margai Technical University. This project empowered over 120 students to become informed, active participants in the national dialogue on budgeting and governance. We also engaged a broad spectrum of institutions, including the Audit Service, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, SLANGO, NaCCED, NRA, Parliament, MOH, WASH-Net, GOAL, UNDP, and others. These high-level engagements addressed thematic priorities, including gender-responsive budgeting, debt transparency, health system reform, public finance management, and the intersections between water, sanitation, and public health.

For 2024, we issued seven press releases that highlighted irregularities in public financial management and demanded greater transparency in governance.



Meetings to disseminate 2024 budget in Portloko District, North-West of Sierra Leone

As we reflect, we reaffirm our commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance. In anticipation of what lies ahead, we aim to expand our youth and media programming, strengthen sub-national collaborations, and scale

climate finance advocacy, ensuring that every citizen, from the capital to the most remote district, has the tools and knowledge to hold government to account.



OSIWA Report Launch

## Liberia 🕌



BudgIT Liberia's parternship with NCSCL on CSOs advocacy Training

In 2024, BudgIT Liberia reaffirmed its commitment to promoting fiscal transparency, democratic accountability, and inclusive public participation in Liberia's governance processes. The year was marked by a pivotal moment in the nation's democratic evolution, as His Excellency Joseph N. Boakai, Sr., of the Unity Party, assumed office following a peaceful transition from former President George M. Weah—Liberia's third democratic handover since the end of the civil war. Against this backdrop, BudgIT Liberia, a member of the Fiscal Transparency Advisory Board, intensified its engagement with government institutions, civil society organisations, and

development partners to advance a more open and participatory fiscal landscape.

At the core of our 2024 efforts was the Budget Access Program, through which we conducted a detailed analysis of the 2024 National Budget. For the first time, we were invited to participate in the public budget hearings, a landmark achievement that signaled greater institutional openness to civic engagement in fiscal policymaking.

We also hosted Liberia's inaugural post-war National Youth Dialogue on the national budget, bringing together over 40

emerging youth leaders to deliberate on fiscal priorities. Similarly, in Margibi, Grand Bassa, and Bong counties, we convened stakeholder forums aligned with the government's ARREST Agenda—a central policy framework aimed at national recovery and reform. These dialogues were instrumental in decentralising public discussions around budget priorities and enhancing citizen ownership of national economic strategies.

The 'BudgIT Hour' radio program became a staple in Liberia's media space,

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delivering civic education and fiscal updates to thousands of listeners. Through this platform, we challenged prevailing budget opacity by unpacking the national fiscal plan, drawing attention to excessive recurrent spending on political offices, and triggering national conversations on reallocating resources toward critical sectors like healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

In 2024, we reinforced institutional partnerships with key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Finance, Liberia Legislative Budget Office, and the Independent Information Commission. These engagements were instrumental in promoting access to information, fiscal openness, and accountability in line with Liberia's commitment to good governance. A notable innovation in 2024 was the launch of the Governance Clinic—a deliberative civic forum that serves as an incubator for evidence-based policy dialogue and civic leadership development. It reinforces our long-term strategy of building democratic infrastructure rooted in transparency and inclusive governance.

As part of our commitment to natural resource governance and climate justice, we successfully implemented a UNDP-supported agroforestry initiative in Bomi County, distributing 50,000 cocoa seedlings and facilitating life-skills training for local farming communities. The initiative aligned climate resilience with economic empowerment, advancing Liberia's environmental sustainability goals while enhancing rural livelihoods.

To improve operational excellence and scale impact, we invested significantly in internal capacity building. Staff underwent



Stakeholder engagement meeting at the Liberia legislative budget office (LBO)

professional development in project management, radio production, and strategic communications. These investments have strengthened our ability to curate impactful programming and sustain engagement across diverse platforms.

For sustainability, we are laying the groundwork for financial resilience, having submitted several proposals in pursuit of a USD 250,000 annual fundraising goal. The launch of our LinkedIn page has already expanded our digital footprint and positioned us to attract new global partnerships and donor interest. As we chart our path into 2025 and beyond, we remain steadfast in our resolve, to catalyse informed citizenry, institutional accountability, and equitable public finance for all.



Signing MOU with StarZ university



# People and Talent Management

As usual, it was another eventful year for the Humans of BudgIT. Many notable achievements were made, including the completion of personal development plans by individual staff members and multiple celebrations.

A general staff retreat was held at Inagbe Resort, and a first-ever management retreat was held at Lakowe Resort. Both events were successful and achieved their aims. Our highlight for the year was childbirths, including a set of twins, birthdays, weddings, and our signature Active Citizens Awards, which were held in conjunction with the Tracka at 10 festival. The event was beautifully executed, and the turnout was massive. In addition, the organisation recorded a remarkable feat in 2024 with the acquisition of two corporate offices in Lagos and Abuja, Nigeria.



Group picture taken at Staff Retreat held at Inagbe Resort



Group Picture from the OMT training anchored by Ms. Dolygene Anyona from Kenya

### **Retention and Recruitment**

We continued to thrive in retaining and attracting the best talent. Various incentives, including the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) and pay review, were rolled out within the year to help staff navigate the current economic situation. As is our practice, we also recorded two staff promotion cycles following two appraisal periods (the first and second half of the year).

### **Organisational Learning**

In line with the adage, 'Learning never stops. When you stop learning, you start dying,' BudgIT encouraged learning through full and partial sponsorship. The staff was introduced to various online self-paced learning platforms, which they have used. Some Staff acquired additional academic certificates (master's degrees), while some gained admission to their Doctorate programs.

Additionally, consultants conducted two external assessments to evaluate the organisation's current standing, future direction, desired goals, and strategies for achieving them.

#### **Total Rewards**

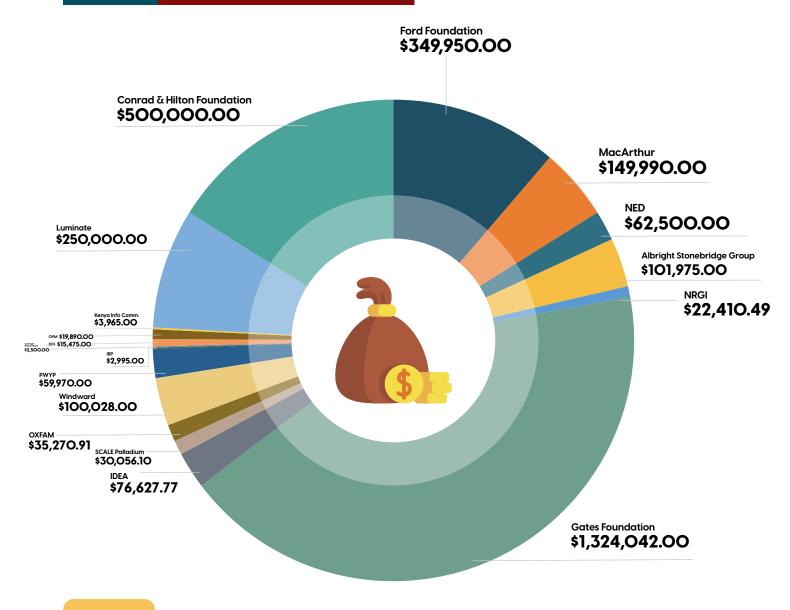
In response to the inflated prices of goods and services, BudgIT conducted a salary review to improve its staff's standard of living. We also reduced the number of on-site work days and increased the number of remote work days. All regulatory obligations, including the Grouplife policy, were duly met.

#### **Annual Break**

To rest from the year's work and rejuvenate for the coming year, the BudgIT humans went on their annual offsite vacation on December 13, 2024, and resumed fully onsite on January 13, 2025.

# 2024 Financial Report Overview

### Inflow 2O24: \* USD=N115O



### **SUMMARY**

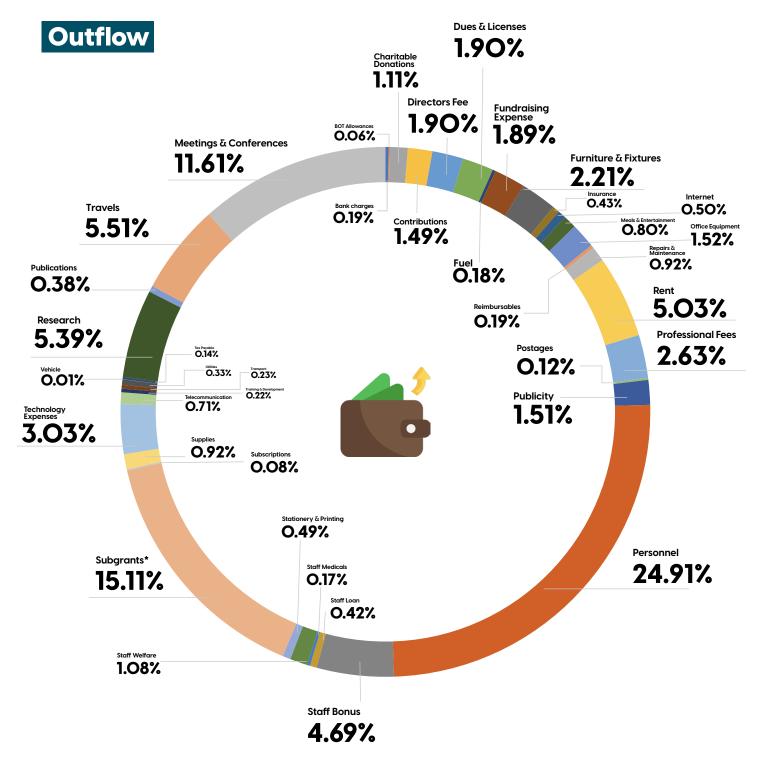
Inflow	\$3,107,645.27
Outflow**	\$1,320,840.51
Deferred Funds	\$1,074,042.00
Restricted Reserve	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)*	\$712,762.75

\*This includes deferred \$1,074,042 grant received in December 2024. \$500,000 from Conrad and Hilton Foundation & \$574,042 from Bill & Melinda Gate Foundation.

Out of the \$500,000 from Conrad & Hilton, \$200,000 is due as subgrants to Connected Development & \$50,000 to Oxlade Consulting. Also, \$149,975 out of the FORD funds was due as sub-grants to Invictus Africa.

\*\*Exact amount for Outflows are still subject to external audits.





### \*Subgrant Recipients

The Dune Newspaper, Budgit Ghana, Budgit Sierra Leone, Budgit Liberia, Budgit Senegal, Oxlade Consulting, Connected Development (CODE) Invictus Africa, Roadmap for Women and Youth Development, Global Promoters for Community Initiatives, Knightingale Women Health Initiative, Baye Child Foundation, African Youths for Peace Development and Empowerment Foundation, FOCEI, Rural Health Accountability Poject (RAHP), Center for Childcare and Human Development., Forum for the Promotion of Gender Equity and Moral Values, Young Evolving And Smart Concepts, Initiative for social development in Africa (iSODAF), WOWICAN, Health Awareness Campaign Movement, Family Health Advocates In Nigeria Initiative, FOMWAN, Elshaddai Rural Health and Development Foundation, Association of Positve Youth Living with HIV/AIDS, Diocesan Health Initiative (DHI), TOFEDAM Care Initiative, GAYA Youth Awareness Association

### Global Management Team





Oluseun Onigbinde
Co-Founder/Global Director

Joseph Agunbiade
Co-Founder/Chief Technology Officer



Gabriel Okeowo
Country Director, Nigeria



Joseph Amenaghawon
Strategy and Growth Advisor / Lead, CivicHive



Abiola Sosanmi International Growth Lead



Elhadj Amadou Samb Country Lead, Senegal



Jennifer Moffatt Country Lead, Ghana



Brima Sessay Country Lead, Sierra Leone



Abraham Varney
Country Lead, Liberia



Ijeoma Chukwuma
Lead. People and Performance



Vahyala Kwaga Group Lead, Research and Policy Advisory/OGIP



Funmilayo Adeseolu

Ad. Lead. Finance and Administration



Enebi Opaluwa
Lead, Natural Resource and Climate
Governance



Biobele Davidson
Lead, Strengthening Health System



Oladayo Olufowose Lead, Media, Communications and Creatives



Joshua Osiyemi



Oluwatosin Iseniyi Lead. Al and Data for Society



Oluwasegun Ige Lead, Tech

# bumi x budgfii Bimi is here!

### What can I help with?

