

Q1 
Program
Report

Executive Summary

During the first quarter of 2026, BudgIT Foundation implemented a range of strategic activities across its programme areas, including Research, NRCG, Tracka, Strengthening Health Systems (SHS), Open Government and Institutional Partnerships (OGIP) and the AI & Data Unit, to advance fiscal transparency, citizen engagement and inclusive governance.

Across the quarter, the organisation recorded significant outputs, including tracking 640 public projects, implementing 63 town hall and sensitisation meetings, engaging 107 community champions and facilitating 54 media and CSO engagements. In addition, over 100,000 datasets were restructured to strengthen BudgIT's data architecture.

A major highlight of the quarter was the Open Data Day 2026 event, which convened over 60 participants, alongside the continued advancement of health systems strengthening initiatives, including PHC tracking across multiple states and engagement with national-level reforms such as the Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Reduction Innovation Initiative (MAMII).

While progress was recorded across programme areas, challenges related to resource constraints, stakeholder responsiveness and funding expectations from partners were observed. Mitigation strategies, including stakeholder engagement and strengthening internal systems, were adopted.

Notably, in line with the two global themes for this year's International Women's Day, "*Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls,*" and "*Give to Gain*", women across programme teams (Research, NRCG and Tracka) collaboratively facilitated targeted capacity-building initiatives to strengthen women's understanding of budget processes and policy engagement.

In Q2, BudgIT will focus on scaling community engagements, strengthening data-driven advocacy, expanding PHC tracking and deepening institutional partnerships.

Key Activities Implemented

Within the Research unit, the organisation produced and disseminated several policy-relevant outputs, including a National Assembly memo, a Malala policy memo and analyses of both the proposed national budget and the health budget. These outputs were designed to inform advocacy, guide stakeholder engagement and contribute to evidence-based discussions on public finance and service delivery.

Through the NRCG platform, BudgIT continued to engage civil society actors, government stakeholders, and citizens in conversations around governance and accountability. These engagements strengthened capacity and fostered collaboration among key actors in the civic space.

The Open Government and Institutional Partnerships (OGIP) Unit played a role in advancing BudgIT's governance and policy influence agenda. Through sustained engagement with government institutions, development partners and civic actors, the unit helped deepen collaboration around open government principles, transparency reforms and institutional accountability. A major highlight was the progress made with the Public Entities Transparency Bill 2025,

which successfully passed its first reading at the National Assembly. The bill seeks to mandate ministries, departments and agencies, as well as government-owned enterprises, to publish their financial statements on their websites, making this information more accessible to citizens.

Tracka activities remained central to field-level implementation. The successful launch of the Tracka report set the tone for continued engagement across communities. Over the quarter, 640 public projects were tracked, including many climate-related interventions. Town hall meetings provided a platform for dialogue between citizens and public officials, while advocacy letters were used to formally engage authorities on project status and service delivery issues. Community champions were trained and onboarded to sustain these efforts at the grassroots level, ensuring continued monitoring and accountability.

Within the Strengthening Health Systems programme, BudgIT deepened its work in tracking health sector performance. The organisation assessed implementation across 200 facilities and conducted

Key Activities Implemented



broader analysis covering over 5,000 primary health centres. Engagement with the Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Reduction Innovation Initiative marked an important step in aligning with national priorities, with pilot activities initiated in Kaduna State. Additional efforts included the development of a health financing tracker, capacity-building training for key stakeholders and ongoing engagement with partners, such as the Gates Foundation, to refine programme frameworks.

The AI and Data Unit made significant progress in strengthening internal systems and expanding the use of technology across the organisation. The restructuring and standardisation of over 100,000 datasets laid the foundation for improved data

management. The unit also hosted Open Data Day 2026, convening stakeholders for meaningful discussions on data governance and civic trust. The introduction of the AI Clinic programme further supported internal teams by identifying practical tools to enhance productivity and innovation.

In celebration of International Women's Day, a collaborative initiative led by women across programme teams focused on building women's capacity in areas such as budget literacy and civic engagement. This initiative reinforced Budget's commitment to inclusive participation and gender-responsive programming.

Results and Achievement

The activities implemented during the quarter translated into measurable outputs and meaningful outcomes. Hundreds of projects were successfully tracked, multiple stakeholder engagements were conducted and several policy and data products were developed and disseminated.

Beyond these outputs, the organisation observed increased citizen awareness and participation in governance processes, particularly in relation to budget tracking and community-level accountability.

Engagement between citizens and government actors improved across several locations, while internal advancements in data systems enhanced the organisation's ability to generate insights and support decision-making.

Disaggregated beneficiary data will be incorporated upon final validation to provide a clearer picture of reach across gender, youth and persons with disabilities.



Success and Impact

One of the most notable outcomes of the quarter was the strengthened role of community champions in driving accountability.

In several communities, trained individuals took ownership of project monitoring efforts and engaged directly with local authorities to demand updates and action.

These efforts contributed to improved responsiveness from duty bearers and renewed attention to previously stalled or underperforming projects.

This reflects BudgIT's broader impact in empowering citizens with the knowledge and tools needed to actively participate in governance and influence service delivery outcomes.



Challenges, Success and Impact

During the quarter, the organisation encountered a number of challenges that required strategic responses.

Increasing requests from external stakeholders for financial support placed pressure on available resources, particularly in situations where partnerships were expected to include funding components.

In response, the organisation prioritised engagements based on strategic value and clarified the scope of its support.

In addition, delayed responses from some state-level stakeholders affected the pace of programme expansion, particularly within the PHC adoption initiative. This was addressed through sustained follow-up and continuous engagement.



Lessons Learned

The experiences from Q1 reinforced the importance of managing stakeholder expectations, particularly in relation to funding and partnership dynamics.

It also highlighted the value of data-driven advocacy in strengthening credibility and influencing decision-making.

Furthermore, the role of community champions proved essential in sustaining programme impact at the grassroots level.

These lessons will inform programme design and implementation in subsequent quarters.



Next Steps

Building on the progress achieved in Q1, Budget will focus on expanding community engagement efforts, particularly through Tracka activities across additional states.

There will be a continued emphasis on strengthening health systems tracking and supporting national reform initiatives.

The organisation will also deepen the integration of data and technology across programme areas, while enhancing stakeholder engagement and advocacy efforts.

Improved systems for tracking beneficiary data and programme outcomes will be prioritised to strengthen reporting and learning.



Thank You

