

# Quarterly **Reflection Note**

Q1 2026

The first quarter of 2026 offered an important opportunity to reflect on how our work is contributing to BudgIT's broader strategic goals.

Across programme areas, a clear pattern has emerged: our strength lies in combining grassroots engagement, evidence-based advocacy and data-driven innovation to reinforce our identity as both a civic actor and a knowledge institution.





One of the most significant reflections from this quarter is how effectively our community-level interventions are aligning with our strategy to deepen citizen participation in governance.

Through Tracka, the consistent engagement of community champions and the tracking of public projects have continued to bridge the gap between citizens and government.

What stands out is not just the number of activities carried out, but the growing sense of ownership among community members.

Citizens are no longer passive recipients of information; they are becoming active participants in demanding accountability.

This directly supports our strategic goal of strengthening civic agency and fostering sustainable accountability mechanisms at the grassroots level.



## Strengthening Health Systems



At the same time, our work within the Strengthening Health Systems programme highlights how BudgIT is evolving from advocacy into more sector-specific influence.

By engaging with initiatives such as the Maternal and Neonatal Mortality Reduction Innovation Initiative and expanding tracking across primary health centres, we are positioning ourselves within critical national conversations on service delivery.

This reflects a deliberate strategic shift from tracking budgets to influencing outcomes in key sectors.

The lesson here is clear: when our interventions align with national priorities, our relevance and impact deepen significantly.

## **Research**

Our research outputs and policy memos further reinforce our role as a credible voice in public finance and governance.

The ability to generate timely, relevant analysis strengthens our advocacy and ensures that our engagements are backed by evidence.

More importantly, it allows us to speak with authority to both citizens and policymakers, which is central to our strategy of shaping public discourse and influencing decision-making.





## AI & Data



The work of the AI and Data Unit this quarter also signals an important evolution in how we operate.

By restructuring large volumes of data and introducing tools that improve internal efficiency, we are strengthening the backbone of our organisation.

This is not just an operational improvement; it is a strategic investment in becoming a more data-driven institution.

The introduction of the AI Clinic programme is particularly noteworthy, as it demonstrates a shift toward embedding innovation within everyday workflows.

This aligns strongly with our long-term vision of leveraging technology to scale impact and improve programme delivery.



## Key Reflection



Another key reflection from Q1 is the growing importance of visibility in amplifying our work. Engagements such as Open Data Day, media appearances and the production of public-facing content have helped position BudgIT as a thought leader in governance, data and civic technology.

Visibility is no longer just an added benefit of our work; it is becoming a strategic tool in its own right. When our work is visible, it attracts partnerships, strengthens credibility and extends our influence beyond immediate programme locations.

However, this also highlights the need for a more intentional approach to storytelling, ensuring the impact of our work is consistently documented and communicated in ways that resonate with diverse audiences.



Overall, Q1 demonstrates that BudgIT's strategy is not only well defined but also actively being translated into practice across multiple levels.

From grassroots engagement to national policy influence and from data innovation to public visibility, our work is reinforcing a coherent strategic direction.

The key, moving forward will be to maintain this alignment while strengthening coordination across programme areas, improving the measurement of outcomes and ensuring that our visibility efforts consistently reflect the depth of our impact.

**As we move into the next quarter, the focus will be on consolidating these gains, scaling what is working and refining areas that require greater clarity or structure.**



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