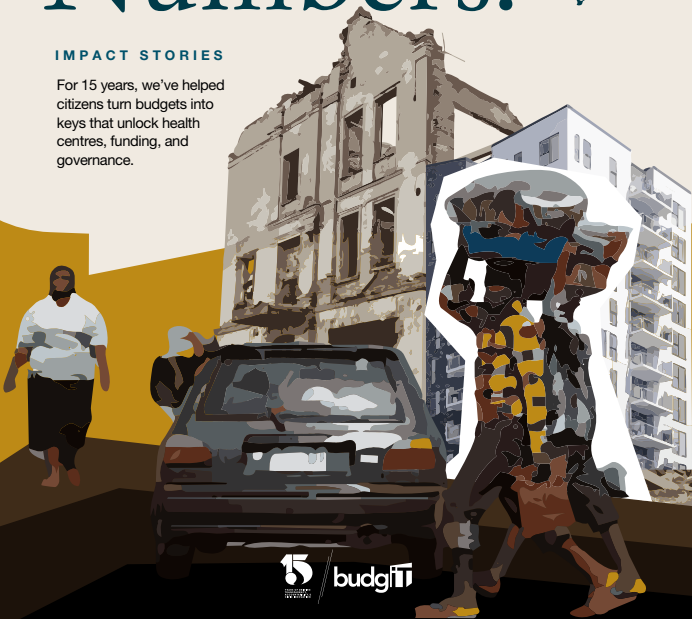


Budget *are not just* Numbers.

IMPACT STORIES

For 15 years, we've helped citizens turn budgets into keys that unlock health centres, funding, and governance.



budget

The Lifesaver of Akarabata

There was a time when the health centre in Akarabata, Osun State, was a building people avoided.

The walls were cracked. The roof was damaged. Windows were broken. Parts of the floor had worn away. At night, it was a haven for hoodlums.

Yet, this collapsing structure was the only healthcare facility available to more than 7,000 people living in Akarabata and its neighbouring communities.

Residents had raised concerns about the facility before but their complaints barely got any attention. In fact, On official government dashboard the same facility was listed as “revitalised”.

Then Tracka began monitoring projects in the community.

In March 2026, residents documented the condition of the building and made a video showing what they were living with. Tracka helped take their story beyond the community, and the media picked it up.

By May, the old structure had been demolished. Construction of a new health centre started, with a borehole, toilets, electricity and other improvements.

It is not open yet. And Tracka is still following the project.

But for Chief Fatoye and the people around him, something has already changed.

"This intervention is a lifesaver for this community and the neighbouring ones."

Chief Fatoye

Community Leader, Akarabata, Modakeke, Ife Central LGA, Osun State

The health centre was finished. But the doors stayed locked

For years, a medical emergency in Ambasi, Nasarawa State, meant traveling several agonizing kilometers to Garaku. Pregnant women, children, and the elderly made the journey regularly, even though a physical healthcare building sat right in their own backyard.

Construction of the building started in 2012. It got roofed, then abandoned. It was eventually completed and commissioned in 2023. But the doors stayed locked. It had no equipment, no furniture, and no staff. It was a ghost clinic.

Tracka refused to let it stay that way. Bringing community leaders and the Kokona LGA Chairman to the same table, Tracka sparked two years of relentless advocacy. In 2025, the keys finally turned. Equipment arrived. Doctors and nurses were deployed.

Today, the facility serves more than 5,000 people in Ambasi and 12 neighbouring communities.

" We witnessed years of waiting and disappointment, but through consistent follow-up and advocacy, the healthcare centre is now functioning and serving our people."

Aliyu Y. Mataba

Youth Leader, Ambasi, Kokona LGA, Nasarawa State

Citizens spoke up but never got heard

Matthew had spent years working with community organisations in Niger State and had seen how difficult it was for their contributions to be captured in budgets and developmental decisions.

Even when the government and communities sat across the same table, nothing changed. Civil society groups would be invited. Citizens would be given a microphone. People would speak. Then the meeting would end and the conversations along with it.

The cycle repeated many times.

Until the Strengthening Community Engagement and Accountability for Primary Healthcare Project (SCEAP) kicked off. Through SCEAP, Matthew began working with community organisations around primary healthcare and helping them engage government institutions more directly.

On August 20, 2026, residents and community organisations from Bosso, Chanchaga, Munya, Shiroro, Rafi and Paikoro gathered at a townhall to discuss the 2027 Niger State budget.

Using BudgIT's Citizen Budget, they could see and understand what the state planned to spend. That understanding made them start asking the right questions. They also identified the needs and priorities of the community and sat with government representatives to discuss it.

For Matthew, this was part of a gradual change. Community organisations were no longer being treated only as critics. They were becoming part of the discussion about what the government should do.

Matthew Oladele

Programme Director, Initiative for Social Development in Africa, Minna, Niger State

She learned to follow the money

Olaide understood that public budgets mattered before she joined BudgIT's State Fiscal Transparency League Fellowship.

What she did not yet know was how much a budget could tell her.

The fellowship taught her to look past the figures in a budget and follow what happened after the money was approved. In Kwara State, she began working through Budget Implementation Reports, looking at what the government said it had received and spent, which projects were being implemented and what evidence existed beyond the figures on the page.

A project showing little or no expenditure was not a reason to point fingers.

Olaide started asking better questions. Had a contractor been appointed? Had the money been released? Where was the project? What could prove that the work had been done?

Her approach to civic work changed.

Now, as Executive Director of TruORGANIC Initiative, she wants to help citizens and community volunteers acquire the same skills so they can read public financial information, verify projects and ask better questions.

There is one question she now carries into her work.

"What did citizens receive for the money that was budgeted?"

Olaide Olawuwu

SFTL Fellow, Ilorin, Kwara State

Budget Literacy as Preventive Medicine

On the frontlines of public health in Kebbi State, Joy watched patients suffer because essential medicines and diagnostic tools were constantly missing. Every time she asked why, the answer was always a vague, sweeping excuse: “funds are unavailable.”

Joy understood the cost of the shortages but she didn't know where or how to begin tracing the root cause. When she got selected as a State Fiscal Transparency League (SFTL) fellow, she picked up knowledge and tools that helped.

Through BudgIT's open-data tools and training, Joy learned to read state budgets and Budget Implementation Reports, follow quarterly spending, distinguish capital expenditure from recurrent spending and examine procurement timelines.

Health funding was no longer just a figure in a document. It became something that could be followed.

And Joy is taking that knowledge further.

She was able to secure funding through the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund, for a project that will teach other young people how to find budget documents, understand budget lines and track implementation. The project will also advocate for a citizens budget in Argungu, Kebbi State.

"Before being trained by BudgetT, addressing medicine shortages felt like fighting a shadow as everyone blamed funding with no clear ownership. Being part of SFTL has taught me that budget literacy is preventive medicine that should be taken by all citizens. And when citizens can understand budget documents every naira can be tracked from treasury to physical impact."

Joy Bathram

Supply Chain Pharmacist (SFTL Fellow), Argungu, Kebbi

He started by teaching people about their own money and then public budget.

Between June and August 2026, Esiobu brought young people and rural farmers in his community, in Imo state, to learn about budgets.

The sessions started with personal finance. Participants learned how to plan household income and expenditure, keep track of spending and make better decisions about their own money. Then they opened the government's books.

Esiobu showed them how to find and download government budget information and examine where public money was supposed to go.

One of the people he taught, Mr Ebuka Chike, said the session left him with greater confidence in managing his finances and understanding government budgets. Mrs Joy Uzor found the household budgeting lessons useful for organising family spending. Mrs Chioma Eke learned to find and download public budget information on her own.

One participant put the change simply.

"The training changed the way I look at budgeting. I now understand how to plan my spending, assess my budget and find government budget information for myself. It has given me the confidence to seek information and understand how public resources can affect my community."

What started as a BudgIT/SFTL community session did not remain in the community hall. The participants went home with a new way of looking at money, including the money the government spends.

Esiobu Nnaemeka Success, PhD

SFTL Community Engagement, Imo State

She just wanted her child vaccinated

Mariam only wanted what any mother wants: to keep her child safe through routine vaccinations. But a trip to the Kaya Primary Healthcare Centre in Kaduna State was always a gamble. The problem was electricity.

The health centre had no reliable power supply, making it difficult to keep vaccines safely stored and available. Many times, a trip to the facility would be futile and another trip meant more time and more money.

The broken line was caught when BudgIT and its partners began work with the Kaya community through SCAPP, assessing the facility and working with the health authorities, community leaders and the facility management.

The advocacy continued through 2025.

Then Kaya PHC received a solar-powered TCW 40 medical freezer. It could keep vaccines safely stored for more than 80 hours without sunlight and did not depend on the unreliable electricity supply.

When Mariam recently took her child to Kaya PHC, the vaccine was available. Her child was vaccinated as scheduled.

"Now, when I bring my child to Kaya PHC, I am confident that the vaccine will be available."

For the health workers at Kaya PHC, the freezer means they can store vaccines safely and run immunisation sessions without worrying that the next power failure will spoil the cold chain.

Mariam

Mother and resident, Kaya, Giwa LGA, Kaduna State



15
YEARS OF
PROGRESS
AND
ACHIEVEMENT
IN
THE
MID-ATLANTIC
REGION

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