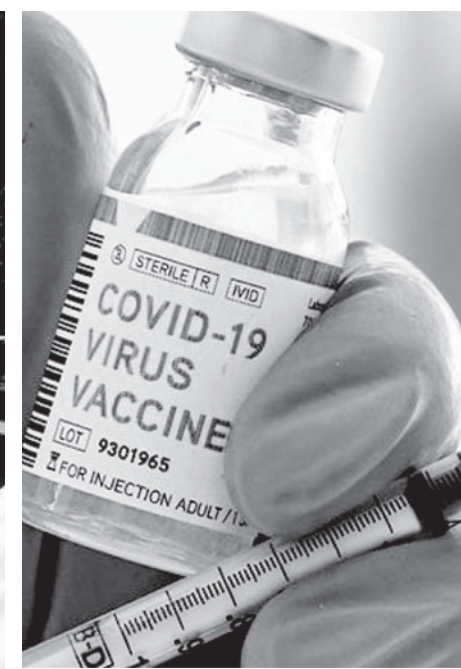


COVID-19 Transparency & Accountability Project

Country Trends and Updates

May 27, 2021





The CTAP Approach

About CTAP

The COVID-19 Transparency and Accountability Project – CTAP is an initiative that seeks to stimulate public conversation around ensuring proper accountability and transparency of funding and finances donated to the fight against Covid-19 during this Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

Our Mission

This project seeks to promote accountability and transparency by tracking COVID-19 intervention funds across 7 African Countries through adoption of follow the money initiative.

Our Focus

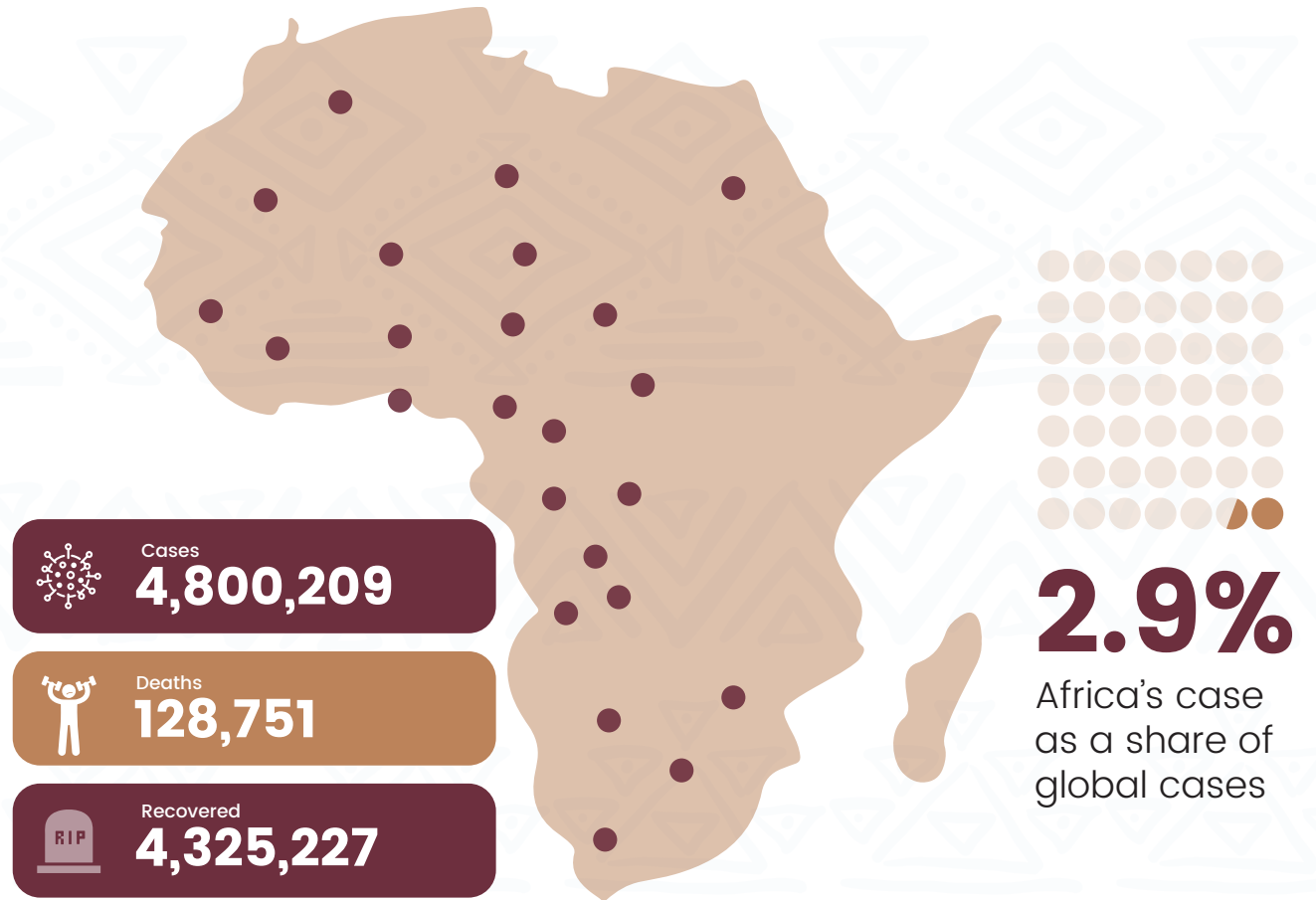
BudgIT Foundation and Connected Development, through their follow the money initiative and international chapters in the aforementioned African countries has activated a Pan-African tracking system for all COVID funds received and donated to these countries.

Our shared long term vision is that every community in the continent has skilled sensitised and largely self-organising citizens engaged in budget tracking and while presenting feedback and results to the government and development partners in a constructive manner.



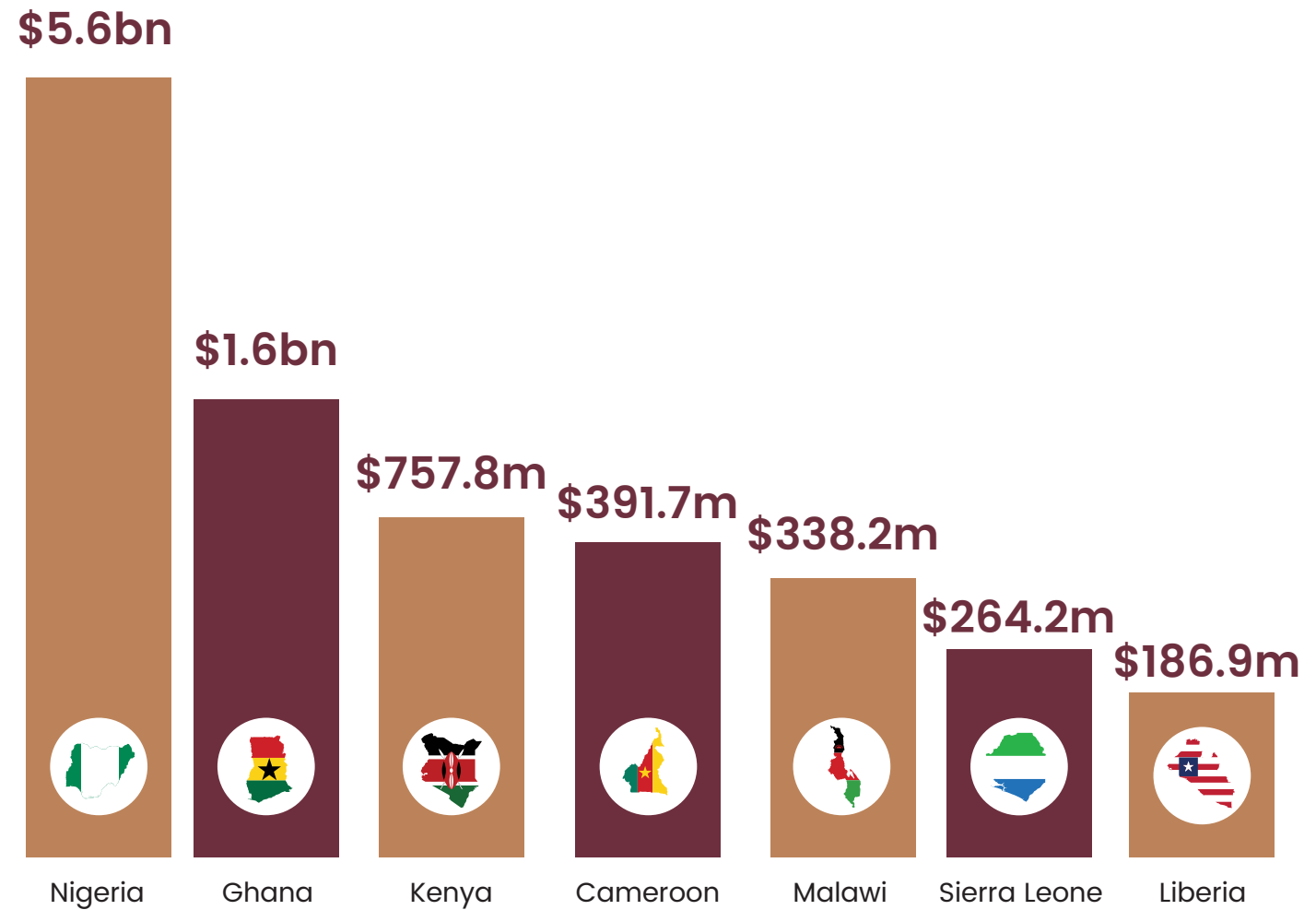
COVID-19 Cases in Africa

Though with low testing numbers, Africa posts on one of the lowest COVID-19 cases across regions, with 90% recovery rate. However, the impact of COVID-19 has been more severe in terms of fiscal and humanitarian impact.



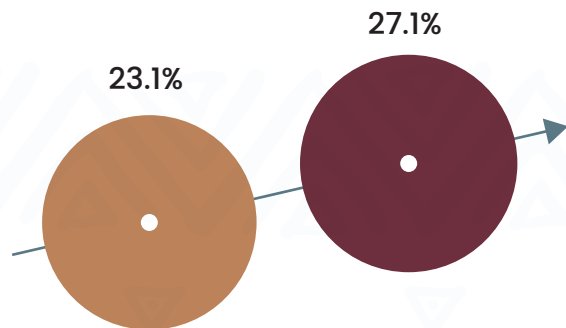
*as at May 24, 2021

COVID-19 Resources for Focus Countries

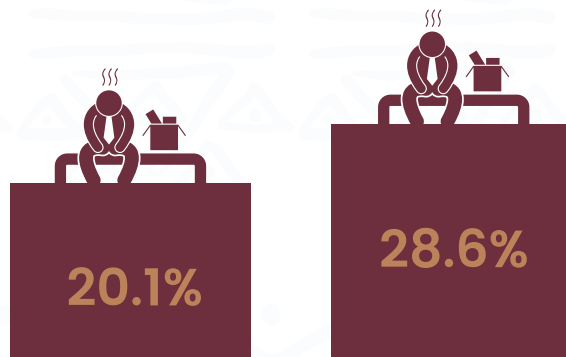


Key Economic Challenges in Numbers

 Unemployment rate (2020) 



 Underemployment rate (2020) 




According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics survey, the unemployment rate peaked at 21%, as at June, 2020 which is more than



2X



its pre-COVID-19 level

 Ghana has revised its growth projections from

6.8%



0.9%



According to the Sierra Leone government, it lost over

\$100m 

in revenues due to significant effects of COVID-19

NIGERIA

GHANA

Economic Challenges in focus Countries



Unemployment

1 Nigeria's unemployment rate rose from **23.1%** to **27.1%**, while the underemployment rate rose from 20.1% to 28.6%. According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics survey, the unemployment rate peaked at 21% as of June 2020, which is more than double its pre-COVID-19 level.



Currency Devaluation

2 Nigeria's currency also lost value with the currency rate relative to the dollar collapsing from N306 to N420. The Liberia dollar has lost more than 40% of its value in the last three years with COVID-19 acceleration the "dollarization" of the economy.



Weak Growth

3 Due to the pandemic, Ghana has revised its growth projections from 6.8 per cent to 0.9 per cent. The non-oil economy growth was also reviewed downwards from 6.7 per cent to 1.6 per cent. IMF projects that Cameroon's economy is expected to fall by -5.2% in 2020. In the Revised Finance Act (LFR) 2020, budgetary revenues are expected to fall by 11%.

In Kenya, the pandemic's impact was felt in Q2 2020 as its GDP contracted by 5.7% on a y-o-y basis. With the suspension of global travel and global trade contraction, Kenya's tourism sector faced a setback.

In Liberia, Private sector confidence has remained weak in Liberia and growth has been projected at -2.5% for 2020.



Weaker Public Revenues

4 According to the Sierra Leone government, it lost over \$100m in revenues due to significant effects of COVID-19. Cameroon has revised revenues from its petroleum sector to 269.7 billion FCFA against an initial forecast of 443.0 billion FCFA. The country has also slashed its capital expenditure by 16%, with the budget deficit estimated to reach 4-5% of the GDP.



Corruption Patterns in Focus Countries



Inflated Contracts

Audit Entities are severely disempowered as External Audit is done too late & Internal Audit tends not to be initiated. Examples include the purchase of Motorbikes for the Sierra Leone Office of National Security (ONS); the Ghanaian inflated COVID-19 testing contract at Kotoka International Airport (KIA) & the Malawi education cluster using over MK6 million (US\$7,535) to purchase PPE at inflated prices.



Misappropriation/Misuse of Funds:

The waiving of normal contracting & procurement rules & regulations allowed for misappropriation by the Executive in collaboration with procuring firms. Examples include Kenya's Medical Supplies Agency [KEMSA] debacle & the purchase of high-end consumer electronics with COVID-19 funds by officials in the Sierra Leone Ministry of Health & Sanitation.



Diversion of Funds & Palliative:

The handling of the pandemic exclusively by the Executive allowed for instances of diversion. Examples include Nigeria's Niger Delta Development Commission [NDDC] scandal involving N1.5 billion (US\$3.7 million) & the Liberian case of hazard payments made to 50 personnel for February, March, & April 2020 without signatures & approved contracts.

Corruption Patterns in Focus Countries



Payments without Valid Contracts

According to Liberia's Internal Audit Agency (IAA), 902 contracts valued at US\$355,960 have no valid contracts. Only 5.54% of the total contracts was traceable through the payroll.



Procurement Guidelines Infractions

In Kenya, a detailed special report by the Office of the Auditor (OAG), further revealed that some COVID-19 related procurements were irregularly funded from Universal Health Care (UHC) and capital budgets



Use of Emergency Laws to entrench Opacity

In Cameroon, the existence and use of military ordinances and decrees in administering funds casts a cloud of opacity and works to suppress public opinion formation on accountability.

Transparency and Accountability Framework - Cross cutting Themes



We noticed that there's no causal link between "transparency" and accountability without other contextual factors.

While most focus countries signed to provisions that should lead to increased transparency, we have seen limited compliance as well as weak institutional responsiveness upon request from non-state actors.

Proactive Disclosure Portals

None of the countries under view proactively published procurement & contracting information (i.e. without prompt from an external source).

Open Contracting

Open Contracting platforms are generally fragmented, not regularly updated and often incomplete. All countries, with the exception of Kenya, have made some progress with the little information they have uploaded. Yet, such information is often very scanty.

Beneficial Ownership Disclosure

Beneficial Ownership disclosures were few & far between, with information on the real owners & majority shareholders were significantly absent from most of the online portals.

Transparency and Accountability Framework - Cross cutting Themes



COVID-19 Budget & Implementation Reports

Countries under review have not made decent efforts at providing information on budgeting & implementation reports as at when due.



Use of Right to Information

Right to Information in the context of COVID-19 spending has been extremely limited as most public officials that should have attended to requests have been working from home. Information on COVID19 spending, came as a result of pressure from internal Auditors/Supreme Audit Institutions/Parliamentarians. Or, as in the case of Kenya, came from the publishing of a “COVID19 Millionaires” documentary.

Transparency and Accountability Framework - Cross cutting Themes



Centralization of Oversight

Central governments frame issues as emergencies to abrogate more powers to themselves with the role of the legislative as an oversight entity framed as an afterthought



Limited Inclusion of CSOs

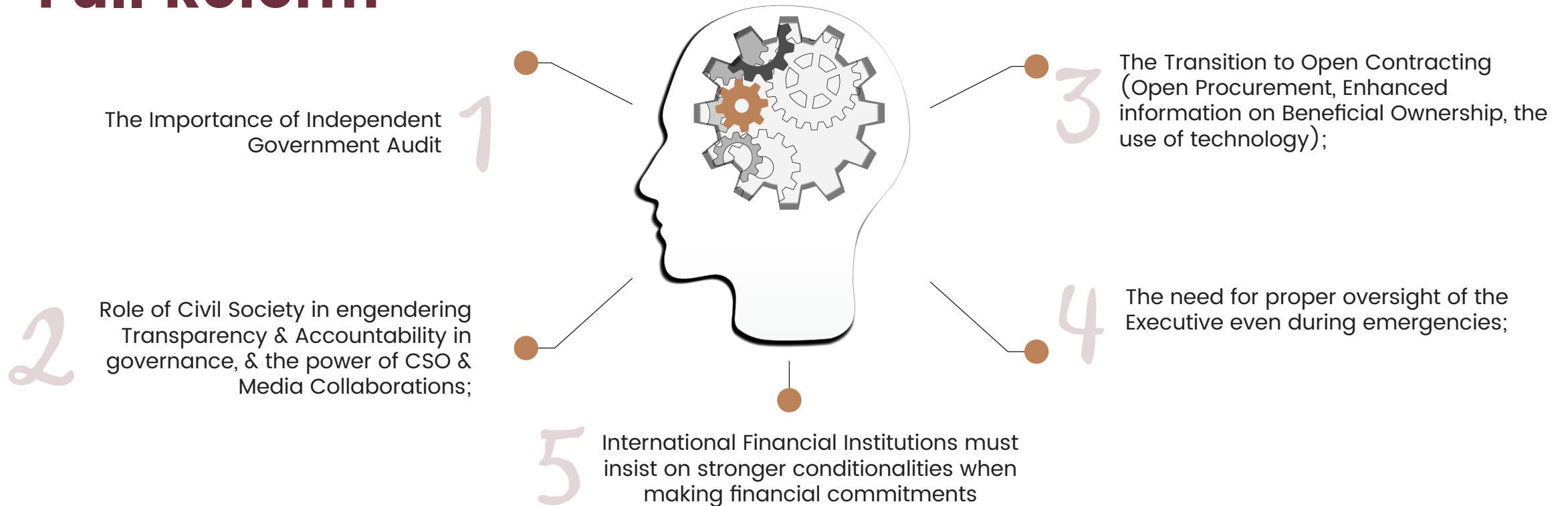
Due to the limited movement and interaction during the pandemic, the institutional engagement became very low. It meant that CSOs have a lot of ground to cover in ensuring transparency and accountability

A Summary of transparency and accountability efforts for COVID-19 spending and revenue for focus countries

Country	Publishing COVID-19 procurement contracts	Publishing names of companies awarded contract	Publishing beneficial ownership information of companies receiving contracts	Validation of delivery of products and services	More frequent internal audits	Specific COVID-19 external audit	Audit findings to be made publicly available	More frequent reporting of COVID-19 expenditure	Publishing expenditure reports	Specific budget lines for COVID-19 reporting	
Cameroon	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	2/10
Ghana	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	1/10
Kenya	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	2/10
Liberia	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	8/10
Malawi	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	7/10
Nigeria	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	2/10
Sierra Leone	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes		Yes	No	5/9



Our Ideas for Full Reform



Events



Press Releases and Conferences in all focus countries

CTAP coalition conference, Abuja

Radio programs in all focus countries

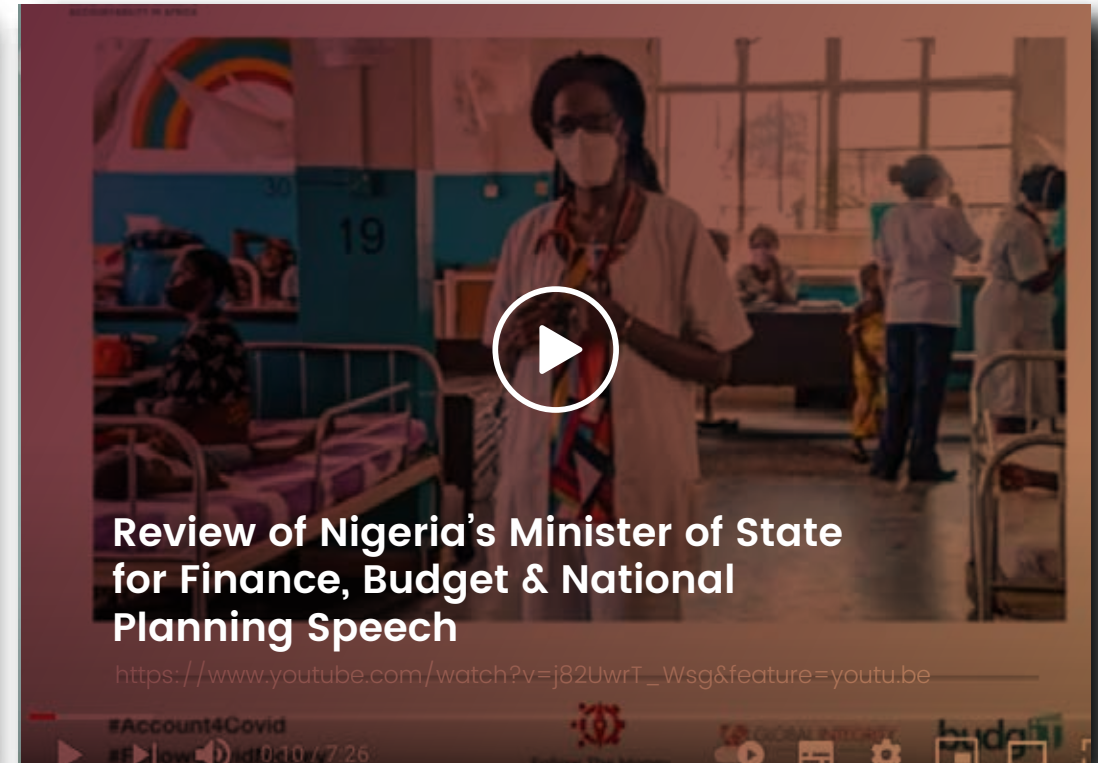
TV appearances



Events



Videos



Research



Country level research

Focus Country Research Synthesis



Vaccine Equity Patterns & Fiscal Gaps

Fiscal Inadequacy

Health budget allocation range within 4.0% to 12.4% of total budget, all below the 15% target set by the Africa Union in 2001.

The estimated cost to vaccinate 70% of the population (a threshold required to achieve herd immunity) also ranges from 71mn USD in Liberia to \$3.3bn in Nigeria. Vaccination costs for the focus countries range from 17.51% of the budget to 104.34% of their health budget. With the countries facing slump in public revenues, it would cost between 3% to 20% of public revenues to fund vaccination costs in focus countries.



Equity

We see a challenge around poor distribution of vaccines or situations where vulnerable people and frontline workers are not prioritized. Transparency, accountability, and citizen monitoring are needed in order to avoid that vaccine distribution is effective and delivered in an equitable manner.



Our Next Phase

Emergency Fund framework in focus countries



Engage government institutions including public health institutions in focus states on, procurement transparency,

4

Vaccine Equity & Transparency in Distribution



Advocate for improved transparency of vaccine deployment includes focus on weak and vulnerable groups without economic capabilities to afford vaccination or whose work are critical to public health

3

Anchor ideas within co-creation Frameworks



Build partnerships with co-creation mechanisms within the OGP framework in focus countries on need for transparency on COVID-19 related funds and vaccine deployment

2

Institutional Engagement Framework



We plan to develop partnerships with civil society for robust engagement with the government on improving transparency and accountability provisions.

1



Our Network & Partners

We have convened engagement with over 47 organizations across Africa.

We have one learning partners, 2 core partners and vice country leads across Africa.



Thank You!

