



COVID-19 TRANSPARENCY &
ACCOUNTABILITY IN AFRICA

**OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP
MOROCCO 2022**

**HEALTH SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY
(BUDGIT GHANA)**

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HOW DEVASTATING WAS COVID-19 IN YOUR COUNTRY



The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.

~ Socrates

The devastating effect of the Covid-19 pandemic in Ghana can be traced to the lockdown that was imposed on residents in Greater Accra and Greater Kumasi Regions because these regions were the epicentres of the virus in the country.

ECONOMIC FACTORS

- LOSS OF BUSINESS CAPITAL
- REDUNDANCY
- UNSTABLE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

SOCIAL FACTORS

- INCREASE IN DOMESTIC ABUSE REPORTING
- THREAT TO THE FAMILY INSTITUTION
- AWARENESS OF MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES
- INCREMENT IN MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY



After the lockdown period, most activities nationwide that revolved around large gatherings were asked to close down till further notice. This led to an almost socio-economic shutdown of activities within the country.

HOW MUCH SUPPORT DID YOUR COUNTRY RECEIVE FOR COVID-19 IN CASH AND KIND?



Ultimately, the greatest lesson that COVID-19 can teach humanity is that we are all in this together.

~ Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

According to data available on the Ministry of Finance website, the Government passed the **COVID-19 National Trust Fund Act (CNTF), 2020 (Act 1013)**, in April 2020 to establish the **Fund**.



As of 30th June 2020, the CNTF had mobilized **GH¢53,911,249.87** from individuals, churches, corporate bodies, staff of organizations, non-governmental organizations, groups, associations, etc. As a result, over **GH¢32,820,564.97** has been utilized as of 30th June 2020.

Palliative Packages such as **PPEs, Hand Sanitizers, and Veronica Buckets** were donated by government agencies, individuals and associations directly to schools, hospitals, churches and market places.

Ghana was the first country to receive **vaccine donations** through the COVAX system



DO YOU THINK THESE
FUNDS WERE USED
APPROPRIATELY IN YOUR
COUNTRY?

WHAT WERE THE
APPARENT CHALLENGES
TO THE ACCOUNTABILITY
OF THESE FUNDS AND
SUPPORTS

Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving, we get stronger
and more resilient.

~ Steve Maraboli

The disbursement of the Coronavirus Alleviation Programme - Business Support scheme (CAP - BuSS) which was allocated **GHC 600 million** which is part of **GHC 1.2 billion** CAP approved by parliament for MSMEs did not achieve its goal.



Data gathered by the BudgIT Ghana team through its numerous CTAP townhall activities revealed that **most Ghanaians whose businesses were truly affected by the pandemic did not receive the necessary financial support put in place by the government to help combat the effects of the pandemic on their businesses even though they had applied for the loans and went through the selection process.**

Some politicians were even recorded making remarks on how most of the covid-19 stimulus package got to their own personal accounts.



HOW DID COVID-19 IMPACT HEALTH SECTOR ACCOUNTABILITY IN YOUR COUNTRY?

Losing your head in a crisis is a good way to become a crisis.

~ C.J. Redwine

The Government of Ghana was more apt with its response to the covid-19 situation than most countries within the sub-region.

The Covid-19 Pandemic revealed the inconsistencies within Ghana's Healthcare

Policies



Health financing affects the entire healthcare system performance, including accessibility, quality and efficiency of primary healthcare.



The Government of Ghana has failed to spend 15% of its GDP on healthcare as enshrined and agreed in the Abuja Declaration of the African Union



What was your role in promoting health sector accountability in the country?



Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.

~ Marie Curie

TOWNHALL is one of the grassroots activities that BudgIT Ghana employs to aid in acquiring concrete data to back their research on accountability and transparency of the Covid-19 funds.



Through numerous **Radio Shows**, the team reached larger audience and educated them on various initiatives by the government and solicit their views on whether or not they received any of the stimulus packages being rolled out by the Ghana Enterprises Agency (GEA).



The Team **developed a comprehensive Research Report** on:

- Health Sector Accountability
- Vaccine Equity & Distribution

Through **Institutional Engagements**, Ghana Health service, Noguchi Memorial Institute and Ministry of Health have been engaged for further inputs about their operations.



WHAT INNOVATIVE WAYS CAN AFRICA COMBAT THE EPIDEMIC OF CORRUPTION?

“justice delayed is justice denied”



State institutions like the Office of the Special Prosecutor, the Attorney and Auditor General Departments, the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), as well as the Courts, should be proactive in investigating and prosecuting offenders who use their office to violate criminal offenses code 1960 (ACT 29 & 30) severely to act as a deterrence for future offenders. Such actions should be swift and



publicized





How can Open
Government Partnerships,
through their National
Action Plans, strengthen
Health Sector
accountability in your
country?

What you don't do determines what you can do.

~ Tim Ferriss

The NAP brings an opportunity for Ghana to co-create reforms that would enable transparency reforms like **quarterly budget implementation reports** that explain disbursements to MDAs and projects that were implemented within the quarter instead of waiting for the end of the year auditor General Report which is always delayed.



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CASE STUDY

NIGERIA

Open Treasury portal



We need to do a better job of putting ourselves
higher on our own 'to do' list.

~ Michelle Obama

WHAT ARE THE
ROLES OF CIVIL
SOCIETY,
GOVERNMENT AND
PRIVATE
STAKEHOLDERS IN
IMPROVING THE
STATE OF HEALTH
ACROSS AFRICA.



ADVOCACY

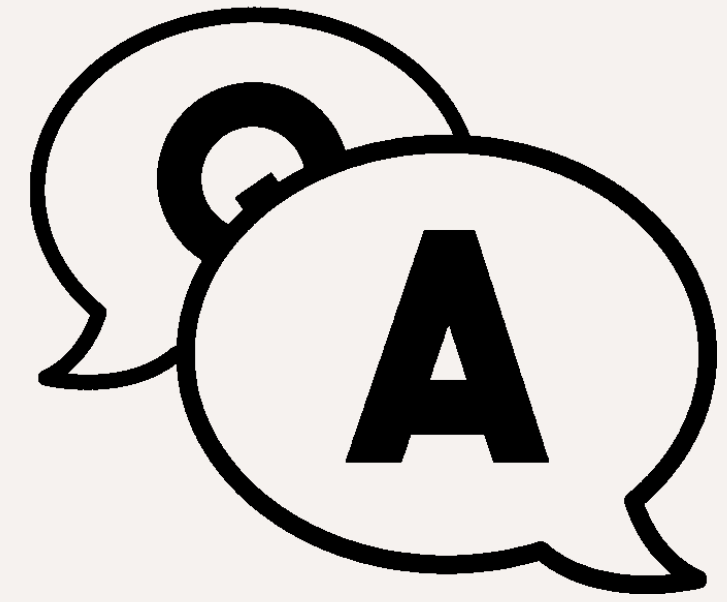
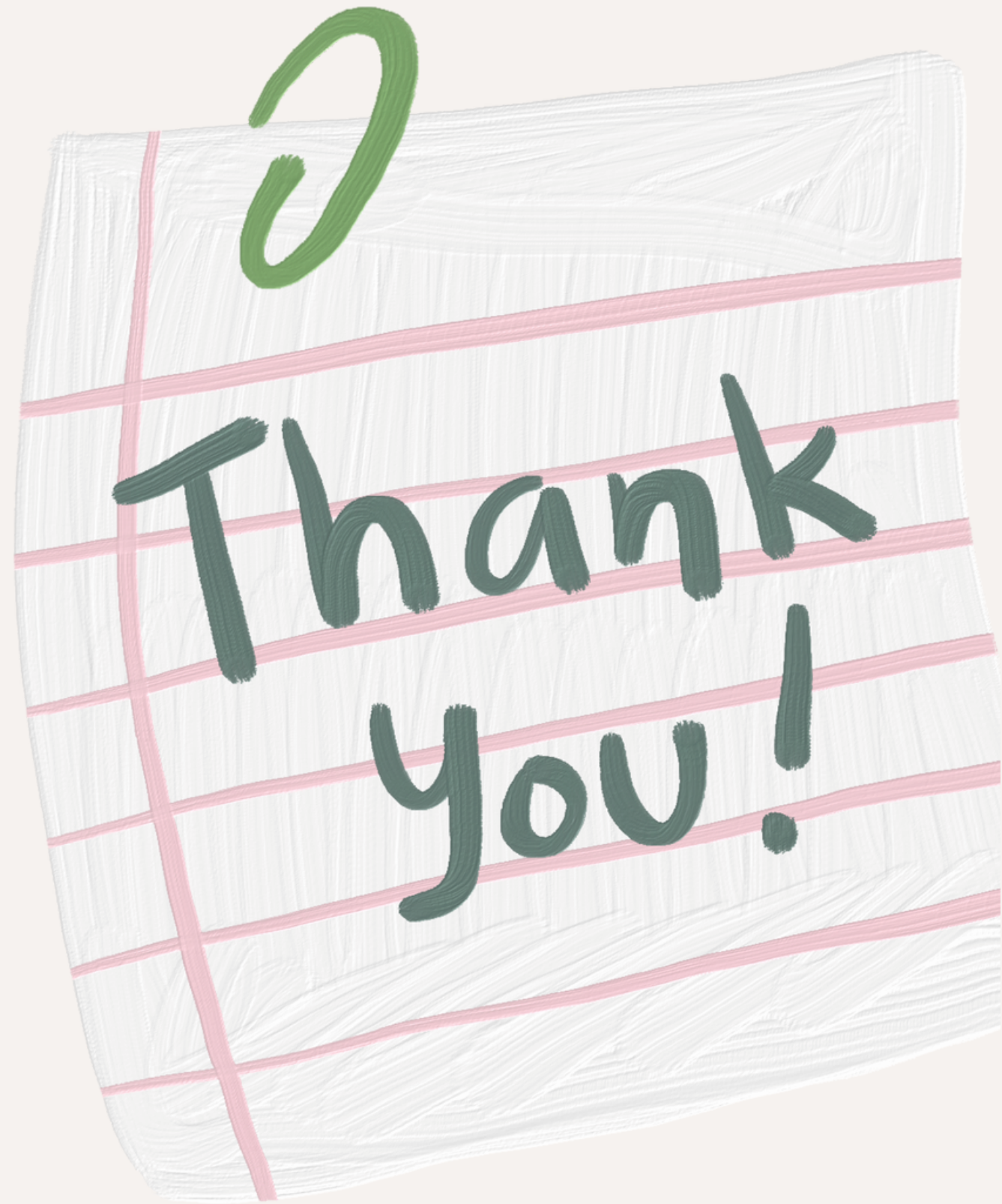
Through the National Action Plan, there must be much interaction and synergy between state and non-state actors in promoting and achieving health sector reforms.

State agencies responsible for policy formulation should inculcate the views of CSOs and private stakeholders to enable smooth implementation and promotion of health sector reforms.

CO-CREATION



STATE & NON-STATE ACTORS



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