



**AFRICA HEALTH
BUDGET NETWORK**

What can budget transparency and participation do for health?

Health spending does not always increase as fiscal space grows

- ...according to a RESYST study in Kenya, South Africa and Lagos State (Nigeria) over past 15 years. Why?
 - MoH can lack macro-economic know-how or political influence to make a convincing case to MoF
 - MoF may not trust the health sector to deliver results or value for money
 - Process for developing the budget can erode the final health sector allocation



How can budget transparency and participation remedy this situation?

- Transparency helps to build MoF trust in health sector by:
 - Linking public funds to results
 - Empowering non-state actors to track whether value for money is delivered and if not, why
- Public participation in budget process helps MoH make its case to MoF by:
 - Bringing additional expertise
 - Bringing more voices to the table in support of health services



Other advantages

- Better internal awareness of how much is allocated and spent may lead to **better prioritisation** of health spending
- Allows politicians to get **politically rewarded** for making health investments
- Civil society is able to contribute information on the **public's health needs and priorities**



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The evidence

- Greater budget transparency is associated with a higher likelihood that the health budget is **implemented as planned**
- Countries that have improved budget transparency most have **increased MDG spending more on average.**
- Participatory budgeting has **increased the share** of municipal budgets **allocated to health** in Brazil
- ...and decreased **local corruption** in Indonesia



Transparency example from South Africa: Treatment Action Campaign

- In the late 1990s, the South African government was refusing to implement HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes, esp. PMTCT.
- TAC filed papers with the high court claiming that govt's position was unconstitutional and that PMTCT would save the govt \$90,000.
- Government countered that a full roll-out would cost \$33.3 Mill.
- TAC, **using publically available documents**, showed that provincial departments of health underspent their budgets by about US\$63.1 million
- High Court ruled in favour of TAC



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Participation example from Nigeria

Community Health Research Initiatives

- Training of CSOs & media to participate in budget process in 4 states of Northern Nigeria
 - Increased the number of indigenous CSOs and Media participating in 2016 budget process
 - Proposed Routine Immunization budget for 2016 increased by + 25%
 - Secured a separate budget line for Routine Immunization



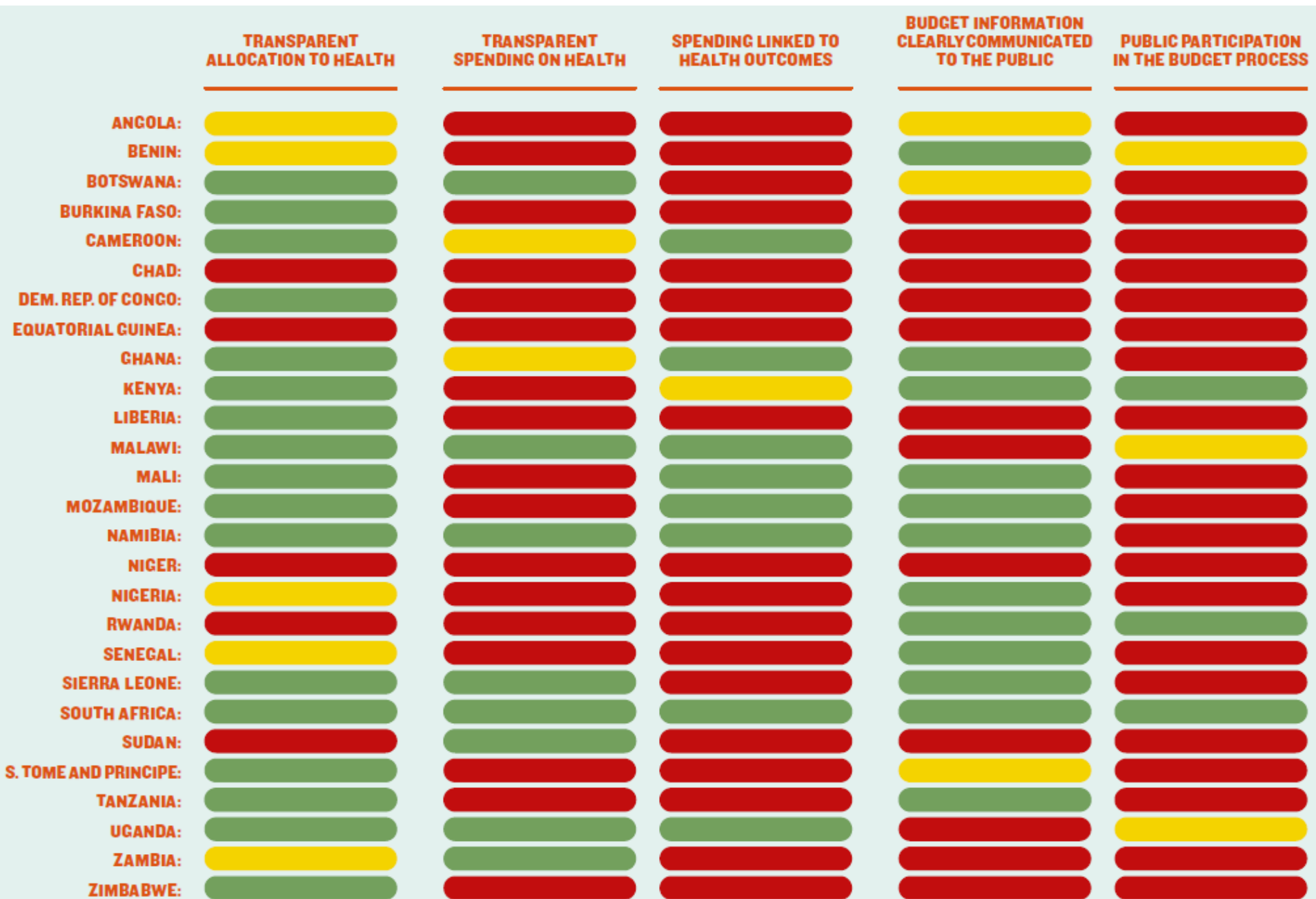
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Budget transparency and participation for health – a scorecard

- Components
 - Transparent allocation to health
 - Transparent spending on health
 - Spending linked to health outcomes
 - Budget information clearly communicated to the public
 - Public participation in the budget process
- Source: 2015 Open Budget Index (IBP) – adapted by AHBN



The scorecard



1. Transparent allocation to health

- = How are allocations classified?
Administrative, economic, functional, programmatic.....
- Results
 - This is the indicator with highest scores – 25 out of 30 score green or yellow
 - More detail for current budget year than future budget years
 - Top performers: Malawi, Namibia, south Africa, Uganda
 - Bottom performers: Sudan, Equatorial Guinea, Chad



2. Transparent spending on health

- = How is end of year, actual spending classified? Administrative, economic, functional, programmatic....
- Results
 - Poorer performance than transparent allocation – 10 out of 30 score green or yellow
 - Top performers: Malawi, South Africa, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Botswana, Zambia, Sudan
 - Bottom performers: too many to list



3. Spending linked to health outcomes

- = Budget illustrates financial impact of policies on different groups of citizens; how the budget is linked to government goals; non-financial data on results is included
- Results
 - Linking to policy goals is most common form – others quite rare – nine out of 10 score green or yellow
 - Top performers: Malawi, Namibia, Cameroon, Mozambique
 - Bottom performers: Equatorial Guinea, Chad, Burkina Faso, Sudan



4. Budget information clearly communicated to the public

- = What information is in the Citizens Budget and how is it communicated to the public?
- Results
 - Half score either green or yellow
 - Top performers: Mali and Tanzania
 - Bottom performers: too many to list



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5. Public participation in the budget process

- = Budget timetable is released; executive is formally required to engage with the public during the budget process and legislative committees hold public budget hearings
- Results
 - Only six out of 30 score green or yellow
 - Timetable released and public legislative hearings of the executive are most common
 - Top performers: South Africa, Rwanda, Kenya
 - Bottom performers: Equatorial Guinea, Sudan, Mozambique

