



Center for Budget and  
Macroeconomic  
Transparency

# EXAMINING THE BUDGET CREDIBILITY OF **MAJOR GAMBIA** **GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FOR FY2024**

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# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	2
<b>Overview</b> .....	2
<i>What are Government Development Projects?</i> .....	2
<i>How does The Gambia Government fund its Development Projects?</i> .....	2
<i>Summary of Funding for The Gambia Government’s Major Development Projects in 2024</i> .....	2
<b>Detailed Analysis of The Gambia Government’s Major Development Projects in 2024</b> .....	3
1. <i>ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECO-REAP)</i> .....	3
<i>Table 2: Funding for the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECO-REAP) – 2024</i> .....	3
2. <i>OIC Bertil Harding Road Project</i> .....	4
<i>Table 3: Funding for the OIC Bertil Harding Road Project – 2024</i> .....	4
3. <i>Gambia Electricity Restoration &amp; Modernization Project (GERMP)</i> .....	4
<i>Table 4: Funding for the Gambia Electricity Restoration &amp; Modernization Project (GERMP) – 2024</i> .....	5
4. <i>University of The Gambia Campus Project</i> .....	5
<i>Table 5: Funding for the University of The Gambia Campus Project – 2024</i> .....	5
5. <i>General Administration</i> .....	6
<i>Table 6: Funding for the General Administration Project – 2024</i> .....	6
6. <i>OIC Urban Roads</i> .....	7
<i>Table 7: Funding for the OIC Urban Roads Project – 2024</i> .....	7
7. <i>Road Transport Management</i> .....	7
<i>Table 8: Funding for the Road Transport Management Project – 2024</i> .....	7
8. <i>Rice Value Chain IDB</i> .....	8
<i>Table 9: Funding for the Rice Value Chain IDB Project – 2024</i> .....	8
9. <i>Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP)</i> .....	9
<i>Table 10: Funding for the Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP) – 2024</i> .....	9
<b>Conclusion, Key Findings, and Recommendations</b> .....	9
<b>References</b> .....	10
<b>Disclaimer</b> .....	10

## Introduction

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This article provides a budget credibility analysis of major public sector development projects implemented by the Central Government of The Gambia during the 2024 fiscal year. It presents an assessment of funds approved and realized for nine major projects, thereby determining their combined and individual rates of budget execution. The report aims to promote transparency and support fiscal policy reforms within The Gambia.

## Overview

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### *What are Government Development Projects?*

These are projects designed or intended for public infrastructure development in a country – including but not limited to, the construction or rehabilitation of schools, hospitals, laboratories, roads and bridges, office/public buildings and structures, plants or factories, boreholes, markets, irrigation infrastructures, information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructures, etc.; purchase of laboratory and hospital equipment, agricultural machinery and equipment, vehicles, energy generating equipment, etc.; livestock development, research, etc.

During 2024, the Government of The Gambia implemented nine major development projects. Each of these projects had a twelve-month budget of over 500 million Dalasis. The projects were intended to improve the country's agriculture, health, higher education, energy, and transport infrastructure.

### *How does The Gambia Government fund its Development Projects?*

The funding sources for The Gambia Government's development projects are broadly categorized into three main components or types – Government Local Fund (GLF), Project Grants, and External/Foreign Loans. **Government Local Fund (GLF)** is the sum of domestic revenues (tax and non-tax revenues), program grants (budget support), and domestic loans. **Project Grants** are money acquired – for development projects – from external donors who do not require repayment of the money. **External/Foreign Loans** are money borrowed – for development projects – from external creditors who require repayment of the money with interest.

### *Summary of Funding for The Gambia Government's Major Development Projects in 2024*

For fiscal year 2024 only, The Gambia's Executive and Legislature approved **D10.19 billion** for the execution of nine major projects listed in Table 1 below. Amongst them, ECO-REAP had the largest budget of D2.051 billion, while GEAP ranked the lowest at D556.4 million. Three of the projects (ECO-REAP, GERMP, and GEAP) belonged to the Ministry of Petroleum, Energy, and Mines. Another three (OIC Bertil Harding Road Project, OIC Urban Roads, and Road Transport Management) belonged to the Ministry of Transport, Works and Infrastructure. For the remaining three: the University of The Gambia Campus Project was being implemented by the Ministry of Higher Education, the General Administration project by the Ministry of Health, and the Rice Value Chain IDB project by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Based on data presented in the National Budget, a total of **D995 million—9.76%** of the approved overall amount—was realized, with D980.76 million allocated to transport infrastructure development. It is reported that no funds were secured for the energy projects despite having the largest budget.

Table 1: Total Funding Approved vs. Total Funding Received for the Major Development Projects in 2024

Project Code	Project Name	Funding Approved 2024	Funding Received 2024	% of Approved Funding Secured
		GMD/D	GMD/D	%
0663	ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECO-REAP)	2,051,220,000	0	0.00%
0638	OIC Bertil Harding Road Project	1,729,000,000	609,006,212	35.22%
0662	Gambia Electricity Restoration & Modernization Project (GERMP)	1,705,616,139	0	0.00%
0258	University of The Gambia Campus Project	1,417,500,000	9,300,000	0.66%
0548	General Administration	805,000,000	0	0.00%
0747	OIC Urban Roads	773,450,759	60,000,000	7.76%
0507	Road Transport Management	592,500,000	311,749,461	52.62%
0688	Rice Value Chain IDB	560,000,000	5,000,000	0.89%
0751	Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP)	556,446,516	0	0.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>10,190,733,414</b>	<b>995,055,673</b>	<b>9.76%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets for 2024 & 2026, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).<sup>1</sup>

## Detailed Analysis of The Gambia Government's Major Development Projects in 2024

### 1. ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECO-REAP)

ECO-REAP was created to increase grid electricity access in The Gambia, among other West African countries (see [World Bank Group](#)).

Table 2: Funding for the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECO-REAP) – 2024

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2024
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>2,051,220,000</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	-
Project Grants approved	2,051,220,000
External Loans approved	-
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>0</b>
GLF received	-
Project Grants received	0
External Loans received	-
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets for 2024 & 2026, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on approved funding for the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECO-REAP) for the period 2024 (as reported in the approved 2024 National Budget and summarized in Table 2):

- The project's approved overall funding for the period (2024) was **2.051 billion Dalasis**, all Project Grant expected from the *International Development Association (IDA)–World Bank*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *plants, machinery and equipment* = D1,139,820,518;
  - *energy generating equipment* = D895,975,305;
  - *project operating costs* = D15,424,177.

Based on actual funding for the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECO-REAP) in 2024 (as reported in the approved 2026 National Budget and summarized in Table 2):

<sup>1</sup> NOTE: The term "Central Government Budget" is synonymous with the term "National Budget". An "approved Central Government Budget" or "approved National Budget" is an annual budget legislated or enacted into law by the National Assembly (NA) and assented to by the President of The Gambia. The word "approved", herein, means "authorized, legislated or enacted into law by NA and assented to by the President", and all approved figures are estimates or projections, not actuals.

- The project registered **D0.00** despite the approval of over D2 billion by the Executive and Legislature.

## 2. OIC Bertil Harding Road Project

A 22-kilometer road project in The Gambia stretching from Airport Junction to Sting Corner (see [NRA](#)).

*Table 3: Funding for the OIC Bertil Harding Road Project – 2024*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2024
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>1,729,000,000</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	760,000,000
Project Grants approved	-
External Loans approved	969,000,000
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>609,006,212</b>
GLF received	609,006,212
Project Grants received	-
External Loans received	0
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>35.22%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets for 2024 & 2026, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on [approved funding](#) for the [OIC Bertil Harding Road Project](#) for the period 2024 (as reported in the approved 2024 National Budget and summarized in Table 3):

- The project's approved overall funding for the period (2024) was **1.729 billion Dalasis**. **56.04% (D969 million)** of this was External Loans, and **43.96% (D760 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF);

the approved External Loans were expected from the following creditors:

- *Islamic Development Bank (IDB)*: D603,000,000,
- *Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)*: D366,000,000;

the approved GLF (D760,000,000) was expected from *The Gambia's Central Government*.

- The various approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *roads and bridges* = D1,669,000,000;
  - *land compensation* = D60,000,000.

Based on [actual funding](#) for the [OIC Bertil Harding Road Project](#) in 2024 (as reported in the approved 2026 National Budget and summarized in Table 3):

- The project registered **D609 million (35.22%** of the approved D1.729 billion) in 2024. All funding reported to have been received was GLF from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- Actual External Loans amounted to zero despite the approval of D969 million by the Executive and Legislature.
- The D609 million reported was spent as follows:
  - *roads and bridges* = D579,006,212;
  - *land compensation* = D30,000,000.

## 3. Gambia Electricity Restoration & Modernization Project (GERMP)

GERMP was established to boost electricity access in The Gambia, by strengthening the power generation capacity and efficiency of the National Water and Electricity Company's transmission network, and its operational performance and capacity to dispatch renewable electricity (see [NAWEC](#)).

*Table 4: Funding for the Gambia Electricity Restoration & Modernization Project (GERMP) – 2024*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)		2024
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>		<b>1,705,616,139</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved		38,500,000
Project Grants approved		1,667,116,139
External Loans approved		-
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>		<b>0</b>
GLF received		0
Project Grants received		0
External Loans received		-
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>		<b>0.00%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets for 2024 & 2026, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on approved funding for the Gambia Electricity Restoration & Modernization Project (GERMP) for the period 2024 (as reported in the approved 2024 National Budgets and summarized in Table 4):

- The project's approved overall funding for the period (2024) was **1.706 billion Dalasis**. **97.74% (D1.667 billion)** of this was Project Grants, and **2.26% (D38.5 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF);

the approved Project Grants were expected from the following donors:

- *International Development Association (IDA)-World Bank*: D1,160,336,548,
- *European Investment Bank (EIB)*: D500,000,000,
- *European Union (EU)*: D6,779,591;

the approved GLF (D38,500,000) was expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.

- The various approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *energy generating equipment* = D1,391,666,378;
  - *project operating costs* = D313,949,761.

Based on actual funding for the Gambia Electricity Restoration & Modernization Project (GERMP) in 2024 (as reported in the approved 2026 National Budget and summarized in Table 4):

- The project registered **D0.00** despite the approval of over D1.7 billion by the Executive and Legislature.

#### *4. University of The Gambia Campus Project*

A project aimed at developing and improving the infrastructure of University of The Gambia, providing students and faculty staff with advanced facilities and promoting a conducive learning and research environment.

*Table 5: Funding for the University of The Gambia Campus Project – 2024*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)		2024
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>		<b>1,417,500,000</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved		9,500,000
Project Grants approved		-
External Loans approved		1,408,000,000
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>		<b>9,300,000</b>
GLF received		9,300,000
Project Grants received		-
External Loans received		0
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>		<b>0.66%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets for 2024 & 2026, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on approved funding for the University of The Gambia Campus Project for the period 2024 (as reported in the approved 2024 National Budget and summarized in Table 5):

- The project's approved overall funding for the period (2024) was **1.418 billion Dalasis**.

**99.33% (D1.408 billion)** of this was External Loans, and **0.67% (D9.5 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF);

the approved External Loans were expected from the following creditors:

- *Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)*: D1,088,000,000,
- *Islamic Development Bank (IDB)*: D320,000,000;

the approved GLF (D9,500,000) was expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.

➤ The various approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:

- *schools, laboratories and facilities* = D1,415,500,000;
- *project operating costs* = D2,000,000.

Based on **actual funding** for the *University of The Gambia Campus Project* in 2024 (as reported in the approved 2026 National Budget and summarized in Table 5):

- The project registered only **D9.3 million (0.66%** of the approved D1.418 billion) in 2024. All funding reported to have been received was GLF from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- Actual External Loans amounted to zero despite the approval of D1.408 billion by the Executive and Legislature.
- The D9.3 million reported was spent as follows:
  - *project operating costs* = D6,000,000, exceeding the approved amount by D4 million;
  - *schools, laboratories and facilities* = D3,300,000.

## 5. General Administration

A project meant to improve The Gambia’s health sector through the provision of medical, hospital, and laboratory equipment, instruments, etc.

*Table 6: Funding for the General Administration Project – 2024*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2024
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>805,000,000</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	5,000,000
Project Grants approved	800,000,000
External Loans approved	-
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>0</b>
GLF received	0
Project Grants received	0
External Loans received	-
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets for 2024 & 2026, published by The Gambia’s Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on **approved funding** for the *General Administration Project* for the period 2024 (as reported in the approved 2024 National Budget and summarized in Table 6):

- The project’s approved overall funding for the period (2024) was **805 million Dalasis**. **99.38% (D800 million)** of this was Project Grant expected from the *International Development Association (IDA)-World Bank*, and **0.62% (D5 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF) expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *laboratory equipment and instruments* = D742,000,000;
  - *medical and hospital equipment* = D53,000,000;
  - *wells, boreholes, water points & reticulation systems* = D5,000,000;
  - *project operating costs* = D5,000,000.

Based on **actual funding** for the *General Administration Project* in 2024 (as reported in the approved 2026 National Budget and summarized in Table 6):

- The project registered **D0.00** despite the approval of D805 million by the Executive and Legislature.

## 6. OIC Urban Roads

A project for developing several urban roads in The Gambia.

*Table 7: Funding for the OIC Urban Roads Project – 2024*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2024
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>773,450,759</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	135,000,000
Project Grants approved	-
External Loans approved	638,450,759
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>60,000,000</b>
GLF received	60,000,000
Project Grants received	-
External Loans received	0
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>7.76%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets for 2024 & 2026, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on approved funding for the OIC Urban Roads Project for the period 2024 (as reported in the approved 2024 National Budget and summarized in Table 7):

- The project's approved overall funding for the period (2024) was **773.45 million Dalasis**. **82.55% (D638.45 million)** of this was External Loan expected from the *Saudi Fund For Development (SFD)*, and **17.45% (D135 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF) expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *roads and bridges* = D638,450,759;
  - *land compensation* = D75,000,000;
  - *relocation of services* = D60,000,000.

Based on actual funding for the OIC Urban Roads Project in 2024 (as reported in the approved 2026 National Budget and summarized in Table 7):

- The project registered only **D60 million (7.76%** of the approved D773.45 million) in 2024. All funding reported to have been received was GLF from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- Actual External Loan amounted to zero despite the approval of over D638 million by the Executive and Legislature.
- The D60 million reported was spent on *relocation of services*.

## 7. Road Transport Management

A project for improving The Gambia's road transport infrastructure.

*Table 8: Funding for the Road Transport Management Project – 2024*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2024
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>592,500,000</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	592,500,000
Project Grants approved	-
External Loans approved	-
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>311,749,461</b>
GLF received	311,749,461
Project Grants received	-
External Loans received	-
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>52.62%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets for 2024 & 2026, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on approved funding for the Road Transport Management Project for the period 2024 (as reported in the approved 2024 National Budget and summarized in Table 8):

- The project’s approved overall funding for the period (2024) was **592.5 million Dalasis**, all Government Local Fund (GLF) expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- The approved fund was intended for the following expenditures:
  - *roads and bridges* = D500,000,000;
  - *relocation of services* = D50,000,000;
  - *land compensation* = D25,000,000;
  - *consultancy* = D15,000,000;
  - *project operating costs* = D2,500,000.

Based on actual funding for the Road Transport Management Project in 2024 (as reported in the approved 2026 National Budget and summarized in Table 8):

- The project registered **D311.75 million (52.62%** of the approved D592.5 million) in 2024, all GLF from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- The D311.75 million reported was spent as follows:
  - *roads and bridges* = D309,249,612;
  - *project operating costs* = D2,499,849.

## 8. Rice Value Chain IDB

A project for promoting the production, processing, packaging, distribution, and marketing of rice in The Gambia.

*Table 9: Funding for the Rice Value Chain IDB Project – 2024*

<b>FUNDING (in Dalasi)</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>560,000,000</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	5,000,000
Project Grants approved	315,000,000
External Loans approved	240,000,000
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>
GLF received	5,000,000
Project Grants received	0
External Loans received	0
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>0.89%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets for 2024 & 2026, published by The Gambia’s Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on approved funding for the Rice Value Chain IDB Project for the period 2024 (as reported in the approved 2024 National Budget and summarized in Table 9):

- The project’s approved overall funding for the period (2024) was **560 million Dalasis**. **56.25% (D315 million)** of this was Project Grant expected from the *Islamic Development Bank (IDB)*, **42.86% (D240 million)** was External Loan, also expected from the *Islamic Development Bank (IDB)*, and **0.89% (D5 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF) expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- All approved funds (D560 million) were budgeted for the project’s *operating costs*.

Based on actual funding for the Rice Value Chain IDB Project in 2024 (as reported in the approved 2026 National Budget and summarized in Table 9):

- The project registered only **D5 million (0.89%** of the approved D560 million) in 2024. All funding reported to have been received was GLF from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- Actual Project Grant & External Loan amounted to zero despite the approval of D555 million by the Executive and Legislature.
- The D5 million reported was spent on the project’s *operating costs*.

## 9. Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP)

This project was set up to extend The Gambia’s electricity distribution infrastructure, increase access to reliable and affordable electricity services within the country, and improve NAWEC’s operational efficiency and revenue base (see [African Development Bank Group](#)).

*Table 10: Funding for the Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP) – 2024*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)		2024
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>		<b>556,446,516</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved		-
Project Grants approved		556,446,516
External Loans approved		-
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>		<b>0</b>
GLF received		-
Project Grants received		0
External Loans received		-
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>		<b>0.00%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets for 2024 & 2026, published by The Gambia’s Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on [approved funding](#) for the [Gambia Electricity Access Project \(GEAP\)](#) for the period 2024 (as reported in the approved 2024 National Budget and summarized in Table 10):

- The project’s approved overall funding for the period (2024) was **556.4 million Dalasis**, all Project Grants expected from the *African Development Bank-ADB* (D278,223,258) and *France* (also D278,223,258).
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *project operating costs* = D290,509,547;
  - *energy generating equipment* = D233,906,054;
  - *plants, machinery and equipment* = D32,030,915.

Based on [actual funding](#) for the [Gambia Electricity Access Project \(GEAP\)](#) in 2024 (as reported in the approved 2026 National Budget and summarized in Table 3):

- The project registered **D0.00** despite the approval of over D556 million by the Executive and Legislature.

## Conclusion, Key Findings, and Recommendations

Reports in the National Budgets indicate that the Executive and Legislature authorized D10.19 billion, for The Gambia’s Central Government to implement nine major development projects in 2024. Of this approved sum, only 9.76% (D995 million) was secured during project execution, signifying an extraordinary shortfall in development funding.

- The **Project Grants** approved for the nine major projects amounted to **D5.39 billion**, for 2024 only. However, data shows that none of these approved Project Grants came through.
- A similar scenario is seen in **External Loans**, with **D3.255 billion** approved and zero reported as realized.
- The **Government Local Fund (GLF)** approved for the nine projects, for 2024, amounted to **D1.546 billion**, out of which **D995 million (64.38%)** is reported to have been secured.
- The approved **external funders** of the government’s nine major projects for 2024 were **IDA** (expected to provide D4,011,556,548 in Project Grants), **IDB** (expected to provide D1,163,000,000 in External Loans and D315,000,000 in Project Grant), **BADEA** (expected to provide D1,454,000,000 in External Loans), **SFD** (expected to provide D638,450,759 in External Loan), **EIB** (expected to provide D500,000,000 in Project Grant), **ADB** (expected to provide D278,223,258 in Project Grant), **France** (expected to provide D278,223,258 in Project Grant), and **EU** (expected to provide D6,779,591 in Project Grant). Nonetheless, all external receipts for the nine projects were reported as zero (in the approved 2026 budget).

## Key findings and recommendations:

### ➤ **Over-dependence on external funding to implement major development projects**

The Central Government relied heavily on external funding to implement its nine major development projects in 2024, with 84.8% of the approved total funding expected from foreign partners.

**Recommendation:** To reduce over-dependence on external funding, the Government of The Gambia must improve its domestic resource mobilization, tracking, and allocation to development projects.

### ➤ **Low external funding inflow reported**

The government is reported to have received zero external funds for all nine major projects during 2024, despite having anticipated more than D8 billion in external funding.

**Recommendation:** The government, particularly the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and relevant parliamentary oversight committees, must improve their monitoring and evaluation of project implementing units to ensure effective project execution and accurate budget reporting.

### ➤ **Project operating costs too high**

The approved overall cost for the operation of the nine major projects in just 2024 was D1.189 billion, signaling costly project management.

**Recommendation:** The Central Government needs to reevaluate program operational models and identify cost-effective approaches to running projects.

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## Disclaimer

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The numerical datasets in this report have been extracted exclusively from The Gambia's 2024 and 2026 National Budgets, produced by the Directorate of Budget at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA) and approved or enacted into law by the National Assembly and President of The Gambia. All the tables have been constructed, with numerical calculations and analyses done, using STRICTLY the data from approved 2024 & 2026 annual National Budgets published by MoFEA. Although the government may have published similar budget data through different public institutions or directorates of the same public institution, CBMT firmly asserts that it cannot guarantee absolute CONSISTENCY across all budget datasets published by the different public institutions or directorates. Also, note that the percentages and some other figures in the texts are rounded off, which may cause slight but acceptable variations.

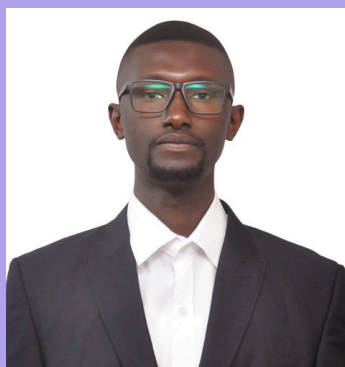


## BACKGROUND

Center for Budget and Macroeconomic Transparency (CBMT) is a non-profit Civil Society Organization that conducts budget and macroeconomic research and advocacy - aimed at increasing awareness on The Gambia's Public Financial Management and macroeconomy, fostering effective public participation in fiscal and macroeconomic management, and promoting inclusive, transparent, and sustainable economic growth and development in The Gambia.

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