



Center for Budget and  
Macroeconomic  
Transparency

**FUNDING ANALYSIS OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECTS UNDER THE GAMBIA'S **MINISTRY OF  
AGRICULTURE**: 2020 – 2023**

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**AUTHOR: LAMIN DIBBA**

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## Introduction

This article examines the development initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in The Gambia. It presents a thorough budgetary funding analysis of major development projects carried out by the ministry from 2020 to 2023, each valued between 463 million and 1.7 billion Dalasis. The report aims to answer crucial questions such as: How much funding was approved for the project, what type(s) of funding were approved, who was or were expected to provide the funding, and what spending was the funding intended for? How much funding was actually received for the project, who provided it and in what form(s), and how was it expended?

## Overview

### *What are Government Development Projects?*

These are projects designed or intended for 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.

As a government institution, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) implements development projects designed to develop or advance The Gambia’s agricultural and livestock infrastructures. For instance, from 2020 to 2023, the Agriculture Ministry implemented **eight major development projects** (listed in Table 1) with the aim of improving and developing agricultural and livestock value chains in The Gambia to increase food security, income generation, economic growth, and standard of living. Each major development project was worth more than D460 million, over a 4-year implementation.

### *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. A sum of GLF, Project Grants, and External Loans equals **total funding**.

#### *Funding for The Gambia’s Ministry of Agriculture’s Major Development Projects: 2020–2023*

A total amount of **6.69 billion Dalasis** got approved, by the Executive and the National Assembly, for the Ministry of Agriculture’s eight major development projects covering 2020–2023. During project implementation, however, these major projects registered only a combined amount of **D173 million** in actual funding, equivalent to **2.58%** of the approved D6.69 billion, thus illustrating extreme levels of project underfunding (as reported in the National Budgets).

Based on approvals, the *Roots Project* had the largest budget (D1.659 billion), whereas on the basis of actual receipts, the project *Build Resilience to Recurring Food Insecurity* registered the most money (D31.9 million).

Of the eight major projects implemented by MoA, none realized even 10% of its approved total funding for the four years, casting serious doubt on the Agriculture Ministry’s development budget credibility (see Table 1).

*Table 1: Total Funding Approved vs. Total Funding Received for the Agriculture Ministry’s Major Development Projects: 2020–2023*

Project Code	Project Name	Funding Approved 2020–2023	Funding Received 2020–2023	% of Approved Funding Secured
		GMD/D	GMD/D	%
0639	<i>Roots Project</i>	1,658,869,484	18,879,997	1.14%
0711	<i>Gambia Inclusive &amp; Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Project (GIRAV)</i>	1,286,736,220	15,950,000	1.24%
0688	<i>Rice Value Chain IDB</i>	948,780,000	22,679,644	2.39%
0649 & 2735	<i>Small Ruminant Project</i>	851,160,249	30,400,000	3.57%
0648	<i>Rice Value Chain Development</i>	514,148,397	29,775,000	5.79%
0536	<i>Build Resilience to Recurring Food Insecurity Project</i>	486,961,871	31,911,377	6.55%
0523	<i>Building Resilience Against Food and Nutrition Insecurity</i>	483,714,486	11,385,899	2.35%
0542	<i>Agriculture Value Chain Development Project</i>	463,735,620	11,973,997	2.58%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,694,106,327</b>	<b>172,955,914</b>	<b>2.58%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets from 2020 to 2025, published by The Gambia’s Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).<sup>1</sup>

## Detailed Funding Analysis of Major Development Projects under The Gambia’s Ministry of Agriculture: 2020–2023

### 1. Roots Project

The Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project (ROOTS) aimed to strengthen food security, nutrition, and climate resilience in The Gambia, mainly by supporting investments in infrastructure and the capacities of farmers’ organizations, and increasing agricultural productivity and market access (see [ROOTS](#)).

*Table 2: Funding for the Roots Project: 2020–2023*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>508,830,000</b>	<b>371,492,000</b>	<b>197,047,484</b>	<b>581,500,000</b>	<b>1,658,869,484</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	6,000,000	6,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000	<b>21,000,000</b>
Project Grants approved	502,830,000	257,492,000	166,417,484	385,000,000	<b>1,311,739,484</b>
External Loans approved	-	108,000,000	25,630,000	192,500,000	<b>326,130,000</b>
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>3,550,000</b>	<b>4,580,000</b>	<b>3,749,997</b>	<b>7,000,000</b>	<b>18,879,997</b>
GLF received	3,550,000	4,580,000	2,800,000	7,000,000	<b>17,930,000</b>
Project Grants received	0	0	949,997	0	<b>949,997</b>
External Loans received	-	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>0.70%</b>	<b>1.23%</b>	<b>1.90%</b>	<b>1.20%</b>	<b>1.14%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets from 2020 to 2025, published by The Gambia’s Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

<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.

Based on [approved funding](#) for the [Roots Project](#) for the period 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 2):

- The project’s approved overall funding for the period (2020–2023) was **1.659 billion Dalasis**. **79.07% (D1.312 billion)** of that was Project Grants, **19.66% (D326 million)** was External Loans, and **1.27% (D21 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF);

the approved Project Grants were expected from the following donors:

- *International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)*: D873.4 million (D276,870,000 for 2020, D109,000,000 for 2021, D102,520,000 for 2022, & D385,000,000 for 2023);
- *France*: D332.7 million (D225,960,000 for 2020, D96,712,000 for 2021, & D10,040,597 for 2022);
- *Global Environment Facility (GEF)*: D105.6 million (D51,780,000 for 2021 & D53,856,887 for 2022)

the approved External Loans were expected from the following creditors:

- *International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)*: D218.1 million (D25,630,000 for 2022, & D192,500,000 for 2023);
- *OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)*: D108,000,000 for 2021.

the approved GLF (D21,000,000) was expected from *The Gambia’s Central Government*.

- The various approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *project operating costs* = D1.284 billion (D508,830,000 for 2020, D371,492,000 for 2021, D15,040,597 for 2022, & D389,000,000 for 2023);
  - *land development* = D160.2 million (D75,020,000 for 2022 & D85,200,000 for 2023);
  - *expenditure on agricultural equipment and machinery* = D110.6 million (D60,556,087 for 2022 & D50,000,000 for 2023);
  - *construction of irrigation infrastructure & land development* = D82.9 million (D25,630,000 for 2022 & D57,300,000 for 2023);
  - *expenditure on irrigation equipment* = D20,800,800 for 2022.

Based on [actual funding](#) for the [Roots Project](#) during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 2):

- The project registered only **D18.9 million (1.14%** of the approved D1.659 billion) from 2020 to 2023.
- Actual Project Grants equaled D950 thousand, while External Loans amounted to zero, despite the approval of over D1.6 billion by the Executive and the Legislature.
- 94.97% (D17.9 million) of the total funding registered was GLF from the *Central Government of The Gambia*, and the remaining 5.03% was Project Grants from *France*.
- The D18.9 million secured was spent on the project’s operating costs.

## 2. *Gambia Inclusive & Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Project (GIRAV)*

The Gambia Inclusive and Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project (GIRAV) was meant to promote access to water supply, sanitation, and the development of inclusive, resilient, and competitive agricultural value chains in The Gambia, primarily by improving the business environment for commercial agriculture development, building a productive and climate-resilient agri-food system, and mobilizing productive private investments along the value chains (see [World Bank Group](#)).

*Table 3: Funding for the Gambia Inclusive & Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Project (GIRAV): 2020–2023*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	-	<b>56,000,000</b>	<b>109,280,000</b>	<b>1,121,456,220</b>	<b>1,286,736,220</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	-	5,000,000	7,500,000	5,000,000	<b>17,500,000</b>
Project Grants approved	-	51,000,000	101,780,000	1,116,456,220	<b>1,269,236,220</b>
External Loans approved	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	-	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>5,950,000</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>15,950,000</b>
GLF received	-	5,000,000	5,950,000	5,000,000	<b>15,950,000</b>
Project Grants received	-	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
External Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	-	<b>8.93%</b>	<b>5.44%</b>	<b>0.45%</b>	<b>1.24%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets from 2020 to 2025, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on approved funding for the GIRAV Project for the period 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 3):

- The project's approved overall funding for the period (2020–2023) was **1.287 billion Dalasis**. **98.64% (D1.269 billion)** of the approved total funding was Project Grants expected from the *International Development Association (IDA)–World Bank*, and **1.36% (D17.5 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF) expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *project operating costs* = D626.7 million (D56,000,000 for 2021, D7,500,000 for 2022, & D563,228,110 for 2023);
  - *land development* = D398.08 million (D70,080,000 for 2022 & D328,000,000 for 2023);
  - *expenditure on wells, boreholes, water points & reticulation systems* = D230,228,110 for 2023;
  - *construction of irrigation infrastructure & land development* = D31,700,000 for 2022.

Based on actual funding for the GIRAV Project during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 3):

- The project registered only **D15.95 million (1.24%** of the approved D1.287 billion) from 2020 to 2023. All funding reported to have been received was GLF from the *Central Government*.
- Actual Project Grants equaled zero despite the approval of over D1.2 billion by the Executive and the Legislature.
- The D15.95 million secured was spent on the project's operating costs.

### **3. Rice Value Chain IDB**

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

*Table 4: Funding for the Rice Value Chain IDB Project: 2020–2023*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>350,000,000</b>	<b>147,000,000</b>	<b>60,780,000</b>	<b>391,000,000</b>	<b>948,780,000</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	-	6,000,000	9,000,000	6,000,000	<b>21,000,000</b>
Project Grants approved	140,000,000	-	-	-	<b>140,000,000</b>
External Loans approved	210,000,000	141,000,000	51,780,000	385,000,000	<b>787,780,000</b>
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,000,000</b>	<b>6,679,644</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>	<b>22,679,644</b>
GLF received	-	6,000,000	6,679,644	10,000,000	<b>22,679,644</b>
Project Grants received	0	-	-	-	<b>0</b>
External Loans received	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>4.08%</b>	<b>10.99%</b>	<b>2.56%</b>	<b>2.39%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets from 2020 to 2025, 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 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 4):

- The project's approved overall funding for the period (2020–2023) was **948.78 million Dalasis**. **83.03% (D787.78 million)** of the approved total funding was External Loans expected from the *Islamic Development Bank (IDB)*, **14.76% (D140 million)** was Project Grants, also expected from the *Islamic Development Bank (IDB)*, while **2.21% (D21 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF) expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *project operating costs* = D512 million (D350,000,000 for 2020, D147,000,000 for 2021, D9,000,000 for 2022, & D6,000,000 for 2023);
  - *expenditure on agricultural equipment and machinery* = D254 million (D19,000,500 for 2022 & D235,000,000 for 2023);
  - *expenditure on irrigation equipment* = D182.78 million (D32,779,500 for 2022 & D150,000,000 for 2023).

Based on [actual funding](#) for the [Rice Value Chain IDB Project](#) during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 4):

- The project registered only **D22.7 million (2.39%** of the approved D948.78 million) from 2020 to 2023. All funding reported to have been received was GLF, from the *Central Government*, whose actual amount exceeded its approved amount by D1.7 million.
- Actual Project Grants and External Loans equaled zero despite the approval of over D927 million by the Executive and the Legislature.
- The D22.7 million secured was spent on the project's operating costs.

#### *4. Small Ruminant Project*

A project set up to improve the production, processing, and marketing of small ruminant livestock (sheep, goats, etc.) in The Gambia (see [Islamic Development Bank \[IDB\]](#)).

*Table 5: Funding for the Small Ruminant Project: 2020–2023*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>70,002,500</b>	<b>227,000,000</b>	<b>177,657,749</b>	<b>376,500,000</b>	<b>851,160,249</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	5,000,000	8,000,000	12,000,000	7,000,000	<b>32,000,000</b>
Project Grants approved	-	-	-	-	-
External Loans approved	65,002,500	219,000,000	165,657,749	369,500,000	<b>819,160,249</b>
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>8,000,000</b>	<b>9,000,000</b>	<b>9,400,000</b>	<b>30,400,000</b>
GLF received	4,000,000	8,000,000	9,000,000	9,400,000	<b>30,400,000</b>
Project Grants received	-	-	-	-	-
External Loans received	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>5.71%</b>	<b>3.52%</b>	<b>5.07%</b>	<b>2.50%</b>	<b>3.57%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets from 2020 to 2025, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on approved funding for the *Small Ruminant Project* for the period 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 5):

- The project's approved overall funding for the period (2020–2023) was **851.16 million Dalasis**. **96.24% (D819.16 million)** of the approved total funding was External Loans expected from the *Islamic Development Bank (IDB)*, while **3.76% (D32 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF) expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *project operating costs* = D685.5 million (D70,002,500 for 2020, D227,000,000 for 2021, D12,000,000 for 2022 & D376,500,000 for 2023);
  - *expenditure on livestock* = D100,000,749 for 2022;
  - *land development* = D65,657,000 for 2022.

Based on actual funding for the *Small Ruminant Project* during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 5):

- The project registered only **D30.4 million (3.57%** of the approved D851.16 million) from 2020 to 2023. All funding reported to have been received was GLF from the *Central Government*.
- Actual External Loans equaled zero despite the approval of over D819 million by the Executive and the Legislature.
- The D30.4 million secured was spent on the project's operating costs.

## 5. Rice Value Chain Development

A project for developing a rice value chain (i.e. the production, processing, packaging, distribution, and marketing of rice) in The Gambia.

*Table 6: Funding for the Rice Value Chain Development Project: 2020–2023*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>208,092,977</b>	<b>108,000,000</b>	<b>159,240,000</b>	<b>38,815,420</b>	<b>514,148,397</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	5,000,000	7,000,000	7,500,000	6,000,000	<b>25,500,000</b>
Project Grants approved	72,625,000	101,000,000	151,740,000	32,815,420	<b>358,180,420</b>
External Loans approved	130,467,977	-	-	-	<b>130,467,977</b>
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>5,000,000</b>	<b>6,565,000</b>	<b>7,210,000</b>	<b>11,000,000</b>	<b>29,775,000</b>
GLF received	5,000,000	6,565,000	7,210,000	11,000,000	<b>29,775,000</b>
Project Grants received	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
External Loans received	0	-	-	-	<b>0</b>
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>2.40%</b>	<b>6.08%</b>	<b>4.53%</b>	<b>28.34%</b>	<b>5.79%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets from 2020 to 2025, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).



Based on [approved funding](#) for the [Rice Value Chain Development Project](#) for the period 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 6):

- The project’s approved overall funding for the period (2020–2023) was **514.15 million Dalasis**. **69.66% (D358.2 million)** of the approved total funding was Project Grants expected from the *African Development Bank (ADB)*, **25.38% (D130.5 million)** was External Loans, also expected from the *African Development Bank (ADB)*, whereas **4.96% (D25.5 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF) expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- All approved funds (D514.15 million) were budgeted for the project’s operating costs.

Based on [actual funding](#) for the [Rice Value Chain Development Project](#) during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 6):

- The project registered only **D29.8 million (5.79%** of the approved D514.15 million) from 2020 to 2023. All funding reported to have been received was GLF, from the *Central Government*, whose actual amount exceeded its approved amount by D4.3 million.
- Actual Project Grants and External Loans equaled zero despite the approval of over D488 million by the Executive and the Legislature.
- The D29.8 million secured was spent on the project’s operating costs.

## 6. Build Resilience to Recurring Food Insecurity Project

The Building Resilience to Recurring Food Insecurity Project was designed to strengthen resilience to food shortage and climate change in The Gambia, by improving skills and developing stock breeding, irrigation schemes, and regional markets for agricultural and livestock inputs and products (see [THE POINT](#)).

*Table 7: Funding for the Build Resilience to Recurring Food Insecurity Project: 2020–2023*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>267,935,871</b>	<b>124,000,000</b>	<b>91,026,000</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>486,961,871</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	9,000,000	8,000,000	18,000,000	4,000,000	<b>39,000,000</b>
Project Grants approved	-	-	-	-	-
External Loans approved	258,935,871	116,000,000	73,026,000	-	<b>447,961,871</b>
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>3,950,000</b>	<b>5,766,633</b>	<b>13,168,729</b>	<b>9,026,015</b>	<b>31,911,377</b>
GLF received	3,950,000	5,766,633	13,168,729	9,026,015	<b>31,911,377</b>
Project Grants received	-	-	-	-	-
External Loans received	0	0	0	-	<b>0</b>
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>1.47%</b>	<b>4.65%</b>	<b>14.47%</b>	<b>225.65%</b>	<b>6.55%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets from 2020 to 2025, published by The Gambia’s Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on [approved funding](#) for the [Build Resilience to Recurring Food Insecurity Project](#) for the period 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 7):

- The project’s approved overall funding for the period (2020–2023) was **486.96 million Dalasis**. **91.99% (D447.96 million)** of the approved total funding was External Loans expected from the *Islamic Development Bank (IDB)*, and **8.01% (D39 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF) expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- All approved funds (D486.96 million) were budgeted for the project’s operating costs.

Based on [actual funding](#) for the [Build Resilience to Recurring Food Insecurity Project](#) during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 7):

- The project registered only **D31.9 million (6.55%** of the approved D486.96 million) from 2020 to 2023. All funding reported to have been received was GLF from the *Central Government*.

- Actual External Loans equaled zero despite the approval of over D447 million by the Executive and the Legislature.
- The D31.9 million secured was spent as follows:
  - *project operating costs* = D26.9 million (D3,950,000 in 2020, D5,766,633 in 2021, D13,168,729 in 2022, & D4,000,000 in 2023);
  - *subvention to Non-Financial Public Corporations—for other charges* = D5,026,015 in 2023 (an expenditure not approved in the 2023 budget, under this project).

## 7. Building Resilience Against Food and Nutrition Insecurity

A project for enhancing food and nutrition security and reducing malnutrition and poverty in The Gambia, through investing in agricultural and livestock infrastructures and developing a value chain for processing and marketing, land management, and ecosystem restoration (see [THE POINT](#)).

*Table 8: Funding for the Building Resilience Against Food and Nutrition Insecurity Proj.: 2020–2023*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>296,973,766</b>	<b>68,200,000</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>114,540,720</b>	<b>483,714,486</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	4,000,000	6,000,000	2,500,000	29,800,000	<b>42,300,000</b>
Project Grants approved	292,973,766	62,200,000	1,500,000	84,740,720	<b>441,414,486</b>
External Loans approved	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>	<b>5,885,899</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,385,899</b>
GLF received	3,000,000	5,885,899	2,500,000	0	<b>11,385,899</b>
Project Grants received	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
External Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>1.01%</b>	<b>8.63%</b>	<b>62.50%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2.35%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets from 2020 to 2025, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on approved funding for the Building Resilience Against Food and Nutrition Insecurity Project for the period 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 8):

- The project's approved overall funding for the period (2020–2023) was **483.7 million Dalasis**. **91.26% (D441.4 million)** of the approved total funding was Project Grants expected from the *African Development Bank (ADB)*, and **8.74% (D42.3 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF) expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *project operating costs* = D441.3 million (D296,973,766 for 2020, D68,200,000 for 2021, D4,000,000 for 2022, & D72,170,360 for 2023);
  - *expenditure on agricultural equipment and machinery* = D42,370,360 for 2023.

Based on actual funding for the Building Resilience Against Food and Nutrition Insecurity Project during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 8):

- The project registered only **D11.4 million (2.35%** of the approved D483.7 million) from 2020 to 2023. All funding reported to have been received was GLF from the *Central Government*.
- Actual Project Grants equaled zero despite the approval of over D441 million by the Executive and the Legislature.
- The D11.4 million secured was spent on the project's operating costs.

## 8. Agriculture Value Chain Development Project

A project targeted at improving food and nutrition security and reducing rural poverty in The Gambia – by increasing the production of rice, livestock and livestock products; improving livestock infrastructure and agricultural market access; rendering support to farmers and agribusinesses; developing land; etc. (see [African Development Bank Group](#)).

*Table 9: Funding for the Agriculture Value Chain Development Project: 2020–2023*

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
<b>Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)</b>	<b>125,489,000</b>	<b>82,500,000</b>	<b>3,500,000</b>	<b>252,246,620</b>	<b>463,735,620</b>
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	6,000,000	6,000,000	2,500,000	-	<b>14,500,000</b>
Project Grants approved	-	-	1,000,000	252,246,620	<b>253,246,620</b>
External Loans approved	119,489,000	76,500,000	-	-	<b>195,989,000</b>
<b>Total Funding Received (GMD/D)</b>	<b>5,082,000</b>	<b>4,400,000</b>	<b>2,491,997</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11,973,997</b>
GLF received	5,082,000	4,400,000	2,491,997	-	<b>11,973,997</b>
Project Grants received	-	-	0	0	<b>0</b>
External Loans received	0	0	-	-	<b>0</b>
<b>% of Approved Funding Secured</b>	<b>4.05%</b>	<b>5.33%</b>	<b>71.20%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>2.58%</b>

Source: Data extracted from approved Central Government/National Budgets from 2020 to 2025, published by The Gambia's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA).

Based on [approved funding](#) for the *Agriculture Value Chain Development Project* for the period 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 9):

- The project's approved overall funding for the period (2020–2023) was **463.7 million Dalasis**. **54.61% (D253.2 million)** of the approved total funding was Project Grants expected from the *African Development Bank (ADB)*, **42.26% (D196 million)** was External Loans, also expected from the *African Development Bank (ADB)*, and **3.13% (D14.5 million)** was Government Local Fund (GLF) expected from the *Central Government of The Gambia*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
  - *project operating costs* = D337.6 million (D125,489,000 for 2020, D82,500,000 for 2021, D3,500,000 for 2022, & D126,123,310 for 2023);
  - *expenditure on agricultural equipment and machinery* = D126,123,310 for 2023.

Based on [actual funding](#) for the *Agriculture Value Chain Development Project* during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 9):

- The project registered only **D11.97 million (2.58%** of the approved D463.7 million) from 2020 to 2023. All funding reported to have been received was GLF from the *Central Government*.
- Actual Project Grants and External Loans equaled zero despite the approval of over D449 million by the Executive and the Legislature.
- The D11.97 million secured was spent on the project's operating costs.

## Conclusion, Key Findings, and Recommendations

Reports in the National Budgets indicate that **D6.69 billion** was authorized, by the Executive and the Legislature, for The Gambia's Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to implement eight major development projects **from 2020 to 2023**. The same reports reveal that of the grand figure approved, only **2.58% (D173 million)** was secured during project execution, demonstrating a huge shortfall in the ministry's four-year development funding.

- For fiscal year 2020, D1.83 billion had been projected and approved for the Agriculture Ministry's eight major development projects. However, in 2020, only 1.345% (D24.6 million) of the approved sum was

attained. For 2021, D1.18 billion had been approved but only 3.9% (D46.2 million) was secured during the year; D802.5 million had been approved for 2022 and 6.324% (D50.75 million) was obtained throughout the year; and D2.88 billion had been approved for 2023 with only 1.786% (D51.4 million) registered at end 2023 (based on data presented in the approved National Budgets 2020–2025).

- The **Project Grants** approved for MoA’s eight major projects amounted to **D3.77 billion** (D1.008 billion for 2020, D471.69 million for 2021, D422.44 million for 2022, and D1.871 billion for 2023). However, it is reported in the National Budgets that only **D949,997** in Project Grants was secured for the projects, from 2020 to 2023.
- The **External Loans** approved for the eight major projects amounted to **D2.71 billion** (D783.9 million for 2020, D660.5 million for 2021, D316.1 million for 2022, and D947 million for 2023). However, it is reported in the National Budgets that no External Loans were received for the projects, from 2020 to 2023.
- The **Government Local Fund (GLF)** approved for the eight projects amounted to **D212.8 million** (D35 million for 2020, D52 million for 2021, D64 million for 2022, and D61.8 million for 2023). **80.83% (D172 million)** of the approved GLF was secured (D24.6 million in 2020, D46.2 million in 2021, D49.8 million in 2022, and D51.4 million in 2023), thus indicating that government local funding was more forthcoming than Project Grants and External Loans combined.
- The approved **external funders** of MoA’s eight major projects from 2020 to 2023 were **IDB** (expected to provide D2.055 billion in External Loans & D140 million in Project Grants), **ADB** (expected to provide D1.053 billion in Project Grants & D326.46 million in External Loans), **IDA** (expected to provide D1.269 billion in Project Grants), **IFAD** (expected to provide D873.4 million in Project Grants & D218.1 million in External Loans), **France** (expected to provide D332.7 million in Project Grants), **OFID** (expected to provide D108 million in External Loans), and **GEF** (expected to provide D105.6 million in Project Grants). Nonetheless, *only France provided D950 thousand in 2022, and that was it*; all other external receipts, for the eight projects, were reported as zero (the budgets show).

### *Key findings and recommendations:*

#### ➤ **High dependence on external funding to implement development projects**

With D6.48 billion expected from foreign partners and D212.8 million from the Central Government, over 96% of approved funding for the Agriculture Ministry’s eight major development projects was tied to external sources, signifying heavy dependence on foreign assistance to implement key projects in a crucial sector. Moreover, since D2.71 billion (40.5% of approved funding for the eight projects) was in External Loans, this meant more external debt burden for The Gambia.

**Recommendation:** To avoid extreme dependence on foreign aid and external loans, The Gambia Government must strengthen domestic revenue mobilization by substantially investing in and restructuring its revenue-generating Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) – including the State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) – to improve revenue generation capacity and increase revenue tracking to prevent leakage. The government must also cultivate the habit of allocating more domestic revenue to projects.

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

The National Budgets report that MoA’s eight major projects received D950 thousand (in 2022) out of the approved D6.48 billion of external funding for the four years, reflecting massive shortages. ***But first, let us question the accuracy of the data presented in the National Budgets. Is it realistic that the Ministry of Agriculture got authorized to secure external funding of over one billion Dalasis annually (precisely D1.79 billion for 2020, D1.13 billion for 2021, and D2.82 billion for 2023) but still managed to receive no funding at all, not in 2020, 2021, or 2023? Think about that for a minute.***

**Recommendation:** The government, particularly the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and the National Assembly’s Finance and Public Accounts Committee (FPAC), must improve their monitoring and evaluation of all external funds to ensure not only their effective and efficient utilization but also accurate reporting for greater transparency, accountability and overall credibility of government development budgets.

➤ **Large project operating costs**

The amount of money approved for running or operational costs of MoA’s eight major projects from 2020 to 2023 was extremely high. 73% (about D4.88 billion) of approved funding for the eight projects was budgeted for operating costs, and 97.1% (about D168 million) of funding registered for the projects was spent on operating costs (the budgets show).

**Recommendation:** The government needs to reevaluate how projects are run at the Agriculture Ministry, and devise less costly but efficient ways of operating projects to ensure that more funds are channeled toward capital or fixed asset expenditures for long-term gains and accelerated development.

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## Disclaimer

The numerical datasets in this report have been extracted exclusively from The Gambia’s 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 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 2020–2025 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 would like to firmly assert that it cannot guarantee absolute CONSISTENCY among all the 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 is into budget and macroeconomic advocacy - aimed at increasing awareness around Public Financial Management and the macroeconomy, fostering public understanding and effective participation in government budgetary processes and macroeconomic dialogues, promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in The Gambia.

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## AUTHOR:



LAMIN DIBBA

