



Center for Budget and
Macroeconomic
Transparency

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

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Introduction

This article features the development initiatives of Ministry of Petroleum and Energy (MoPE) 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 410 million and 4 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 Petroleum and Energy (MoPE), in collaboration with other affiliated government institutions, implements development projects designed to develop or advance The Gambia's energy infrastructure. For instance, from 2020 to 2023, MoPE, with assistance from the National Water and Electricity Company (NAWEC), implemented **seven major development projects** (listed in Table 1) with the aim of improving and developing electricity and water infrastructures in The Gambia – to increase access to electricity and clean water, stimulate economic production, and enhance standard of living. Each major development project was worth more than D400 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 Petroleum and Energy's Major Development Projects: 2020–2023

A total amount of **11.64 billion Dalasis** got approved, by the Executive and the National Assembly, for the Petroleum and Energy Ministry's seven major development projects covering 2020–2023. However, during project implementation, these major projects registered only a combined amount of **D2.25 million** in actual funding, equivalent to **0.02%** of the approved D11.64 billion, thus illustrating unbelievable levels of project underfunding (as reported in the National Budgets).

Based on approvals, the *Gambia Electricity Restoration and Modernization Project (GERMP)* had the largest budget (D3.996 billion), whereas, on the basis of actual receipts, the *Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP)* registered the most and only money for the projects in relation to the period under study, D2.25 million. In other

words, six out of the seven major projects secured zero in actual funding, showing serious budget credibility challenges (see Table 1).

Table 1: Total Funding Approved vs. Total Funding Received for the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy’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	%
0662 & 0752	<i>Gambia Electricity Restoration and Modernization Project (GERMP) & GERMP – Additional Financing</i>	3,996,004,513	0	0%
0663	<i>ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECO-REAP)</i>	2,263,956,872	0	0%
0753	<i>OIC Water Project</i>	1,904,232,500	0	0%
0679	<i>Investment Support for Sustainable Energy Project</i>	1,480,250,370	0	0%
0754	<i>OIC Electricity Project</i>	919,971,200	0	0%
0751	<i>Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP)</i>	664,216,317	2,250,000	0.34%
0658	<i>Electricity Expansion Project</i>	410,479,790	0	0%
TOTAL		11,639,111,562	2,250,000	0.02%

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).¹

Detailed Funding Analysis of Major Development Projects under The Gambia’s Ministry of Petroleum and Energy: 2020–2023

1. Gambia Electricity Restoration and Modernization Project (GERMP) & GERMP – Additional Financing

The GERMP project 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 2: Funding for the Gambia Electricity Restoration and Modernization Project (GERMP): 2020–2023

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)	304,459,127	508,023,555	851,765,293	2,331,756,538	3,996,004,513
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants approved	304,459,127	322,000,000	851,765,293	2,331,756,538	3,809,980,958
External Loans approved	-	186,023,555	-	-	186,023,555
Total Funding Received (GMD/D)	0	0	0	0	0
GLF received	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants received	0	0	0	0	0
External Loans received	-	0	-	-	0
% of Approved Funding Secured	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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).

¹ 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 [Gambia Electricity Restoration and Modernization 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 **3.996 billion Dalasis**. **95.35% (D3.81 billion)** of that was Project Grants, and **4.65% (D186 million)** was External Loans; the approved Project Grants were expected from the following donors:
 - *International Development Association (IDA)–World Bank*: D2.545 billion (D304,459,127 for 2020, D322,000,000 for 2021, D640,365,145 for 2022, & D1,278,360,957 for 2023);
 - *European Investment Bank (EIB)*: D1.265 billion (D211,400,148 for 2022 & D1,053,395,581 for 2023);
 the approved External Loan (D186,023,555) was also expected from the *European Investment Bank (EIB)*, for the 2021 fiscal year.
- The various approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
 - *expenditure on energy generating equipment* = D1.928 billion (D406,900,293 for 2022 & D1,521,186,407 for 2023);
 - *expenditure on plants, machinery, and equipment* = D1.189 billion (D420,865,000 for 2022 & D768,289,145 for 2023);
 - *project operating costs* = D878.76 million (D304,459,127 for 2020, D508,023,555 for 2021, D24,000,000 for 2022, & D42,280,986 for 2023).

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

- The project registered **D0.00** despite the approval of D3.996 billion by the Executive and the Legislature.

2. ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECO-REAP)

ECO-REAP was created to increase grid electricity access in The Gambia, among other West African countries, mainly through the design, supply, and installation (DSI) of electricity distribution infrastructure (see [World Bank Group](#)).

Table 3: Funding for the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECO-REAP): 2020–2023

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)	120,668,390	306,000,000	268,038,050	1,569,250,432	2,263,956,872
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants approved	120,668,390	306,000,000	268,038,050	1,569,250,432	2,263,956,872
External Loans approved	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding Received (GMD/D)	0	0	0	0	0
GLF received	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants received	0	0	0	0	0
External Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
% of Approved Funding Secured	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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 [ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project \(ECO-REAP\)](#) 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 **2.264 billion Dalasis**, all Project Grants expected from the *International Development Association (IDA)–World Bank*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
 - *expenditure on plants, machinery, and equipment* = D1.072 billion (D200,000,000 for 2022 & D872,000,000 for 2023);

- *expenditure on energy generating equipment* = D743.5 million (D58,038,050 for 2022 & D685,450,432 for 2023);
- *project operating costs* = D448.5 million (D120,668,390 for 2020, D306,000,000 for 2021, D10,000,000 for 2022, & D11,800,000 for 2023).

Based on **actual funding** for the *ECOWAS Regional Electricity Access Project (ECO-REAP)* during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 3):

- The project registered **D0.00** despite the approval of D2.264 billion by the Executive and the Legislature.

3. OIC Water Project

The OIC Water Project was designed to increase access to clean water in The Gambia by improving the country’s water infrastructure in strategic areas (see [Oicgambia](#); [THE POINT](#)).

Table 4: Funding for the OIC Water Project: 2020–2023

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)	-	187,000,000	747,232,500	970,000,000	1,904,232,500
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants approved	-	187,000,000	747,232,500	970,000,000	1,904,232,500
External Loans approved	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding Received (GMD/D)	-	0	0	0	0
GLF received	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants received	-	0	0	0	0
External Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
% of Approved Funding Secured	-	0%	0%	0%	0%

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 *OIC Water 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 **1.904 billion Dalasis**, all Project Grants expected from the *Saudi Fund for Development (SFD)*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
 - *expenditure on energy generating equipment* = D1.622 billion (D700,000,000 for 2022 & D922,000,000 for 2023);
 - *project operating costs* = D197 million (D187,000,000 for 2021, D7,000,000 for 2022, & D3,000,000 for 2023);
 - *expenditure on plants, machinery, and equipment* = D85.2 million (D40,232,500 for 2022 & D45,000,000 for 2023).

Based on **actual funding** for the *OIC Water Project* during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 4):

- The project registered **D0.00** despite the approval of D1.904 billion by the Executive and the Legislature.

4. Investment Support for Sustainable Energy Project

A project to strengthen The Gambia’s energy sector.

Table 5: Funding for the Investment Support for Sustainable Energy Project: 2020–2023

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)	147,312,609	581,520,261	747,132,634	4,284,866	1,480,250,370
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants approved	147,312,609	581,520,261	747,132,634	4,284,866	1,480,250,370
External Loans approved	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding Received (GMD/D)	0	0	0	0	0
GLF received	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants received	0	0	0	0	0
External Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
% of Approved Funding Secured	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

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 Investment Support for Sustainable Energy 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 **1.48 billion Dalasis**, all Project Grants expected from the *European Union (EU)*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
 - *project operating costs* = D736.8 million (D147,312,609 for 2020, D581,520,261 for 2021, D7,000,000 for 2022 & D1,000,000 for 2023);
 - *expenditure on plants, machinery, and equipment* = D701.1 million (D700,132,634 for 2022 & D1,000,000 for 2023);
 - *expenditure on energy generating equipment* = D42.3 million (D40,000,000 for 2022 & D2,284,866 for 2023).

Based on actual funding for the Investment Support for Sustainable Energy Project during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 5):

- The project registered **D0.00** despite the approval of D1.48 billion by the Executive and the Legislature.

5. OIC Electricity Project

This project was designed to increase access to electricity in The Gambia by improving the country's electricity infrastructure (see [The Standard Newspaper](#); [Oicgambia](#))

Table 6: Funding for the OIC Electricity Project: 2020–2023

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)	-	134,000,000	392,985,600	392,985,600	919,971,200
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants approved	-	134,000,000	392,985,600	392,985,600	919,971,200
External Loans approved	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding Received (GMD/D)	-	0	0	0	0
GLF received	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants received	-	0	0	0	0
External Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
% of Approved Funding Secured	-	0%	0%	0%	0%

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 OIC Electricity 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 **919.97 million Dalasis**, all Project Grants expected from the *Saudi Fund for Development (SFD)*.

- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
 - *expenditure on plants, machinery, and equipment* = D400 million (D200,000,000 for 2022 & D200,000,000 for 2023);
 - *expenditure on energy generating equipment* = D365.97 million (D182,985,600 for 2022 & D182,985,600 for 2023);
 - *project operating costs* = D154 million (D134,000,000 for 2021, D10,000,000 for 2022, & D10,000,000 for 2023).

Based on **actual funding** for the *OIC Electricity Project* during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 6):

- The project registered **D0.00** despite the approval of D919.97 million by the Executive and the Legislature.

6. 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 7: Funding for the Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP): 2020–2023

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)	-	110,417,317	106,559,850	447,239,150	664,216,317
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants approved	-	110,417,317	106,559,850	447,239,150	664,216,317
External Loans approved	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding Received (GMD/D)	-	0	2,250,000	0	2,250,000
GLF received	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants received	-	0	2,250,000	0	2,250,000
External Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
% of Approved Funding Secured	-	0%	2.11%	0%	0.34%

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 *Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP)* 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 **664.2 million Dalasis**, all Project Grants expected from the *African Development Bank (ADB)*.
- The approved funds were intended for the following expenditures:
 - *expenditure on energy generating equipment* = D466 million (D90,000,000 for 2022 & D376,000,000 for 2023);
 - *project operating costs* = D140.2 million (D110,417,317 for 2021, D10,000,000 for 2022, & D19,750,000 for 2023);
 - *expenditure on plants, machinery, and equipment* = D58 million (D6,559,850 for 2022 & D51,489,150 for 2023).

Based on **actual funding** for the *Gambia Electricity Access Project (GEAP)* during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 7):

- The project registered only **D2.25 million (0.34%** of the approved D664.2 million) from 2020 to 2023.
- The D2.25 million, a Project Grant from *ADB*, was spent on plants, machinery, and equipment in 2022.

7. Electricity Expansion Project

This project was meant to expand electricity coverage in The Gambia (see [Voice Gambia](#)).

Table 8: Funding for the Electricity Expansion Project: 2020–2023

FUNDING (in Dalasi)	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020–2023
Total Funding Approved (GMD/D)	250,479,790	160,000,000	-	-	410,479,790
Government Local Fund (GLF) approved	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants approved	-	-	-	-	-
External Loans approved	250,479,790	160,000,000	-	-	410,479,790
Total Funding Received (GMD/D)	0	0	-	-	0
GLF received	-	-	-	-	-
Project Grants received	-	-	-	-	-
External Loans received	0	0	-	-	0
% of Approved Funding Secured	0%	0%	-	-	0%

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 [Electricity Expansion 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 **410.48 million Dalasis**, all External Loans expected from *EXIM Bank of India*.
- All approved funds (D410.48 million) were budgeted for the project's operating costs.

Based on [actual funding](#) for the [Electricity Expansion Project](#) during 2020–2023 (as reported in the approved National Budgets and summarized in Table 8):

- The project registered **D0.00** despite the approval of over D410 million by the Executive and the Legislature.

Conclusion, Key Findings, and Recommendations

Reports in the National Budgets indicate that **D11.64 billion** was authorized by the Executive and Legislature for The Gambia's Ministry of Petroleum and Energy to implement seven major development projects from **2020 to 2023**. The same reports reveal that of the grand figure approved, only **0.02% (D2.25 million)** was secured during project execution, signifying an extraordinary shortfall in the ministry's four-year development funding.

- For fiscal year 2020, D822.9 million had been projected and approved for the Petroleum and Energy Ministry's seven major development projects. However, in 2020, zero Dalasi was attained. For 2021, D1.987 billion had been approved but again nothing was secured during the year. D3.114 billion had been approved for 2022 but only D2.25 million was obtained throughout the year, and D5.716 billion had been approved for 2023 with a zero Dalasi realization rate at year-end (based on data presented in the approved National Budgets 2020–2025).
- The **Project Grants** approved for the seven major projects amounted to **D11.043 billion** (D572.4 million for 2020, D1.641 billion for 2021, D3.114 billion for 2022, and D5.716 billion for 2023). However, it is reported in the National Budgets that only **D2.25 million** in Project Grants was secured for the projects, from 2020 to 2023.
- The **External Loans** approved for the seven major projects amounted to **D596.5 million** (D250.5 million for 2020, and D346 million for 2021). However, it is reported in the National Budgets that no External Loans were secured for the projects, from 2020 to 2023.
- No **Government Local Fund (GLF)** was approved or received for the seven major projects, concerning the period under study.

- The approved **external funders** of MoPE’s seven major projects from 2020 to 2023 were **IDA** (expected to provide D4.81 billion in Project Grants), **SFD** (expected to provide D2.824 billion in Project Grants), **EU** (expected to provide D1.48 billion in Project Grants), **EIB** (expected to provide D1.265 billion in Project Grants & D186 million in External Loans), **ADB** (expected to provide D664.2 million in Project Grants), and **EXIM Bank of India** (expected to provide D410.5 million in External Loans). Nonetheless, *only ADB provided D2.25 million in 2022, and that was it*; all other external receipts, for the seven projects, were reported as zero (the budgets show).

Key findings and recommendations:

- **Complete dependence on external funding to implement major development projects**
With the entire D11.64 billion expected from foreign partners and nothing from the Central Government, 100% of the approved funding for the Petroleum and Energy Ministry’s major development projects (2020–2023) was tied to external sources, indicating complete dependence on foreign assistance to implement key projects in the energy sector.
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 government revenue-generating Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) – including 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 MoPE’s seven major projects received D2.25 million (in 2022) out of the approved D11.64 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 Petroleum and Energy got authorized to secure external funding of almost one billion or over a billion Dalasis annually (precisely D822.9 million for 2020, D1.987 billion for 2021, & D5.716 billion for 2023), but still managed to receive no funding at all, not in 2020, 2021, or 2023? Something does not add up.*
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 funding approved for the running or operational costs of MoPE’s seven major projects (2020–2023) was unreasonably high. Nearly D3 billion of the projects’ approved total funding for the period was budgeted for operating costs (the budgets show).
Recommendation: The government needs to reevaluate how projects are run at the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, 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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