



Engaging High School Students with Real-Life Economics

A National Civic Education Initiative Empowering the Next Generation of Gambian Economists
Report Period: May 13–24, 2025

Introduction

In a rapidly evolving economic landscape, equipping students with practical knowledge of economics is essential for national development. The “*Engaging High School Students with Real-Life Economics*” project is a civic education initiative designed to boost students’ understanding of real-world economic principles through engaging, competitive, and insightful learning activities.

Our mission is to bridge the gap between theoretical economics taught in classrooms and its real-life application. By fostering critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills among high school students, we aim to raise a generation that is informed, analytical, and capable of participating meaningfully in national discourse.



Lamin Dibba, Executive Director of CBMT monitoring students solving questions at Singhateh Hall in Nusrat Senior Secondary School, May 17, 2025.

Project Launch and Community Support

The initiative began with a public call for support. We reached out to individuals, local

businesses, and organizations to contribute to the success of this youth empowerment project. We express our heartfelt gratitude to those who believed in the vision and donated

towards materials, logistics, and student prizes. Your generosity is an investment in The Gambia's future.

Following this, we secured official permissions from selected schools and collaborated with, primarily, Heads of their Economics Departments to review and approve the quiz contents, ensuring alignment with both academic curriculum and local economic realities.

School Engagements

1. Muslim Senior Secondary School, Brusubi – May 13, 2025

The first engagement kicked off in Brusubi with 50 students divided into five groups of 10. The atmosphere was filled with excitement and anticipation. Students tackled 15 challenging questions covering GDP, inflation, trade, revenue, cost, profit, and resource allocation.

To encourage shared learning, any question answered correctly by all groups was skipped in the final review session. Group B emerged as the winner and celebrated with great joy. What struck us the most was how the students listened attentively and showed collective determination in tackling practical economics questions.



Lamin Dibba sharing information at Muslim Senior Secondary School on May 13, 2025.

2. Charles Jow Memorial Academy, Bundung – May 14, 2025

50 students participated in this session, divided into five groups. The students' enthusiasm mirrored that of the previous day, and the competition was intense. Group 1 emerged victorious. The shared debrief session ensured everyone walked away with a deeper understanding and fresh perspectives.

The students demonstrated remarkable focus and determination, clearly striving to avoid any mistakes. It was especially impressive to observe how well they collaborated under pressure, listening to and respecting each other's ideas and opinions. Their teamwork, even in a high-stakes environment, reflected maturity, critical thinking, and strong mutual support.



Students solving questions at Charles Jow Memorial Academy on May 14, 2025.

3. Latrikunda Sabiji Senior Secondary School, Latrikunda Sabiji – May 16, 2025

This session introduced a unique twist: students analyzed The Gambia's recent **cement crisis** through the lens of *demand and supply dynamics*. With 50 students participating, the depth of the discussion was yet again impressive. Their ability to critically engage with a current national issue was a powerful reminder of the untapped potential among our youth.

Group 3 members emerged as the winners of the quiz, showcasing their ability to work cohesively as a team. Their excitement was evident as they celebrated and proudly received their awards.



Students celebrating all together after Group 3's victory at Latrikunda Sabiji Senior Secondary School on May 16, 2025.

4. Nusrat Senior Secondary School, Bundung – May 17, 2025

This was the largest and most energetic session, hosted at the iconic Singhateh Hall of the school. Over **700 students** were present, with five groups comprising 10 students each, from different classes competing while the rest formed an engaged audience.

Group 2 (Grade 11 Commerce One Morning) triumphed, and the event showcased the school's renowned competitive spirit and deep academic engagement.

5. Masroor Senior Secondary School, Old Yundum – May 24, 2025



Students at Masroor Senior Secondary School waiting to assess and solve the questions

This was the second-largest session of the initiative, held at the school's Hall. About 250 students attended, with various classes actively cheering for their representative groups. A total of 50 students participated in the competition itself. The atmosphere was lively, and the students showed great enthusiasm and competitive spirit throughout the event. The Grade 11 commerce (morning) group earned the top spot over the other four groups.

Impact Overview

- **Direct Beneficiaries:** Approx. 1100 students
- **Estimated Indirect Reach:** Over 5500 (including peers, family members, and educators)
- **Topics Covered:** GDP, inflation, business, production, trade, resource allocation, revenue, cost & profit, demand & supply and current economic issues
- **Skills Developed:** Teamwork, economic reasoning, public speaking, and real-world application of knowledge



Prize giving at Latrikunda Sabiji Senior Secondary Schol by our able Finance Officer, Arokey Touray.

Reflections and the Road Ahead

From Brusubi to Bundung, Latrikunda to Old Yundum, one thing stood out, Gambian students are eager, capable, and ready to engage with the economic issues shaping their country. These engagements revealed the depth of talent and curiosity among young people when given the right platform.

As we await additional school approvals to extend the program, we call on more **partners, donors, and educators** to join us. We invite both financial and strategic collaborators to co-create initiatives such as **intra-school competitions**, civic education modules, and more nationwide youth programs.

This project is more than a school visit; it's a movement to raise a generation of economically conscious citizens.



Students at Charles Jow listening attentively

Special Thanks

We extend our sincere appreciation to every individual, donor, school administrator, and student who made this initiative possible. Together, we are building a stronger, more informed Gambia.

To collaborate, support, or learn more, contact us at:

✉ info@cbmtgambia.org ☎ +220 3110624
or +220 4052844 🌐 www.cbmtgambia.org

Written by: Yahya Sonko

Reviewed by: Lamin Dibba