

Visual Analysis:

Taking a picture seems like a simple thing: you just take it, right, like a selfie? Not necessarily. Look at the photos taken by Samantha Reinders of Adama Ceesay and Modou Touray. Each shows an individual. But consider how different the photos are. Answer the following questions, with a partner if you are working with one, or in writing, if you are working alone.

- How much of the frame does each person fill? How does that affect your sense of each of them? Why do you think the photographer chose to show each of them the way she did?
- Besides Adama Ceesay, what else is included in the photo of her? How is it displayed? What is in front of her, and why do you think it is out of focus? What is behind and around her? How does the setting affect your sense of who Adama is and what she does?
- Now look at the photo of Modou. Why do you think the photo is mostly of his face? What is in his background? Why is it blurry?
- Imagine switching the two subjects—that is, having a headshot of Adama, and putting Modou in the context of his work. How would the viewer's sense of each person change if the context for each of these people changed?

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.SL.2 Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

CCRA.R.7 Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.



Adama Ceesay, 20, started her own business, Adama's Processing Center, through Gambia's EU-backed Youth Empowerment Project (YEP), which gave her access to loans to acquire a press for making groundnut oil and a paste-making machine for peanut butter. Beyond the regular local customers she serves, Ceesay has her eyes set beyond Gambia: "I sell them on Facebook, but I need help to sell more online." *Photographed by Samantha Reinders.*



YEP leader Modou Touray has overseen the training of more than 5,000 young people like Ceesay, and since 2017, YEP has purchased more than 100 groundnut roasters, paste-making machines and oil presses, in addition to promoting agricultural practices that include varieties hardy enough to adapt to changing climate. The use of solar panels and wind turbines also add sustainability to farms, which Touray says helps Gambia hold on to ambitious youth. “We took a market-led approach to the economic root causes of irregular migration,” he says. *Photographed by Samantha Reinders.*