



1. Project Data:		Date Posted : 08/20/2001	
PROJ ID: P001872		Appraisal	Actual
Project Name: Technical/vocational	Project Costs (US\$M)	16.4	12.83
Country: Mauritania	Loan/Credit (US\$M)	12.5	11.1
Sector(s): Board: SP - Vocational training (50%), Tertiary education (41%), Central government administration (9%)	Cofinancing (US\$M)		
L/C Number: C2521			
	Board Approval (FY)		93
Partners involved :	Closing Date	06/30/1998	12/31/2000
Prepared by :	Reviewed by :	Group Manager :	Group:
Helen Abadzi	Andres Liebenthal	Alain A. Barbu	OEDST
2. Project Objectives and Components			
a. Objectives			
<p>The project attempted to correct deficiencies in vocational training and make training programs more flexible and responsive to labor market demands, following the outflow of skilled foreign workers in the early 1990s and a planned sharp reduction of French technical assistance serving as instructors. The project was to help establish a coherent system of technical education and vocational training (TEVT), staffed largely by national instructors, efficient and of good quality, and responsive to labor market demands. It supported institutional measures to: (a) establish a common management structure for the TEVT system; (b) increase the financial and operational autonomy of TEVT institutions; and (c) promote the participation of employers in operating and financing technical and vocational training. Investments were designed to (a) maintain the quality and improve the efficiency of technical education; (b) revitalize the vocational training system; (c) support maritime sector training, and (d) strengthen sector planning and management capacities.</p>			
b. Components			
<p>(a) creation of a resource center for technical education and vocational training to provide professional support to training institutions and staff; (b) establishment of capacity for technical teacher training; (c) setting up a training support fund to finance small training programs initiated by groups of informal sector entrepreneurs; (d) construction of a workshop for agricultural mechanics training.</p>			
c. Comments on Project Cost, Financing and Dates			
<p>The project received extensions totalling 2.5 years and closed on December 31, 2000.</p>			
3. Achievement of Relevant Objectives:			
<p>Most objectives were substantially achieved, but the work took longer than expected. Training facilities were established, and staff were trained.</p>			
4. Significant Outcomes/Impacts:			
<p>One hundred and twenty one instructors were trained and appointed (the target was 100), and they replaced most departing expatriates, so the staff of technical institutions was 'Mauritanianized', representing 89% of all instructors by the end of the project, up from 45%. A staff training institution and a resource center were established, which functions satisfactorily and provides quality training. Inservice courses were given to 595 existing instructors. The system became somewhat more efficient as the student-teacher ratio increased from 8 to 12 in technical education and from 9 to 14 in vocational education. The proportion of students who graduated from technical education increased from 67% in 1993 to 84% in 1998, while graduates from vocational education increased from 73% to 79%. About 70-75% of graduates got employment after training. A training maintenance hangar was completed and became operational, as planned. The startup of regional centers was supported in order to revitalize the sector. A maritime training school became operational despite substantial difficulties and delays in its construction. Also, departments received computer equipment and training in an effort to increase sector planning and programming.</p>			
5. Significant Shortcomings (including non-compliance with safeguard policies):			
<p>Since instructors were trained in the traditional areas of electricity, mechanics, and secretarial work, skills gaps develop with the evolving market, particularly on electronics, telecommunications, computers, etc. The project did not sufficiently focus on these areas. An institutional support fund was only partly implemented, 25% of it was disbursed, and only about a 12 subprojects were carried out. A slow legislative process and a restrictive Bank's operational procedures made the disbursement very difficult. Similarly, a fund to train informal-sector operators was only partly disbursed. Throughout the project life the government was slow to</p>			

Implement policy measures and key tasks, but work was eventually carried out.

6. Ratings :	ICR	OED Review	Reason for Disagreement /Comments
Outcome :	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Institutional Dev .:	Substantial	Substantial	
Sustainability :	Likely	Likely	
Bank Performance :	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Borrower Perf .:	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	
Quality of ICR :		Satisfactory	

NOTE: ICR rating values flagged with '*' don't comply with OP/BP 13.55, but are listed for completeness.

7. Lessons of Broad Applicability:

- Training programs that build on beneficiary participation and respond to their needs are likely to have desirable outcomes
- Complicated operational procedures can hold back the disbursement of project funds. Access procedures should be simplified, particularly when implementation capacity is limited
- Institutional and policy reforms often go through a political decision-making process, and agreement with donors may take longer than expected to materialize.
- To avoid delays during implementation, institutional responsibilities should be clarified before negotiations, and technical studies needed for implementation should be undertaken during the preparation period
- More emphasis needs to be put on measurement of impact (improvement in instruction quality, skills enhancements, etc.), including through tracer studies.

8. Assessment Recommended? Yes No

Why? a successful project in a poor and underaudited country

9. Comments on Quality of ICR:

The ICR was clear and informative. But collection of outcome data appears to have been constrained by ICR's small budget (see para 7.2).