Project Data:

OEDID: L2977
Project ID: P004914
Project Name: Vocational Training Project
Country: Algeria
Sector: Vocational / Teacher Training
L/C Number: L2977
Partners involved:
Prepared by: Helen Abadzi, OEDST
Reviewed by: Patrick Grasso
Group Manager: Roger Slade
Date Posted: 06/23/1998

Project Objectives, Financing, Costs and Components:
Loan amount was US$54 million, of which US$6.82 million was canceled at completion. Objectives: (a) upgrade the network of existing training institutions, (b) improve the quality of vocational training programs and enhance their relevance to labor market needs, and (c) strengthen the management of the system. The project financed civil works, expert services, fellowships, computer hardware and software, and staff training.

Achievement of Relevant Objectives:
Training centers were largely rehabilitated and equipped, but none of the other objectives were achieved.

Significant Achievements:
Bidding procedures and document signatures were carried out fast, but centers were equipped only after many delays and procurement conflicts.

Significant Shortcomings:
The design focused on supply of rather than demand for vocational training. Emphasis was on hardware rather than on reforming the training system, and government lacked commitment to technical assistance. In five years of implementation there were three project coordinators and five ministers of vocational education, and decisionmaking was difficult. Few training and study activities were carried out.

Ratings:

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<tr>
<th>Outcome</th>
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<td>Institutional Dev.</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
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<td>Sustainability</td>
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<td>Bank Performance</td>
<td>Deficient</td>
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<td>Borrower Perf.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quality of ICR</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
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Lessons of Broad Applicability:
Vocational training must be provided in response to labor market needs rather than the needs of training institutions. Project administration must be assigned to a single entity to ensure efficiency during implementation, and the Bank must insist on continuity of staff. When project responsibilities must be decentralized, training must be given to all regional entities and staff who will be responsible for implementation.

Audit Recommended?: Yes

Comments on Quality of ICR:
The ICR is good and presents a clear account of project events.