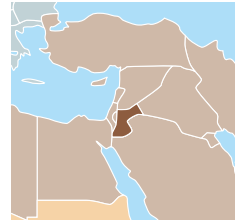




Second Human Resources Development Sector Investment Project

Supporting to assure high quality of vocational training and academic education

Middle East
Jordan



[External evaluator]

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Rating

Effectiveness, Impact	b	Overall rating C
Relevance	a	
Efficiency	b	
Sustainability	b	

Project Objectives

To expand education opportunity, including basic, secondary and vocational education, and to assure its quality, all across Jordan, through construction and expansion of school facilities and provision of equipment and furniture targeting (i) comprehensive schools (academic and vocational education), (ii) community colleges, and (iii) vocational training centers; thereby contributing to Jordan's industrial development

Outline of the Loan Agreement

- Loan amount / disbursed amount: 7,123 million yen / 6,027 million yen
- Loan agreement: July 1997
- Terms and conditions: Interest rate: 2.7% (2.3% for consulting services); 30-year repayment period (including a 10-year grace period); general untied
- Final disbursement date: November 2005
- Executing agencies: National Center for Human Resources Development (NCHRD) [overall management], Ministry of Education (MOE), Al-Balqa Applied University, Vocational Training Corporation

Effects of Project Implementation (Effectiveness, Impact)

The effectiveness of the project varies according to the different kinds of schools and courses. The effectiveness is high for academic education courses in comprehensive schools, where some 90% of the student quota is filled, almost 100% of the students graduate, and most students go on to a higher stage of education. It is limited for vocational training courses at comprehensive schools, where the rate for achieving the quota stands at around 50%, the graduation rate at 55% (on par with the national average), and the rate of employment after graduation ranges from 10 to 60%, depending on the course. The effectiveness of the project is also limited for vocational training centers, some of which fail to attract a sufficient number of students. On average, 55 to 65% of the graduates land a job. The number of graduates from vocational training centers has been on the decline in recent years. The effectiveness is high for community colleges. Community colleges covered by this project have been attracting more and more students while the total number of students in Jordan has been declining slightly. In addition, the graduation rate is almost 100% at these schools.

This project has produced indirect effects as well. It has helped increase the likelihood of women entering the workforce in a country where the proportion of female students who enroll in school and working women is small. The project has also offered opportunities for unemployed young people, who might in the future constitute a socially destabilizing factor in Jordan. In sum, this project has made a certain level of contribution to the country.

Therefore, this project has produced certain effects, and its effectiveness is moderate.

Relevance

This project has been highly relevant with Jordan's national policies and development needs at the times of both appraisal and ex-post evaluation. At the time of the appraisal, the Jordanian government was focusing on building more school facilities to cope with the natural increase in the number of students, improving vocational training, and enhancing the quality of education as priorities in its Ten-Year Education Reform Program. This program remained the basic framework for educational reform in Jordan at the time of the ex-post evaluation.

Efficiency

This Project produced a level of outputs that was almost as planned at a lower cost (85% of the planned cost), but took longer than planned (168% of the planned period); therefore the evaluation for efficiency is moderate. The extension of the project period was mainly due to delays in the procurement, payment, and construction work.

Sustainability

No major problems have been observed in the capacity or the operation and maintenance (O&M) system of the executing agency. However, there is some cause for concern about the sustainability of the project. For one thing, a certain proportion of the provided equipment and furniture has not been put to good use. For another, the demand for vocational training has not necessarily been increasing in Jordan. Though these problems have been observed, sustainability of this project is fair.

Conclusion, Lessons Learned, Recommendations

In light of the above, this project is evaluated to be fairly satisfactory. A major lesson learned is the need to decide on project implementation after carefully studying the policies of the recipient government, their consistency, and demand trends. It is advisable that the Jordanian government should commit to take measures to increase demand, once it emphasizes vocational training as a matter of government policy.



A class in a vocational training course at newly-established Jabal En-Naser comprehensive school