



Skills Development for Growth Project (P126049)

AFRICA | Niger | Education Global Practice |
IBRD/IDA | Specific Investment Loan | FY 2013 | Seq No: 8 | ARCHIVED on 16-Jun-2017 | ISR28279 |

Implementing Agencies: Government of the Republic of Niger - Ministre du Plan, Ministry of Professional and Technical Education

Key Dates

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Bank Approval Date:30-Apr-2013

Effectiveness Date:28-Oct-2013

Planned Mid Term Review Date:15-May-2017

Actual Mid-Term Review Date:03-Apr-2017

Original Closing Date:30-Nov-2019

Revised Closing Date:30-Nov-2019

Project Development Objectives

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

The project development objective is to improve the effectiveness of formal technical and vocational training, short term skills development and apprenticeship programs in priority sectors.

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project Objective?

No

Components

Name

Improving the Effectiveness of Formal Training:(Cost \$11.40 M)

Strengthening Short Term Skills Development and Apprenticeships Programs:(Cost \$12.50 M)

Institutional Capacity Strengthening and Monitoring and Evaluation:(Cost \$6.10 M)

Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	● Satisfactory	● Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	● Satisfactory	● Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	● Substantial	● Substantial

Implementation Status and Key Decisions



The Mid-Term review did not reveal any major issue related to project implementation although the M&E arrangements for the project need to be strengthened in order to ensure data necessary to assess project performance across each component of the operation. The PDO, as well as the components are still relevant to the Niger context. Consequently, no restructuring is envisioned at this stage of the project implementation.

The Project has maintained its progress towards achievement of the PDO and considerable implementation progress has been observed from project effectiveness to the mid-term review. Satisfactory progress has also been observed under all components and sub-components. As a result, the number of direct project beneficiaries has reached 7,736 people, thereby realizing 65 percent of the project's end target, two years ahead of the project closing date (May 2019). Of the total beneficiaries reached to date, approximately 43 percent are female exceeding the end-of-project target of 20 percent. Two out of four PDO-level indicators (Out of school youth who completed dual apprenticeship programs and Number of beneficiaries trained in entrepreneurship) are on track to achieve their end-of-project targets. Data for the remaining indicators (Short-term vocationally trained youth who are employed or self-employed and Youth graduating in the TVET institutions supported by the project in the four priority sectors) are not yet available. The indicator related to youth employed or self-employed could not be updated due to inadequate methods used for the employment survey. Measures have been taken to improve the M&E system in order to adequately inform/update the indicator by end of July 2017. Regarding the indicator on youth graduating in the TVET institutions, data are expected to be available by 2018. For the intermediate indicators, 6 out of 8 are on track or have reached or exceeded the end-of-project target. Regarding the remaining two indicators, the first one is related to the number of students enrolled in the schools being restructured. Since the restructuring process is not completed, it is not relevant to consider students enrolled in these schools. With regards to the second indicator related to the Labor Market Observatory data collection, the obstacle of unavailability of graduates' personal information has been overcome. Data collection is expected to be completed by September 2017. The following provides an overview of implementation progress made under each component.

Component 1 - Improving the Effectiveness of Formal Training: Activities in the two sub-components have been implemented in a satisfactory manner. With regards to the sub-component on restructuring of the 3 targeted schools, in terms of architecture, progress on construction of the CMCAN (Niamey) and the Douthi School is satisfactory at respectively, 48 percent and 52 percent completed. For Agadez High School of hospitality where the construction began later than the other two schools, the construction is 23 percent complete. A close monitoring of this activity was agreed with the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) ministry and the project coordination unit (PCU) to avoid further delay. The construction is expected to be completed by October 2017. The update of the curriculum and the process of acquiring equipment acquisition are progressing as scheduled. The first cohort of 12 trainers, out of the 41 being trained in Tunisia, returned to Niger in February 2017 and all have been appointed in their respective schools. To reinforce their practical experience, while teaching they also were placed in internship in their area of specialization in the private sector. To enable the implementation of a new type of TVET of school management, the TVET Regulation Law adopted in 2015 is being operationalized and the staff training has been completed. It is expected that the three schools will start operating fully based on their new management model by December 2017. For the sub-component focusing on improving the School-to-Work Transition, 2613 tertiary and secondary technical graduates have been placed in internships to date, and as such, have connected with potential employers. More than 405 youth who were placed in internships have been employed or self-employed. A beneficiary survey is underway to collect more comprehensive information on employment. The TA provided by the Project succeeded in reinforcing the institutional capacities of the National Agency for Employment (ANPE) which resulted in its decentralization throughout the country and in the improvement of the quality of the internship program. Software has been developed to monitor the internship program and will be expanded to encompass the area of employment under this program.

Component 2 - Strengthening Short Term Skills Development and Apprenticeship Programs: Substantial progress has been observed in the implementation of this component. For the sub-component on expanding apprenticeships in the priority areas to date, 3068 apprentices, of which 23 percent are women, are enrolled in dual apprenticeships against the end-of-project target of 3,000 by 2019; thereby exceeding the end-of-project target more than two years ahead of project closing. In addition, a group of 620 (of which 48 percent are women) has completed their training in various domains of agriculture such as poultry, agri-food processing, and fish farming and 392 will be completing their training by early June 2017. Furthermore, 860 apprentices with limited education have benefited from literacy courses. Regarding the sub-component on the On-Demand Training Programs, to date, 326 apprentices have completed their training in various fields such as culinary studies, pastries, mechatronics and truck driving, maintenance of large engines and elevator repair, and irrigation techniques; in addition, a group of 20 young people are enrolled in procurement training to be completed by next July. A preliminary evaluation of the first cohort has shown that 50 percent of them were currently employed. For the sub-component on Entrepreneurship training, more than 90 trainers were trained, against the end-of-project target of 90. As planned, these trainers have trained a total of 2,968 young people (of which 1,201 are graduates of tertiary education and upper secondary technical and vocational training and 1,767 are out-of-school youth).

Component 3 - Institutional Capacity Strengthening and Monitoring and Evaluation: All activities planned under this Component are being implemented, mainly related to strengthening the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) and involved agencies. The communications plan is being successfully implemented and being improved over time, building on the project results. Despite slight improvements in the M&E system, particularly in aspects related to apprenticeships, short trainings and employment, data collected are not sufficient to more fully measure the project's results.



Risks

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	--	● Substantial	● Substantial
Macroeconomic	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Sector Strategies and Policies	--	● Low	● Low
Technical Design of Project or Program	--	● Substantial	● Substantial
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	--	● Substantial	● Substantial
Fiduciary	--	● Substantial	● Substantial
Environment and Social	--	● Low	● Low
Stakeholders	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Other	--	--	--
Overall	--	● Substantial	● Substantial

Results

Project Development Objective Indicators

► Direct project beneficiaries (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	8,336.00	7,736.00	11,800.00
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

Comments

The number of the project overall beneficiaries has reached 10,451.00. However, the out-of-school children trained in entrepreneurship are not considered as direct beneficiaries of the project (as they were previously). This explains the apparent decline in the current number (which does not incorporate this category of youth).

▲ Female beneficiaries (Percentage, Custom Supplement)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
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Value	0.00	48.00	43.00	20.00
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► Youth graduating in the TVET institutions supported by the project in the 4 priority sectors (%) (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

Comments

The restructuring process of selected schools is underway, therefore, no data are available for this indicator. The first cohort of graduates is expected by 2018.

▲ Percentage of graduating females (Percentage, Custom Supplement)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00

► Out of school youth who completed dual apprenticeship programs (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	11.00	80.00	70.00
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

▲ Percentage of females (Percentage, Custom Supplement)



	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	30.00	30.00	30.00

► Short-term vocationally trained youth who are employed or self-employed (overall and by sector) (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	50.00	50.00	60.00
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Jun-2016	15-Jun-2016	31-May-2019

Comments

This number comes from a report produced by the Project Coordination Unit based on data collected in June 2016 at the end of training of the first cohort of 145 youth. A more detailed and systematic survey to measure employment outcomes was undertaken but data are not reliable due to inadequacy of the methods used. Measures have been taken to improve the M&E system in order to adequately inform/update the indicator. A new survey is underway and the results are expected by July-August.

► Number of beneficiaries trained in entrepreneurship (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	973.00	1,201.00	2,000.00
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

▲ Percentage of females (Percentage, Custom Supplement)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	24.00	26.00	30.00

Overall Comments



Two out of four PDO-level indicators (Out of school youth who completed dual apprenticeship programs; Number of beneficiaries trained in entrepreneurship) are on track to achieve their end-of-project targets. Data for the remaining indicators (Short-term vocationally trained youth who are employed or self-employed; Youth graduating in the TVET institutions supported by the project in the four priority sectors) are not yet available. The indicator related to youth employed or self-employed could not be updated due to inadequate methodology used for the employment survey. Measures have been taken to improve the M&E system in order to adequately inform/update the indicator. A survey has been launched and data are expected by July-August. Regarding the indicator on youth graduating in the TVET institutions, data are expected to be available by 2018. Restructuring of the 3 indicated schools is underway and the first cohort of students is expected to begin their training by next school entry. Data (relevant for the indicator) are, therefore, expected to be available by 2018-2019 school year: two years are needed to allow the first cohort to graduate, which will start after the restructuring of the selected schools.

Intermediate Results Indicators

► Youth enrolled in the TVET institutions supported by the project in the 4 priority sectors (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

Comments

The restructuring process of selected schools is underway, therefore, no data are available for this indicator. The first cohort of students to have benefitted from the restructuring is expected by next school entry (2017-2018).

▲ Percentage female (Percentage, Custom Supplement)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00



▶ Trainers trained in the 4 priority sectors as a result of project intervention (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	41.00	41.00	41.00
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

▶ Tertiary and secondary technical graduates connected with potential employers as a result of project intervention (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2,623.00	2,946.00	3,500.00
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

▶ Out of school youth enrolled in dual apprenticeship programs as a result of project intervention (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	2,359.00	3,068.00	3,000.00
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

▲ Percentage female (Percentage, Custom Supplement)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	27.00	23.00	30.00



► Out of school youth completing on-demand technical training as a result of project intervention (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	311.00	326.00	1,500.00
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

► Number of trainers in entrepreneurship programs trained as a result of project intervention (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	90.00	90.00	90.00
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

Comments

Five members of the Chamber of Commerce are trained as trainers in addition to the agreed 90 trainers. Therefore in total, 95 trainers were trained.

► Beneficiary surveys completed to support on-going training improvement (Yes/No, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	N	Y	Y	Y
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

► Labor Market Observatory data collection (Yes/No, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	N	N	N	Y
Date	30-Apr-2013	15-Nov-2016	19-May-2017	31-May-2019

Comments

Data collection has been delayed due to unavailability of graduates' personal information. It was agreed that more up-to-date data will be




collected. The survey has been launched and its completion is expected by August 2017.

Overall Comments

Overall, the Project has made considerable implementation progress in the past 6 months. Activities planned under the three components were satisfactorily implemented. These efforts have resulted in an increase in the number of direct beneficiaries from 8,336 in November 2016 to 10,451 against the end-of-project target of 11,800 beneficiaries. Two PDO-level indicators out of four are on track to achieve their end-of-project targets. Data for the remaining PDO-level indicator are not yet available due to the fact that the first cohort has not yet graduated.

Data on Financial Performance

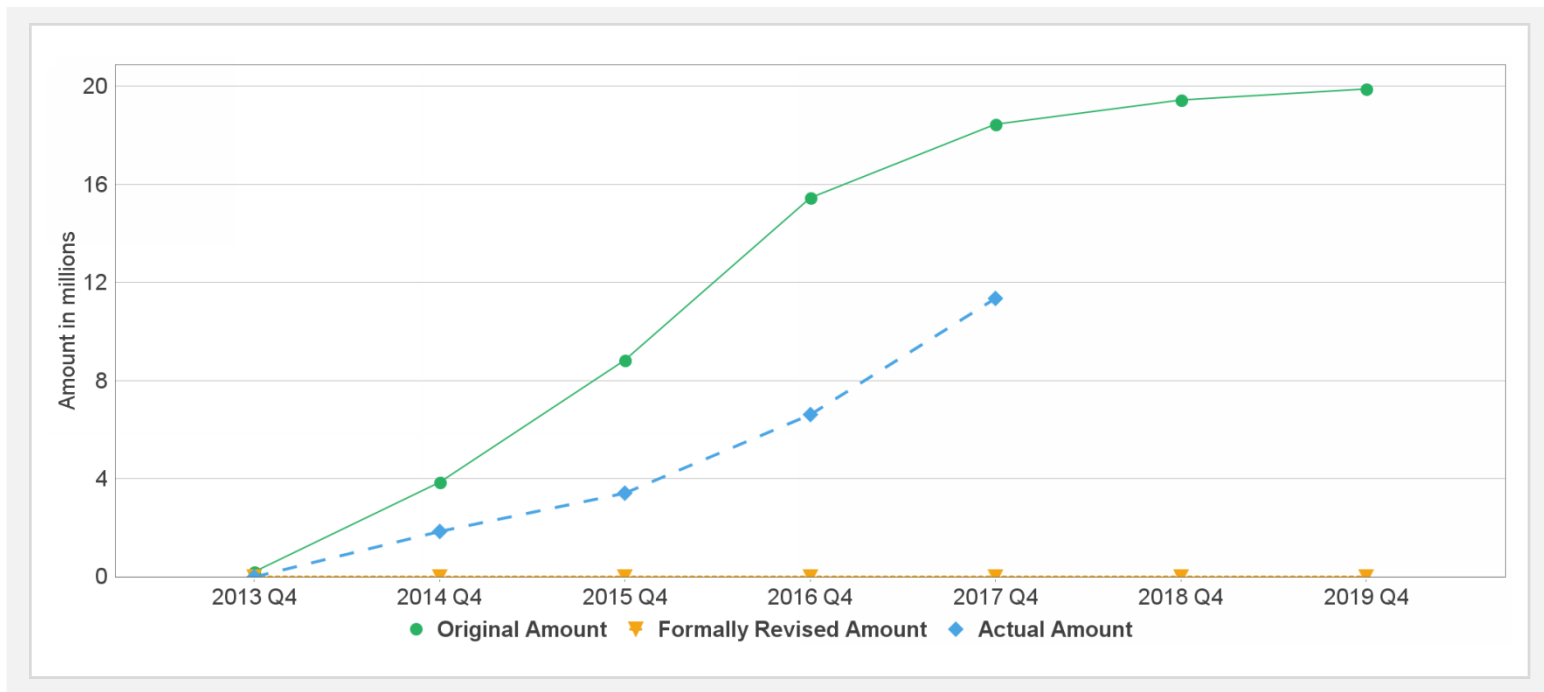
Disbursements (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	Disbursed
P126049	IDA-H8400	Effective	XDR	19.90	19.90	0.00	11.35	8.55	 57%

Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P126049	IDA-H8400	Effective	30-Apr-2013	07-Jun-2013	28-Oct-2013	30-Nov-2019	30-Nov-2019

Cumulative Disbursements



Restructuring History

There has been no restructuring to date.

Related Project(s)

P163467-NE -Skills Development for Growth Project Additional Financing