

# CARTA

Citizen Action for Results,  
Transparency, and Accountability



## Enhanced Vocational Education and Training (EVENT)

### PROJECT DETAILS

#### PARTNERS

Partnership for Transparency Fund  
HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation  
Vijaya Development Resource Center  
(VDRC)

#### TOTAL COST

US\$ 134,132

#### DURATION

February 2014 – August 2014

#### GEOGRAPHICAL AREA

Mahendranagar, Dhangadhi, Nepalgunj,  
Butwal, Chitwan, Birgunj, Kathmandu,  
Biratnagar, Damak

#### SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY TOOLS

Key informant interview (KII),  
community radio, input tracking

### CONTEXT

Nepal is a developing country with a substantial agrarian economy and low labor productivity levels. Many young people migrate to other countries seeking better employment opportunities. In 2011 and 2012, over 385,000 people left the country to work abroad. Their remittances officially amount to about one quarter of the gross domestic product (GDP). More than 75% of migrant workers from Nepal are unskilled, leading to low remittance levels per migrant. Enhancing the skill levels of migrant workers can be a strategy for diversifying the nation's economic growth.

The Enhanced Vocational Education and Training (EVENT) Project focuses on creating skilled human resources. To improve the quality of skills training, EVENT launched activities to improve the system of skills training by providing workshops for "training of trainers" (ToT) of Assistant Trainers, Lead Trainers, Master Trainers, Skill Test Assessors, and Skill Test Managers. Essentially, EVENT trains a roster of professionals who can then subsequently train workers or assess worker skills in key trades. The objective is to increase Nepalese workers' skill levels and enable emigrant workers to secure better jobs. The Department of Education (DOE), which is responsible for implementing EVENT, has sub-contracted the ToT activities to two Nepali organizations: the Training Institute for Technical Instruction

Technical Instruction (TITI) and the National Skill Testing Board (NSTB).

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The CARTA sub-project was primarily a Third Party Monitoring (TPM) project. The main objective was to monitor and verify the outputs and activities reported by the government to trigger disbursements of the IDA Credit under component I of the project (training of trainers, master trainers, skill test assessors, and skills test managers). The sub-project also assessed the quality of the training under component I and determined the frequency of individual training sessions.

The verification process involved input-tracking of training schedules, compiling trainee lists (with trainee profiles, including photographs), obtaining training records, evaluating training completion reports, direct observation of the training program and interviews with trainees and graduates. A satisfaction survey was used to assess the quality of the trainings from the participants' perspective. The monitoring activities were carried out with the approval and knowledge of the DOE, which requested that the ToTs, skills test assessors and managers be sampled from 2012-13 and 2013-14 training sessions.

## RESULTS

The sub-project produced a monitoring and verification report, which included the results of the beneficiary satisfaction survey. The report made recommendations related to EVENT-type training programs and introducing TPM more broadly.

Observations, interviews and the beneficiary survey indicated that participants and trainers believed the presence of third-party monitors led to improvements in the quality of the training. In addition, they considered TPM to be a good practice and believed it should continue. The survey showed that 96% of the respondents from all five EVENT programs responded positively to the question of whether TPM was needed to improve the quality of training. In interviews, both trainees and instructors stated that being aware of

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The objective of Citizen Action for Results, Transparency and Accountability (CARTA) is to enhance the development impact, sustainability and ownership of pro-poor projects in Bangladesh and Nepal financed by the World Bank (WB), by promoting civil society organization engagement and experience and capacity to demand better governance. The program was funded by US\$1.9 million grant from the Japanese Social Development Fund (JSDF) and administered by the WB.

somebody watching caused them to perform better. Hence, the verification process had a bonus outcome: enhanced quality of the service delivery.

## IMPACT

The primary beneficiaries of the EVENT program appreciated the changes that independent TPM produced and expressed their enthusiasm for the extension of TPM. Nevertheless, there is no indication, as of yet, that independent TPM will continue.

Many development projects strive to have an inclusive social outreach and deliver better outcomes to the most vulnerable sectors of the population. However, development projects are often experiencing difficulties reaching their target beneficiaries. The survey indicated that, across all five types of programs, 32% of the trainees were women, 4% were Dalit and 30% were Janajati. Although there was no fixed target for the inclusion of different ethnic groups in the trainings, inclusiveness was one of the objectives of EVENT. Consequently, the sub-project recommendations not only underscored the need for a more transparent and accountable trainee selection process but also the need for social inclusiveness to fully realize the EVENT objectives.