A MILLION YOUTH

neo

A MILLION OPPORTUNITIES
Business Challenges

Unsatisfied demands

41% of companies in the Americas are struggling to find qualified workers

Lack of life skills

80% of companies face difficulties filling positions due to a lack of basic life skills

27% of companies expressed difficulty filling positions due to the lack of technicians
Latin American and Caribbean Youth between the Ages of 15 to 29

148 Million

50 Million

32 Million

60% have informal jobs

50% of high school graduates lack the basic Math and Language competencies required by employers

neither study nor work (1 of every 5)

Youth 13%  Adults 5%
youth unemployment rate is 3 times higher than that of adults
What is NEO?

**NEO** is an initiative aiming to improve workforce quality and the employability of poor and vulnerable youth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is a pioneering alliance in which businesses, governments, and civil society join forces to provide resources, knowledge, and capacities in order to implement effective and sustainable youth employment solutions.
The Inter-American Development Bank is the main source of funding for economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its Labor Market and Social Security Unit promotes the creation of more and better jobs.

The Multilateral Investment Fund has financed more than 120 youth employment and entrepreneurship projects since 1994. It has trained 235,000 poor and low income youth in 24 countries.

The International Youth Foundation has been working with the MIF/IDB to prepare youth for the workforce for over 10 years. Together, they developed the successful “entra21” job skills training program.
And the founding partners

Arcos Dorados

Caterpillar

Cemex

Microsoft

Walmart
NEO’s Model

The formation of public - private participative alliances...

shared Vision → mutual objectives → mutually reinforcing activities → shared Measurement → executing agency

...that strengthen and articulate job services providers

1. pertinent with youth
2. pertinent with employers
3. comprehensive training curriculum
4. pedagogic strategy

5. vocational orientation
6. internships and Job placement
7. social services support
8. monitoring and evaluation
Beneficiaries

10 years

1,000,000 youth
low income, unemployed, sub-employed, neither study nor work

50% women

50% job placement rate

10 countries

Mexico  El Salvador  Dominican Republic  Panama  Colombia  Chile  Peru  Brazil  Uruguay  Paraguay
500,000 youth, 500,000 opportunities during the first 5 year period of NEO

April 2012
NEO launched at The Summits of the Americas in Cartagena

July 2012
NEO priority countries selected

July 2013
First local alliances created

November 2013
First NEO projects approved

November 2017
Evaluation of the first 5 years of NEO
Benefits for businesses

• Access to training programs that meet business needs
• Access to a qualified workforce
• Increased productivity
• Influence public policies
• Greater social commitment and brand recognition
How can your business participate?

1. **Financing**
   - Funding activities in the NEO countries of your preference
   - Collaborating with the strategic vision
   - Becoming a member of the regional Steering Committee

2. **Training and employment opportunities**
   - Supporting trainings for vulnerable youth
   - Offering internships and mentoring opportunities
   - Hiring youth in entry-level positions
Benefits for governments

- Better coordination of career counseling, youth training, and job placement systems
- Deeper relationships with business leaders
- Ability to leverage resources from different sources
- Increase in the employment rate of poor and vulnerable youth
Benefits for civil society organizations

- Strengthen technical and institutional capacity
- Implementation of validated best practices
- Better articulation with the private and public sector
- Influence public policies