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.

Why NEO?

80% of companies in the Americas are struggling to find qualified workers.

41% of companies face difficulties filling positions due to the lack of basic soft skills like responsibility and teamwork.

NEO seeks to close the gap between youth skills and employer demand for a qualified workforce in LAC.

A MILLION YOUTH NEO A MILLION OPPORTUNITIES

In Latin America and the Caribbean

148 million aged 15 to 29 years

32 million neither studies nor works

60% have informal jobs

50 million at risk

The LAC youth unemployment rate is 3 times higher than adults

Adults 5% VS Youth 13%

In the next 10 years, train 1,000,000 poor and vulnerable youth between the ages of 16 and 29.

**Objectives**

- Mobilize 1,000 companies to offer internships and employment opportunities for youth
- Strengthen the capacity of 200 job training providers
- Women: 50% Job placement rate for NEO graduates
- 50% of women

**Benefits**

- **For youth:**
  - Job training
  - Access to more and better employability services
  - Improved access to job opportunities
  - Greater self-confidence and hope about their job prospects

- **For companies:**
  - Access to training programs that meet business needs
  - Access to a qualified workforce
  - Potential to influence public policies
  - Greater social commitment and brand recognition

- **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

**About Us**

NEO is an initiative led by:

- **MIF**
  - Multilateral Investment Fund
- **IDB**
  - Inter-American Development Bank
- **IYF**
  - International Youth Foundation

Corporate partners:

- Arcos Dorados
- Caterpillar
- CEMEX
- Microsoft
- Walmart

**Total investment:**

$37,165,000

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