



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ALLIANCES IN ACTION

ENTRA21 ALLIANCE

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

More than half the population of Latin America and the Caribbean is under the age of 24, with youth unemployment rates on the rise in most countries in the region. Existing educational systems are failing to equip youth with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in a fast-changing marketplace.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

At the same time that more and more youth are unprepared for the workforce, businesses have an urgent need for workers equipped with the soft skills and technical know-how to contribute to the region's growing information-based economy. Demand for information technology (IT) skills is expected to rise sharply in the region as more organizations rely upon the Internet.

APPROACH

In response to this heightened demand for IT skills, entra21 was created by the International Youth Foundation, with support from USAID, the Multilateral Investment Fund, and many private companies to help young people in the region enter the new, global workplace by capitalizing on the dramatic impact of information technology on the world economy. Entra21 provides disadvantaged youth, ages 16-29, with market-relevant employment training, internships, and job placement services so that they can find decent jobs and increase their employability. By 2007, the program reached nearly 20,000 youth in 18 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. In Phase II of entra21, launched in 2008, partners seek to more than double their reach by providing 50,000 youth from low-income families as well as youth with disabilities, ex-gang members, and former combatants with a comprehensive program of training, internships and job placement assistance.

PARTNERS



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RESULTS

- In five years, entra21 has provided market relevant training training to more than 19,000 disadvantaged young people aged 16-29.
- 54% employment rate for entra21 graduates, compared with global employment averages of 40%.
- 25% of entra21 participants returned to school.
- 50% of entra21 projects provide incoming youth with about 80 hours of remedial education to compensate for deficiencies in their literacy and math skills.

FAST FACTS

START: 2002 END: 2011

PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS:

\$25,000,000

December 2009