

A MILLION YOUTH

neo

A MILLION OPPORTUNITIES

# Business Challenges

## Unsatisfied demands



of companies in the region  
are struggling to find  
qualified workers

## Lack of life skills



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



of companies expressed difficulty filling  
positions due to the lack of technicians

# Latin American and Caribbean Youth between the Ages of 15 to 29

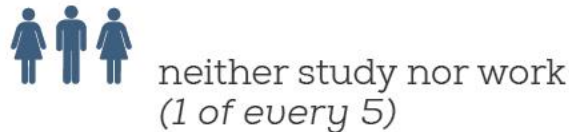
148  
Million



50  
Million



32  
Million



## 50%

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

Youth

## 13%

youth unemployment rate  
is 3 times higher than  
that of adults

Adults

## 5%

# 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.



# With the strategic direction and contribution of



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 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 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

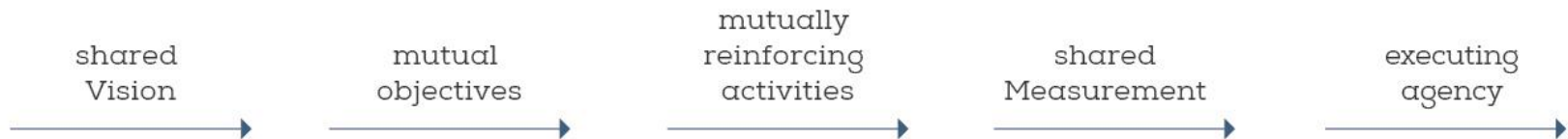
**CATERPILLAR®**



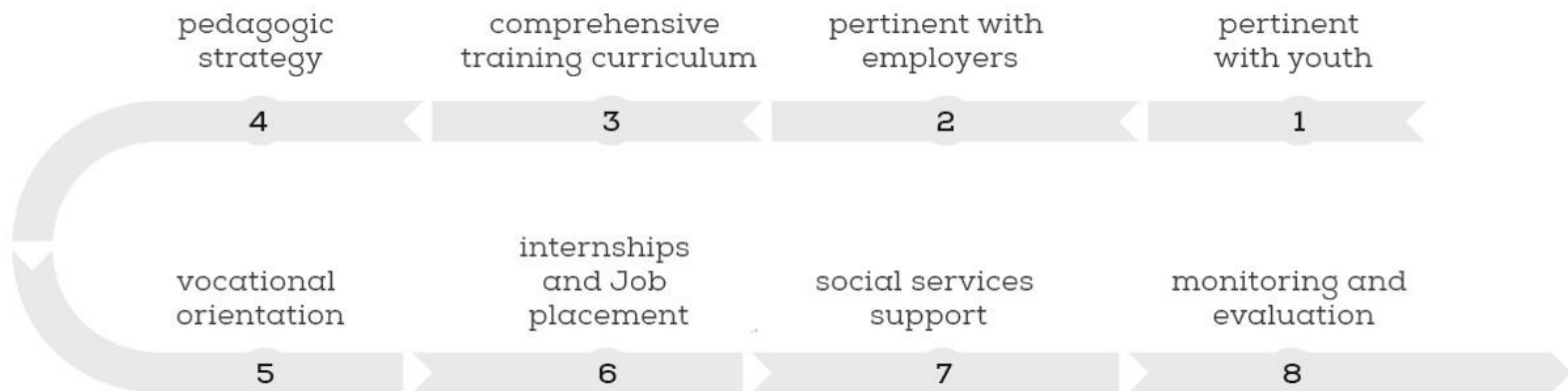
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# NEO's Model

The formation of public  
- private participatives alliances...



...that strengthen and articulate  
job services providers



# Beneficiaries



**10**  
years



**50%**  
job placement rate



**50%**  
women



**10**  
countries



**1,000,000**  
youth

low income, unemployed,  
sub-employed, neither  
study nor work



Mexico



El Salvador



Dominican  
Republic



Panama



Colombia



Chile



Peru



Brazil



Uruguay



Paraguay



# Timeline 2012-2017

**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
- 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 training, career counseling, and job placement systems, for youth
- Better articulation with the private sector
- Ability to leverage resources from different sources
- Increase in the employment rate of poor and vulnerable youth



# Contact information

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