



# Proyecto Aprendo y Emprendo

## Quick Facts

1

8 Technical and Vocational Centers will improve their ability to provide education and training services for youth at risk.

2

Partnerships between private sector enterprises and technical and vocational centers will improve their reach and effectiveness.

3

1,000 young people from the Caribbean coast will receive scholarships to pursue training.

Along Nicaragua's Caribbean coast, unskilled youth face a 55 percent unemployment rate and complete just three years of school.

Uneducated, poor and socially disconnected, these young people are exceptionally vulnerable to perpetration of youth violence. Technical vocational education and training institutions are in place to help, but the training offered is not always aligned with employment opportunities. Many of these institutions lack the capacity to provide quality services—such as technical and soft skills training and job placement support—to vulnerable youth.

## Breaking the cycle by making alliances

Creative's four-year Technical Vocational Education and Training Strengthening for At-Risk Youth program, funded by USAID and supported by the CARANA Corp., works to strengthen eight technical vocational education and training schools by improving their ability to engage with the private sector, attract young people and deliver quality curricula to them.

Known in Spanish as *Aprendo y Emprendo*, the program aligns the needs of potential employers with the courses offered to vulnerable youth, allowing for demand-driven learning with direct links to jobs in sectors such as agribusiness, infrastructure and aquaculture. Mobilizing Nicaragua's private sector with these kinds of win-win opportuni-

ties creates a sustainable way for businesses to gain productive employees, and for at-risk youth to find opportunities.

## Developing the full range of skills for success

Working mainly on the Caribbean coast and other regions, the program helps technical vocational education and training institutions deliver not just vocational skills but also life skills, work readiness skills and soft skills training. To do so, the program will offer a host of specially designed courses via an e-learning and collaboration platform.

Program-supported training institutions can also use the platform to share access to labor demand information, teaching manuals, assessments and common job-search and work readiness tools.

Beyond supporting these eight institutions, the TVET SAY program is developing regional or sector-based Technical Vocational Education Training networks that allow vocational education providers to gain a stronger voice in national policymaking.

Embedded in the communities themselves, the networks are spurring community-based support for at-risk youth and facilitating collaboration for seamless wraparound services including psychosocial and family support—a combination of services for youth and their families that is proven to mitigate crime, domestic violence and other high-risk behaviors among young people.

As part of a holistic approach to sustainably strengthen citizen security in Nicaragua, the TVET-SAY program includes differentiated support for higher risk youth. For instance, 1,000 youth from the Caribbean coast will receive training scholarships based in part on their level of risk.

Strong, capable and connected technical vocational education and training institutions participating in TVET-SAY will be equipped to offer vulnerable youth appropriate technical and soft skills that align with employment opportunities, and offer access to quality training, job placement services and jobs. Making TVET training accessible and attractive to the most at-risk youth will open up doors for them, and lead to safer and more stable communities.



# 2,500

youth will receive technical and vocational training in line with current market demand



### Creative Associates International

5301 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20015

+ 202.966.5804

### Connect with us!



Communications@CreativeDC.com  
CreativeAssociatesInternational.com