

**Project Name: Mexico Youth Labor Market Inclusion****Organization(s):** World Bank**Dates of Implementation:** 2017 ongoing**Country:** Mexico**Partner(s):** Government of Mexico**Website:** n/a**Project Description:**

The Government of Mexico has several initiatives underway in the area of youth employment, particularly oriented to address supply-side constraints. Examples include vocational orientation programs, soft skills trainings, and technical skills trainings. However, these initiatives are fragmented, duplicative, inadequately targeted, and under-resourced, which limits their efficiency. On the demand side, although strong advances have been made in terms of improving communication with the private sector to inform the design of training programs or to match job seekers with job opportunities, there are no interventions that focus squarely on the market failures that affect the creation of quality jobs. Achieving better job outcomes for youth requires improving the supply and demand side of the labor market and the interaction of these two.

The project seeks to support the efforts of the Government of Mexico to promote the labor market inclusion of low-income youth, including Prospera youth, into formal employment in strategic economic sectors. The project will focus on (i) the design of an integrated supply- and demand-side labor inclusion approach to support the school-to-work transition of targeted youth, building on existing government programs; and (ii) the design and impact evaluation of a jobs pilot aimed at helping the insertion of targeted youth into quality formal jobs in strategic productive sectors.

The project will engage targeted youth before they enter the labor market, offer them a package of interventions to guide their study and work decisions, strengthen their skills, and connect them with quality employment opportunities in medium-size firms in strategic productive sectors. In Mexico, medium-size firms are more numerous and create as many formal jobs as large firms, but have more difficulty recruiting qualified workers. By increasing their access to qualified youth, medium sized firms are expected to benefit from increased worker productivity.

Examples of outcomes and outputs that will likely be monitored and impacted by the project are:

- number of targeted youths who are employed in formal jobs;
- number of vacancies at targeted firms that are filled;
- number of vacancies at targeted firms that are filled by targeted youths;
- number of targeted youth channeled into appropriate training and/or work placements services;
- number of targeted unemployed youths who receive information on job vacancies;
- number of targeted employed youth who receive a wage subsidy

**Target Population:**

Low-income youth, including youth from Prospera households, who either are studying the last year of high school or just graduated from high school and decided to enter the labor market.