



## FACT SHEET

March 23, 2011

### **“A Ganar” youth employment through sports program**

#### **What is it?**

Around 6,000 Latin American and Caribbean youths have gone through the “A Ganar” (“To Win” in Spanish). The program uses skills acquired through soccer and team sports to provide training to improve the employment opportunities for young people.

#### **Who supports the program?**

The program is supported by the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Nike Foundation, and the United States non-profit organization Partners of the Americas.

#### **Where is it carried out?**

The program was initiated in Brazil, Ecuador, and Uruguay in 2005. In 2009, it was launched in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It was expanded to Argentina, Colombia, Haiti, and Mexico in 2010. The methodology is also being adapted and integrated into youth livelihoods programs in Guinea, West Africa.

#### **Objectives**

The program seeks to help young people convert skills acquired through participation in team sports into tools and techniques for achieving success in the labor market.

- Respect
- Discipline
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Focus on results
- Self Development

#### **Who are the beneficiaries?**

The program is directed at low-income youth 16-24 years of age from urban, semi-urban, and rural areas. Beneficiaries have to demonstrate the potential to be positive leaders in their communities.

#### **How does it work?**

The program is carried out in four steps:

- Field and classroom activities where participants learn how to turn sports skills into work skills.
- Market-driven vocational/technical training plus entrepreneurship training.

- On-the-job experience in supervised internships that can be turned into full-time jobs once participants achieve the required skill level.
- Follow-on support for back-to-school, employment and entrepreneurship strategies at the individual and group level.

A Ganar is implemented in each country by local organizations that help adapt program activities to the needs of the local labor market and their community's youth.

**Program results**

- 5,563 youths have taken part in the program to date.
- 77.4 percent of participants graduated from the program.
- 68.6 percent of participants found work, returned to school, or started a business.

**NOTE: Programs in Mexico and Haiti are about to begin.**

Country	# of Implementing Organizations	# de jóvenes entrenados	% de jóvenes graduados	% de jóvenes exitosos
Brazil	8	2137	72%	83%
Colombia	4	217	n/a	n/a
DR	4	200	n/a	n/a
Ecuador	8	1535	85%	85%
Haiti	n/a <sup>10</sup>	n/a	n/a	n/a
Jamaica	5	200	n/a	n/a
Mexico	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SKN	3	120	90%	62%
SVG	5	190	70%	68%
Uruguay	6	964	70%	45%
TOTAL/AVERAGE	43 total/5.38 per country average	5563 total/695 per country average	Avg. 77.4% grad. rate/country	Avg. 68.6% youth success rate/country