



IYF invest in
youth first

2025 Impact Report

**The Smartest
Investment in
the Next Generation**



“Investing in youth is not just an opportunity, it’s a responsibility that transforms communities.”

Dulce, Jóvenes Con Entrega
Program Alumna



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About IYF

For 35 years, IYF has transformed lives and tackled economic inequality worldwide—equipping young people with the skills to thrive today and lead tomorrow.

Our innovative programs have directly benefited more than **15 million** young people across **105 countries**. Working alongside school systems, community-based organizations, and some of the world's leading businesses, foundations, and multilateral partners, we connect young people to life-changing opportunities and are recognized as a global leader in youth development.

Why we do this work

Every day, we wake up with one goal: **expanding economic opportunity for young people.**

We believe that investing in youth first—equipping them with the skills, confidence, and connections to secure meaningful work and real opportunities that move them forward—is the best way to break cycles of poverty and inequality. When young people are educated, employed, and engaged, they don't just build their own futures—they help solve the world's toughest challenges.

Our Mission

To connect young people with opportunities to transform their lives.

Our Vision

All young people inspired and equipped to realize the future they want.

To build the workforce of the future—and unlock lasting value for youth, business, and society—IYF focuses on three priorities:

Youth Agency & Leadership:

Empower young people to lead change and shape the systems around them.

Expanding Economic Opportunity:

Connect youth to pathways from learning to decent work and entrepreneurship.

Systems Transformation:

Partner across sectors to embed scalable, adaptive reforms that deliver lasting, youth-centered impact.



High Gear program students in internships, South Africa.

We place youth at the heart of all our programs because we know from experience that it's essential for lasting impact. When young people help design solutions from the start, programs are stronger, more relevant, and more just.

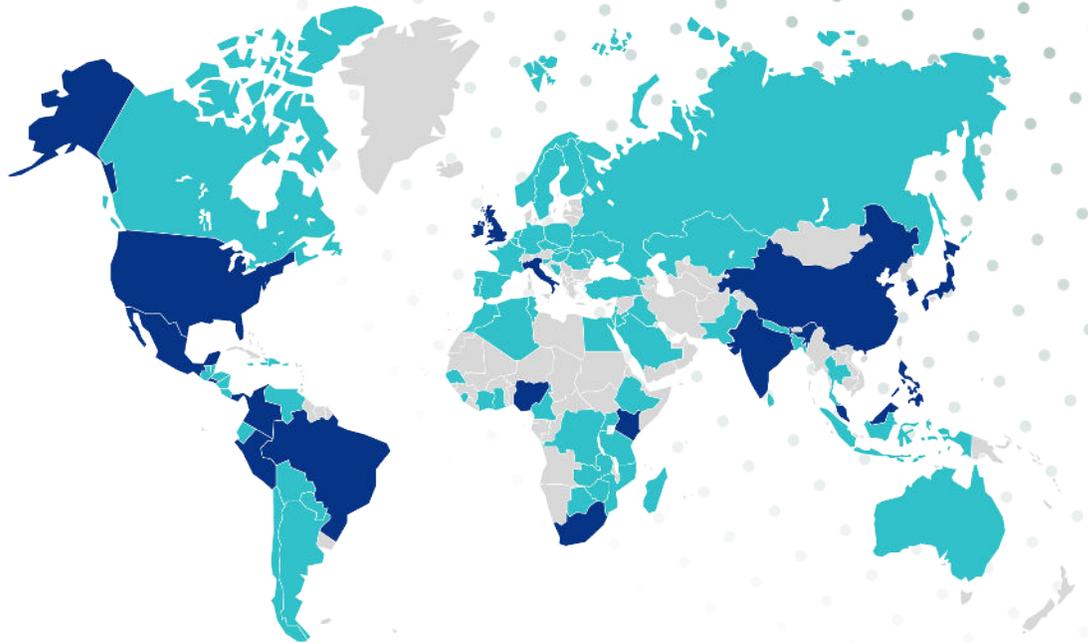
Explore 2025 program impact on p.22.

Where we work

Ongoing Initiatives

Current Programs

- Mexico
- Brazil
- Colombia
- El Salvador
- Perú
- Panama
- United States
- United Kingdom
- Italy
- China
- South Korea
- Japón
- India
- Philippines
- Kenya
- South Africa
- Nigeria
- Malaysia



Legacy of Impact

Past Programs

- | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
| Algeria | Cameroon | Finland | Guatemala | Kazakhstan | Nicaragua | Saudi Arabia | Tunisia |
| Antigua & Barbuda | Canada | France | Haiti | Kyrgyz Republic | Norway | Senegal | Turkey |
| Argentina | Chile | Gambia | Honduras | Lebanon | Pakistan | Sierra Leona | Uganda |
| Armenia | Costa Rica | Georgia | Hong Kong | Liberia | Palestine | Singapore | Ukraine |
| Australia | Côte d'Ivoire | Germany | Hungary | Madagascar | Paraguay | Slovakia | Uruguay |
| Bangladesh | Czech Republic | Ghana | Indonesia | Malaysia | Poland | Slovenia | Venezuela |
| Belgium | Democratic Republic of Congo | Grenada | Iraq | Moldova | Portugal | Sri Lanka | Zambia |
| Belize | Dominican Republic | Guatemala | Ireland | Morocco | Puerto Rico | Sweden | Zimbabwe |
| Bolivia | Ecuador | Germany | Israel | Mozambique | Romania | Switzerland | |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | Egypt | Ghana | Jamaica | Nepal | Russia | Tanzania | |
| Botswana | Ethiopia | Grenada | Jordan | Netherlands | Saint Lucia | Thailand | |

Learn more about our team, governance, and 2025 financials at iyfglobal.org

Highlights from 35 Years of Impact

Over the past 35 years, IYF has transformed or touched the lives of more than **15 million** young people worldwide.

8 million youth

have engaged with our content and skill-building opportunities at a cost of <\$1 per learner.

4 million youth

have gained life skills and career coaching—real guidance for real opportunities—at under \$5 per person.

> 1 million learners

have completed industry-validated technical training linked to jobs for less than \$500 each.

1.5 million students

have received comprehensive career support, helping them build the futures they envision, for under \$1,000 per student.

Lasting Impact

beyond individuals, our work to improve education to employment pathways continues to create lasting ripple effects for generations to come.



Students don't just finish our programs—they build meaningful futures.

From **2017 to 2025**, IYF tracked **9,500 students** across **six countries**. At program exit, **27%** were in education and **14%** in work; within **4–6 months**, this rose to **59%** and **52%**. Overall, **68%** achieved a pathway to livelihood, **88%** improved skills, and **60%** of those skill-gainers also went on to achieve a pathway to livelihood.

Enhancing curricula in **Mexico, Brazil, Peru, South Africa, Palestine, Tanzania, Mozambique** and more, our collaboration with Ministries of Education has brought career readiness into thousands of schools, reaching and supporting millions of students annually.

In Mozambique, national training institutes integrated our life skills and career guidance into every technical course. Graduates were twice as likely to hold permanent jobs and reported a 35% rise in earnings satisfaction (IYF Via Final Report, 2023).

In Tanzania, the national Vocational Education and Training Authority rolled out a life-skills curriculum taught across all short courses. Within a year, graduate employment more than doubled, and **nine out of ten employers rated them more “work-ready.”**

“We are deeply grateful to IYF for its work in Arequipa. Their partnership with both public and private technical institutes goes beyond technical skills, emphasizing a fundamental pillar: socio-emotional skills. This is more than education—it is the foundation for a profound transformation in the lives of our young people.”

Ana María Gutierrez Valdivia
Vice Governor of Arequipa Region.

Through initiatives with businesses like FedEx, McDonald's, and Hilton, we've helped employers close critical skills gaps while creating direct hiring pathways for youth in logistics, hospitality, and retail.

"The collaboration with IYF has not only helped bridge the skills gap but also provided invaluable opportunities for youth to enter high-potential careers. It's inspiring to see how our employees' engagement and expertise are shaping a more inclusive, future-ready workforce."

Carolina Chong

Managing Director, Human Resource, FedEx Mexico.

Our Passport to Success® life skills curriculum is used in more than 50 countries – including South Africa's Technical & Vocational Education & Training (TVET) college system, where it reaches over 250,000 young people annually. By embedding skills employers value most – like communication, problem-solving, and adaptability – it has made these skills a standard in post-secondary vocational education, setting a new benchmark for preparing youth for work and life.

"Passport to Success® prepares young people to be the kind of employees every company wants to hire and retain – responsible, motivated, and engaged team players."

Chris Nassetta

President & CEO, Hilton.

With support from **Oak Foundation**, we have pioneered participatory grant making models for young people with learning differences.

[Read more here](#)

"When young people have resources and a voice in decisions, they bring fresh perspectives that make funding more effective."

Bethiel Girma Holton

Learning Differences Program Officer, Oak Foundation.

IYF's YouthActionNet® has strengthened and scaled youth-led social ventures across the world, and is supporting more than **2,000** young change-makers from more than **90** countries who are pioneering bold solutions to urgent global challenges. From grassroots enterprises to campus movements, our fellows and institutes have built enduring social organizations and businesses that keep creating impact long after we first meet them.

A message from our CEO

For 35 years, we've had the privilege of standing alongside millions of young people around the world.

No matter where they live or what challenges they face, their aspirations are almost universal: a good job. Not just work for work's sake—but education and training that lead to purposeful careers, living wages, and the power to shape their own futures – while building a better future for their families, communities and the world.

There is only one truly sustainable way to help young people to rise above the challenges of poverty, violence, hunger, climate change, and the threat of job loss to AI: earning a dependable, dignified living.

When youth are equipped with the skills that match real opportunities, everything changes. Families thrive. Communities stabilize. Economies grow. Markets move. Nations prosper. Work is more than a paycheck – it's purpose, dignity, and the foundation of progress.

Yet around the globe, we're still failing young people, even as AI makes the pathway to entry-level employment even harder to navigate.

Education systems are misaligned. Employers can't find talent. Millions of young people remain locked out of opportunity.

That's why our purpose is clear: to connect young people to economic opportunity. We're harnessing AI for job creation, not job loss; training the next generation in green skills to tackle climate change; building digital pathways that are now baseline for every career and supporting entrepreneurs to solve the toughest challenges of our time.

The world today looks nothing like it did 35 years ago, and so, we too are evolving and refreshing our brand. We're proud to emphasize our transformative mission and core belief: **Invest in Youth First.** Because placing young people at the center of every solution isn't just what we do—it's what defines us, because it's what works.

**We're doubling down on what makes us unique:
partnering with young people, not just for them.**

Together with our network of over 600 trusted local organizations and with businesses, foundations, and governments, we're co-creating and building the skills, pathways and partnerships that unlock opportunity at scale.

And we're not slowing down. Fifteen million young people have already walked this journey with us—but millions more are waiting. They need bold, committed partners more than ever. We're ready to rise to that challenge.

So, to everyone who's partnered with us: thank you from the bottom of our hearts—for 35 years of trust, collaboration, and belief in what's possible when we invest in youth. To the young people we serve: your resilience inspires us every day.

And to those wondering how to make the single smartest investment for the future, put it where it matters most: transform a life, help a young person find a job.

At IYF we're celebrating 35 years, but standing with youth means meeting the moment, whatever it brings. We're building for the next 35 years to come—and we truly hope you'll join us.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christina Sass".

Christina Sass
President & CEO, IYF



2025 Half-Year Highlights

Our programs consistently outperform global benchmarks in youth engagement and success.

CONALEP classroom where the NetworkIT program is taught, with support from the Cisco Networking Academy.

90%

of young people who start an IYF program successfully complete it – one of the highest retention rates in our sector.

75%

of IYF graduates go on to achieve better economic outcomes, through meaningful employment, continued education, or both.



This leads to faster hiring and lower churn for employers, with high satisfaction rates reported from employers and employees alike.

Impact

of youth reached:



nearly
180,000
youth joined an IYF program in the first half of 2025

female
52%

under 25 years
90%

under 15 years
around
25%

To read more about our impact, visit iyfglobal.org/impact

Outcomes

87% ▶ youth were connected to work

of these
33% ▶ were engaged in work

46% ▶ were enrolled in education

21% ▶ were engaged in both work and education or training activities

85% ▶ of youth increased their human skills (Social-Emotional Learning/life skills + digital skills)

100% ▶ of youth in IYF economic opportunity programs gained technical, vocational, or work-readiness skills – from computing, literacy and financial literacy to business plan development, energy efficiency, cybersecurity, client service, automation, IT support and logistics.

Policy and practice adoption

In the first half of 2025, **24** IYF partners adopted **25+** new youth-friendly policies and practices to advance economic opportunities – including a Technical Vocational Education & Training (TVET) center which integrated life-skills training into all its courses, and a policy which ensures students receive career guidance.

Recognition

In March, we were honored to be named a **Cisco Networking Academy Premier+ Partner** – a distinction given to only 5% of strategic partners worldwide. Since 2016, our partnership in Mexico has helped bridge the digital skills gap: training 24,000 students and equipping 399 instructors with industry-ready skills. More than 67% of graduates have gone on to launch careers in tech.



IYF rings Nasdaq Closing Bell on International Youth Day

To celebrate International Youth Day and our global work to transform young lives, we were excited to ring the closing bell at Nasdaq with our partners from The Burberry Foundation, including young leaders from local Burberry Inspire program delivery partners, Girls Inc. of NYC and New York Edge.



“Through Burberry Inspire, we are helping young people realize their potential by discovering their creative voice and building skills that last a lifetime. Celebrating International Youth Day at Nasdaq is an important reminder to our young people that everything is possible with the power of community...”

Alexandra McCauley
Chief People Officer at Burberry.



NationSwell thought leadership

In 2025, IYF partnered with NationSwell to spotlight the future of work and talent. Together, we convened leaders to address the biggest risks employers face, define what future-ready skills truly mean, and explored how companies can move beyond technical training to build adaptable, problem-solving workforces.

Our operating context

We're living through a time of rapid and compounding change. Shifting geopolitics, economic volatility, and effects of climate change are driving interconnected global crises. These forces are reshaping how communities function, deepening inequalities, straining resources and overturning long-standing models of education, work and opportunity—creating urgent risks and emerging possibilities for young people and the businesses that depend on their talent.

That's why IYF believes that investing in youth first, placing young people at the center of every solution isn't just the right thing to do—it's how we build a more just, innovative, and resilient world.



Baking class in Mexico City as part of the JUventudES program.

Young People

Lack of economic opportunity is identified by nearly 4,000 youth leaders as the most pressing issue globally. *(WEF Global Shapers Report 2025)*

Around 20% of young people aged 15–24 are not in employment, education, or training—rates for women are twice those for men. *(ILO 2024)*

In Mexico, almost half of youth are unemployed or in informal work, and 30% of those participate in the shadow economy. Marginalized youth and women face up to 20% greater barriers to formal employment *(International Monetary Fund, 2023)*

Employers

Around 74% of global employers report difficulty filling roles—40% say entry-level positions are hardest to staff, highlighting a mismatch between what employers need and what young people are trained for. *(Manpower Group, 2025 Global Talent Shortage)*

According to WEF's Future of Jobs Report 2025, skills gaps are the top barrier to transformation across 52 of 55 economies. Only 29% of employers expect talent availability to improve by 2030; 42% anticipate a decline.

The workforce skills gap: sector focus

Select examples of sectors offering entry-level pathways and seeking young people with the skills IYF programs provide:

Hospitality:

hotels, restaurants, and tourism offer opportunities for youth with strong soft skills and vocational training to advance quickly into supervisory and management roles.

Technology:

provides entry-level opportunities and accelerated career growth through IT support and coding bootcamps to digital marketing and data analysis. Short-cycle certifications (e.g., networking) are effective pathways for young people.

Logistics:

growing e-commerce and global supply chains create opportunities in warehousing, delivery, inventory management, and operations coordination—roles which require digital and organizational skills over formal degrees.

Manufacturing:

changing tariff regimes mean a shifting demand for skills around the world. Advanced manufacturing requires traditional technical skills, and IT and higher order thinking skills to manage increasingly automated production processes.

Changing Workforce Skills

AI – challenge and opportunity

AI poses both a challenge and an opportunity for young people's economic futures. Automation threatens entry-level jobs and risks excluding those without digital access, yet AI also drives demand for human skills—creativity, curiosity, ethics, data literacy and innovation. With the right investments in equitable skills development and access, we believe AI can empower youth-led solutions and inclusive growth rather than driving deeper inequality.

"We help youth build AI literacy—from foundational skills to advanced manufacturing expertise. Through global programs, we also equip young people to shape AI for human goals, support governments and industry in its integration, and tackle systemic questions through thought leadership."



Jorge Barragan
Chief Program Officer, IYF.

Read more about our AI programs: iyfglobal.org/impact/program-highlights and the case study on P.22

Why invest in young people?

Working with IYF is the smartest investment in the next generation. As we face the headwinds of climate change, rising inequalities, geopolitical uncertainty, and AI transforming the workplace, our work has never been more urgent.

Having a job means...

Better Mental Health

Unemployed youth face nearly 2× higher rates of depression (66%) and anxiety (70%) than employed peers.

Sharper Minds

Economic scarcity can lower IQ by 13 points; meaningful work protects cognitive health.

Stronger Physical Health

Unemployment increases risk of heart disease, hypertension, and reduced immune response.

Access to Essentials

Employment provides access to healthcare, safe housing, and financial services.

Social Belonging

Good jobs are the surest pathway out of poverty and foster social inclusion.

Breaking Cycles of Harm

Steady income helps people leave abusive relationships; reduces risk of gender-based violence.

Sources: NIH/Frontiers in Public Health (2024); CDC/NIOSH Study (2021); The World Bank Group (2025); The Atlantic (referencing Science, 2013); UNDP Annual Report (2022); UN Women/World Bank Policy Brief (2023)

We focus on increasing economic opportunities for youth:

Helping young people acquire needed skills and getting them into great jobs is one of the most sustainable ways to transform their lives long-term.

A good job is the foundation of a meaningful life – including better mental and physical health, improved cognitive function and social connections, and a permanent lift out of poverty.

Educated, employed, engaged young people possess the power to solve the world's toughest problems.

Every \$1 invested in young people's education and skills can return around \$10–15 in economic benefits in low- and middle-income settings.

Read more: [The International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity](#)

The powerful case for investing in youth first with IYF

Benefits for society

Develops individual and community resilience: sustainable growth and prosperity

Strengthens civil society: builds capacity of grassroots organizations and youth-led initiatives

Supports youth as changemakers: invests in leadership, civic engagement and entrepreneurship to foster long-term transformation

Maximizes impact: connects philanthropy with business and government action

Business benefits

Solves strategic and systemic challenges: fills skills gaps and invests in future workforce and talent pipeline

Engages and retain employees: development, reduced turnover & motivation through volunteering and mentoring

Reduces hiring and training costs

Grows reputation, trust and brand love: attracts new talent, customers

Bridges youth potential and industry needs: consolidates training pathways for workforce of tomorrow

Equips learners with the skills employers find most lacking in the talent pool by integrating communication, leadership, critical thinking and problem-solving into technical training

Read more about the case for investing in young people, see iyfglobal.org/impact/youth-voices



Value for youth

"I just want to thank you for the amount of work and effort you put into these programs to help engineering graduates. I was fortunate enough to get an apprenticeship starting on March 2023."

Kholeka Nothando
High Gear graduate.

Asha, High-Gear alumnus.

Why partner with IYF?

We're doubling down on what makes us unique: **partnering with young people, not just for them.** Together with our network of over 600 local organizations, businesses, foundations, and governments, we co-create and build the skills, pathways, and partnerships that unlock opportunity at scale.

Expertise	+	Passion
Proven Programs	+	Sustainable Impact
Youth-centric	+	Designed by, with, and for young people
Innovative mindset	+	Long-term future-focused
Deep, trusted local knowledge	+	Ability to scale and adapt
Develops skills beyond digital literacy and numeracy	+	Communication, self-confidence
Reforms education	+	Employment pathways
Co-creation	+	Collaboration with partners
Unites cross-sector stakeholders	+	Drives progress in youth and workforce development

Gustavo Ángel Portugal, JuventudES alumnus.

Our Approach

We bridge the gap between youth and employers understanding what young people seek from work and what industries need. This insight helps us build programs that connect education to employment, delivering real outcomes: youth employability, employer satisfaction and long-term economic resilience.

Our proven five-step approach works across sectors and regions, helping young people land meaningful jobs that build well-being, agency and fulfilment. Our program results show 75% gain a clear path to employment and 90% new hard skills—driving positive impact for young people, businesses and local economies.



Rosaura Aguirre, Capital Juvenil alumna.

IYF delivers impact through five main types of program:



Skills training or awareness-raising, like Inteligencia with Google.



Developing demand-driven, industry-specific training programs for skills desired by employers which are currently lacking in a market, like our work with Cisco.



Developing curricula and training teachers in formal education systems, like multi-country Green Generation with TK Foundation.



Creating youth-informed interventions for young people not being served by current systems, like our work with Oak Foundation's Learning Differences.



Multi-country pathways that prepare youth for fast-growing industries and future talent needs. Example: EquipYouth with Caterpillar Foundation.

How we measure impact

At IYF, measurement means pairing young people's stories of change with rigorous evidence. We track progress through baseline, exit, and follow-up surveys—supported by program data, learning reviews, and independent evaluations that help us understand what works and how to scale it.

We aim to measurably increase a young person's economic opportunity.

Four key outcomes define what success looks like:

1 Achieving job placement through an IYF supported program.

2 Enrollment in higher education or training because of new skills.

3 Entrepreneurial success, launching or expanding own businesses.

4 Sustained employment or career advancement over time.

These commitments set the standards we hold ourselves to—and what young people can expect from our programs. We track youth and employer satisfaction for six months after placement, using baseline, exit, and follow-up data to understand change over time. We validate self-reported results against local benchmarks and triangulate with program records, and we only report data we can confidently stand behind. By pairing rigorous measurement with continuous learning, we generate insights that help us adapt, improve, and scale what works.

To read more about our approach to Measurement, Evaluation, Research and Learning, please see iyfglobal.org/impact

Abigail Santiago, JuventudES alumnus.



The impact of our partnerships

Every partnership is more than a program; it's a proof point. With business, government, and philanthropic partners, we're building scalable models that close equity gaps, shift education to employment pathways, and deliver results. The 2025 examples that follow show what bold investments in youth can achieve: measurable impact for young people, stronger talent pipelines for business, and lasting value for society and economies.



Semillas

Adriel Herrera, JuventudES alumnus.



Inteligencia

Equipping youth and government officials
in Mexico with practical AI skills

Artificial intelligence class at CONALEP, Mexico.



The Challenge

As AI rapidly reshapes Mexico's job market, young people—especially in underserved regions—risk being left behind. Limited access to technology, along with barriers to quality digital education, make it difficult for youth and educators to fully participate in the digital economy.



The Solution

Supported by Google.org, Inteligencia equips youth and government officials with applied AI knowledge through a practical, accessible 10-hour virtual curriculum. The program emphasizes responsible AI use—helping participants understand, evaluate, and apply AI tools ethically in daily life and work. Its mobile-friendly, self-paced design removes traditional barriers and achieves a high completion rate (76%), with women making up half of participants.



The Impact

More than 15,000 young people have benefited across eight states, with plans to reach 60,000 by 2027. Teachers report more engaged, tech-aware students, and classrooms are evolving to integrate AI responsibly. The program has sparked greater awareness of technology's potential while redefining the role of teachers as guides in a digital age.

The model is now **scalable across other states** and regions, offering a blueprint for equitable AI skilling.

“This program has created meaningful learning experiences, empowering participants and opening new pathways to transform their knowledge and become role models for future generations. The impact continues to grow each day.”

Ulises Grajales Niño
Director of Engagement, Colegio de
Bachilleres de Chiapas.

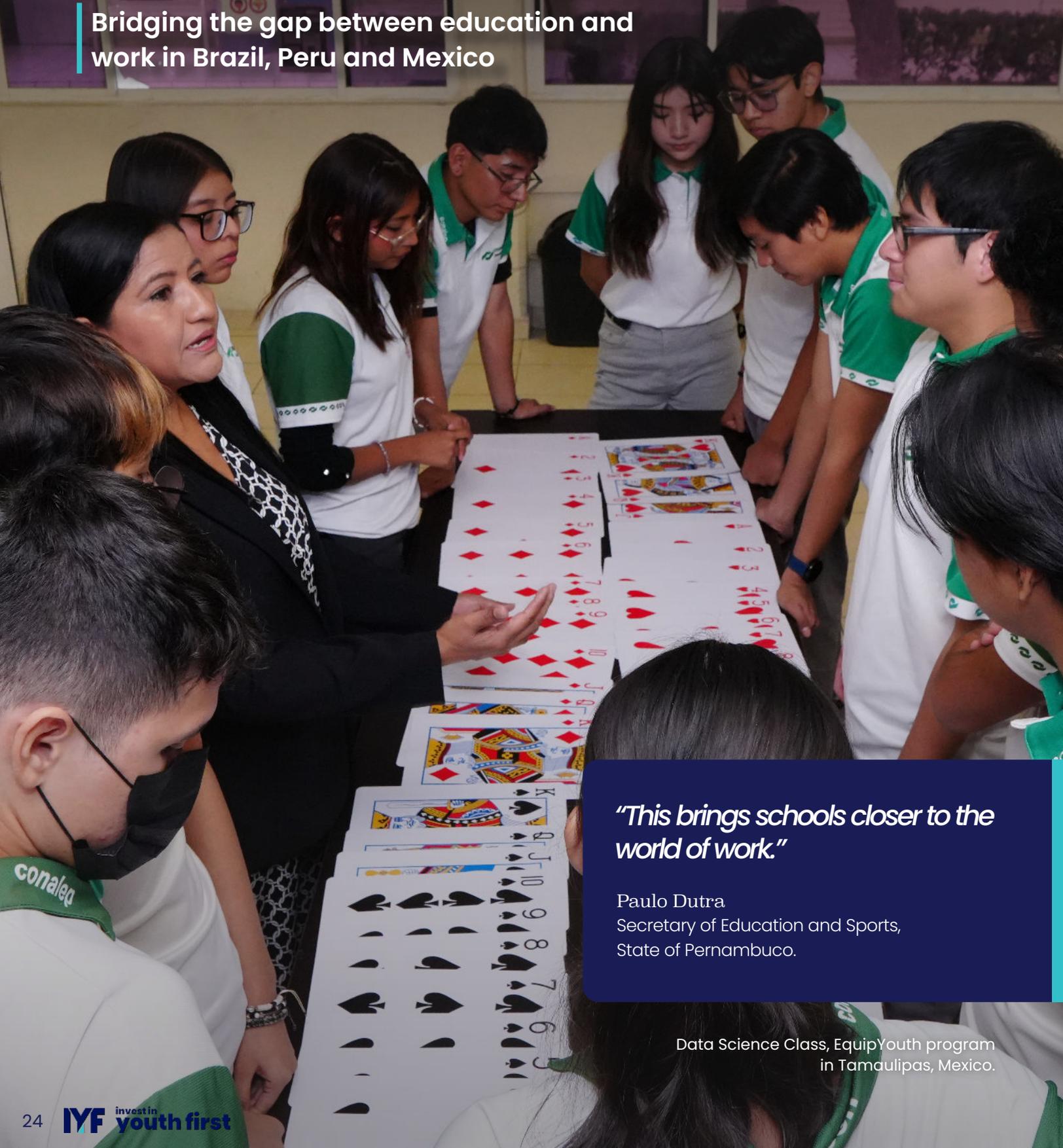
When young people thrive, everything changes.
Join us in investing in youth first.

Your partnership—whether through funding, hiring pathways, policy leadership, or shared expertise—helps unlock opportunity at scale and builds a future where every young person can shape the life they deserve.

Jackside López, Networking Cybersecurity alumnus.

EquipYouth

Bridging the gap between education and work in Brazil, Peru and Mexico



"This brings schools closer to the world of work."

Paulo Dutra
Secretary of Education and Sports,
State of Pernambuco.

Data Science Class, EquipYouth program
in Tamaulipas, Mexico.



The Challenge

Latin America’s economic future depends on young people stepping into high-demand industries. Yet public education systems often lag behind technological change, leaving students without the skills employers urgently need—and companies unable to fill critical roles.

“The program came at just the right time; it was like a mental click. I learned to recognize what I was feeling, to breathe before reacting, and to question my automatic thoughts. Thanks to Passport to Success within EquipYouth, I know myself better and have more clarity when making decisions. It’s a course that transforms you from the inside out- a true turning point.”

EQUIPYOUTH Yamile Lucia Turpo Zuñiga
EquipYouth participant.



The Solution

EquipYouth, with long-term support from the Caterpillar Foundation, is bridging the gap between education and industry. Active in Brazil, Mexico, and Peru, the program partners with Ministries of Education and employers to transform national TVET systems from within. Curricula are modernized, teachers upskilled, and youth trained in technical, socio-emotional and leadership skills that employers value.



The Impact

The program shows how private sector leadership can spark systemic, youth-driven change. By 2028, EquipYouth aims to train more than 801,000 youth across five states in three countries with outcomes including 50–60% of graduates securing new or better jobs within six months. National education systems will better align with labor market demand and employers will benefit from reduced recruitment gaps, more inclusive hiring, and stronger pipelines of future-ready talent.



EquipYouth students in Mexico.

“YF has a long-standing commitment to innovative approaches to close the skills gap. The Caterpillar Foundation is proud to have partnered with YF since 2007 in several countries to connect young people with opportunities to transform their lives and creative innovative ecosystem-based approaches.”

Asha Varghese
President, Caterpillar Foundation.

Green Generation MX

Future-ready green skills for
Mexico's energy transition

"Being part of this course has truly been a wonderful opportunity to step into both the digital world and the job market. Since it's not always easy in my field to find a role that fits my needs, this experience opened new doors for me. Over just a few days, I've learned things I never imagined, and now I'm excited to put that knowledge into practice in my future career."

Kimberly Galvara
Student, Data Science course.

Yaely Buendia, Passport To Success alumna.



The Challenge

Mexico's energy transition is creating a surge in green jobs, but a persistent skills gap limits youth participation. Only 43% of upper-secondary youth complete their studies, and just 5% secure formal employment. Key sectors like energy efficiency have thousands of unfilled positions, despite a 237% growth in green job opportunities over the last five years. Young people, especially from low-income backgrounds, lack access to industry-relevant technical and soft skills needed to thrive in this emerging economy.

"The TK Foundation partners with IYF because it shares our commitment to investing in youth. IYF offers a variety of programs and services that help young people succeed in school, get good jobs and become engaged citizens. We believe that by investing in IYF, we are investing in the future."

Patricia Benevenia

Program Manager, TK Foundation.



The Solution

Green Generation MX, supported by the TK Foundation, equips public school educators to train youth in data science, energy efficiency, and electric vehicle manufacturing. Accenture supports the development of the ElectricVehicles curriculum, helping strengthen and expand its impact. By partnering with technical high schools and universities, the program delivers updated technical curricula and builds essential soft skills—leadership, critical thinking, and collaboration. Teachers act as multipliers, bringing high-quality, industry-aligned learning directly into classrooms.



The Impact

More than 12,500 students (2025–2028) are expected to participate, including over 5,300 women, with some 154 teachers trained by summer 2025, reaching nearly 5,000 students this year. Early evidence indicates that graduates in energy efficiency and data science are earning above-average incomes, showing that targeted skills development bridges the gap between education and the workforce.

"Congratulations! We received excellent feedback from our teachers—this course was incredibly valuable, and the organization was outstanding. We truly appreciate all your work."

Martha Sosa

Academic Director, CECYTECH

UP for Change

Supporting more education
for students with learning
differences in the USA



The Challenge

Students with learning differences often face inequities and systemic barriers in education, leaving them under-supported and underestimated. Traditional decision-making in education rarely centers their voices, limiting the relevance and effectiveness of solutions designed to help them.



The Solution

UP for Change in the US, with support from Oak Foundation, shifts power to young people with learning differences and their allies. Through the UP for Change Leadership Program, youth co-design and manage a \$600,000 grant fund to remove barriers and promote more educational practices that focus on solutions that meet everyone's needs. Leaders—many with lived experience of learning differences—gain training, lead proposal reviews, select grantees, and monitor outcomes. This model ensures that *'nothing about us, without us'* guides every decision.

Hamza Zia, Up for Change leader.



“UP for Change impacted my life by giving me a sense of pride and self-confidence. I felt like I became more aware of the accessibility of the world. I felt like my experience was going to help others like me.”



Averie
UP for Change participant, Chicago.

Up for Change leaders meeting with Christina Sass.



The Impact

Grantee organizations are working on solutions shaped by youth insight. More than 1,800 young people and 128 educators' lives have been positively impacted through the grant making, with 26 UP for Change Leaders to date who report increased confidence, self-awareness, and community engagement, describing the program as **“inclusive and empowering.”**

“By trusting young people with resources, platforms and decision-making power, we unlock a more just, dynamic and forward-thinking philanthropic sector. UP for Change demonstrates that when those most proximate to the challenges we are seeking to solve have real decision-making power, they bring fresh, grounded perspectives that lead to more relevant and impactful funding decisions.”



Bethiel Girma Holton
Program Officer at the Learning Differences Program in Oak Foundation.

To read more about IYF programs, please see iyfglobal.org/impact

Looking Ahead

We are stepping into the future with urgency, ambition, and a renewed commitment to young people. The scale of the challenges they face demands more from all of us—and at IYF, we are rising to meet that moment. We are showing up differently. We are sharpening our models, expanding our influence, and pushing ourselves to innovate so that every young person has the chance to thrive. Together with our partners, we are building the systems and opportunities that young people deserve—and we're doing it with the urgency and ambition this moment demands.

In the year ahead, we will invest in youth first through efforts such as:

Stepping up our leadership—for example, joining NationSwell as a formal member and serving as the lead NGO expert in its Workforce Development Collaborative, bringing youth-centered insight to the table shaping U.S. workforce strategy.

Pioneering new models of innovation—such as leading a first-of-its-kind AI learning network with Microsoft that supports 15 TVET institutions to build digital infrastructure, strengthen institutional capacity, and equip faculty, staff, and students with AI skills for the future of work.

Forging partnerships that expand what's possible and where we work—including a collaboration with the GitLab Foundation in Colombia to train 500 young people and connect them to meaningful opportunities in the rapidly growing tourism sector within one year, as well as exploring new opportunities in additional geographies where youth need us most.

“This refresh will help IYF to share its purpose and main core: youth. It represents what we stand for: a world where we are building the bridges for the future and empowering the people who will run it!”



Germán Santillán
Founder and CEO, Oaxacanita Chocolate.

Jacqueline Escobar, Up for Change leader.

Invest in Youth First

"IYF is trusted, smart, effective and experienced. They are preparing youth for the future. What could be more important?"

Henrietta Fore
Radiate Capital, Former UNICEF
Executive Director and USAID
Administrator.

Connect with IYF

We welcome partners, collaborators, and ideas that advance opportunity for young people. Reach out to learn more or explore how we can make an impact together.

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35 years.
15 million lives.
Just getting started.

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