



Danny Gomez Romero, 18, and Pablo Silva, 53, Coordinator of YouthBuild program in Ciudad Quetzal seen after a clean up activity, part of community service in Ciudad Quetzal, San Juan Sacatepequez in Guatemala. Oscar Leiva/Silverlight

# Addressing Causes of Migration

## BACKGROUND

In Latin America, one in five youth aged 15-24 are unemployed and not in school. What is stopping these 20 million young people from succeeding? Families, communities and economies fractured by poverty, violence, and the imprisonment and migration that follow.

Youth caught in this social and economic hurricane are most likely to be both victims and perpetrators of violence. With transformational vocational training and education programs, youth will stay, thrive and have the power to transform their communities. CRS, with the critical support provided by US government donors, is addressing the issue of migration at its roots.

CRS has adapted YouthBuild, the proven model that helps governments and employers reach at-risk youth, throughout Latin America. The US-funded Senderos program is utilizing the YouthBuild model in El Salvador and Honduras. Using a cognitive behavioral curriculum that teaches valuable skills, we inspire youth to navigate life with confidence and measurable success. We develop leadership skills at personal, interpersonal, and community levels and focus on creating a life plan for each graduate.

Our US-funded Second Chances program uses a cognitive behavioral curriculum to shape alternative behavior and self-control amongst inmate participants in El Salvador in order to break the cycle of violence, which contributes to migration. The government of El Salvador recently built our model into its prisoner rehabilitation program.

## WHO WE SERVE



Students  
(12-15 years)



Out of School Youth  
(16-25 years)



Adult Inmates  
(18+ years)

## IMPACT

# 9,000+

YOUTHBUILD GRADUATES SINCE 2009

# 400+

BUSINESSES PROVIDING JOBS TO YOUTHS

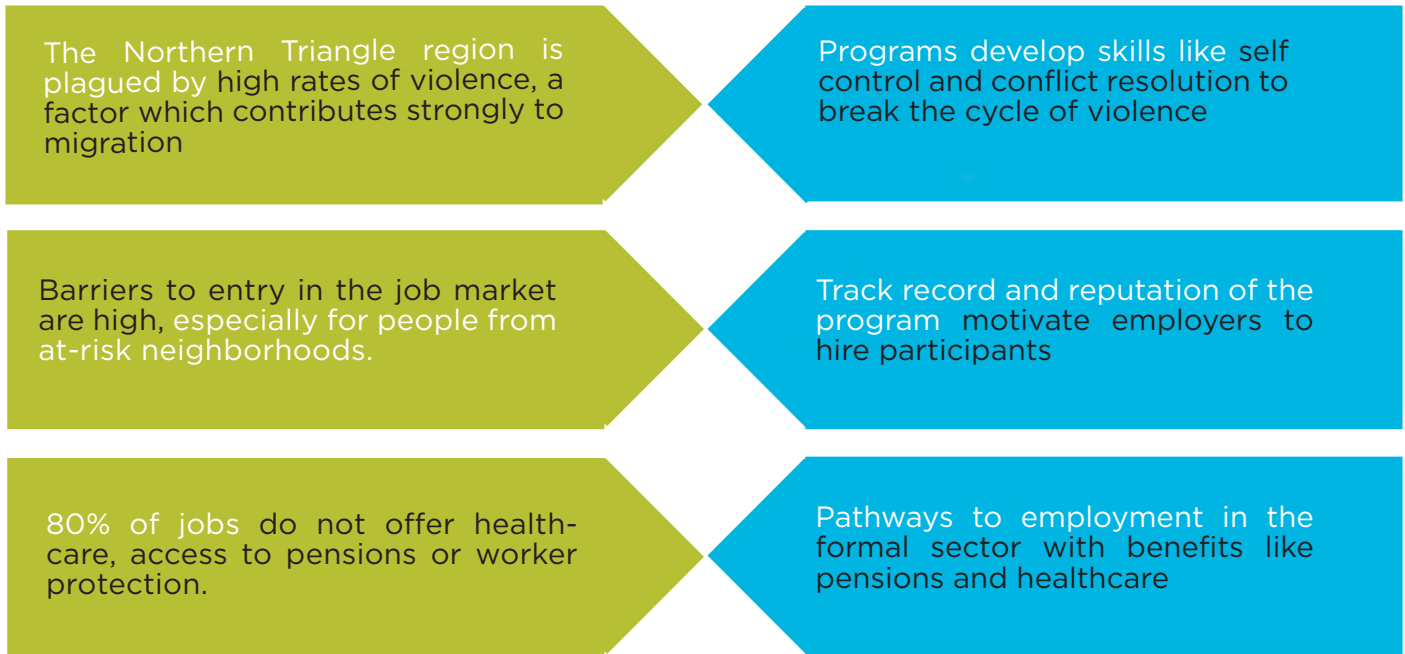
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INMATE PARTICIPANTS

## WHERE



## TACKLING THE ISSUES



## RESULTS IN CONTEXT

Cognitive Behavioral curriculum in prisons **helps inmates identify and change destructive thought patterns**

**40% of Senderos participants have considered migrating**, even though 83% (SV) and 72% (HN) believe irregular migration is dangerous. 11% of participants were internally displaced in the past year, which puts them at a high risk for migration. They chose program participation over migration.



In El Salvador, only 20% of people with jobs are enrolled in pension plans and social security. Yet, 34% of Senderos graduates are employed in the formal sector, **enrolled in pension plans and with social security and health benefits.**

Senderos graduates stay employed or stay in school - or both. CRS follows graduates over several years, demonstrating that **youth stay in the region and continue working.**

In partnership with El Salvador's General Directorate of Penal Centers, CRS is training key penitentiary staff to **integrate our curriculum into the national rehabilitation system.**

The Senderos program is effective - **67% of graduates are employed or in school compared to only 12% employed when the program starts.**

### U.S. FUNDED PROGRAMS

#### SENDEROS

The Department of Labor's International Labor Affairs Bureau (ILAB) allows us to provide training and jobs to about 5,400 low-income youth living in violent and crime-ridden communities in Honduras and El Salvador.

#### SECOND CHANCES

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement affairs program works to rehabilitate inmates, reduce recidivism, and support reintegration upon release with help from the private sector.

**For more information**, please contact:  
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