

CONÉCTATE!

Equipping youth with valuable employment skills

THE CHALLENGE

Nearly a quarter of Chile's population is between the ages of 15 and 29. The majority of these youth live in urban communities, such as Santiago and Concepción, where unemployment rates are high and virtually no services exist to help young people search for jobs. Those young people who do have jobs often work in the informal sector, where workers have little education and training and earn low wages.

At the same time, the tourism, communication, and information technology sectors are growing rapidly and need skilled workers. It is in these sectors that qualified youth stand the greatest chance of securing productive employment that will expand their opportunities for the future.

THE PROGRAM

Launched in 2005, the *Conéctate!* program equips youth with the knowledge and skills they need to enter the workforce. Over the course of three years, the program will provide training and job placement services to an estimated 550 youth, ages 18 to 25. Participants, selected from five lower class districts in Santiago and Concepción, undergo an intense six-month training, through which they acquire life and workplace skills and engage in community service. Following the training, all youth complete an internship in their chosen field. Once completed, program staff assists the youth in searching for stable employment.



OUTCOMES

In the long term, *Conéctate!* seeks to reduce unemployment rates among youth in Chile. Key outcomes include placing at least 56% of program graduates in formal jobs and generating positive feedback and continued interest in the program from employers. Additionally, the goal is that participants will exhibit increased skills in conflict management, critical thinking, communication, responsibility, contribution, and other key life skills.

THE PARTNER

The *Conéctate!* program is being implemented by the Asociación Chilena Pro Naciones Unidas (ACHNU). Founded in 1991, ACHNU's mission is to promote the rights and development of children and youth, through actions that connect them to their communities, their schools, and their neighborhoods.

The organization is not only committed to implementing successful youth development programs, but also to contributing to policy development in order to improve the lives of children and youth and acknowledge them as individuals with full rights.



RESULTS TO DATE

Initial results will be available in 2007.

PROGRAM: *Conéctate!*
PARTNER: Asociación Chilena Pro Naciones Unidas (ACHNU)
PERIOD: 1 July 2005 – 30 June 2008
LOCATION: Santiago and Concepción
REACH: 550 youth, ages 18-25
MODEL: Youth employment