

## Vocational Education and Training in Guatemala

**Country/Region:** Guatemala / Central America

**Timeframe/Status:** Pilot phase: 2010-2012

**Needs:** The population of Guatemala is very young, with over 80% under 30 years of age and 40% between 15 and 29 years. The uncontrolled population growth in rural areas, often leads to lack of perspective for the rural population and thus to migration to urban centres.

The vocational training and education system in Guatemala is in good shape compared to neighbouring Central American countries, but only accessible for urban and middle class people and is thus in need of a restructuring.



**Objectives:** The vocational training systems in Guatemala offer nationwide market-oriented vocational training activities that are mainly accessible for the poorer population. They have improved so that: A) they allow an improved access to the labor market or an independent economic activity for disadvantaged women and men. B) the main actors within the systems, INTECAP and the private training providers, act market-oriented. C) private vocational training providers are capable of adapting to market requirements.

**Target groups:** Unemployed young people in the rural areas, at least 50% women

**Focus / Activities:** The services provided by Swisscontact are the following: Development of new modular curricula and teaching materials that are competence- and market-oriented; Training of staff from private vocational training providers in the development of curricula, design of teaching materials, use of media, planning of trainings, youth psychology and use of modern and modular curricula that are competence-oriented; Consultancy and active support through moderators during the establishment of the local working groups for the promotion of vocational training and employment in rural areas; Training of moderators and members of the working groups in the planning of trainings, implementation of local labor market diagnosis, monitoring of training measures, job facilitation and follow-up of trained persons; Assistance in the planning and development of pilot training measures; Active support in the networking of the actors of the vocational training system.

**Human and Financial Resources:** Budget for phase I: 2'200'000 CHF, half financed by SDC, half by Swisscontact's Development Programme. This budget includes El Salvador phase III and Guatemala phase I.

**Results:** Unemployed young people can successfully participate in a training, which leads to employment and better income; INTECAP and private training providers are able to develop and offer market oriented trainings; at least 60% of the trainees find employment or can start a new enterprise.

**Particularities:** Since the vocational training and education system in Guatemala is in good shape, the main issue is make it better accessible to the poorer population. Private training providers, mainly NGO, are attending young and poor persons in rural areas, but they are not included in any way in the national training system, led by INTECAP. The project will focus on strengthening the national network of private and public training actors.

**Implementing agency:** Swisscontact

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Partners: INTECAP (Instituto Técnico de Capacitación y Productividad, <http://www.intecap.info/index.php>), which is the institution in charge of vocational education and training, private training providers

**Special Challenges, Risks, and Opportunities:** In the rural environment the population speaks over twenty different languages, over 80% of the female Indian population is illiterate and cultural differences between urban and rural population are presenting challenges for the project and the national training system.

**Useful Tools, Documents, Resources:** <http://www.swisscontact.org.sv/?cat=0>