

As we enter into the last semester of the current *Obra* program, the *Obra* team would like to share advances of the three partnerships with both *Obra* partners and supporters of the program. We will send another update at the conclusion of the next quarter. The *Obra* team looks forward to your feedback and suggestions.

The Carribbean

The *Obra* Caribbean Partnership has increased the visibility of the partnership's work and the Innovation Grant projects during the most recent quarter. In addition to the partnership launching its own Facebook page featuring photos and news updates, activities from the Innovation Grant projects were featured in Jamaican newspapers [The Gleaner](#) and [The Observer](#) and on prime-time segments on Jamaican [television station TVJ](#). The grant projects are moving well toward meeting their objectives. Some 350 participants are actively engaged in activities such as using their employability training to secure internships, building on entrepreneurial lessons to launch small businesses, or continuing classroom instruction to gain literacy skills and additional job training. Future plans for the partnership include increasing youth advocacy efforts and continuing to collect best practices. For more information, click [here](#).

Central America

During the last quarter, the *Obra* Central America Partnership worked closely with 1,000 youth to develop the National Youth Agenda, which was to be submitted in August at the national and municipal levels. One hundred workshops were held in consultation with 51 municipalities, along with 7 regional workshops to promote the 12 National Youth Agenda strategies. These activities were made possible through partnerships with youth organizations and other cooperating entities. The *Obra* Partnership also organized a very successful Youth Expressions Festival which attracted 650 youth. At the Festival, the implementing organizations of the seven best practices recorded by *Obra* were awarded a prize and also had the opportunity to showcase their projects. Also this quarter, the first meeting with the Youth Secretaries of three political parties was held to prepare them for a formal discussion with the presidential candidates. The presidential forum will include the participation of 60 trained youth leaders from Guatemala and the collaboration of the Coalición Centroamericana de Prevención de la Violencia [Central American Violence Prevention Coalition] and the Movimiento Social de Niñez y Adolescencia [Social Movement for Children and Adolescents]. For more information, click [here](#).

South America

The *Obra* South America Partnership has focused on the gathering and analysis of lessons learned in partnership development over the past year. The goal is to publish a report outlining lessons learned and summarizing the 15 best practices collected by the partnership. During the past quarter, the Secretariat organized a workshop with partners to discuss sustainability plans for the partnership. In addition, 30 representatives from the partnership attended a learning visit at [CAPLAB](#) during which partners had the opportunity to observe best practices in workforce training. Finally, the partnership took steps to increase its involvement with the private sector by inviting Fundación Telefónica and El Comercio to Washington DC to participate in the [Youth-Partnerships-Employability Conference](#). During that visit, priority was given to those who were designing the Innovation Fund Project, in order to monitor their progress and enhance coordination among partners. For more information, please click [here](#).



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