THE INTERVENTION, AT A GLANCE
Juanfe Foundation offers a 360 model for teenage mothers that includes training in technical and soft skills, psychosocial support services and job placement. The model was evaluated with experimental evidence, showing positive results in terms of employment and income. This intervention aims to restructure the model so that adolescent mothers can be employed in higher-paying occupations and in sectors with high demand to which they typically do not have access to.

WHAT IS THE CONTEXT?
The JF beneficiary mothers are generally employed in sectors such as hotels, tourism and beauty, that have been particularly affected by the pandemic, which limited their employment opportunities. Confinement also allowed a greater exposure of the beneficiaries to the risk of abuse and domestic violence. This situation increased the need to restructure the intervention model by strengthening the psychosocial support component and adapting the training content to serve emerging sectors with good job prospects. This entails pedagogical challenges, such as strengthening hard skills (for instance, mathematics, literacy, or 21st century skills, including digital skills) for a population with a low educational level and high social vulnerability.

WHAT DOES THE INTERVENTION CONSIST OF?
• Strengthen the training components in hard skills and 21st century skills as well as the psychosocial support component of the JF pedagogical model.
• Reorient training towards occupations in sectors with high demand and salary level.
• Test the strengthened model and evaluate its effectiveness in increasing employment, job formality, and income of beneficiaries.
• Conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis of the model and analyze the feasibility of scaling it up to a national level and replicate it in other countries.

AUTHORS OF THE SUMMARY
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INNOVATIVE ELEMENTS
• Program designed to transform the occupations in which teenage moms traditionally work to ensure that they can access jobs with higher salary projections in high-demand sectors.
• Technical education offered in a full package that includes 21st century skills development and psychosocial support for a population with multiple dimensions of vulnerability: women, young, mostly single mothers, mostly Afro-descendant from low socioeconomic status.
• Intervention adapted to the restricted job opportunities due to the COVID-19, including virtual training modules.

PARTNERS
Juanfe Foundation (JF), Latin American Center for Business Sustainability (Class), University of Los Andes and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

RELATED PROJECTS
• Program to Strengthen Employment Policies (CO-L1250, CO-J0010).
• Private Public Financing for Youth Employment in Buenaventura (CO-T1642).
WHO DOES WHAT?

• The JF leads the restructuring and implementation of the adjusted pedagogical model’s pilot test, providing training for emerging occupations, psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive health support, and job placement services for teenage mothers. The Latin American Center for Business Sustainability (Class) provides support in restructuring the psychosocial component and strengthening the socio-emotional skills module.

• University of Los Andes and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine provide support in the design of strategies for the management and prevention of sexual and domestic violence.

• Private sector partners contribute by identifying emerging post-pandemic occupations and in-demand skills. These inputs are key to develop a training aligned to the needs of employers.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED RESULTS?

• List of emerging sectors and occupations in two local labor markets completed (Cartagena and Medellín).

• Components of the pedagogical model strengthened based on an exercise of focus groups, both internal and external to the JF.

• New complementary training courses defined, aimed at emerging occupations and skills demanded by the private sector.

• Pilot test of the new pedagogical model.

• Evaluation of the pilot of the new pedagogical model. It will provide evidence on beneficiaries’ employability, job formality, and income.

• Evidence of the cost-effectiveness of the new model.

• Results of the feasibility to scale up and export strategies of the intervention model at a national and international level.

WHY IS THIS INTERVENTION RELEVANT?

This intervention promotes access to better job opportunities for a traditionally excluded population: women, young, pregnant or with children, mostly belonging to ethnic minorities, with low resources and low educational level. This intervention is aligned with the IDB’s gender and diversity agenda, as it supports actions that enhance the social, economic, and productive empowerment of young Afro-descendant women. In addition, this project provides the opportunity to pilot and evaluate a new pedagogical model designed so that people belonging to traditionally excluded groups can find high-quality jobs and good long-term job projections, providing inputs that allow studying and defining scalability and export strategies of the model at a national and international level.

SCHEDULE

October 2020
Project approval.

May 2021
List of emerging sectors and occupations in two local labor markets completed (Cartagena and Medellín).

June 2021
Components of the pedagogical model strengthened based on an exercise of focus groups, both internal and external to the JF.

First semester of 2022
New complementary training courses defined, aimed at emerging occupations and skills demanded by the private sector.

Second semester of 2022
Pilot test of the new pedagogical model.

First semester of 2023
Evaluation of the pilot of the new pedagogical model. It will provide evidence on beneficiaries’ employability, job formality, and income.

Second semester of 2023
Results of the feasibility to scale up and export strategies of the intervention model at a national and international level.