



## Youth as partners and stakeholders in TVET

### Fostering stakeholder's ownership



Photo: Jesus Salgado/TVET-SAY

The survey also measured youth's educational and occupational aspirations, their self-perception regarding their life skills, and the medium and mechanisms through which youth look for and receive information.

**“We never get the chance to talk about career choices”.**

Jorsell Simon Hodgson, Ulwa adolescent (ethnic minority), from Karawala, Desembocadura del Rio Grande.

What do young people along Nicaragua's Caribbean Coast hope to achieve in their careers? What do they know about technical and vocational education and training (TVET)?

In order to better understand youth perceptions and aspirations on these issues, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training for At-risk Youth program, conducted a Youth Perception Survey of 400 at-risk youth ages 14 to 29. This included ethnic minority youth in four targeted municipalities along the Caribbean Coast—Desembocadura del Rio Grande, Pearl Lagoon, Bluefield's and Nueva Guinea.

The assessment and consultation process provided valuable insight that will help design an awareness campaign to increase interest in and raise the perceived value of TVET programs among youth in the region. The campaign also aims to breakdown gender stereotypes related to certain vocations so more youth can access fulfilling careers.

Youth partners surveyed say more information on vocational education is needed and such a campaign could help fill that void.

“A campaign to promote technical education can help us access information about what technical education is, what careers are available for us, and jobs that can promote community development. We never get the chance to talk about this. No one guides us on career choices,” says Jorsell Simon Hodgson, an Ulwa (ethnic minority) adolescent from the indigenous community of Karawala, located in Desembocadura del Rio Grande.

The survey revealed interesting facts about how youth perceive TVETs. For example, 72 percent of youth would personally prefer a university-track career over a technical career but would recommend a technical career for their peers.

In a parallel focus groups and interviews, 178 youth, parents, community leaders and communicators, proposed key messages, communications mechanisms and activities they recommend be included in a campaign to improve perceptions of TVET.

One participant, Arlame Wilson Palmiston, nurse and community leader in Karawala, said there is a great need for this campaign.

“Here in our community, it is very difficult to access information about technical careers. Information should be available to reach young people, so they can access other opportunities” she said.

### Telling Our Story

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