

**3ie-IFPRI Joint Seminar: Experimental evidence on the long-term impacts of a  
youth training Program  
12/08/2016**

[Laura Ripani](#), a lead economist at the Inter-American Development Bank, presented her co-authored research on the long-term impacts of a youth training program in the Dominican Republic at the [3ie-IFPRI joint seminar series](#) in Washington D.C. on December 8<sup>th</sup>. The training program, *Juventud y Empleo* (“youth and employment”), targets unemployed or underemployed young people and comprises six weeks of skills training followed by a three month internship. The researchers tracked the original 2008 cohort and estimated the impact of the training program six years after participation.

The 2008 cohort had 10,309 eligible applicants, of which 5,914 were randomly assigned to participate in the program and 4,395 were assigned to a control group. Anticipating imperfect uptake rates, the ministry randomly assigned a list of up to 5 replacement participants from the control group. After accounting for these no-shows, the cohort included 4,937 initial beneficiaries, 977 no-shows and 977 replacements, as well as 3,418 control individuals. The researchers contacted a 3,279 individual sub-sample of the original cohort for follow-up surveying over the past six years. Using these 3,279, the researchers performed an Intent to Treat (ITT), an Average Treatment of the Treated, as well as a Local Average Treatment Effects analysis.

Overall, the researchers report mixed results. Using all three methods of analyses, they find that the program had little effect on the probability of employment or on earnings. However, they report some positive heterogeneous outcomes. In general, male participants were more likely to be employed with health insurance, the researchers’ proxy for formal employment. They also find that both men and women living in Santo Domingo were statistically more likely to be formally employed, or to have written contracts. In Santo Domingo specifically, female participants had a statistically significant higher earnings than the control. Dr. Ripani concluded that these results suggest that training programs work in tandem with larger trends of employment and should be targeted at areas with dynamic labor markets.

[Eric Djimeu](#), an evaluation specialist at the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation, served as the seminar discussant. He lauded the paper for filling a true gap in the literature on the long-term effects of training programs in developing countries, but noted the need for more local context on barriers to employment, so that the role of the training program could be better understood. The audience asked if the training stipend might influence outcomes, for more cost benefit information, how the researchers dealt with replacement individuals in the ITT, and why funders should continue to fund programs that do not affect rates of employment or earnings. Dr. Ripani argued that rates of employment did not tend to differ much because of the necessity of work for survival, and added that improving the quality of work was no small benefit, especially given that the cost-benefit analyses of the program were positive. She also alluded to follow-up studies to better understand the program’s impact on the informal sector and rural areas.