A Ganar is an intensive 4-month vocational training program, which trains young people according to the needs of the labor market. A Ganar was created by Partners of the Americas to fight against unemployment and has already trained more than 12,000 young people in 16 countries in Latin America, including more than 600 young people in the Dominican Republic.

**WHAT DOES IT CONSIST OF?**

Some 40 young people are chosen among the candidates who applied, because of their profile and their desire to succeed. The DREAM Project, USAID/Alerta Joven and The Dominican Joe are currently sponsoring the courses.

The program is established by 4 phases of training focused on developing and strengthening each of their skills. In the first phase, the program develops the work and life skills of students through sports, and expands their knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention and unplanned pregnancies, focusing on healthy decision making and leadership. The second phase is more academic and vocational courses: Customer Service, Intensive English, Professional Development (development of curriculum vitae and success in the job interview) and Personal Development. In the third phase, we place the young people in different businesses and different positions, in order to carry out an internship for 80 hours to acquire work experience for future jobs and acquire references. The fourth phase is the follow-up of the graduates, who will receive support from DREAM to access jobs during the years following their graduation.

**WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM?**

The program is more than successful, since DREAM has already trained more than 600 young people in the North Coast of the Dominican Republic. Of these, 75% are currently active (working and/or studying). A Ganar has already trained young people in customer service/sales, intensive English, hospitality (waiters/bartenders) and home nursing. In addition, more and more businesses come to A Ganar when it comes to recruiting new employees, for the professionalism and dedication of the young people trained. A Ganar will continue in 2018, training more young people in the country according to the employment areas where there are employment sources.