EMPOWERED RURAL WOMEN AS KEY DRIVERS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN COLOMBIAN POST-CONFLICT TIMES

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1. WEAKNESS OF COLOMBIAN STATE
The failure of the country’s political leaders to design effective institutions of government (Coatsworth, 2003)

2. UNEQUAL ACCESS TO LAND AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES
In distant rural areas, government barely functions, leading to chronic poverty and inequality

3. COLOMBIA’S DIFFICULT GEOGRAPHY
It created a territorial fragmentation in which many places remained virtually stateless for decades

4. VIOLENCE IN POLITIC PARTIES
Almost one century of violence between the two historic political parties.

5. POLITICAL EXCLUSION AND LOW PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

“Despite its duration and destructiveness, there is no consensus on the ‘causes’ of the Colombian conflict”.
(González, F. 2014)
Colombia is Latin America’s 2nd most unequal country after Honduras

1. Multidimensional Poverty Index in rural Colombia: 45%.
2. The rural poverty is 3 more times than urban poverty.
3. 2/3 of agricultural land is concentrated in just 0.4 % of farmland holdings.
4. 84% of the smallest farms control less than 4 % of land

Exacerbated by the increase of large-scale cattle ranches, oil, timber and mining projects and agricultural plantations, like soya, palm oil and sugar cane. (Simon Ticehurst - Oxfam, 2016).
GENDER AND THE CIVIL WAR

• During the war, a total of 260,000 were killed, 6 million were displaced, 45,000 were missed.
• 17% of missing and assassinated political and community leaders were women.
• 52% of displaced population are rural women.
• All rebels and paramilitary groups in Colombia have been reported to rape women and girls.
• Women have been forced to observe war crimes committed against their sons and husbands as well as being victimized by executions, mutilations and sexual slavery.
FARC rebels and the government signed a peace deal in September 2016.

FARC victims attend a ceremony, where the guerrilla rebels publicly asked for forgiveness on December 5th.

“The disarmament by the roughly 7,000 rebels brings Latin America’s oldest civil conflict close to a formal end“

*United Nations - June 27th.*

**CURRENT CONTEXT: POSTCONFLICT CHALLENGES**
COLOMBIAN RURAL WOMEN FACE THREE TYPES OF INEQUALITIES: BEING WOMEN, BEING RURAL AND BELONGING TO ETHNIC AFFILIATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sources poverty conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No official data can be found on rural women conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Unpaid work. No Access to clean water, energy and sanitation services which means more time dedicated to those activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Low opportunities of education</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. No access to land, credit, technical assistance and productions assets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Public policies favouring agrobussiness blocking women to develop family agriculture practices.</td>
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</tbody>
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OBJECTIVES

• To highlight the importance of empowered rural women as leaders in the re-establishment of rural development during and after armed conflict times.

• To identify the 5 domains of Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index for an understanding of the barriers to achieve gender equality in Colombian rural households and communities.
Qualitative study based on 7 in-depth interviews about the 5 domains of Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index according to Alkire, 2013

Interviews were carried out between March-December 2016.

Interviews were done face to face by the students of the food security course.

Non probability sampling with rural women who accepted voluntarily to participate in the study.

Students were trained on survey methods to reduce bias possibilities.

Colombian rural women collecting coffee grains.
## 5 domains of Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI) (Alkire, 2013, Manyamba, 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>Autonomy in production: has least autonomy on one production activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has some input in decisions or feels can make decisions in at least two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>domains in production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>Jointly has at least one right in at least one household asset</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jointly has at least one right in at least one agricultural asset</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access to and decisions on credit: jointly makes at least one decision</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>regarding</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has some input and decisions on major income and expenditure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td>Control over use of income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Speaking in public</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Group Membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time satisfaction</td>
<td>Leisure time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Satisfaction with time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESULTS

7 EMPOWERED WOMEN FROM
FIVE COLOMBIAN STATES
Woman 1 Rosalia Largo. Indigenous leader from Emberá Chamí community in Caldas. She works voluntarily as community manager for the protection and care of children and natural resources in Villa de Leyva – Boyacá.

Woman 2. Alba Mahecha. Rural enterpreuner woman owner of an 100% organic and sustainable goat dairy factory in Subachoque Cundinamarca

Woman 3. Fayeri Castillo. Displaced woman from Cauca who used to plant coca, platains and cacao and now is a student of public accounts in Bogotá

Woman 4 Angela Sanabria. Rural leader woman who works as tourism guide, red cross activist, her farm produces eggs, milk and pigs. She also works for defense of women´s rights in Villa de Leyva
RESULTS

**Woman 5 Ernestina Parra.** Rural leader woman from Fusagasugá, Cundinamarca. President of the Gender Equity council. She coordinates the group of 30 women promoting economic empowerment since 20 years ago.

**Marilyn.** Afro-Colombian leader woman from Chocó. She works as a healer with medicine plants and ancestral knowledge teaching her community how to be sustainable with Mother Earth.

**Woman 7 Yurleidy.** Leader woman, handcraft and weaver who works with her mother at their organization to promote women’s development through entrepreneurship of local products.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOMAINS</th>
<th>Rosalia</th>
<th>Alba</th>
<th>Fayeri</th>
<th>Angela</th>
<th>Ernestina</th>
<th>Marlyn</th>
<th>Yurleidy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resources</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Income</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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THE WEAI & SDG CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

5 Domains of Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture

- Economic Environment
  - Macroeconomic level
  - Lending Institutions
- Socio Cultural Environment
- Policies and programs

Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture Index
(Alkire, 2013, Manyamba, 2014)

Improved agricultural productivity
Increased incomes

Food Security
- Availability
- Diet quality
- Access

Sustainable Development Goals
- *Zero Hunger*
- *Gender equality*
- *Clean Water and Sanitation*
- *Reduce inequalities*
- *Sustainable Cities and Communities*
- *Responsible Production and Consumption*
- *Peace, justice and strong institutions*

5 Domains of Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture

- Production
- Resources
- Income
- Leadership
- Time

Improve agricultural productivity
Increased incomes

Income
Production
Resources
Leadership
Time
Education opportunities
Self-esteem
Social mobilization
Partnership skills

*Zero Hunger
* Gender equality
* Clean Water and Sanitation
* Reduce inequalities
* Sustainable Cities and Communities
* Responsible Production and Consumption
* Peace, justice and strong institutions
CONCLUSIONS

1. Empowered women are the best examples of resilience in territories affected by the war. They empower other women and work intensively to create rural development.

1. The 7 women in this study had at least 4 domains of empowerment and autonomy in decisions regarding agricultural production, land use, household economy, family health, local production, household income and local leadership. The least frequent domain was “time”.

2. There is evidence that empowering women brings sustainable development in rural settings, specially where the conflict had led mostly victims.

3. This study created more awareness on the inequities that rural population and rural women had faced. Students changed their point of view in many ways about the armed conflict and about being woman in this country.
Questions for discussion

• Achieving true empowerment of rural women is unrealistic if national public policies on women’s land ownership are not well implemented. How to deal with bad policy practices in the Latin American context?

• Postconflict means the war had ended, but the roots of the conflict still exist. Is social awareness, mobilization and organization not only, a viable way to really transform the reality of inequity and violence?

• How to increase women’s resilience in remote rural areas with limited access to education, no access to clean water, and poor health conditions?
GRACIAS

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