

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

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ROOTS OF VIOLENCE AND CIVIL WAR IN COLOMBIA



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.

CURRENT CONTEXT: POSTCONFLICT CHALLENGES

"The disarmament by the roughly 7,000 rebels brings Latin America's oldest civil conflict close to a formal end"
United Nations - June 27th.



COLOMBIAN RURAL WOMEN FACE THREE TYPES OF INEQUALITIES: BEING WOMEN, BEING RURAL AND BELONGING TO ETHNIC AFFILIATION



Sources poverty conditions

No official data can be found on rural women conditions

2. Unpaid work. No Access to clean water, energy and sanitization services which means more time dedicated to those activities

3. Low opportunities of education

4. No access to land, credit, technical assistance and productions assets.

5. Public policies favouring agrobusiness blocking women to develop family agriculture practices .

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

METHODS

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)

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



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 entrepreneur 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, plattains 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



Marlyn. 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, handcrafter and weaver who works with her mother at their organization to promote women's development through entrepreneurship of local products.



RESULTS

DOMAINS	Rosalia	Alba	Fayeri	Angela	Ernestina	Marlyn	Yurleidy
Production	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Resources	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Income	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leadership	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Time	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes

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

Production

Resources

Income

Leadership

Time

Women's Empowerment in
Agriculture Index

Improved agricultural productivity

Increased incomes

Food Security

Availability

Diet quality

Access

Education opportunities

Self-esteem

Social mobilization

Partnership skills

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

(Alkire, 2013, Manyamba, 2014)

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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