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1. Rural Colombia: an overview
81.8% of Colombian territory can be classified as *rural* or *dispersed rural*.

30.3% of the Colombian población lives in rural areas.

Source: DANE – DDRS
Colombia has achieved an important reduction on monetary poverty

21 percentage points in 12 years

And almost a 10 percentage points reduction in extreme poverty in 12 years
However...

We still have deep gaps between urban and rural areas
Poverty gaps between urban and rural areas have increased in the past 12 years.
Multidimensional Poverty Index
Urban areas

Multidimensional Poverty Index
Rural areas

Gaps also persist in living conditions: People living in urban areas have better living conditions than people in rural areas.

The deeper gaps on living conditions between urban and rural areas are housing and basic education.

Source: DNP. Census (2005)
Development of rural areas in Colombia is not homogeneous: it differs strongly among regions.

There is a positive relationship between urban areas and better living conditions in rural areas.
2. Cauca and Tolima Pilots
THE PILOTS´ MODEL

FAMILIES

- Land Property rights
- Improvement of living conditions – housing
- Improvement of household capabilities
- Productive Projects (Income generation)
- Access to financial services
- Access to technical assistance

Development of intervention routs
Improvement of living conditions – Poverty
Strengthening of capabilities
Achieve a sustainable minimum living income

TERRITORY

- Institutions
- Territorial organization
- Land registry adaptation
- Environmental supply – Land use
- Productive potential
- Market structure and local proposals for income generation

Local and regional governments and social organizations

Coordinate the national tools with the territorial development
Better knowledge of the territory
Have coordinated productive proposals
PILOTS: the implementation

Pilot’s Work Plan:

Territories for intervention: Norte del Cauca (7 municipalities) and Sur del Tolima (9 municipalities)

- Territorial prioritization by poverty and rural levels
- Identification of the poorest households with SISBEN (poverty) index and local governments
- 5,159 households were interviewed in the two areas
- Definition of rural household typologies (habitability conditions, income generation capacity and land formalization)
- Characterization of local dynamics: strengths, potentials, problems and conflicts
PILOTS: implementation

Predominantly urban

Node

Rural

Predominantly rural

(+) Institutional capabilities
(+) Population density
(-) Poverty and rurality
(+) Connectivity

(-) Land concentration
(+) Transitory crops

(-) Institutional capabilities
(-) Population density
(+) Poverty and rurality
(-) Connectivity

(+ Land concentration
(+ Permanent crops

Behavior of local areas is similar to the national behavior

Chaparral – main town in Sur del Tolima
Both pilot areas have similar rates of monetary poverty. However, multidimensional poverty is higher in Tolima.

The main difference between the two pilot areas is the housing characteristics (a qualitative deficit of 84% Tolima and 52% Cauca).

In both territories, the main activity is agriculture. However, Cauca is more diverse in economic activities (e.g. mining, wholesale, education and construction).
PILOTS: results

- Productive projects for income generation
- Housing programs (plus sanitary and access to water)
- Food safety
- An assessment of adequate land use and soil vocation
- Strengthening of local institutions
- Development of regional production
- Associativity
- Access to markets and trade alliances
- Technical assistance
- Environmental supply and land use
- Property rights for small producers

Goals Achieved

Need for structural changes
Key learnings

1. Focalization: first region, then population

2. Decentralize projects decisions: increase participation of the local levels

3. National policies must be flexible, according to the needs of regions

4. National policies coordination start with a common knowledge of the region of intervention

5. It is crucial to know the structure of tenure and land use
PILOTS
3. A new model: comprehensive mechanisms with a territorial approach - lessons learned
Reducing the urban-rural POVERTY GAP

NATIONAL POLICY
Ministry of Agriculture

WHAT?
• Land titling
• Rural habitability
• Income generation

COLLEGIATE BODY:
defines a Local Rural Development Strategy

RESOURCE ALLOCATION
OF NATIONAL BUDGET

HOW?
FOR WHOM?

Local government

Organized community

RESOURCES ALLOCATION THROUGH CALL FOR PROPOSALS
The rural development model has been materialized in the following strategies:

- **Intervention mechanisms formalized**: prioritization of areas and coordination among sectors
- **Specific budgets and goals**: 10% of the total budget for the agricultural sector for 2016
- **Institutional framework**: creation of national fund for rural development and adjustment of public budgeting
- **Special faculties for reform**: creation of an Administrative department for land

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**National Development Plan 2014 -2018**

(Set up of long and medium term goals for the national government)
Next steps

1. Inter-sectorial coordination for rural development

2. Objective criteria for territorial focalization that actually reflect the reality on the ground

3. Deepen the decentralization and de-concentration process through a new public budgeting

4. Scaling up interventions beyond the first six areas to cover the national territory