

NEW NARRATIVES

for rural transformation



UNITED NATIONS

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Investing in rural people



NEW
NARRATIVES
for rural transformation

New Narratives for a rural transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean

The technical assistance “New narratives for rural transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean” is implemented by the Subregional Headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Mexico, with financial support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Introduction

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Demographic



Migratory



Social



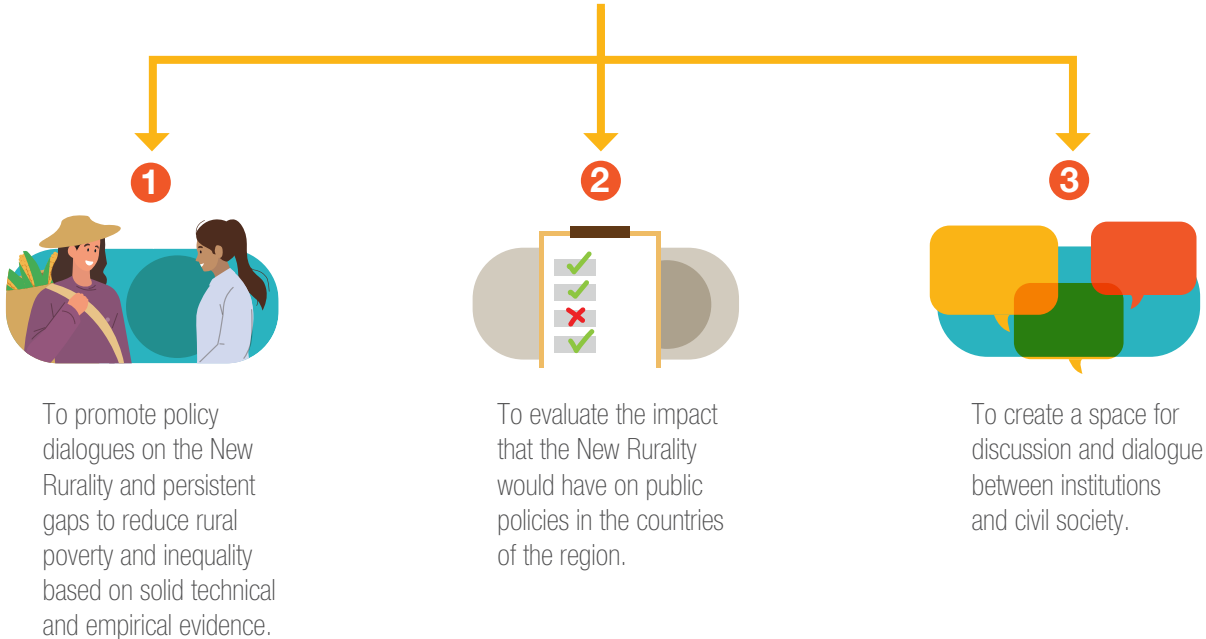
Economic



Objective

The overall objective of the project is to determine the boundaries and scope of the classic definition of rurality, in order to generate an analytical work of study about the recent transformations of rurality in middle-income countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Specific objectives



Ten years of collaboration

This initiative is being developed in continuity with three other recent IFAD-ECLAC collaborations.



Between 2014 and 2017, ECLAC and IFAD provided technical assistance to five countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and the Dominican Republic) in the design of participatory strategies for strengthening rural value chains (Padilla Pérez ed., 2017).

Between 2015 and 2017, studies were prepared in five countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic) to identify progress and challenges in terms of public policies for greater financial inclusion (Villarreal ed., 2017).

A third project on family remittances for development and financial inclusion was recently completed, aimed at promoting the investment of remittances to strengthen value chains.

2014

2015

2016

2017



Countries participating in the study of New Narratives



Pillars of the New Narratives

The project is divided into two components:

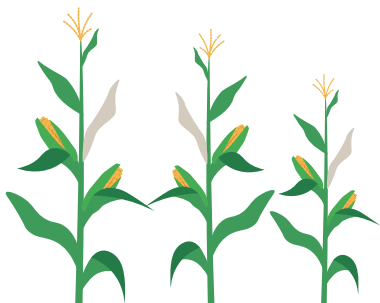
New Rurality

To understand the implications of the recent transformation of rural spaces in Latin America and the Caribbean for the design of public policies.



New Rurality

Studies territories with a finer segmentation between rural, urban and intermediate spaces, and not as a rural-urban dichotomy.



Structural Gaps

Structural Gaps are the different broad and persistent expressions of inequality in different social, economic and territorial areas.

Thematic axes



Social welfare gaps

in light of demographic change in the countries of the region, with emphasis on health and education.



Economic gaps

(productivity), in terms of innovation, value chains, and foreign investment.



Population gaps

in poverty and income inequality.



Social inclusion gaps

of vulnerable populations, with emphasis on indigenous peoples, rural populations and gender.

The New Rurality

The New Rurality research work was originally conducted in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic, pilot countries with solid statistics.

Colaboration Phases

Phase 1

Rural issues based on official statistics

Criteria

Alternative rurality indexes

A tool that makes highlighting the different characteristics according to the way spaces and their mobility are measured possible.

Socioeconomic characteristics

with mapping that reveal poverty and inequality.

Phase 2

Implementation of alternative rurality indexes

Criteria

Maps were generated for various topics such as gender inequality, education, health, competitiveness and non-agricultural rural employment applied to specific cases of middle-income countries in the region.

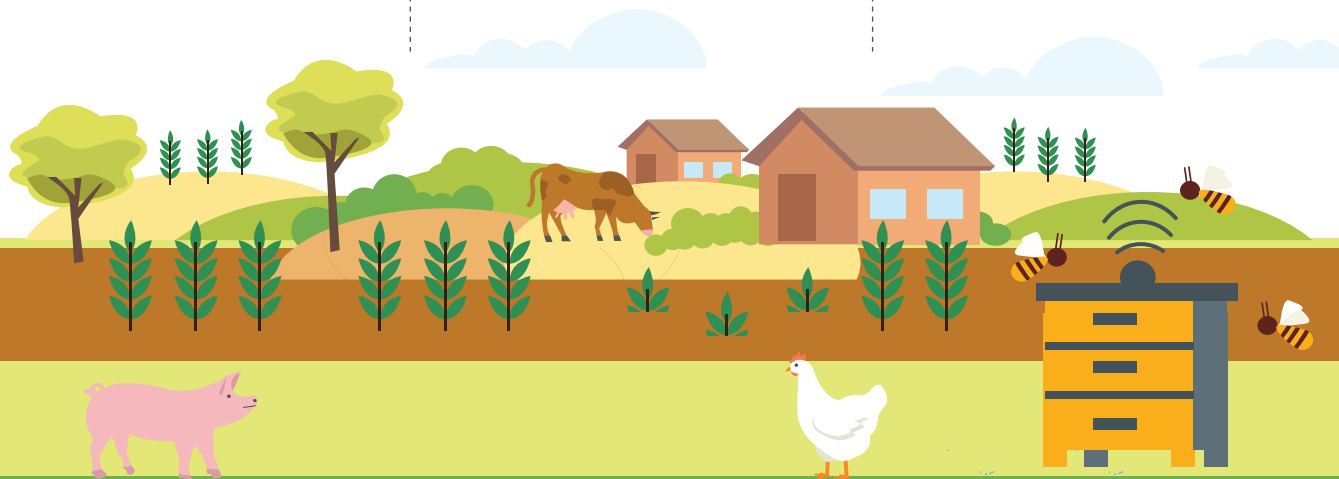
Phase 3

How to convert to public policy

Criteria

Transfer of knowledge and capacity building for empirical evidence to be framed and fit into the public policy agenda.

The project found different applications to each country's policy agenda and this worked to strengthen their capacities.



Elements of the theory of the New Rurality

Complex territorial system

Understanding the rural as a complex territorial system.
Rural is not a backward space.

- Heterogeneity
- Interactions and flows
- Dynamic and evolving spaces



Productive diversity

Rural is not synonymous with agriculture, but rather a space for services and the creation of non-agricultural rural jobs.

- Industrialization and tertiarization of rural areas
- Diversification of rural employment
- Labor mobility



Rural as an opportunity

Space where one can think and design new forms of development and growth for a more equitable society.

- Driver of sustainable and inclusive growth
- New rural investments
- Productive linkages
- Environmental dimension at the center of the productive matrix



Functional diversification

Rural is a space that fulfills a social function in which there is a cosmovision, which has diversification and functional understanding of the space beyond its economic function.

- Economic, social, environmental and cultural functions.
- Intermediate spaces
- Globalization



Conceptual framework of the New Rurality

Recent changes that underpin the conceptual framework of the new rurality:

Economic

- Lower share of agricultural employment and value added in rural economic activity.
- Greater interdependence between agriculture and other sectors.
- Increasing importance of learning and innovation processes
- Greater productive linkages and the possibility of scaling up.

Demographic

- Decrease of the population living in rural areas.
- Changes owed to population displacement within rural areas.
- Changes in distance to urban centers.

Territorial

- Changes in the perception of rural areas.
- Growing appreciation of local resources.
- Changes in the productive structure that imply a reorganization of space and territories.
- New actors and forms of coordination.
- Growing interaction with urban spaces.

New Rural paradigm

The “rural paradigm” considers the rural as an economically multisectoral, competitive and attractive space with greater connectivity and systemic complexity.

	Old approach	New approach
Conceptual framework of rurality	Essentialist vision	Dynamic, evolutionary and heterogeneous vision
Productive sector	Agricultural sectoral vision	Multi-sectoral systemic vision with productive linkages
Public policy objectives	Equalization, farm income, competitiveness	Competitiveness of rural areas, valuation of local assets, exploitation of unused resources
Target sector	Agriculture	Various sectors of rural economies (rural tourism, manufacturing, Information and Communication Technologies [ICT] sector)
Main development policies	Subsidies	Investments
Main actors	National governments, farmers and cattle breeders	All levels of administration (supranational, national, regional, local), various local stakeholders (public and private entities, NGOs).

Structural Gaps

The project seeks to identify opportunities for the design and implementation of public policies to close territorial structural gaps, taking advantage of the opportunities for economic growth and development proposed in the framework of the theory of the New Rurality.

What is the area of study of Structural Gaps?

A structural gap is defined as the broad and persistent expressions of inequality in various social, economic and territorial areas that hinder development.

What is the purpose of studying structural gaps?

Structural gaps are considered as a tool for structural transformation that favors inclusive economic growth and development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Characteristics of Structural Gaps

A gap is structural and not conjunctural.



It is inequality characterized by its amplitude and persistence.



Structural gaps are poverty traps where there is no possibility of social growth.



Patterns of inequality are reproduced generationaly.



Main Structural Gaps

ECLAC identifies twelve Structural Gaps based on basic needs, classic indicators for measuring poverty and inequality, and socioeconomic characteristics in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Each and every one
of the Structural Gaps are interrelated:**



Income

- Measures the difference in income received from salaried or self-employed, work. It is the difference in income in cyclical and structural terms.



Poverty

- Refers to differences in poverty indicators between population groups or geographic areas.
- Multidimensional factors that interfere with the level of well-being.



**Investment
and savings**

- Measures existing disparities in investment and savings capacities between population groups and companies.
- It is the financial and investment constraint.



**Productivity
and innovation**

- Measures the inequality of productivity growth among productive units.
- It refers to dynamic inefficiency. Associated with inequality, low productivity due to education or health, and discrimination based on gender or ethnicity.



Infrastructure

- Measures the differences in the scarcity of infrastructure and its access differentiated by population groups.
- Lack of territorial integration. Linked to fiscal policy and inefficient public expenditure.



Education

- Differences in access, permanence, graduation and quality of education among population groups and geographic areas.
- Limited education of the population. Associated with poverty, inequality and income.



Health

- Differences in access to and quality of health services among population groups and geographic areas.
- Limited access to health services. Associated with poverty, inequality and income.



Taxation

- Existence and effectiveness of tax burdens and tax structures to modernize productive structures and achieve greater social equality.
- It is the set of laws, regulations and procedures of public finance that allow for the reduction of poverty and inequality through income distribution.



Gender

- Inequalities in education, social protection and productivity, which are fed by historical gender gaps.
- Difference between men and women with respect to the same indicator.



Environment

- Existing disparities between population groups and geographic areas in integrating environmental sustainability dimensions into development strategies.
- Impact of the economic development process. Associated with climate change and global warming.



Ethnic and racial

- Inequalities in education, social protection and productivity, which are fed by historical ethnicity gaps.
- Marginalization of ethnic and/or racial groups. Associated with the culture of privilege.



Public goods

- Refers to differences in access to and quality of public goods and services among population groups and geographic areas.
- Limited public investment. Refers to social and productive inclusion. Associated with the taxation gap.



Assets

- Differences in the value or quantity of property or movable or immovable assets, whether productive or not, held by individuals or certain population groups.
- Value of personal, family or certain groups of people's capital. It accounts for the accumulation or distribution of capital among groups of people.

Methodology for the study of Structural Gaps

Analyze structural gaps in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially territorial gaps within the transformations specified through the New Rurality gaps, by means of:



Conceptual studies
on poverty and inequality



Methodological proposal
to measure a gap, characterize it and understand the system of inequalities and the relationships that exist between the different gaps, for example:

- Income inequality
- The impact on access to public goods and services
- Gender inequality
- Environment
- Fiscal



National diagnoses of structural gaps:
Mexico, Guatemala, Panama and the Dominican Republic



Specific studies
of structural gaps

- Maps
- Studies on issues such as social, disability, ethnicity, rural, territorial, fiscal, innovation, productivity, wages, income and gender, among others.



Closing book of the component



Regional Dialogue for a renewed public agenda
for development and reduction of structural gaps

Knowledge dissemination

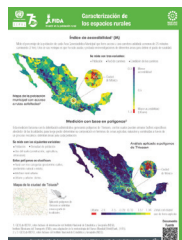
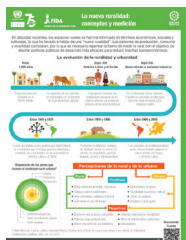
Working material prepared for the dissemination of the New Narratives project. Conceptual and methodological documents, country studies, statistical inputs, maps, workshops, studies on public policy indicators and a closing book on the topic.

Two books were published documenting the knowledge generated during the four years of study of the New Narratives Project.

One book is on New Rurality and the other on Structural Gaps.



Mapas e infografías



35 publications disseminated in the region derived from these thematic axes:



New Rurality



Equality and Poverty



Innovation Productivity

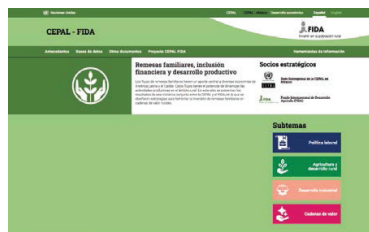


Social Inclusion



Social Well-Being

Geoportal: official ECLAC webpage where we can interactively view the different rurality scenarios, with methodology and downloadable data. A public instrument for students and researchers to use in different universities.



Geoportal



<https://www.cepal.org/es/proyectos/fida-nuevas-narrativas>



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