



# Gender Equality Observatory

## for Latin America and the Caribbean

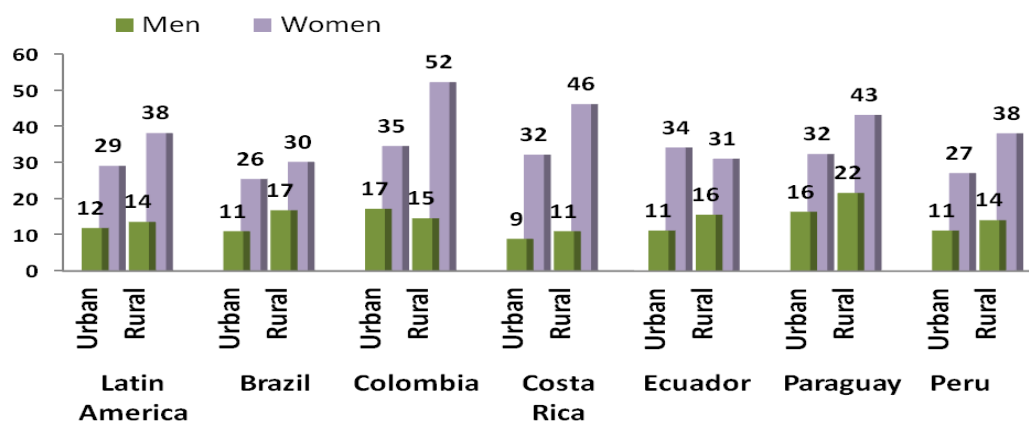


## Rural women work more and earn less

In Latin America and the Caribbean there are 58 million women living in rural areas. Despite their fundamental contribution to food production and economic development of the region, indicators show higher inequality levels for rural women

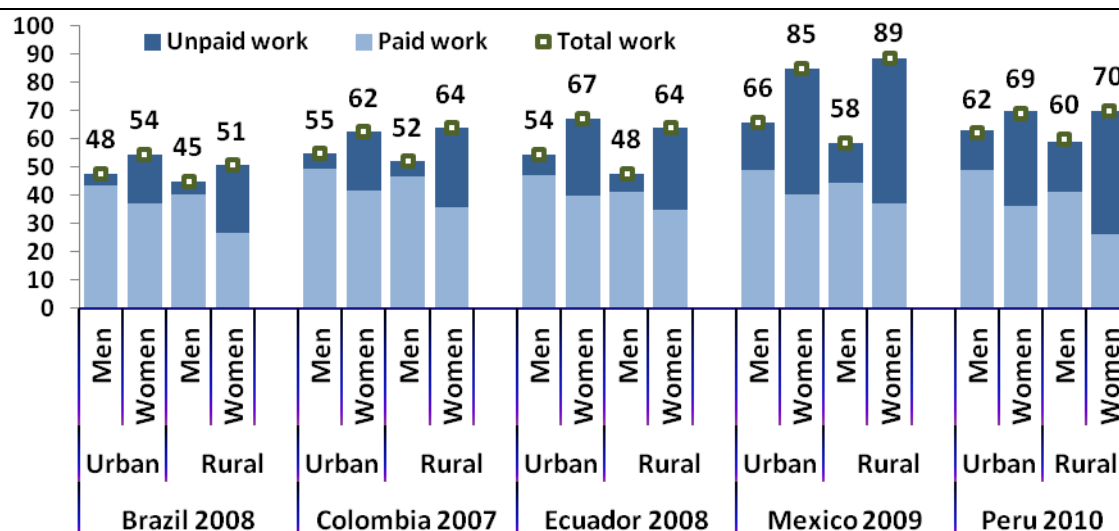
### 38% of rural women do not have income of their own

Population aged 15 and above without income of their own disaggregated by sex



## Rural women work more

Time devoted to total work, paid and unpaid, by working population aged 15 and above, disaggregated by sex and urban and rural areas





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### What inequalities affect rural women?

- Although economic activity rates for women in rural areas have increased from 32.4% to 46.4% between 1990 and 2005, this has not resulted in their economic empowerment.
- In rural areas, 38% of women do not have income of their own, compared to 14% of men; in urban areas a 29% of women do not have income of their own compared to 12% of men, according to data from 2009.
- Rural women work the most. This is reflected in the time use surveys in the region. In Mexico, for instance, women work in average 89 hours weekly, 31 hours more than men.
- Wage gaps are higher between men and women in rural areas than in urban settings. In Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico and Paraguay, where there is a high participation of women in agriculture, the wage gap between men and women is higher in the agricultural sector among women working.
- Only 11% of women are land-owners in Brazil, 22,4% in Mexico and 27% in Peru, which is unjust considering their contribution to agricultural and food production.

**Sources:** Deere and Leon, 2000. *Género, propiedad y empoderamiento: tierra, Estado y mercado en América Latina*, Bogota, Tercer Mundo Editores.  
 Marcela Ballara, Soledad Parada, 2009, *El empleo de las mujeres rurales: Lo que dicen las cifras*, ISBN978-92-5-306200-3, Santiago, FAO-CEPAL.

### How to promote the empowerment of rural women?

- Measuring the working time of women through time use surveys in order to value and recognize the economic contribution of women in rural areas.
- Implementing care policies to liberate women's time and promote their full participation in the labour market.
- Supporting the development and use of technologies and infrastructure that reduce the hours women devote to unpaid work activities (household chores and family care)
- Including a gender perspective in productive development policies, particularly in agricultural and territorial development policies.
- Improving the conditions for movement and transport, enhancing women's access to such services in rural areas.
- Promoting policies that enhance labour opportunities in the rural domain and ensure equality, especially for women engaged in temporary and part-time work.
- Guaranteeing the access of women to productive assets, including land and natural resources, as well as access to productive credit.