

Juan Camilo **Taborda Burgos, Ph.D.**

✉ jctaborda@gmail.com | 🏠 www.jctaborda.com | 🌐 [Juan C Taborda](#)

Summary

- Policy and evaluation expert with a Ph.D. in Development Economics and International Political Economy. Ability to coordinate, manage, articulate, and plan complex multi-actor development projects that incorporate rigorous evaluation methods
- Deep experience leading teams and developing organizational research agendas to drive strategy, field-building, and impact
- Experience working on development topics, financial inclusion, agriculture, migration, data analysis, and knowledge management with private actors, governments, NGOs, cooperation agencies (e.g. USAID), and multilateral organizations
- Over 14 years experience working as a public servant and consultant in the supervision, formulation, and implementation of local urban and rural planning and development policies, and implementation of performance management, monitoring, and impact evaluation tools
- Background working and researching in economic development, financial inclusion, agriculture and food security, innovation, poverty reduction, and data analysis using remote sensing techniques and econometric impact evaluation methods

Professional Experience

Root Capital

Cambridge, USA

DIRECTOR, IMPACT MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL)

August 2022 - Present

Root Capital is a nonprofit that provides credit and capacity building to small and growing agricultural businesses in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. Its mission is to grow rural prosperity and build the resilience of farming families around the world.

- Lead Root Capital's Impact MEL functions, spearheading data-driven decision-making and solidifying our position as a leader in M&E for agricultural finance.
 - Manage a team overseeing a monitoring system for 480+ clients across 17 countries, facilitating \$111 million in loans and 14+ advisory services.
 - Quantified results of our MEL practices show that in 2023, our clients were able to reach 500,000+ producers, with 91% of active loans filling critical gaps unmet by commercial lenders
- Lead collaborative development and implementation of Root Capital's impact MEL agenda, informing organizational strategy and programming, streamlining M&E practices, and contributing to field-building and fundraising communications.
 - Directed 10+ rigorous impact evaluations, validating assumptions behind our theory of change or assessing our impact.
 - For example, a 2023 Chiapas study estimated a 24.5% average annual revenue increase for Root Capital-affiliated farmers compared to non-affiliated counterparts.
- Lead, develop, and provide technical oversight to an expert team (8 members in three countries) committed to upholding and, where required, setting industry standards for impact MEL related to rural agribusiness finance and development, and to top quality service provision to internal and external actors.

Fletcher Leadership Program for Financial Inclusion, The Fletcher School

Boston, USA

INSTRUCTOR AND SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR PUBLIC INNOVATION, RESEARCH, AND EVALUATION

March 2018 - August 2022

FLPFI is a program that targets policymakers from the financial sector in developing and emerging markets, with the goal of providing them with the necessary skills to design, implement, and evaluate sound and innovative financial inclusion policies

- Led and co-facilitated in-person and online workshops for the FLPFI Fellowship or 8QM seminars for central bankers and financial regulators from more than 54 countries
- Supported program development and FLPFI strategic planning and grant writing for increasing program reach
- Designed the impact evaluation and public innovation modules for the program
- Advised and supervised FLPFI grantees' applied research projects and evaluations of financial inclusion policies in more than ten countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America
- Supervised drafting and revision of research design plans, pilot reports, and implementation reports for financial inclusion projects
- Supervised local staffing processes for teams performing impact evaluations or exploratory studies on financial inclusion programs

Colombian Attorney General's Office

Bogotá, Colombia

HEAD OF EXPERIMENTATION AND RESEARCH - PROCURALAB (PUBLIC INNOVATION LAB)

July 2020 - Jan. 2021

- Supported the implementation of two public innovation pilots that aimed to improve the reporting of the Transparency and Access to Information Index and combat xenophobic attitudes of public servants
- Directed teams of researchers for three applied studies on the following projects: i) Xenophobia, discrimination, and the State, ii) COVID-19 and public servants remote working; and iii) Improving citizens perceptions of judicial decisions
- Supervised contract PGN-BID-043-2020 with funds from multilateral banks to implement and improve the knowledge management and innovation model for the Attorney General's Office, and build the capacity for its appropriation
- Led training sessions or workshops on innovation, knowledge management, and public management to public servants

iMAP

Bogotá, Colombia

CONTRACTOR - SENIOR DATA ANALYST

Sept. 2019 - Dec. 2019

- Led the data analysis team, consisting of three analysts, in generating data products, including dashboards and info-graphics, to inform policy-making in response to the Venezuelan migrant crisis
- Supported UN System agencies and other NGOs in providing accurate, relevant, and timely data, contributing to the humanitarian community's response to the Venezuelan crisis
- Acted as contact point for the Food Security and Nutrition Cluster and the GTMI (information and data management workgroup), coordinating the data needs of over ten national and international institutions
- As data team lead, promoted the use of innovative technological solutions to procure and generate data, such as remote sensing techniques, machine learning models, or data collection through a gig economy-based model

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

Bogotá, Colombia

EXTERNAL CONSULTANT - IMPACT EVALUATION DESIGN & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Jan. 2019 - April 2019

- Advised on the development of impact evaluation and monitoring projects, including potential partners identification
- Developed project proposals for each partner, including identification of institutional agendas, relevant actors, available data, and all required information to initiate an evaluation project
- Identified possible funding alternatives and strategic interests of donors to develop evaluation projects

Colombian National Planning Department (DNP)

Bogotá, Colombia

ADVISOR LEVEL 3/3 - TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT & STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISOR

Oct. 2011 - July 2014

- Served on project teams working with international partners including the OECD and the World Bank
- Led the team working on territorial studies responsible for producing reports and policy papers
- Co-drafted and supervised the implementation of territorial planning and development policies with a focus on rural territories
- Coordinated with national and regional entities to produce policy advice, reports or regional analyses, and evaluated and drafted legal and public policy documents for decision making and policy implementation
- Provided technical and methodological assistance to strengthen the capabilities of local governments

Education

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Boston, USA

PH.D. IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2018

- Concentration: Development Economics & International Political Economy
- Awards: **Fulbright-Ecopetrol**, Awarded scholarship to pursue doctoral degree on regional development; **Colfuturo-Colciencias**, Awarded scholarship to pursue doctoral degree; **Tufts University Provost Fellow**, Awarded grant aimed at recognizing and retaining Tufts University best doctoral applicants

Hertie School of Governance

Berlin, Germany

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

2011

- Concentration: Public Management

Los Andes University

Bogotá, Colombia

BACHELOR OF ARTS: POLITICAL SCIENCE

2009

- Awards: **Kettering Foundation - Best Study in Democracy**, Awarded prize for best thesis

BACHELOR OF LAWS (JD EQUIVALENT)

2008

Skills

Languages

- English (Fluent)
- Spanish (Native)
- French (Intermediate)

Statistical Software

- Stata
- R
- SPSS

Geospatial Analysis Software

- ArcGIS
- QGIS
- GEODA Geospatial Analysis
- ENVI + IDL
- Google Earth Pro

Programming and Other Software

- Python
- \LaTeX
- SurveyCTO
- Microsoft Office Package
- G-Suite
- KoboToolbox