

Juan Camilo Taborda Burgos, Ph.D.

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Summary

- Experienced data and policy leader with a Ph.D. in Development Economics and over 15 years of experience translating complex data into actionable insights for decision-making in global development, financial inclusion, and agricultural finance.
- Proven success leading data analytics, impact evaluation, and organizational learning strategies across multi-country, cross-functional teams.
- Demonstrated success leading high-performing, cross-cultural teams and overseeing complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives across Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Skilled at translating insights into action through strategic planning, organizational learning, and stakeholder collaboration.
- Deep commitment to applying rigorous, human-centered analytics to advance equity, optimize performance, and support business growth.
- Experienced at designing and managing large-scale data systems, generating predictive and diagnostic insights, and communicating effectively with senior stakeholders.

Relevant Professional Experience

Root Capital

Cambridge, USA

DIRECTOR, IMPACT MONITORING, EVALUATION, & 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 impact M&E for agricultural finance. Main contact point for all Impact MEL topics with donors and investors.
 - Manage a team overseeing a monitoring system that in 2024 alone covered more than 570+ clients across 17 countries, facilitating \$128M in loans and 14+ advisory services. This system is backbone of our ESG due diligence.
 - Quantified results of our MEL practices show that in 2024, our clients were able to reach 530,000+ producers, with 87% 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+ impact evaluations, validating assumptions behind our services 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 setting industry standards for impact MEL and ESG due diligence practices related to rural agribusiness finance and development, and to top quality service provision to internal and external actors.

Fletcher Leadership Program for Financial Inclusion, Tufts University

Medford, USA

INSTRUCTOR AND SPECIAL ADVISOR FOR PUBLIC INNOVATION, RESEARCH, & 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 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, designing the impact evaluation and innovation modules.
- Supported program development, strategic planning processes, grant writing for increasing program reach.
- 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, pilots, and reports for financial inclusion projects.
- Supervised local staffing processes for teams performing impact evaluations or exploratory studies on financial inclusion programs or policies.

Colombian Attorney General's Office

Bogotá, Colombia

HEAD OF EXPERIMENTATION & 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 IDB contract 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 and workshops to public servants on innovation, knowledge management, and public management.

Taborda Burgos Independent Consulting

Bogotá, Colombia

INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

March 2018 - July 2020

After concluding Ph.D., I founded and led my own consulting practice, serving 10+ clients, including international NGOs, public sector agencies, think tanks, and national and local political campaigns.

Client and consulting work examples:

iMMAP

- Led the data analysis team, consisting of three analysts, in generating data products, including dashboards and infographics, 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.

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

- Advised on the development of impact evaluation and monitoring projects, including partner 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, generating four viable proposals with funding or partnerships identified.

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 USAID, the OECD, and the World Bank.
- Led team working on territorial studies responsible for producing reports and policy papers on sustainable development.
- Drafted and supervised the implementation of territorial planning and development policies focusing 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.

Education

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Medford, USA

PH.D. IN DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS & INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Hertie School of Governance

Berlin, Germany

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Los Andes University

Bogotá, Colombia

BACHELOR OF ARTS: POLITICAL SCIENCE / BACHELOR OF LAWS (JD EQUIVALENT)

Technical Skills

Strategic Planning & Change Management: Performance Management, Stakeholder Engagement & Stewardship, Strategic Prospective Planning, Systems Thinking & Improvement Frameworks, KPI Development & Administration, Budget Performance Analytics & Business Pipeline Development

Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (native), French (Intermediate)

Statistical Software: Stata, R, SPSS **Survey & Qualitative Data:** SurveyCTO, KoboToolbox, MAXQDA

Programming & others: Python, LaTeX, ArcGIS, QGIS, Office 365, G-suite, Salesforce, ClickUp, Tableau, Airtable