

Cuban Perspectives on Community Development: Building Integrated Approaches to Social Equity



FLACSO
Cuba

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Community Development in Cuba

- ▶ Role of Community Development throughout the revolutionary process (1959-present)
- ▶ Creation of local government (Popular Councils) in 1992
- ▶ Integrated Group for Community Development at the government level (1996)
- ▶ Strengthening participatory local governance (Guidelines for Economic and Social Policy, 2012)

Community development in Cuba

STRENGTHS:

- ▶ Equity and Social Justice
- ▶ Government Support
- ▶ Social Participation
- ▶ Social Institutions and Organizations
- ▶ Human and Social Capital
- ▶ Solidarity and Shared Meaning
- ▶ Cultural Identity and Traditions

WEAKNESSES:

- ▶ Local actors and programs work in silos
- ▶ Predominance of disconnected approaches
- ▶ Poor inclusion of equitable approaches in local development agendas
- ▶ Centralized-top down culture
- ▶ Lack of reflection and evaluation of community development practices and culture

Theoretical-methods

- ▶ Participatory Action Research
- ▶ Popular Education
- ▶ Community Psychology
- ▶ Sociocultural Animation
- ▶ Community Planning and Development
- ▶ Sustainable Development
- ▶ Local / Community Development

Approaches to theories and methods

- ▶ Holistic and integrated transformation
- ▶ Social justice, inclusion and well-being
- ▶ Participation and empowerment
- ▶ Horizontality, synergy and democratic process
- ▶ Knowledge dialogues
- ▶ Collective construction of knowledge
- ▶ Practice - reflection - new practice
- ▶ Articulation of actors and actions
- ▶ Emphasis in development of people
- ▶ Endogenous and sustainable development

Characteristics of community development in Cuba

- ▶ Incremental growth of experiences, actors and places
- ▶ Diversity of approaches
 - ▶ Sociocultural development programs
 - ▶ Comprehensive Neighborhood Transformation Workshops
 - ▶ Historic Center of Havana
 - ▶ Educational and university extension projects
 - ▶ Social work
- ▶ Multiplicity of actors and social structures
- ▶ Different levels of social participation

Historical Center of Havana



Experience of FLACSO Cuba

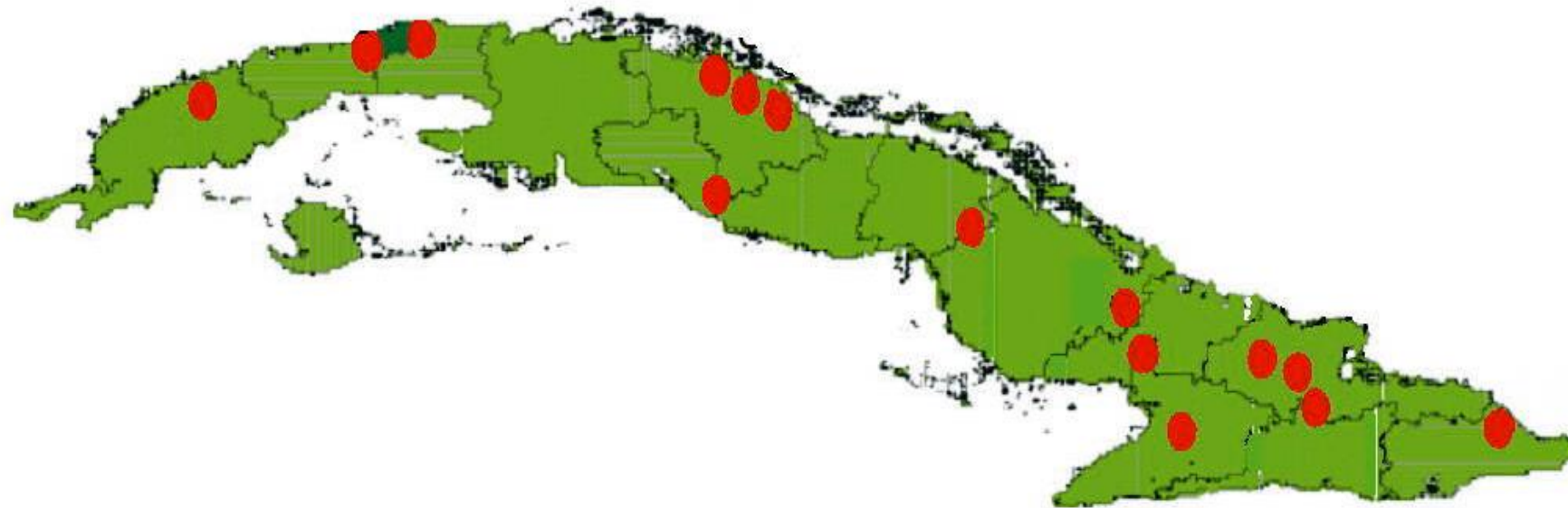
Aspects of equity and community development

- ▶ Social justice
- ▶ Equal access to opportunities, resources, welfare, results
- ▶ Recognition of diversity and differences among people
- ▶ Treatment on social disadvantages

FLACSO role in Community Development

- ▶ Coaching/Workshops on Integrated Neighborhood Transformation
- ▶ Academic programs and courses-workshops
- ▶ Community program for children with social disadvantage
- ▶ Social inclusion project for people with disabilities
- ▶ Innovative Management of local development for Strengthening Social Equity

15 Municipalities of the Island



Courses / workshops:

- ▶ Social Development and Equity
- ▶ Gender equality
- ▶ Gaps by skin color
- ▶ Disability and social inclusion
- ▶ Equity and age groups
- ▶ Equity and education, cultura @ information



Design methodological tools

Manual of methodological tools
for evaluating development
projects with an equity
approach



Validation of the
manual and training of
actors



Multimedia Social Development and Equity



DESARROLLO SOCIAL
Y EQUIDAD

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Presentación

Bibliografía

Conferencias

Collection and Dissemination of Best Practices

- ▶ Experiences exchange workshops
- ▶ Network of Graduates of the Master's Degree Social Development
- ▶ Share knowledge and results

