UN entities work closely together to address the different targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda.

Target 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Research\(^1\) confirms that factors such as poverty, social, economic and geographical marginalization, and lack of sustainable livelihoods are manifestations of poor levels of development which, alongside governance issues, constitute root causes of large-scale illicit cultivation in rural areas. The income obtained from illicit crop cultivation is used to cover daily living expenses as well as paying debt.

UNODC, through its alternative development (AD) and sustainable livelihoods programmes, provides economically viable, legal alternatives to men and women living in poor rural communities involved in coca bush, opium poppy or cannabis cultivation. After introducing high-value crops and new technologies, AD projects consolidate farmers’ organizations, integrating them into a productive chain that leads to commercialization in quality markets and improves their opportunities for revenue generation.

Alternative development programmes emphasize implementation of viable agroforestry schemes, integrating them into a productive chain that leads to successful commercialization in quality markets, thus improving farmers’ opportunities for revenue generation. The Office has been implementing AD projects in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, Iran, Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Myanmar and Nigeria. UNODC has supported farmers to obtain land ownership certificates, helped women to access land ownership, and educated farmers on sustainable forest management and reforesting valuable forest species to remove the root causes of deforestation in project areas. Since 2020, the programmes have provided development assistance amounting to more than USD 70 million.

[\(1\)](https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Background/RTpapers/Roundtable_5_FINAL_12April_clean.pdf)
Farmers from the Green Gold cooperative in Myanmar, ASIPAEM (a Spanish acronym for the local association of agroecological producers) in Bolivia, and the Vanmai Coffee Cooperative in Lao PDR directly signed long-term commercial agreements with the French coffee roaster Malongo, respectively in 2018, 2020 and 2021. They include the provision of a roadmap for technical assistance to help ensure quality control and yields, and a plan to increase export to 400 tonnes over the next five years. In 2022, this partnership exported 300 tonnes of Fairtrade-certified coffee to Europe, generating profitable and sustainable income for thousands of farmer households in Bolivia, Myanmar and Lao PDR.

By enabling marginalized communities to reduce illicit crop cultivation and begin alternative income generation, UNODC contributes to poverty reduction and increased economic sustainability and resilience, furthering progress on SDG 1.