



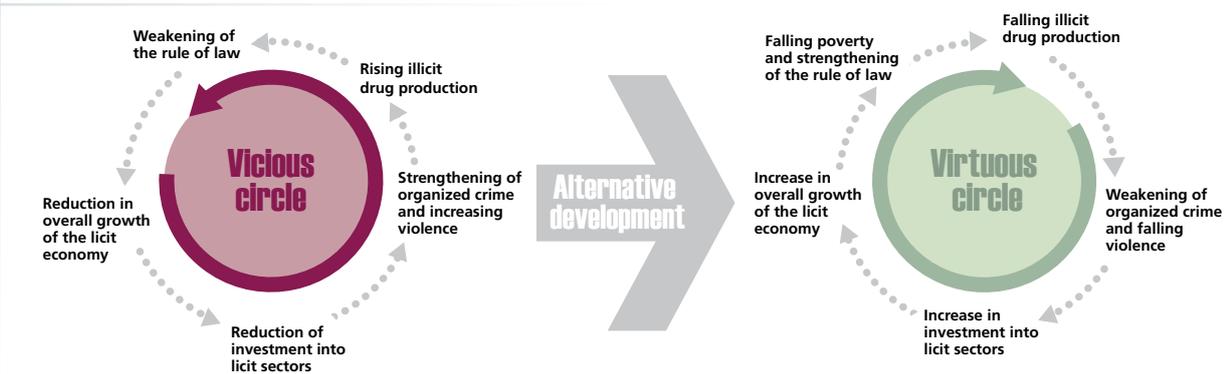
FACT SHEET

ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Illicit crop cultivation tends to take place in marginalized, isolated areas characterized by limited government control, unclear land rights, lack of infrastructure, poverty and violence, which are areas where few international development agencies tend to operate. Alternative development is an approach aimed at reducing the vulnerabilities that lead to involvement in illicit crop cultivation and ultimately eliminating such cultivation. It can break the

vicious cycle of rising illicit drug production, weakening rule of law, decreasing growth of the licit economy, decreasing investment in licit sectors, strengthening organized crime and increasing violence by effectively promoting factors fostering a sustainable licit economy. In the long run, this can attract investment and help to develop the necessary infrastructure, thereby changing and sustaining the livelihood of rural communities.

Impact of illicit drug production and of alternative development interventions

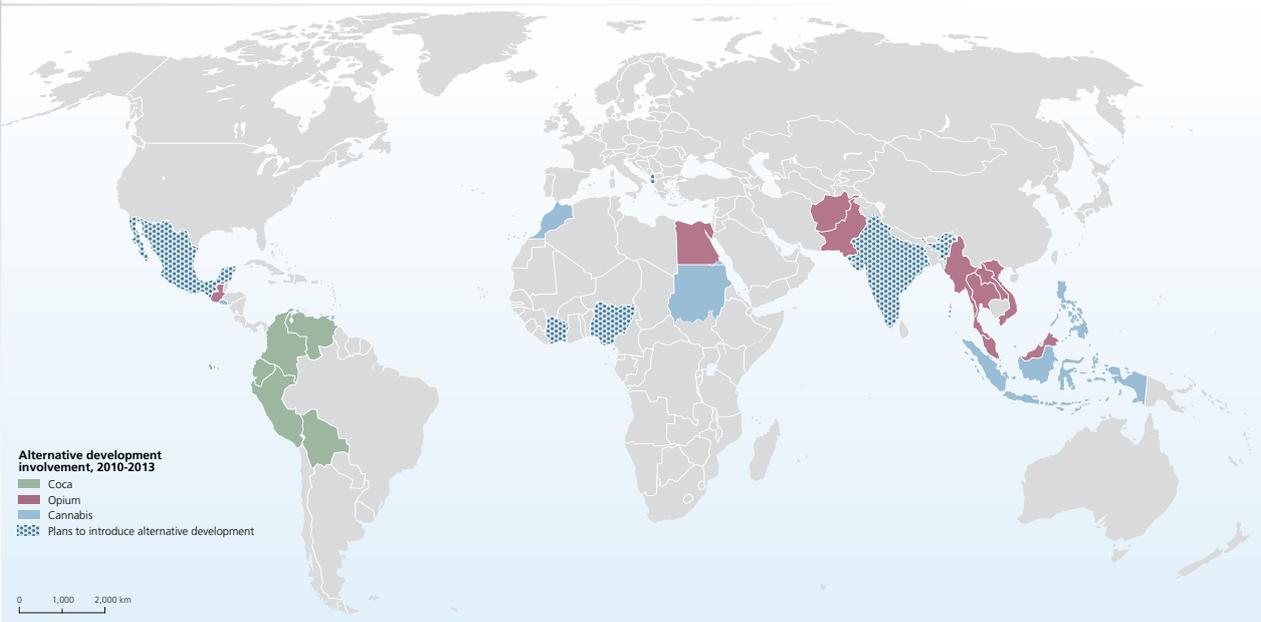


The General Assembly at its twentieth special session, held in 1998, defined alternative development as a process to prevent and eliminate illicit crop cultivation “through specifically designed rural development measures in the context of sustained national growth and sustainable development efforts in countries taking action against

drugs, recognizing the particular sociocultural characteristics of the target communities and groups”.

The bulk of alternative development is implemented in all the main coca- and opium-producing countries, as well as in some cannabis-producing countries and some minor opium-producing countries.

Member States implementing domestic alternative development projects (as reported to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), 2010-2013



Sources: UNODC annual report questionnaire and UNODC alternative development projects.

Note: Only countries providing sufficient information on the implementation of alternative development projects are included. The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dashed lines represent undetermined boundaries. The dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. The final boundary between the Sudan and South Sudan has not yet been determined.



As the factors that push farmers towards illicit crop cultivation can differ greatly from one country or area to another, the strategic elements of alternative development must be tailored to the particular circumstances on the ground at the local level. No two alternative development projects or interventions are exactly alike, even if they are

in the same area, but there are commonalities. These general strategic elements are often similar and there are commonalities in the overall framework and approach, but the importance of their roles may vary from project to project and some may not feature at all.

Objectives of alternative development projects in local communities

Short- to medium- term objectives related to “immediate needs”

1. Supporting drug control objectives by:

- (Voluntary) crop eradication (often prior to the implementation of alternative development)

2. Minimizing harm to local communities from illicit cultivation and production by:

- (Re)introduction of annual food crops where these have been replaced by illicit cultivation
- Provision of food assistance and other in-kind support (often following crop eradication)
- Income support and income generation (to offset income losses related to illicit crops)

3. Establishing, promoting and strengthening alternative livelihoods by:

- Trust-building through local participation and delivering on promises (by external entities)
- Recovery of natural resources (e.g. soil recovery)
- Provision of credit
- Technical and marketing assistance, along with transfer of information and skills
- Creation and strengthening of local farmers’ organizations
- Basic production-related infrastructure support (e.g. “quick-fix” projects related to canals or collection centres)
- Basic marketing infrastructure support (e.g. “quick-fix” projects related to roads or bridges)
- Ensuring of market access
- Creation or strengthening of small and medium-sized enterprises
- Support to farmers in acquiring secure access to land
- Support in areas related to human development (e.g. health care and education)

Long-term objectives related to “broader development and security”

4. Establishing conditions for sustainable development without illicit cultivation by:

- Enabling the effective functioning and support of local governance structures
- Maintaining trust by keeping promises and showing local impact
- Capacity building and empowering the local community to sustain its own development process
- Turning local farmers’ organizations into multipliers to contribute to the creation and strengthening of other local organizations
- Addressing drivers of illicit cultivation and local conflicts
- Providing larger-scale production-related infrastructure support
- Providing larger-scale marketing infrastructure support
- Broadening marketing strategy with new or niche markets
- Continuing technical and marketing assistance
- Contributing to socioeconomic development of local communities (e.g. health care and education)
- Promoting conservation and recovery of natural resources, the environment and biodiversity

The twentieth special session of the General Assembly, held in 1998, triggered renewed impetus in funding alternative development in the spirit of “shared responsibility”, but overall gross disbursements of alternative development funds from member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) have

declined by 71 per cent since the adoption of the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem. In 2013, those disbursements accounted for just 0.1 per cent of global development assistance.

Trends in global commitments to providing development assistance and alternative development made by donor countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, 1998-2013



Source: OECD, International Development Statistics online database (data extracted on 19 December 2014).

Gross disbursements for agricultural alternative development assistance provided by donor countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development as a proportion of total development assistance, 2009-2013, as a percentage of total development assistance

	Gross disbursements (percentage of total development assistance of recipient country)					Average 2009-2013
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
Afghanistan	4.6	2.4	1.6	1.3	0.8	2.1
Colombia	11.8	7.4	4.9	7.2	8.9	8.0
Peru	4.1	3.7	3.6	4.9	4.8	4.1
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	5.2	4.1	3.0	1.2	0.1	2.8
Subtotal	5.5	3.2	2.3	2.1	2.0	3.0
Other countries	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02
Total	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2

Source: OECD, International Development Statistics online database (data extracted on 19 December 2014).