



CIRCLE

OF DEPENDING ON AN ILLICIT ECONOMY









POOR AND REMOTE RURAL REGIONS

without access to legal markets, where state institutions are weak or non-existent, but armed conflict, crime and violence omnipresent, are a breeding ground for illicit drug economies.

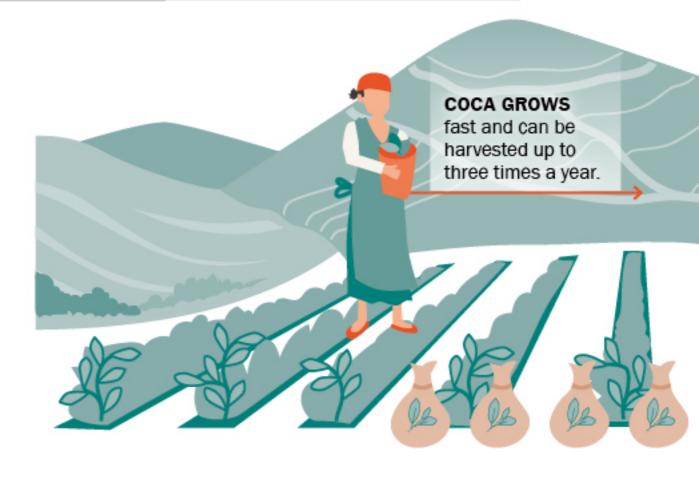


THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF DEPENDING ON AN ILLICIT ECONOMY





For many smallholder farmers in these regions, doing business with local criminal groups and engaging in illicit drug crop cultivation is the only source of income to support their families.





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LOCAL INTERMEDIARIES

buy the coca leaves directly from the farmers at the farm gate. No transportation to a marketplace is necessary.



Even if the income from selling coca leaves is small, it serves to pay for basic needs and services such as food and education.



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REPRESSIVE STATE MEASURES

to eradicate drug crops or the effects of armed conflict and violence often deprive small-scale farming families of their only livelihood without having any alternatives in sight.









ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT THE VICIOUS CIRCLE STARTS: with no long-term and stable income sources, small-scale farmers turn to the promises of criminal groups.

