

COPOLAD III: Web-based training and Practical Guide on Gender and Alternative Development



Promoting gender equality

Within the framework of the EU-funded “Cooperation Programme between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union on Drug Policy” (COPOLAD III), the Sector Programme “Rural Development” has launched a web-based training on ["Addressing gender in Alternative Development projects"](#) and a complementing [Practical Guide](#) in English and Spanish.

COPOLAD III is jointly led by FIIAPP (Fundación Internacional y para Iberoamérica de Administración y Políticas Públicas) and IILA (Organizzazione Internazionale Italo-Latino American). The Sub-Component "Alternative Development," which activities include this training, is coordinated by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The training is targeted at government officials and staff involved in the planning and implementation of Alternative Development in drug production areas in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The web-based training aims to raise awareness on gender issues and gives concrete tools and recommendations on how to plan and implement gender-responsive Alternative Development projects. It consists of 4 interactive modules which can be completed in a self-paced way.

Why is there a need to raise further awareness on gender equality in Alternative Development? Even though all genders are affected by the difficulties in drug crop cultivation areas, such as insecurity, stigma, displacement, limited public services and lack of infrastructure, due to discriminatory social and gender norms, women are often confronted with intensified or additional challenges. As a result, women in drug crop cultivation areas are disproportionately vulnerable to poverty, more likely to be exposed to domestic and sexual violence, disadvantaged with regard to access to land and more confronted with resistance and negative impacts on a social, family or emotional level when engaging in social or political organizations. At the same time, women play an important role, as they usually ensure the sustainability of their households and communities and drive the family's decision to change their economy from illegal activities to another livelihood in the legal sector. Alternative Development projects

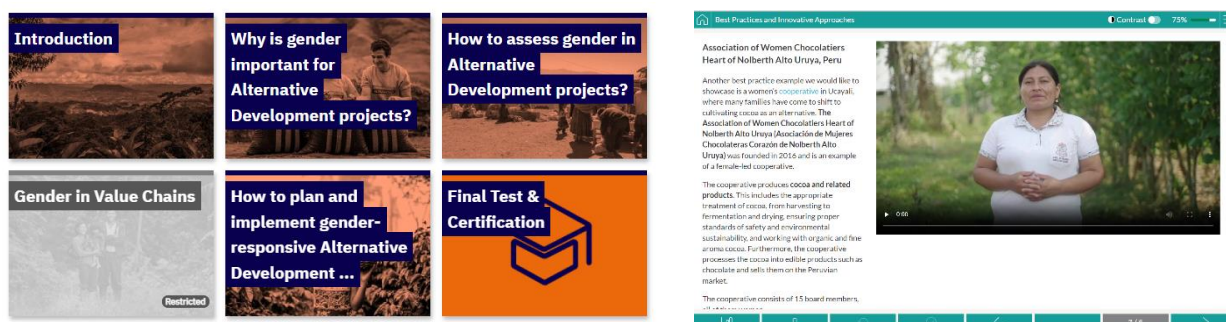


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that take gender into account can make a crucial contribution towards more gender equality at the community, national and regional level and the (economic) empowerment of women.

The training provides knowledge, contains explanatory videos, tells stories, and presents best-practice examples and questions to reflect on. After the completion of the course and a final test, participants will get a COPOLAD certificate for their participation.



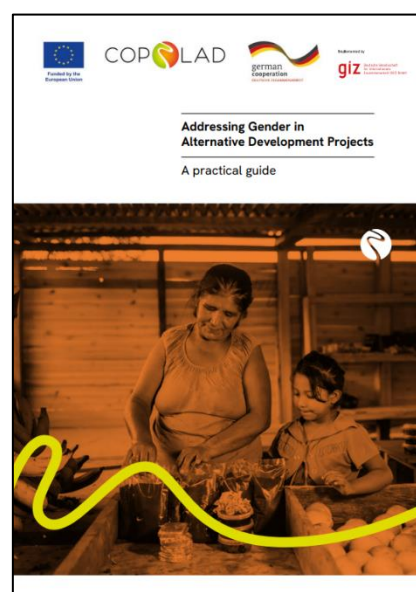
By completing the WBT modules learners:

- Get to know general terms and concepts of gender theories,
- Examine the role of women in drug growing areas,
- Understand the role of women in alternative development value chains,
- Concrete approaches, tools and instruments for gender-responsive interventions in the implementation of AE projects and their possible application in their specific contexts of action.

The web-based training was accompanied by a Webinar for all participants and interested member of the COPOLAD Working Group on Alternative Development on 28.06.2023.

The web-based training was first opened internally to all COPOLAD partner countries and institutions and later on to the general public and can now be accessed freely on the atingi-webpage. In total, the course has 530 enrollments (177 English course, 353 Spanish course) so far. 204 already completed the course (37 English course, 167 Spanish course). In total, in terms of geographical coverage, government officials and practitioners from the following 20 CELAC countries enrolled: Panama, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Honduras, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname. From Europe participants from 5 countries enrolled in the course: Germany, Italy, Spain, Albania, Greece.

With the support from a gender expert from Fair&Sustainable Consulting, an accompanying Practical Guide (English/Spanish) was produced, which summarizes the most important contents of the web-based training and provides step by step descriptions for a gender baseline and value-chain analysis with a focus on gender. It contains



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guiding questions, checklists and concrete recommendations on how to strengthen women's rights, representation, and their access to resources. The Practical Guide gives orientation on how to implement Alternative Development projects that contribute to gender equality and is especially useful for countries that are planning new Alternative Development projects.

Gender as a quality feature of our work

With both products, the web-based training and the Practical Guide, COPOLAD has made a pioneer contribution to the advancement of gender-responsive interventions in development-oriented drug policies. GIZ's contribution to COPOLAD III builds on the request of DG INTPA to develop activities in this regard in the DoA of COPOLAD, recognizing Germany's expertise in this area. It is furthermore a response to the specific requests by COPOLAD partner countries to work on gender issues within the framework of Alternative Development as well as a contribution to the call for MS to "mainstream a gender perspective in alternative development programmes", as agreed in two resolutions adopted by the UN-Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) (E/CN.7/2022/L.2/Rev.1; E/CN.7/2023/11), which were jointly tabled by Peru, Thailand and Germany. The COPOLAD products and findings have, inter alia, been presented by GIZ on behalf of BMZ at the Expert Group Meeting on Alternative Development in Lima (11.- 12.10.2023) as well as during a side event on the "Commemoration of the 10-year Anniversary of the UN Guiding Principles on Alternative Development" during the October Intersessional Meeting of the CND in 2023.

Many countries have expressed their gratitude for the gender products and activities provided in evaluations and through personal feedback. The high participation in the web-based training and interest and contribution of the Practical Guide during conferences made clear that partners value these products.

Implementing feminist core principles

Alternative Development addresses the root causes of illicit drug crop cultivation, rather than just fighting the symptoms. The aim of the German approach to Alternative Development is to reduce the dependency of smallholder families on drug crop cultivation in the long term, to offer alternative options of income and hence to improve their living conditions. This holistic approach combines measures of rural development, alleviation of poverty, promoting access to land and land rights, environment, and climate protection, strengthening the rule of law, security, and good governance, as well as contributing to gender equality and women's empowerment. Therefore, the concept of Alternative Development evolves around a targeted reduction of structural causes of inequality, disadvantages and exclusion and puts drug crop cultivating small-scale farmers at the center of every intervention.

As drug crop cultivation mostly takes place in ethnic/ indigenous territories and/or vulnerable zones, an intersectional approach is necessary to grasp multiple forms of discrimination and life realities when designing and implementing Alternative Development. The web-based training and the Practical Guide contain specific guiding questions that consider further dimensions of discrimination other than gender and encourages participants and readers to adapt tools and questions to their own national or regional context. Both products present a wide range of gender-responsive to gender-transformative intervention examples that should be considered when planning Alternative Development projects.

Including partner countries in the development of the content of the training and guide as well as featuring their best practice examples, we aimed for a participatory approach to knowledge creation. Best-practice examples were requested from the partner countries and some visual



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material (photographs, interviews with female leaders) was produced during a GIZ-organized Study Tour to the Peruvian Amazon in September 2022, where members of the COPOLAD Working Group on Alternative Development had the opportunity to visit projects implemented by the Peruvian state agencies DEVIDA and SERNANP.

Cooperation

The web-based training and the Practical Guide were developed in the framework of the EU-funded cooperation program COPOLAD and in close cooperation with the 17 countries of our Working Group on Alternative Development. The content of the web-based training and the Practical Guide was presented to the countries and comments and suggestions were considered. Furthermore, best practice examples and lessons learned of these countries were featured in the web-based training.

The success factors of the products were the participatory development, the media mix with guiding characters, interactive exercises, explanatory videos, testimonies, and guiding participants through the process of registration. Furthermore, both the web-based training as well as the Practical Guide were discussed in depth in a dedicated session during the 2nd Intraregional Dialogue Forum on Alternative Development of COPOLAD III, organized by GIZ and the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, which took place from 27.-28.09.2023 in Mexico City.

The biggest challenge was the labor-intensive process that took one year to develop the web-based training and another six months for the Practical Guide. Furthermore, due to the fact that gender-responsive measures have only been implemented in some rare cases in Alternative Development projects so far, it was challenging to find suitable best practice examples.

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