

Tag: Aff- Aerial fumigation destroys the livelihoods of Colombian farmers, contributing to their displacement and vulnerability to militia groups.

Sizemore, Katie. "Will New U.S. Aid Address Damage Caused to Colombia's rural Communities?" Huffington Post, 16 Mar. 2016.

Although these fumigation practices have not altered the flow of cocaine over the long term, they have destroyed livelihoods, as the farmland on which the coca is grown is the same land yielding the subsistence crops rural families need to survive. Farmers growing coca make about \$2000 a year selling it to guerrilla groups, and they are extorted by these same groups for "protection taxes." There is no immediate solution as farmers continue to face violent coercion to grow coca because FARC affiliates are trying to make large profits before the peace accord forces them "out of business." In addition to the continued violence and intimidation at the hand of the FARC, paramilitary forces, and public security forces, aerial coca eradication deprives rural farmers of their main source of income and causes health problems, pushing them into urban centers and contributing to the 6 million internally displaced people as of December 2014 - nearly as many as Syria. Afro-Colombians and rural, indigenous populations are the most heavily affected.