

# HARM REDUCTION NOTE- NIGERIA



This information note has been compiled by Harm Reduction International (HRI) in collaboration with Youth RISE Nigeria to highlight the impact of US funding cuts on harm reduction in Nigeria.

Last update: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## 1. Epidemiological data:

### 1.1 People who use drugs, HIV and viral hepatitis

- There are estimated to be 177,500.<sup>1</sup>
- National HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs increased from 4% in 2010 to 10.9% in 2022, while it is reported to be as high as 23.4% in Benue.<sup>2</sup>
- People who inject drugs and their partners are estimated to account for about 9% of the annual new HIV infections.<sup>3</sup> Exchanging sex or money for drugs is reported.
- Self-reported prevalence of hepatitis C (HCV) is estimated to be 3.3% amongst people who inject drugs.

### 1.3 Prevention and harm reduction coverage

- Needle and syringe programme (NSP) coverage is estimated to be 312 syringes per person per year.<sup>4</sup>
- Opioid agonist therapy (OAT) provision has not yet started but pilot programmes are planned in four states (Gombe, Abia, Oyo, Lagos).<sup>5</sup>
- Coverage of testing and HIV status awareness among people who inject drugs is estimated to be 37.2%.<sup>6</sup>
- ART coverage among people who inject drugs living with HIV is reported to be 25%.<sup>7</sup>
- Condom use among people who inject drugs: 46.5%.<sup>8</sup>
- Safe injecting practices among people who inject drugs: 35.9%.<sup>9</sup>
- Use of new syringe almost every time injecting: 6%.<sup>10</sup>
- Access to peer-distribution of naloxone: Naloxone is available at the one-stop shop facilities but not yet distributed to the community.

## 2. Harm Reduction programmes and funding source mapping

Funding agency	PEPFAR <sup>11</sup>	Global Fund <sup>12</sup>	Other donors <sup>13</sup>
<b>Partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APIN Public Health Initiative</li> <li>• Catholic Caritas foundation</li> <li>• Center for Integrated health programs</li> <li>• Excellence Community Welfare Education Scheme</li> <li>• Heartland Alliance</li> <li>• Henry M Jackson Foundation</li> <li>• Institute of Human Virology</li> <li>• Society for family health</li> </ul>	Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria (IHVN)	ViiV Healthcare Positive Action -

<b>Provinces/district covered</b>	15 states (Global Fund procure syringes in these districts)	4 states for OAT (planned for piloting)  19 states for proposed for scaling up needle and syringe programmes for Grant Cycle 7 (7 existing states, 5 additional states and 7 more states in Priority Above Allocation Request/PAAR)	2023 - 7 states (FCT, Gombe, Abia, Akwa-Ibom, Oyo, Lagos, Rivers)
<b>Key interventions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PrEP</li> <li>• Non-biomedical HIV prevention</li> <li>• Condoms and lubricants</li> </ul> <p>Other treatment and integrated interventions include HIV testing, HIV clinical services, HIV lab services, HIV/TB services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PrEP</li> <li>• HIV prevention, communication and demand generation</li> <li>• Condoms and lubricants</li> <li>• Needle and syringe programme</li> <li>• SRHR, hepatitis services and post violence</li> <li>• Opioid Agonist Therapy</li> <li>• Community empowerment</li> <li>• Safe space for women who use and inject drugs</li> </ul>	Gender Responsive Harm Reduction Project
<b>Total reach</b>	16,325 (2023 target) <sup>14</sup>		
<b>Total funding for People who use and inject drugs</b>	<p>USD 5,977,400 (2024 data-all interventions for people who use drugs)</p> <p>USD 1,881,800 (2024 data-only for prevention interventions for people who use drugs)</p>	USD 5,686,169 (GC7)	
<b>Budget for OAT</b>	NA	USD 77,647 (GC7)	
<b>Budget for NSP</b>	NA	USD 327,567 (GC7)	
<b>Budget for overdose prevention</b>	NA	NA (the overdose provision is included in the funding request, but no budget figures included)	
<b>PrEP</b>	USD 726,200 (2024)	USD 4,029,550 (GC7)	

- There is no account of domestic harm reduction funding since there has not been any commitment in this regard. The implementation of the National Drug Control Master Plan (NDCMP 2021-2025), which includes harm reduction as a strategic pillar, has not operationalised due to little or no funding commitment by the government over the years.<sup>15</sup>
- Within the Global Fund GC7 funding request, the total requested budget for key populations was 18% of the total HIV funding requested (USD 343,604,945); however, the total allocation for people who use drugs was only 2% of the total key populations allocation.<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The total allocation for people who use drugs is taken from <https://www.dataetc.org/projects/pepfar/>, while the total allocation for key populations is taken from Nigeria Global Fund GC7 funding request.

### **3. Harm reduction programme gaps due to US funding cuts<sup>16</sup>**

- Plans to roll out opioid agonist therapy in early 2025 have been halted. It was due to be implemented in 4 states. Plans have been reduced to 1 state due to a halt in PEPFAR funding.
- On March 11, 2025, the MAT pilot program on Gombe state was launched federal government of Nigeria through the federal and state (Gombe) ministry of health and funded by the Global Fund.
- There has been an impact on needle and syringe programmes, which had been co-funded by the Global Fund and PEPFAR. The provision of NSP in 7 states supported by PEPFAR has been suspended.<sup>17</sup>
- This leaves NSP in only 4 states supported by the Global Fund.
- By the end of the GC6 (2021-2023), Nigeria had over 40,000 clients enrolled in harm reduction services in Nigeria, and the majority are affected by the PEPFAR funding cuts.

---

<sup>1</sup>HRI 2024 The Global State of Harm Reduction. <https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2024/>

The estimated case is 446,000 as per Nigeria Country Factsheet

<https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/nigeria>

<sup>2</sup> Nigeria Funding Request application for GC7 <https://data.theglobalfund.org/location/NGA/access-to-funding>

<sup>3</sup> National HIV and AIDS Strategic Framework 2021-2025 <https://naca.gov.ng/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/National-HIV-and-AIDS-Strategic-Framework-2021-2025-Final.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Harm Reduction International (2022) Global State of Harm Reduction 2022. London: Harm Reduction International.

<https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2022/>

<sup>5</sup> Nigeria Funding Request application for GC7 <https://data.theglobalfund.org/location/NGA/access-to-funding>

<sup>6</sup> Country Factsheet Nigeria 2023 <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/nigeria>

<sup>7</sup> Country Factsheet Nigeria 2023 <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/nigeria>

<sup>8</sup> Country Factsheet Nigeria 2023 <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/nigeria>

<sup>9</sup> Country Factsheet Nigeria 2023 <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/nigeria>

<sup>10</sup> HIV/STI Integrated Biological and Behavioural Integrated Survey 2020 <https://wacphd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/IBBSS-2020-FINAL-REPORT.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> The data on this column are from <https://www.dataetc.org/projects/pepfar/>

<sup>12</sup> The data on this column are from Nigeria Funding Request application for GC7

<https://data.theglobalfund.org/location/NGA/access-to-funding> and <https://data.theglobalfund.org/financial-insights>

<sup>13</sup> Based on email correspondence with Youth RISE Nigeria on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

<sup>14</sup> Nigeria Country Operational Plan (COP) 2022 Strategic Direction Summary <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Nigeria-COP22-SDS.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Harm Reduction International (2022) Harm Reduction Financing Landscape Analysis in Nigeria 2022. London: Harm Reduction International

<sup>16</sup> Based on email correspondence with Youth RISE Nigeria from 11<sup>th</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

<sup>17</sup> Global Fund procure needles in these provinces