

HARM REDUCTION INFORMATION NOTE – ZAMBIA

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

Last update: 10th March 2025

1. Epidemiological data

1.1 People who use drugs, HIV and viral hepatitis

- There are an estimated 30,000^a people who inject drugs in the country¹.
- HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs is 24%.²
- Hepatitis B prevalence among people who inject drugs is 3.2%.³

1.2 HIV prevention and treatment and harm reduction

- National coverage of HIV prevention programs for people who inject drugs is 37.7%.⁴
- The ART coverage for people who inject drugs living with HIV is only 4%.⁵
- 48% of people who inject drugs had HIV testing and aware of their HIV status in 2019.⁶
- There is explicit supportive reference to harm reduction in national policy documents.⁷

2. Harm Reduction programs and funding source mapping

Funding agency	PEPFAR ⁸	Global Fund ⁹
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia Limited • Ciheb Zambia Limited • John Snow Health Zambia Limited • University Teaching Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Health • Churches Health Associations of Zambia
Provinces/district covered¹⁰	Nakonde and Lusaka	Mansa and Mpulungu districts
Key interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-bio medical HIV prevention • Medication assisted treatment (MAT) • Prep • Not disaggregated • Condoms and lubricant <p>Other treatment and integrated interventions include HIV testing (community and facility), clinical services, HIV/TB, lab services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV prevention communication, information and demand creation for people who use drugs • Condom and lubricant programming for people who use drugs • Pre-exposure prophylaxis for people who use drugs • Community empowerment for people who use drugs • Sexual and reproductive health services, including sexually transmitted infections (STIs), hepatitis, post-violence care for people who use drugs

^a The new size estimate by John Hopkins 2023 found 91,137 people who inject drugs in Zambia cited by the Global Fund funding request document

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needle and syringe programmes for people who inject drugs • Opioid substitution therapy for people who inject drugs • Overdose prevention and management for people who use drugs • Removing human rights-related barriers to prevention for people who use drugs
Total reach or target	3,619 (2023 Target) ¹¹	3,374 (2025 target)
Total funding for People who use and inject drugs	<p>USD 1,358,242 (all interventions for people who use and inject drugs in 2024)</p> <p>USD 908,842 (only for prevention interventions in 2024)</p>	USD 402,226 (GC7)
Budget for OAT	USD 165,127 USD (2024)	USD 75,258 (GC7)
Budget for NSP	NA	USD 17,059 (GC7)
Budget for Overdose prevention	NA	NA (the overdose provision is included in the funding request- the budget is not found)
PreP¹²	USD 361,614 USD (2024)	USD 107608 (GC7)

3. Harm reduction program gaps due to US funding cuts¹³

- A total of 32 drop-in centers that provide HIV services to over 20,000 key populations living with HIV on ART in 7 out of 10 provinces have been shut down.
- HIV services are at a complete standstill in the six districts of the Northern Province, where Right to Health is the only USG implementing partner.

References

- ¹ UNAIDS 2023 Country Factsheet <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/zambia>
- ² 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/>
- ³ 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/>
- ⁴ UNAIDS 2023 Country Factsheet <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/zambia>
- ⁵ Zambia Country Operation Plan 2022 Summary Strategic Direction <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/COP22-Zambia-SDS.pdf>
- ⁶ Zambia Global Fund funding request 2023 <https://data.theglobalfund.org/location/ZMB/access-to-funding>
- ⁷ 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/>
- ⁸ The data in this column are from <https://www.dataetc.org/projects/pepfar/>
- ⁹ The data in the column are from <https://data.theglobalfund.org/financial-insights>
- ¹⁰ Zambia Global Fund funding request 2023 <https://data.theglobalfund.org/location/ZMB/access-to-funding>
- ¹¹ Zambia Country Operation Plan 2022 Summary Strategic Direction <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/COP22-Zambia-SDS.pdf>
- ¹² <https://www.dataetc.org/projects/pepfar/>
- ¹³ https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2025/february/20250224_zambia-fs