

HARM REDUCTION INFORMATION NOTE- TANZANIA



**HARM REDUCTION
INTERNATIONAL**

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

Last update: 10th March 2025

1. Epidemiological data

1.1 People who use drugs, HIV and Viral Hepatitis

- There are an estimated 30,000 people who inject drugs in Tanzania.¹
- The estimated HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs is 14%.²
- The Hepatitis C (anti-HCV) prevalence among people who inject drugs is 23.1% and Hepatitis B (anti-HBsAg) prevalence among people who inject drugs is 6.9%.³
- Estimated percentage of new HCV infections attributable to injecting drug use in Tanzania is 32.23%.⁴
- The most consumed illicit drug in Tanzania is cannabis followed by khat, heroin and cocaine.⁵

1.2 HIV prevention and treatment and harm reduction

- There is an explicit supportive reference to harm reduction in national policy documents in Tanzania.⁶
- The needle syringe programme is aimed to be implemented in total 10 regions in the Global Fund GC7 grant.⁷
- There are 10 OAT/MAT clinics and 5 operational satellite sites that offer comprehensive and integrated HIV services to people who inject drugs.⁸
- The OAT coverage is 25.6%.⁹
- There is no needle syringe programme in prisons, but OAT in prisons was introduced in 2020.¹⁰
- Take-home naloxone is not available, and a naloxone peer distribution programme is not available.¹¹
- The country coverage for providing a comprehensive prevention package for people who inject drugs is 61%.¹²
- 66% of people who inject drugs know their HIV status.¹³

2. Harm Reduction programmes and funding source mapping

Funding agency	PEPFAR ¹⁴	Global Fund
Partners and principal recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amref Health Africa Tanzania • Family Health International • Henry M. Jackson Foundation For The Advancement Of Military Medicine, Inc. • Management And Development For Health • Tanzania Health Promotion Support (Thps) • Trustees Of Columbia University In The City Of New York 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and development for Health • Ministry of Health Community Development Gender Elderly and Children of the United Republic of Tanzania
Provinces/district covered		10 regions ((Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Morogoro, Dodoma, Tanga, Arusha, Mwanza, Kilimanjaro, Shinyanga and Mbeya) ¹⁵
Key interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV Clinical services and laboratory services • Prep • HIV Drugs • Medication assisted treatment (MAT) • Non-Biomedical HIV Prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opioid agonistic therapy • Needle syringe programme • Condom and lubricants • Community empowerment • SRHR, hepatitis and post violence
Total reach or target		13,696 (includes reach from both PEPFAR and Global Fund by end of 2022) ¹⁶
Total funding for People who use and inject drugs	USD 707,300	USD 8,413,445 (GC7) ¹⁷
Budget for OAT/MAT	USD 483,700	USD 3,709,668 (GC7) ¹⁸
Budget for NSP		USD 2,937,509 (GC7) ¹⁹

3. Harm reduction programme gaps due to PEPFAR funding pause.

- Loss of Funding: USD 450 million in annual PEPFAR funding for Tanzania was abruptly cut.
- Impact on ARVs: Nearly 1.2 million Tanzanians lost access to free antiretroviral (ARV) medication.²⁰
- Health Consequences: Experts warned that Tanzania could see at least 30,000 additional HIV-related deaths within two years if crisis was not resolved.²¹
- Government Response: The Ministry of Health pledged to reallocate part of its budget to maintain ARV supply.²²

- Financial Strain: “Tanzania's national health budget simply couldn't cover the \$260 per patient per year needed for ARVs. For many, the cost--ranging between USD 15 and USD 20 per month--was almost impossible to afford.”²³
- Young people working as peer educators, community health workers or lay counsellors funded by PEPFAR have been issued temporary job termination notices.²⁴

References

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- ³ HRI (2024) *The Global State of Harm Reduction 2024*. <https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2024/>
- ⁴ HRI (2024), Viral Hepatitis Data Repository. <https://hri.global/special/percentage-of-new-hepatitis-c-infections-attributable-to-injecting-drug-use/>
- ⁵ Statement of the United Republic of Tanzania during the 66th CND meeting held from 13th to 17th March 2023, Vienna Austria
[https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/CND_Sessions/CND_66/Item_3 - Tanzania.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND/CND_Sessions/CND_66/Item_3_-_Tanzania.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com)
- ⁶ HRI, (2024) The Global State of Harm Reduction 2024: <https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2024/>
- ⁷ Tanzania Global Fund GC7 funding request <https://data.theglobalfund.org/location/TZA/access-to-funding>
- ⁸ Tanzania Global Fund GC7 funding request <https://data.theglobalfund.org/location/TZA/access-to-funding>
- ⁹ UNAIDS, Country factsheets Tanzania:
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- ¹⁰ HRI (2024), *The Global State of Harm Reduction 2024*. <https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2024/>
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- ¹² Tanzania Global Fund GC7 funding request <https://data.theglobalfund.org/location/TZA/access-to-funding>
- ¹³ Tanzania Global Fund GC7 funding request <https://data.theglobalfund.org/location/TZA/access-to-funding>
- ¹⁴ The data in this column are from Data, Et cetera. (n.d). PEPFAR & Global Fund Support for HIV Programmes. <https://www.dataetc.org/projects/pepfar/>
- ¹⁵ Tanzania Global Fund GC7 funding request <https://data.theglobalfund.org/location/TZA/access-to-funding>
- ¹⁶ Tanzania Global Fund GC7 funding request <https://data.theglobalfund.org/location/TZA/access-to-funding>
- ¹⁷ <https://data.theglobalfund.org/financial-insights>
- ¹⁸ <https://data.theglobalfund.org/financial-insights>
- ¹⁹ <https://data.theglobalfund.org/financial-insights>
- ²⁰ Makoye, K. (2025, February 7). *Tanzanians with HIV left in crisis as USAID funding ends*. AllAfrica. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202502070240.html>
- ²¹ Makoye, K. (2025, February 7). *Tanzanians with HIV left in crisis as USAID funding ends*. AllAfrica. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202502070240.html>
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- ²⁴ United Nations. (2025, February 26). *New Report flags severity of US funding cuts to global AIDS response*. UN News <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/02/1160561>