

# **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: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## 1. Epidemiological data

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

- There are an estimated 30,000<sup>a</sup> people who inject drugs in the country.<sup>1</sup>
- HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs is 24%.<sup>2</sup>
- Hepatitis B prevalence among people who inject drugs is 3.2%.<sup>3</sup>

### 1.2 HIV prevention and treatment and harm reduction

- National coverage of HIV prevention programmes for people who inject drugs is 37.7%.<sup>4</sup>
- The ART coverage for people who inject drugs living with HIV is only 4%.<sup>5</sup>
- 48% of people who inject drugs had HIV testing and aware of their HIV status in 2019.<sup>6</sup>
- There is explicit supportive reference to harm reduction in national policy documents.<sup>7</sup>

## 2. Harm Reduction programmes and funding source mapping

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

<sup>a</sup> 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"> <li>• Needle and syringe programmes for people who inject drugs</li> <li>• Opioid substitution therapy for people who inject drugs</li> <li>• Overdose prevention and management for people who use drugs</li> <li>• Removing human rights-related barriers to prevention for people who use drugs</li> </ul>
<b>Total reach or target</b>	3,619 (2023 Target) <sup>10</sup>	3,374 (2025 target)
<b>Total funding for People who use and inject drugs</b>	USD 1,358,242 (all interventions for people who use and inject drugs in 2024)  USD 908,842 (only for prevention interventions in 2024)	USD 402,226 (GC7)
<b>Budget for OAT</b>	USD 165,127 USD (2024)	USD 75,258 (GC7)
<b>Budget for NSP</b>	NA	USD 17,059 (GC7)
<b>Budget for Overdose prevention</b>	NA	NA (the overdose provision is included in the funding request- the budget is not found)
<b>PreP<sup>11</sup></b>	USD 361,614 USD (2024)	USD 107,608 (GC7)

### 3. Harm reduction programme gaps due to US funding cuts<sup>12</sup>

- 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

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