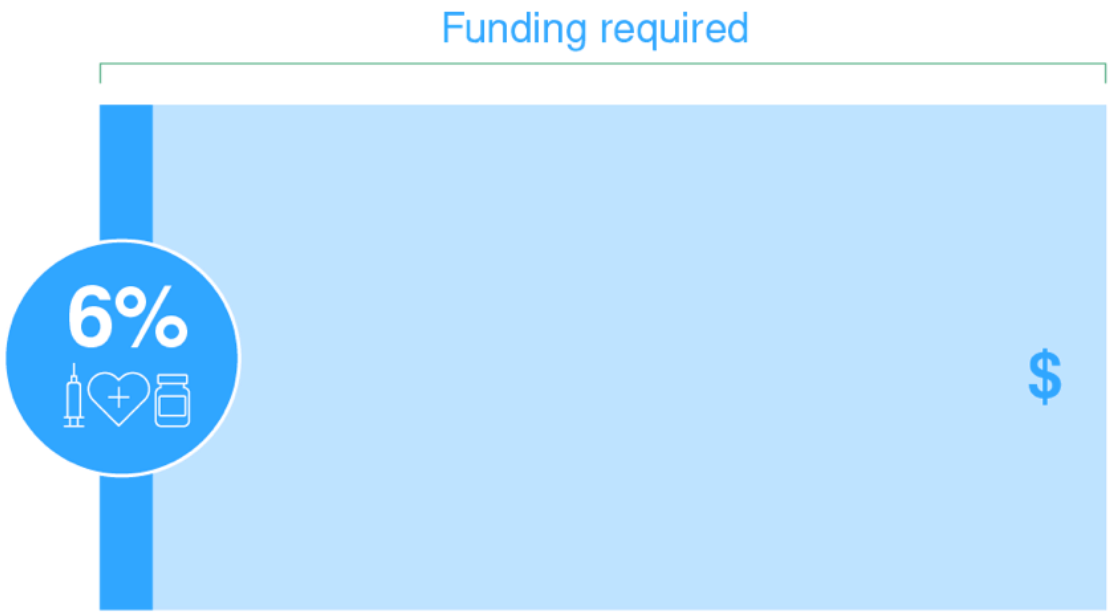
KEEPING HARM REDUCTION ALIVE: STRATEGIES AMID A GLOBAL FUNDING COLLAPSE

Catherine Cook
Acting Executive Director

HARM REDUCTION INTERNATIONAL

Harm reduction funding

TOTAL FUNDING FOR HARM REDUCTION IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES IS ONLY 6 PERCENT OF WHAT IS NEEDED



$151 MILLION

identified harm reduction funding in 2022. $2.7 billion needed annually by 2025.

94%

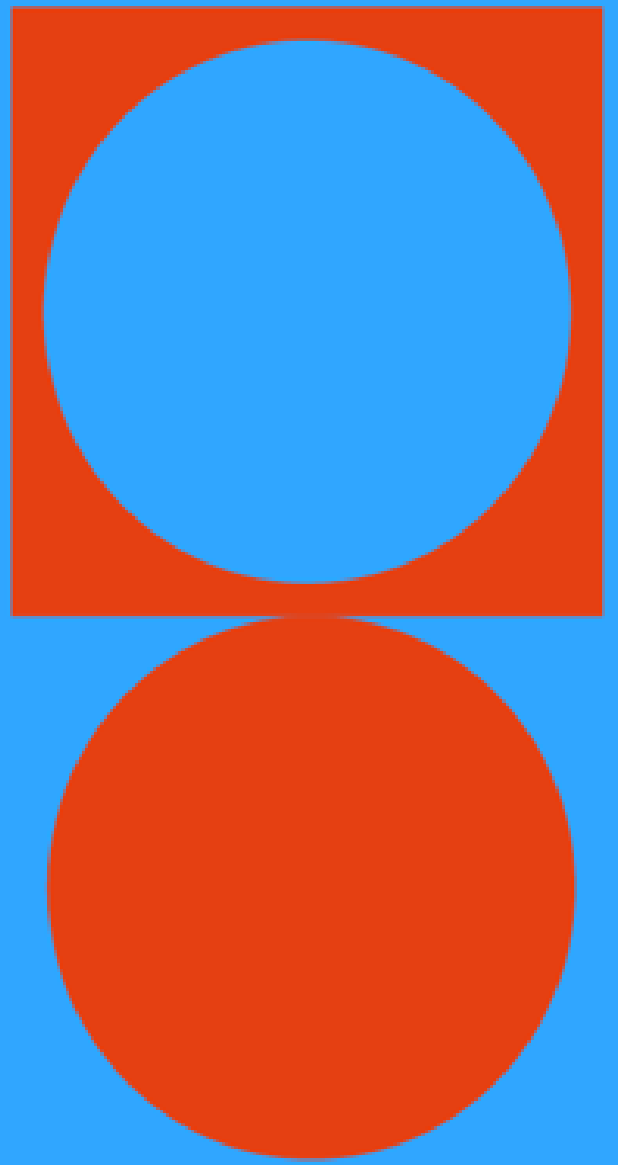
funding gap for harm reduction. 29% funding gap for the overall HIV response.

$101.6 MILLION from donors

$49.7 MILLION from domestic budgets

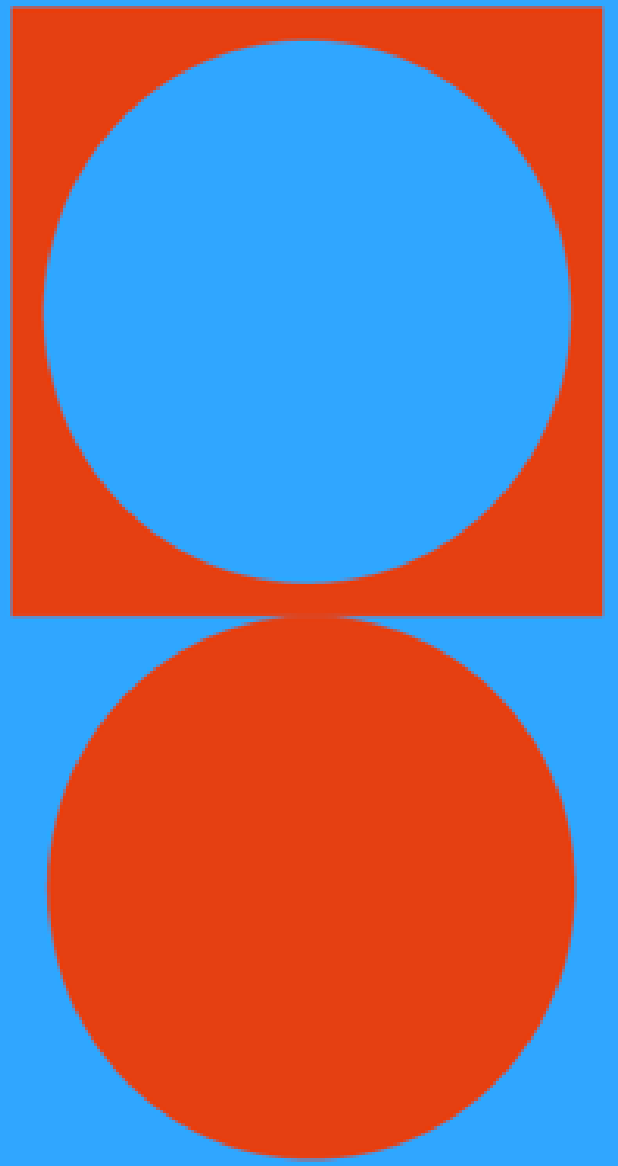
GLOBAL FUNDING CUTS

- In January 2025, the U.S. government abruptly halted bilateral and multilateral aid.
- The U.S. had been the **second-largest harm reduction donor** (after the Global Fund) and the **largest contributor to the Global Fund portfolio.**
- Global Fund grant allocations were reprioritised, removing planned scale-up and supportive programming for *Grant Cycle 7*.
- The Global Fund is not yet fully funded for *Grant Cycle 8.*
- Impacts on wider health infrastructure, communities and civil society and UN agencies
- **This is not merely a funding crisis. It is a human rights crisis.**



RESILIENCE AND RESISTENCE

- **Countries with domestic funding show greater protection**
- Where harm reduction is domestically funded and integrated into public health care, it has been protected from funding turbulence this year. But too few governments are using domestic budgets to fund harm reduction.
- **Community-led organisations / peer networks are stepping in**
- Peer networks have stepped in where formal systems have faltered. Programmes have consolidated resources to maintain life-saving services. **However, this is not sustainable without dedicated, consistent funding.**



Spending on punitive drug policy

- While harm reduction funding is in crisis, governments and donors continue to invest vast amounts in punitive drug approaches