

HARM REDUCTION INFORMATION NOTE -Tanzania

This information note has been compiled by Harm Reduction International (HRI) and Médecins du Monde Country Tanzania to support Global Fund Grant Cycle 8 processes.

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%, compared to 3.5% among the general population.^{2 3}
- The regions Njombe, Iringa, Mbeya face the highest HIV prevalence in the country.
- Tanzania has an estimated 1.8 million people living with HIV.⁴
- The estimated prevalence of hepatitis c among people who inject drugs is 23.1%, compared to 0.15% among the general population.^{5 6}
- The estimated prevalence of hepatitis b among people who inject drugs is 6.9%, compared to 2.8% among the general population.^{7 8}

1.2 Prevention and harm reduction programmes after recent funding shifts

- There is an explicit support for harm reduction in Tanzania's national policy documents.⁹
- There are 9 needle and syringe programme locations, and 18 opioid agonist treatment (OAT/MAT)^a locations^b offering methadone.^{10 11}
- OAT/MAT is also available in at least one prison, though NSP remains unavailable in prisons and other closed settings.¹²
- Services are primarily available in mainland Tanzania, with only one OAT/MAT clinic being available on the island archipelago of Zanzibar.¹³
- OAT/MAT coverage stands at 25.6% across 10 regions, with services expanding into the Kilimanjaro and Shinyanga regions under the Global Fund Grant Cycle 7 (GC7).^{14 c}
- NSP coverage stands at 19.4% across 10 regions, with services expanding into Morogoro, Dodoma, Tanga, Arusha, Mwanza, Kilimanjaro, Shinyanga and Mbeya regions under the Global Fund GC7.¹⁵
- Following the recent funding shifts nearly 1.2 million Tanzanians lost access to free antiretroviral (ARV) medication.¹⁶

2. Harm Reduction Financing

- PEPFAR supported OAT/MAT with approximately USD483,700, out of a total of USD707,300 allocated for people who inject drugs, in 2024.¹⁷

^a Harm Reduction International uses the term opioid agonist treatment (OAT), however PEPFAR funding refers only to medication assisted treatment (MAT).

^b As of July 2026, 17 clinics are operational with one being under construction.

^c Tanzania's GC7 Funding Request lists OAT coverage at 41.2%.

- The Global Fund supported OAT/MAT with approximately USD1.8 million, and NSP with approximately USD1.2 million in 2025, or a total of USD3.7 million and USD2.9 million across GC7.^{18 19}
- Following Global Fund GC7 reprioritisation, the allocation for the prevention package for people who use drugs and their partners actually increased by USD1,464,974 or 17.6%.²⁰
- Following the loss of PEPFAR funding, the Ministry of Health pledged to reallocate part of its budget to maintain ARV supply.²¹
- No domestic funding has been made available in Tanzania to sustain harm reduction interventions previously funded by PEPFAR.

3. Recommendations for strengthening Integration of harm reduction services into broader health system²²

A rushed integration process without undertaking careful planning could further dismantle already inadequate HIV prevention and harm reduction services for key populations. Thus, the Global Fund country dialogues and integration process for prevention and harm reduction programmes should fulfill the following factors as key pre-requisites for successful and sustained integration.

- *Secure government funding before integration:*

The Government of Tanzania must begin to meaningfully fund HIV prevention and harm reduction programming before any progress can be seen towards integration within public health systems. Predictions from the Global Fund GC7 show that domestic contributions in 2026 were planned to only amount to 5% of the identified need across the whole HIV response, and GC8 allocations show this must amount to at least 15% in GC8.^{23 24} The government has expressed willingness to step in and support ARV gaps since PEPFAR funding cuts, but it is not clear if budget allocations are in place to facilitate this.

The Global Fund funding request process should obtain concrete government commitments and financing for key populations and harm reduction programmes before initiating integration. Co-financing policies should include strict, enforceable conditions such as tying disbursements to earmarked government allocations for HIV prevention programmes for people who use drugs including harm reduction.

- *Protect and resource community-led organisations:*

Communities and community-led services have remained resilient, offering crucial services to mitigate the impact of service disruption after US funding cuts. Communities bridge the gap between services and marginalised populations such as people who inject drugs, making crucial contributions to the overall health system.

The Global Fund funding request should allocate dedicated funding to community-led organisations, including support for budget advocacy to mitigate the equity risks of integration and to ensure community-led service delivery is not interrupted. Previous proposals under GC7 committed to increasing involvement of CSOs by almost double for both NSP and OAT/MAT interventions – this increase must be sustained and expanded in GC8 and must include community-led organisations.²⁵

Community-led and civil society organisations must have sufficient resources to meaningfully engage throughout the integration process and to drive domestic resource mobilisation. Integration must not equate to the closure of community-led services.

- *Prioritise social contracting as a core integration safeguard:*

The Global Fund funding request should prioritise establishing and expanding social contracting mechanisms for community and key population organisations, recognising community systems as a critical component of the wider health system. Community-led and civil society organisations must be engaged meaningfully throughout this process and the Global Fund should allocate resources to budget advocacy to unlock social contracting grants at national, provincial and county levels.

Additional notes:

- Integration and the Global Fund Modular Framework

The Global Fund Modular Framework is the guide to organise proposed programme activities into standard modules and interventions for the three diseases (HIV, TB and Malaria) and RSSH (Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health).^{xiv} The framework includes a list of modules (broad programmatic area), interventions (specific programmes within modules), activities (operational activities for interventions) and standardised indicators to measure the result linked to modules.

It is useful for activists and those involved in the Global Fund country dialogues to understand the modular framework to be able to propose realistic and specific interventions, activities under each module; and also to locate and track the activities, budget and indicators in the funding request document up to and during the grant-making phase.

The most relevant activities related to integration are found within the RSSH component of the GC8 Modular Framework. There are 11 modules within RSSH and each module contains different interventions related to integration such as policy, governance, financing, community-systems, human resource, procurement, data quality etc. The list of relevant interventions with useful tips for activists to engage during country dialogue and funding request is found in an annex 1.

- Useful resources on integration and harm reduction:

Below are some resources specific to integration and harm reduction. Some are already listed under the reference section.

- Harm Reduction International: Key Messages on Harm Reduction and Integration for Grant Cycle 8. <https://hri.global/publications/key-harm-reduction-messages-on-integration-for-grant-cycle-8/>
- Harm Reduction International: Harm Reduction Information Note – Tanzania. <https://hri.global/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Tanzania.pdf>
- The Global Fund: Grant Cycle 8- Enabling Impact: Strengthening Sustainability. https://resources.theglobalfund.org/media/fptatfhe/cr_gc8-enabling-guidance-sustainability_presentation_en.pdf

- International Network of People Who Use Drugs: Integration Without Erasure: Brief to the Global Fund <https://inpud.net/integration-without-erasure/>
- Global Black Gay Men Connect: Global Fund Grant Cycle 8 Strategic Overview- Tanzania <https://gbgmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/GC8-Strategic-overview-Tanzania.docx.pdf>

References

- ¹ Global State of Harm Reduction 2024. <https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2024/>
- ² Global State of Harm Reduction 2024. <https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2024/>
- ³ UNAIDS HIV Estimates with Uncertainty Bounds. https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2025/HIV_estimates_with_uncertainty_bounds_1990-present
- ⁴ UNAIDS HIV Estimates with Uncertainty Bounds. https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/documents/2025/HIV_estimates_with_uncertainty_bounds_1990-present
- ⁵ Global State of Harm Reduction 2024. <https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2024/>
- ⁶ WHO Viral Hepatitis Country Profile Tanzania. <https://data.who.int/dashboards/hepatitis/epidemiology?m49=834>
- ⁷ Global State of Harm Reduction 2024. <https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2024/>
- ⁸ WHO Viral Hepatitis Country Profile Tanzania. <https://data.who.int/dashboards/hepatitis/epidemiology?m49=834>
- ⁹ Global State of Harm Reduction 2024. <https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2024/>
- ¹⁰ Global State of Harm Reduction 2024. <https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2024/>
- ¹¹ Email correspondence with Médecins du Monde Country Harm Reduction Coordinator, 8th July 2026.
- ¹² Global State of Harm Reduction 2024. <https://hri.global/flagship-research/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction/the-global-state-of-harm-reduction-2024/>
- ¹³ Email correspondence with Médecins du Monde Country Harm Reduction Coordinator, 8th July 2026.
- ¹⁴ UNAIDS Country Factsheet Tanzania. <https://www.unaids.org/en/regionscountries/countries/unitedrepublicoftanzania>
- ¹⁵ Tanzania Global Fund GC7 Funding Request. [https://data.theglobalfund.org/access-to-funding?locations=Tanzania+\(United+Republic\)](https://data.theglobalfund.org/access-to-funding?locations=Tanzania+(United+Republic))
- ¹⁶ Makoye, K. (2025, February 7). Tanzanians with HIV left in crisis as USAID funding ends. AllAfrica. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202502070240.html>
- ¹⁷ Data, etc PEPFAR & Global Fund Support for HIV Programs. <https://www.dataetc.org/projects/pepfar/>
- ¹⁸ Data, etc PEPFAR & Global Fund Support for HIV Programs. <https://www.dataetc.org/projects/pepfar/>
- ¹⁹ Tanzania Global Fund GC7 Funding Request. [https://data.theglobalfund.org/access-to-funding?locations=Tanzania+\(United+Republic\)](https://data.theglobalfund.org/access-to-funding?locations=Tanzania+(United+Republic))
- ²⁰ Data, etc Mind the Gap: Emerging Gaps in Global Fund Programmes. <https://www.dataetc.org/projects/reprioritization/?lang=EN>
- ²¹ Makoye, K. (2025, February 7). Tanzanians with HIV left in crisis as USAID funding ends. AllAfrica. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202502070240.html>
- ²² Key harm reduction messages on integration for GC8 <https://hri.global/publications/key-harm-reduction-messages-on-integration-for-grant-cycle-8/>
- ²³ Tanzania Global Fund GC7 Funding Request. [https://data.theglobalfund.org/access-to-funding?locations=Tanzania+\(United+Republic\)](https://data.theglobalfund.org/access-to-funding?locations=Tanzania+(United+Republic))

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- ²⁴ Global Black Gay Men Connect: Global Fund Grant Cycle 8 Strategic Overview- Tanzania
<https://gbgmc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/GC8-Strategic-overview-Tanzania.docx.pdf>
- ²⁵ Tanzania Global Fund GC7 Funding Request. [https://data.theglobalfund.org/access-to-funding?locations=Tanzania+\(United+Republic\)](https://data.theglobalfund.org/access-to-funding?locations=Tanzania+(United+Republic))