

The Lost Decade - Neglect for harm reduction funding and the health crisis among people who use drugs

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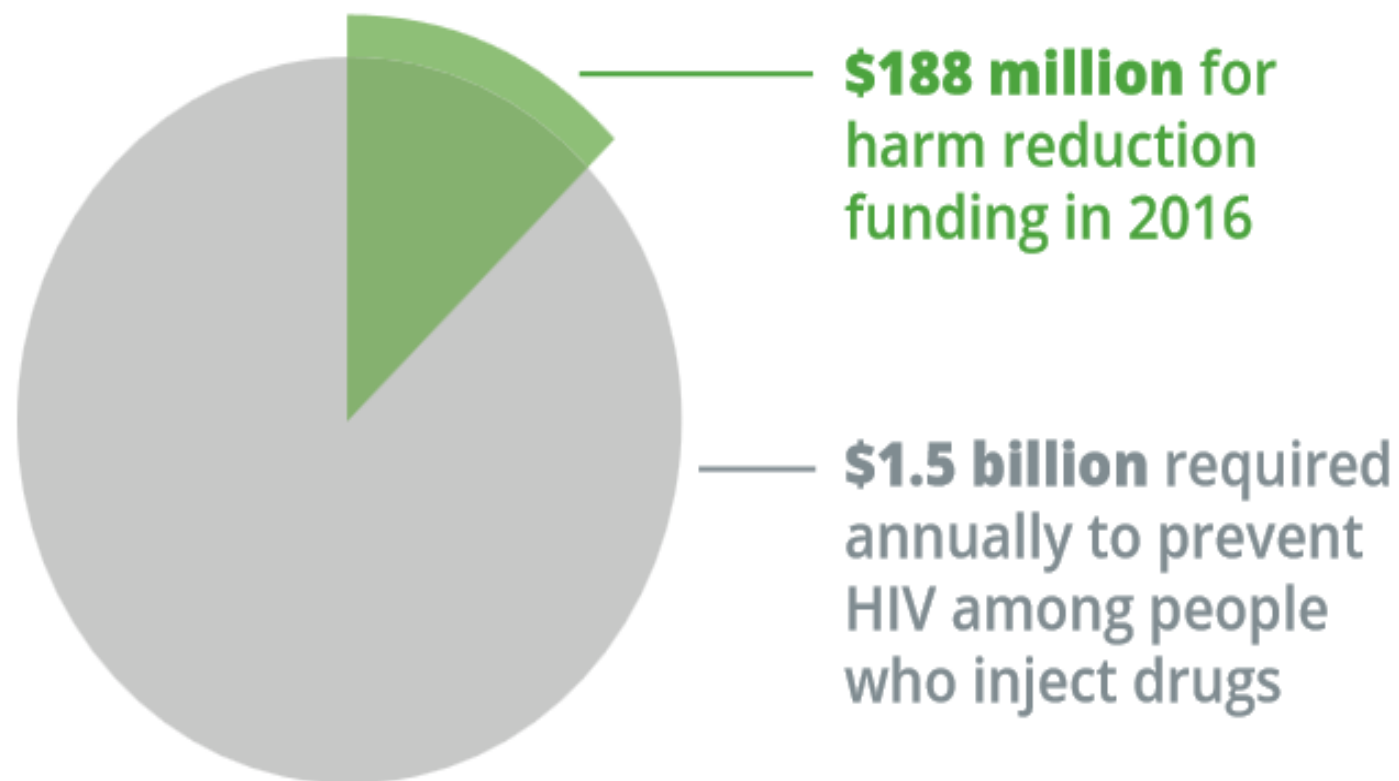
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Funding for lifesaving harm reduction services in low- and middle-income countries is **just 13%** of what's needed



This funding gap threatens the global HIV response

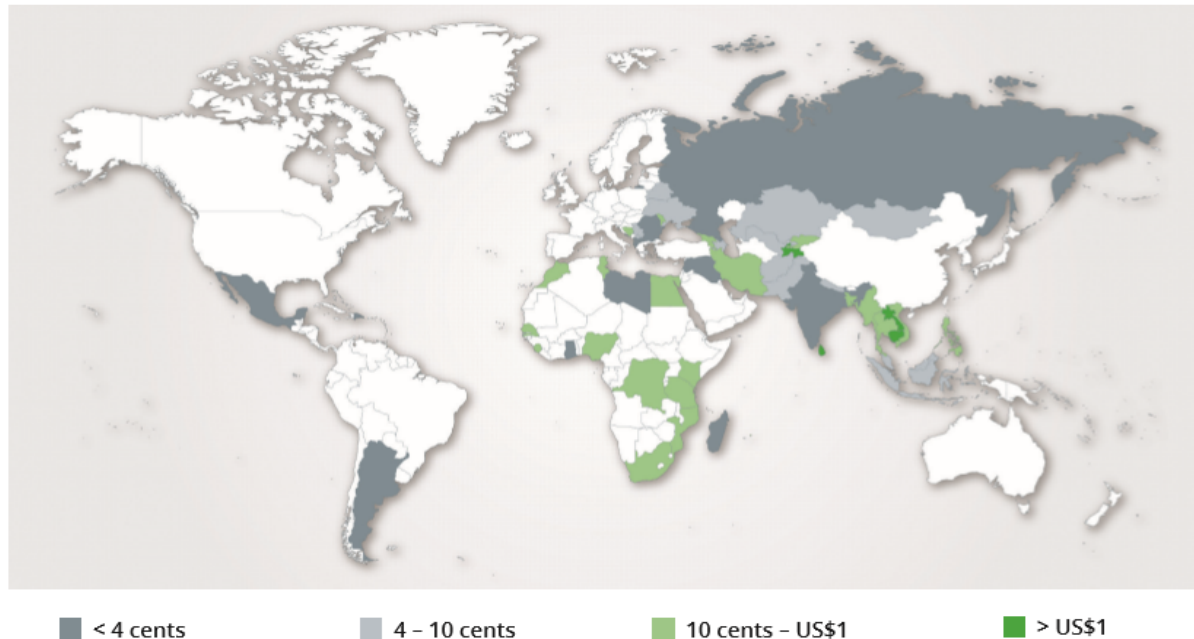


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Overall harm reduction funding in LMICs has flat-lined

- Overall level of harm reduction funding in LMICs is the same as in 2007
- Just 1% of US\$19 billion donor and government spend on HIV in 2016
- Just 4 cents per day is spent per person who inject drugs in LMICs
- Most funding for harm reduction still comes from international donors (64%), however it is one-quarter less than it was a decade ago
- National governments are not stepping in to scale up funding for harm reduction



The majority of people who inject drugs live in upper middle-income countries

55% in UMICs



Yet, harm reduction funding is lowest in these countries

\$0.02 per person
per day in UMICs

\$0.09 per person
per day in low
and lower middle-
income countries



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People who use drugs are being left behind



**Donor funding for harm
reduction has fallen
24% since 2007**

**New HIV infections among
people who inject drugs
increased 33% from 2011-15**



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Recommendations

- International donors increase harm reduction funding in line with epidemiological need and do not withdraw or reduce funds without adequate transition plans in place.
- National governments invest in their own harm reduction responses. They should track, and critically evaluate their drug policy spending and redirect resources from ineffective drug law enforcement to harm reduction.
- International donors, including donor governments, invest in multilateral funding mechanisms such as the Global Fund and ensure that UNODC is sufficiently funded.
- International donors ensure financial support for overdose prevention, including naloxone and opioid substitution therapy.

Thank you!

See full report, **‘The lost decade: Neglect for harm reduction funding and the health crisis for people who use drugs,’** at:

www.hri.global/harm-reduction-funding

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