

# **THE COST OF COMPLACENCY:** **A HARM REDUCTION FUNDING CRISIS**

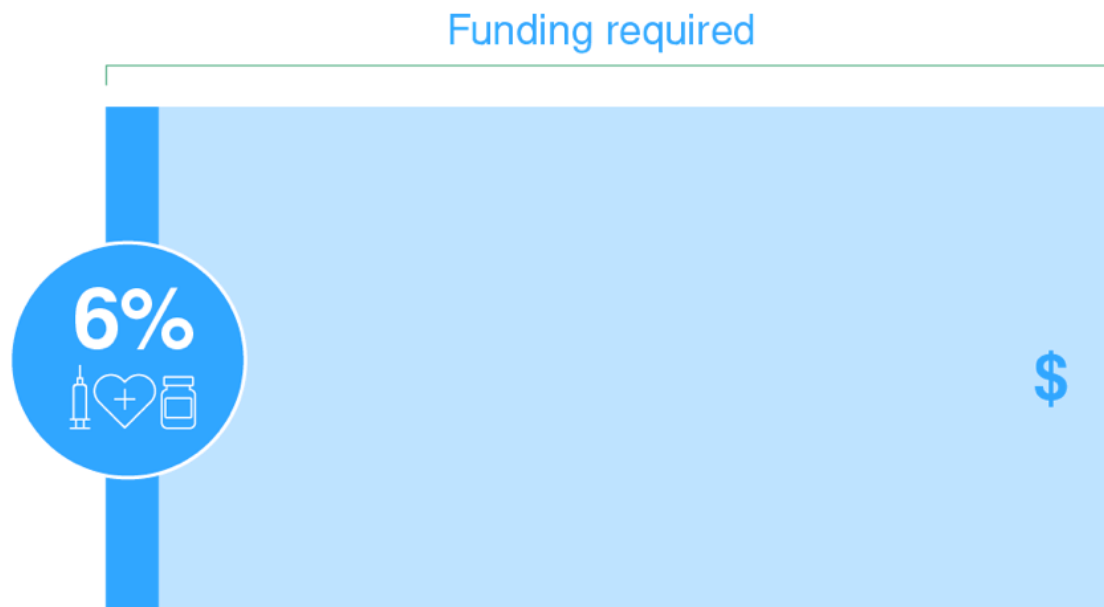
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HR25, Bogota



# Key findings

**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.

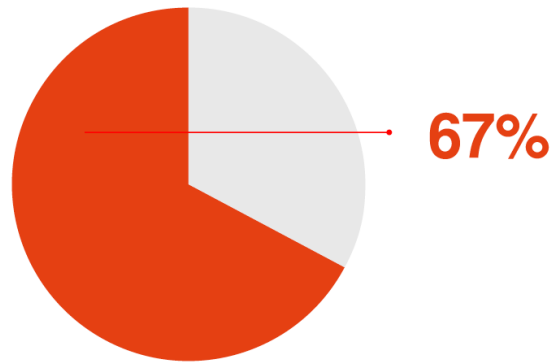
**94%**

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

**\$101.6 MILLION** from donors

**\$49.7 MILLION** from domestic budgets

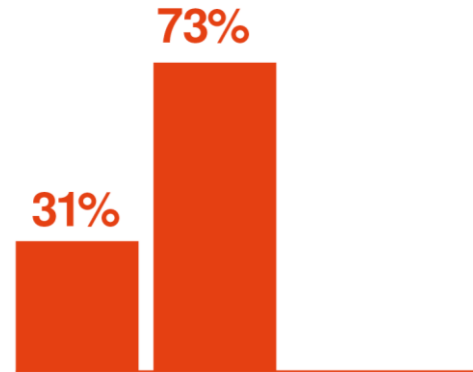
# International donor funding for harm reduction



**\$101.6 MILLION**

donor funding for harm reduction in 2022. This amounted to 67% of total harm reduction funding that year.

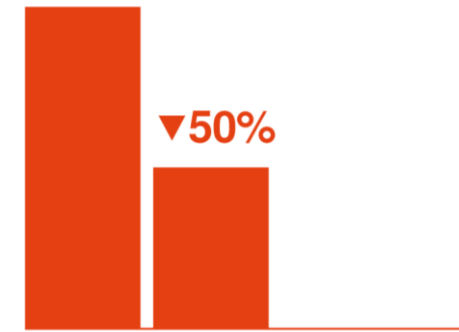
This is a greater share and a greater amount than in 2019, when donor funding was 52% of total harm reduction funding.



**73%**

Of donor funding came from the Global Fund in 2022. In 2007, this was just 31%.

Bilateral funding has reduced substantially and harm reduction is more reliant on multilateral funding.



**- 50%**

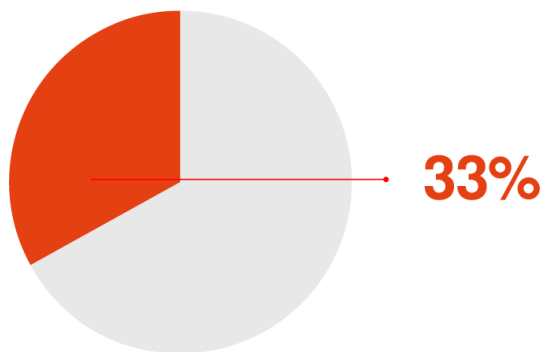
donor funding for harm reduction has halved in real value over the past 15 years.

Had funding levels remained stable, rising in line with inflation, LMI countries would have received \$202 million from donors in 2022.

# Identified donor funding for harm reduction in 2022

Donors	%
The Global Fund	73%
United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)	8%
Robert Carr Fund (RCF)	4%
Open Society Foundations (OSF)	4%
Expertise France	3%
Elton John AIDS Foundation (EJAF)	3%
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)	2%
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)	1%
ViiV Healthcare	1%
Yayasan Sime Darby (YSD)	<1%
Gilead	<1%

# Domestic funding for harm reduction



**\$49.7 MILLION**

identified domestic funding for harm reduction, representing 33% of all harm reduction funding in 2022.

**0.4%**

of all domestic funding for HIV was for harm reduction in 2022.

Country	2019 (USD millions)	2022 (USD millions)	Domestic funding as % of overall funding 2019
Iran	14,222,829	4,102,995	97%
Vietnam	12,531,341	8,555,796	77%
India	11,000,000	10,170,038	92%
Georgia	3,877,889	3,144,291	73%
Indonesia	2,806,375	3,284,659	82%
Kazakhstan	2,255,590	1,364,113	83%
Serbia	2,225,063	2,719,926	99%
Malaysia	1,708,624	686,274	100%
Belarus	1,438,426	943,178	61%
Thailand	1,334,711	1,718,745	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,594,473</b>	<b>33,405,356</b>	

# Investing in community-led responses

- Lack of monitoring of progress against 30:60:80 targets – no way to hold donors and governments accountable on targets
- Community-led organisations are central to harm reduction responses and are able to continue providing services in challenging circumstances, particularly with donor flexibility (e.g. COVID-19 and in Ukraine)
- Funding models and processes create barriers to community-led responses and favour larger organisations that may be national or even international
- There is often a lack of meaningful involvement of people who use drugs in decision making
- There are public financing barriers such as a lack of social contracting for community-led and community-based organisations
- Political and human rights barriers including the criminalisation of drug use are major impediments to a sustainable harm reduction response

# A harm reduction funding crisis

**Harm reduction is more reliant on the Global Fund than ever before**

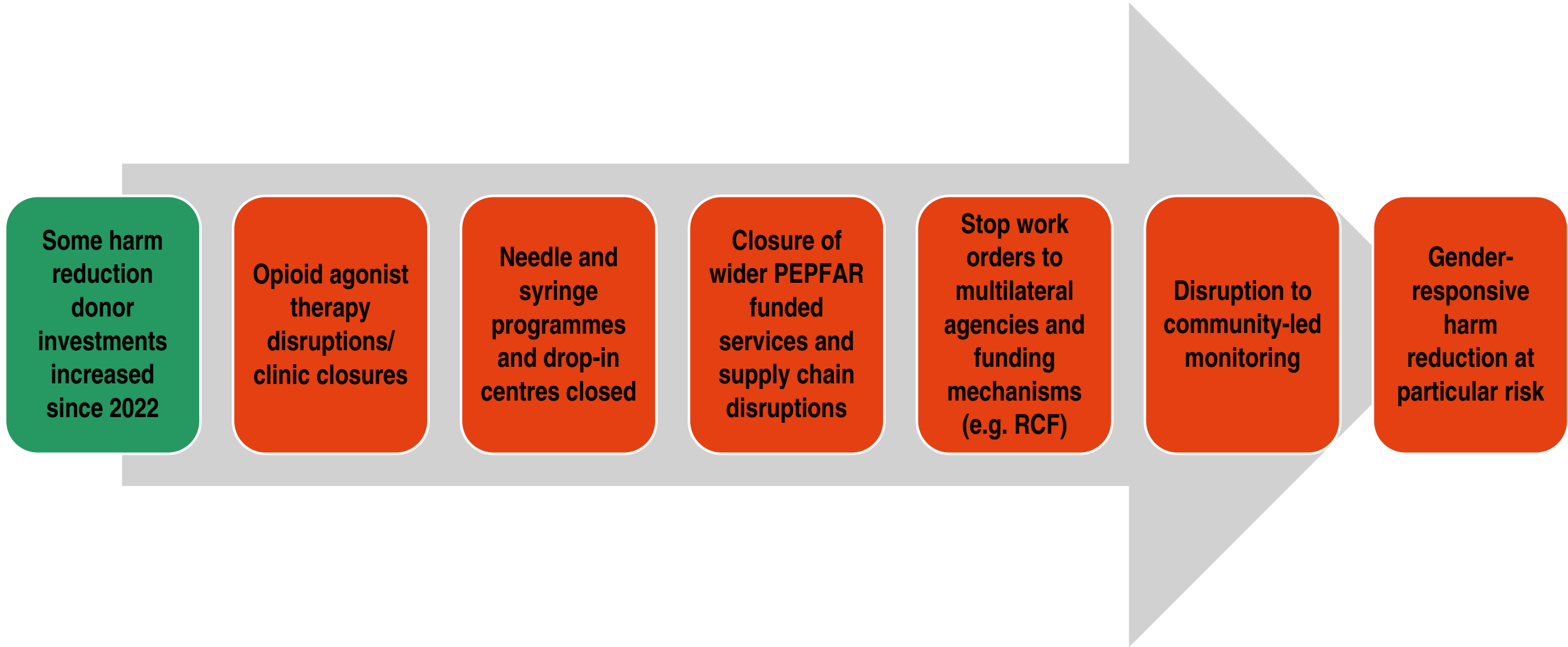
**Key donors for advocacy, policy reform and human rights have reduced support**

**Vulnerable to changing donor priorities, political will and complacency**

**Poor data quality and availability hindering monitoring efforts**

**Failure to embed community-led responses**

# From a funding crisis to catastrophe





# Taking stock

- Profound moment of crisis for harm reduction in many countries
- Service cuts will lead to increased new HIV and HCV infections and overdose amongst people who use drugs
- Community organisations and peer workers - the backbone of harm reduction - hardest hit
- USAID leaves a huge gap to fill across development and health budgets
- Other governments are also cutting aid budgets
- Global Fund replenishment under threat
- Competing priorities for donors and governments
- Chaos, confusion and uncertainty

# Recommendations / opportunities

- End overreliance on international donor funding and increase domestic funding for harm reduction
- Fast track HIV sustainability plans that include harm reduction and community-led responses
- Divest from punitive drug responses and invest in community, health and justice
- Call for economic justice – debt cancellation, decolonised approaches
- Make strong pledges to the Global Fund replenishment
- Increase advocacy funding to protect harm reduction and help drive the drug law and policy reform required for sustainable harm reduction responses
- Invest in community-led organisations to create and protect resilient and sustainable harm reduction responses

Join us to  
continue the  
discussion!

# THE US GOVERNMENT, DRUG POLICY AND HARM REDUCTION – TAKING STOCK

📅 Tuesday April 29, 2025

🕒 13:00-14:30 pm (Colombia time)

📍 Harm Reduction International Conference ~~HR25~~,  
Bogota | Room Number 2/A

Join the Drug Policy Alliance and Harm Reduction International **side event** to take stock of the recent U.S. Government actions and the impacts and implications for harm reduction around the world.

*Lunch and drinks will be served in the event.*

