ENDING AIDS BY 2030
FOR AND WITH PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS
UNODC is the UNAIDS convening agency for HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who use drugs. Together with national and international partners, UNODC supports countries in their efforts towards ending AIDS by 2030 through:

**ADVOCACY:**
- Supporting reform, development and implementation of effective legislation and policies to facilitate access to evidence-informed HIV services.
- Reducing stigma and discrimination, and promoting human rights and evidence-based public health-centred approaches to drug use and HIV.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Supporting the development and implementation of comprehensive evidence-informed gender- and age-responsive strategies and programmes.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Brokering multisectoral alliances between drug control, justice, law enforcement, health, civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs).

### FACTS AND FIGURES AT A GLANCE

- **10.6 million people** inject drugs (2015)
- **1.3 million people** who inject drugs are living with HIV
- **5.5 million** people who inject drugs are living with hepatitis C (over 50%)
- **1.1 million people** who inject drugs and live with HIV are co-infected with hepatitis C
- **80%** estimated prevalence of tuberculosis among people who inject drugs
- People who inject drugs are 23 times more likely to acquire HIV than adults in the general population

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Challenges and vulnerabilities: 4

- Less than 1% of all people who inject drugs live in countries with high coverage of both needle and syringe programmes and opioid substitution therapy.

- Needle and syringe programmes operate in 93 of the 179 countries and territories where injecting drug use is known to occur.

- Only 33 needles or syringes are distributed per year per person to people who inject drugs (as opposed to the target of 200 per year).

- Opioid substitution therapy is implemented in 86 of the 179 countries and territories where injecting drug use is known to occur.

- Only 16% of all people who inject drugs have access to opioid substitution therapy (as opposed to the target of 40% coverage).

People who use drugs have multiple vulnerabilities to HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis and other infectious diseases

- Sharing drug injecting equipment is at least three times more likely to transmit HIV than sexual intercourse. 2

- Stimulant drug use, non-injecting and injecting, has been associated with sexual transmission of HIV, particularly among men who have sex with men and sex workers.

- People who use drugs are highly stigmatized and discriminated against, and are often unable or unwilling to access HIV services for fear of arrest or harassment.

- People who use drugs are overrepresented in prisons with low access to HIV services.

- Lack of predictable, sustainable funding for HIV harm reduction services for people who inject drugs.

HIV PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CARE FOR PEOPLE WHO INJECT DRUGS 5

1. Needle and syringe programmes
2. Opioid substitution therapy and other evidence-based drug dependence treatment
3. HIV testing and counselling
4. Antiretroviral treatment
5. Prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections
6. Condom programmes for people who inject drugs and their sexual partners
7. Targeted information, education and communication for people who inject drugs and their sexual partners
8. Prevention, vaccination, diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis
9. Prevention, diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis
10. Prevention of overdose deaths


The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly endorsed the WHO/UNODC/UNAIDS comprehensive package for people who inject drugs.

The need for a comprehensive HIV response among people who use drugs was reflected in the commitments made by Member States at the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem and at the 2016 High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS.
PROMOTING ACCESS TO HIV HARM REDUCTION SERVICES FOR WOMEN WHO USE DRUGS

- Women who use drugs face a range of gender-specific barriers to accessing HIV services including stigma, discrimination, gender-based violence and lack of gender-responsive services.

- UNODC supports countries to address the needs of women who use drugs in the community and in prisons.

- A training package on Addressing specific needs of women who inject drugs for HIV service providers has been made available.

- Capacity-building programmes for managers, service providers, health-care workers and outreach workers are available in all UNODC high-priority countries.

PROMOTING STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

- Law enforcement policies and practices play a critical role in ensuring that people who use drugs access essential HIV services.

- To support collaboration between law enforcement organizations and CSOs in the context of HIV and drugs, UNODC trained over 2,100 law enforcement officers and representatives of CSOs, and networks of people who use drugs in 21 high-priority countries.

- A training guide for police on HIV service provision for people who inject drugs is widely accessible through the UNODC eLearning platform.

ENGAGEMENT WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- UNODC values the unique expertise that CSOs and networks of people who use drugs bring and engages them in all aspects of the HIV response.

- Through the UNODC-CSO Group on Drug Use and HIV, UNODC involves CSOs in addressing relevant programming issues related to the Global HIV Programme.

- UNODC provides small grants to CSOs and CBOs at national, regional or global levels to build their capacity and implement strategic activities.

- UNODC facilitates the inclusion of CSOs in nationally led processes.