

# GLOBAL OVERVIEW 2023

## TABLE COUNTRIES OR TERRITORIES EMPLOYING A HARM REDUCTION APPROACH IN POLICY OR PRACTICE

Country/territory	Explicit supportive reference to harm reduction in national policy documents	At least one needle and syringe programme operational	At least one opioid agonist therapy programme operational	At least one drug consumption room operational	Take home naloxone available	At least one naloxone peer distribution programme operational	At least one safer smoking kit distribution programme	Stimulant prescription available	NSP in at least one prison	OAT in at least one prison
<b>ASIA</b>										
Bangladesh	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Bhutan	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Brunei Darussalam	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
China	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Hong Kong	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
India	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Japan	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Laos	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Macau	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Malaysia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Maldives	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Mongolia	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Myanmar	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Nepal	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
North Korea	nd	nd	nd	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Philippines	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Singapore	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
South Korea	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Sri Lanka	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Taiwan	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Thailand	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Vietnam	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
<b>EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA</b>										
Angola	nd	nd	nd	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Botswana	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Comoros	nd	nd	nd	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Eritrea	nd	nd	nd	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Eswatini	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Ethiopia	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Kenya	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Lesotho	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Madagascar	nd	nd	nd	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Malawi	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

Country/territory	Explicit supportive reference to harm reduction in national policy documents	At least one needle and syringe programme operational	At least one opioid agonist therapy programme operational	At least one drug consumption room operational	Take home naloxone available	At least one naloxone peer distribution programme operational	At least one safer smoking kit distribution programme	Stimulant prescription available	NSP in at least one prison	OAT in at least one prison
Mauritius	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Mozambique	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Namibia	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Rwanda	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Seychelles	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
South Africa	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
South Sudan	nd	nd	nd	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Uganda	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
United Republic of Tanzania	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Zambia	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Zimbabwe	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
<b>EURASIA</b>										
Albania	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Armenia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Azerbaijan	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Belarus	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Bulgaria	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Croatia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Czechia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓
Estonia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Georgia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Hungary	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Kazakhstan	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Kosovo	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Kyrgyzstan	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Latvia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Lithuania	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Moldova	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Montenegro	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
North Macedonia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Poland	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Romania	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Russia	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Serbia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓
Slovakia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗

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Slovenia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Tajikistan	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
Turkmenistan	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Ukraine	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Uzbekistan	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN										
Antigua and Barbuda	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Argentina	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Bahamas	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Barbados	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Belize	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Bolivia	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Brazil	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Chile	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Colombia	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Costa Rica	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Cuba	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Dominican Republic	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Dominica	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Ecuador	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
El Salvador	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Grenada	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Guatemala	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Guyana	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Haiti	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Honduras	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Jamaica	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Mexico	✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>2</sup>	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Nicaragua	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Panama	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Paraguay	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Peru	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Puerto Rico	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Saint Kitts and Nevis	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Saint Lucia	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

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Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Suriname	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Trinidad and Tobago	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Uruguay	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Venezuela	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA										
Afghanistan	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓
Algeria	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Bahrain	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Djibouti	nd	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Egypt	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Iran	✓	✓	✓	×	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓
Iraq	nd	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Israel	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓
Jordan	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Kuwait	nd	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Lebanon	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓
Libya	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Morocco	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓
Oman	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Pakistan	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Palestine	✓	×	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓
Qatar	nd	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Saudi Arabia	nd	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Somalia	nd	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Sudan	nd	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Syria	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Tunisia	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
United Arab Emirates	nd	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Yemen	nd	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
NORTH AMERICA										
Canada	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
United States of America	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	×	✓

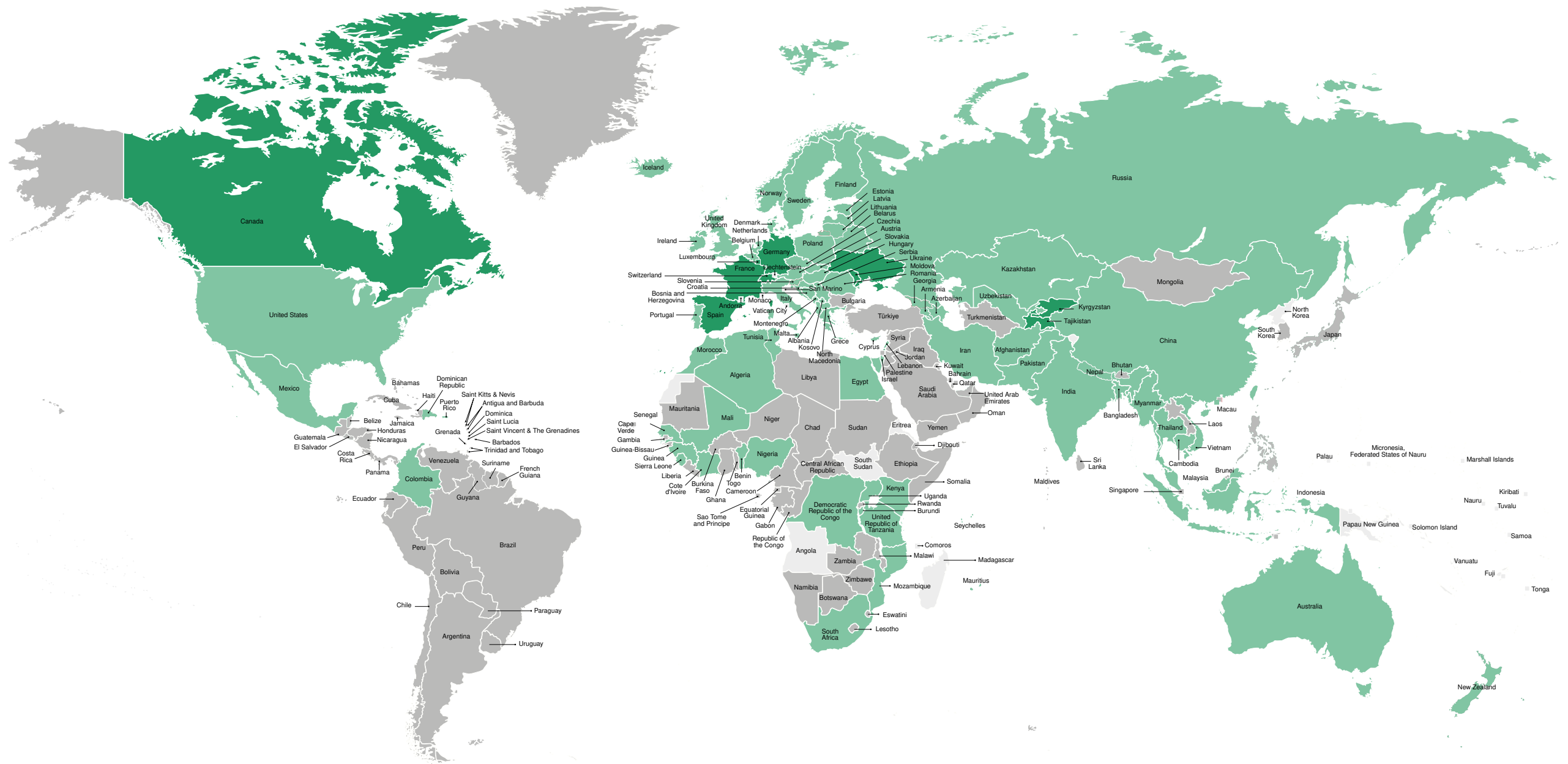
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<b>OCEANIA</b>										
Aotearoa-New Zealand	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Australia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓
Federated States of Micronesia	✗	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Fiji	✗	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Kiribati	✗	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Marshall Islands	✗	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Nauru	✗	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Palau	✗	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Papua New Guinea	✗	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Samoa	✓	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Solomon Islands	✗	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Timor Leste	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Tonga	✗	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Tuvalu	✗	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Vanuatu	✓	nd	✗	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
<b>WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA</b>										
Benin	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Burkina Faso	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Burundi	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Cameroon	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Cape Verde	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Central African Republic	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Chad	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Congo	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Cote d'Ivoire	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Democratic Republic of the Congo	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Equatorial Guinea	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Gabon	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Gambia	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Ghana	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Guinea	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Guinea-Bissau	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Liberia	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

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Mali	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Mauritania	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Niger	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Nigeria	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Sao Tome and Principe	nd	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Senegal	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Sierra Leone	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Togo	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
<b>WESTERN EUROPE</b>										
Andorra	nd	nd	nd	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Austria	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Belgium	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Cyprus	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	nd	✗	✗	✓
Denmark	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	nd	✗	✗	✓
Finland	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	nd	✗	✗	✓
France	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Germany	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Greece	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	nd	✗	✗	✓
Iceland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	nd	✗	✗	✓
Ireland	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	nd	✗	✗	✓
Italy	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Liechtenstein	nd	nd	nd	✗	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Luxembourg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	nd	✗	✓	✓
Malta	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	nd	✗	✗	✓
Monaco	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Netherlands	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
Norway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	nd	✗	✗	✓
Portugal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
San Marino	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd	nd
Spain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Sweden	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	nd	✗	✗	✓
Switzerland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Türkiye	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	nd	✗	✗	✗
United Kingdom	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
<b>GLOBAL TOTAL</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>59</b>

<sup>1</sup> HRI's research indicates the Bogota DCR is acknowledged by the city government but not explicitly or formally authorised.

<sup>2</sup> HRI's research indicates the Mexicali DCR is acknowledged by local government but not explicitly or formally authorised.

# M1 GLOBAL AVAILABILITY OF NEEDLE AND SYRINGE PROGRAMMES (NSPs) IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN PRISONS



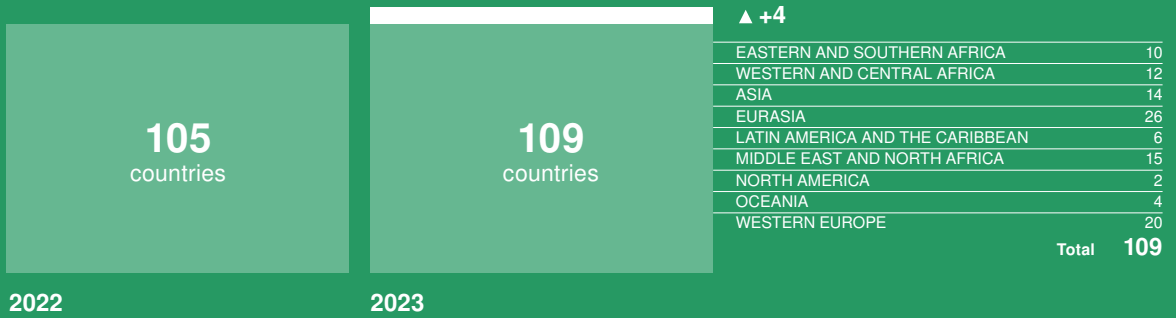
- NSP available in the community
- NSP available in the community and prison
- NSP not available





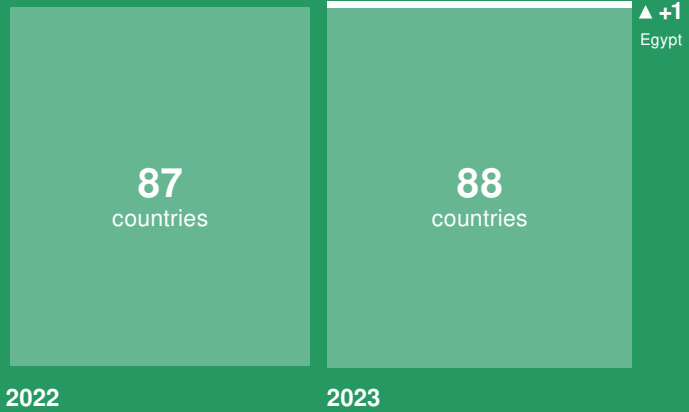
## HARM REDUCTION INTERVENTIONS FROM 2022 TO 2023

### SUPPORTIVE REFERENCES TO HARM REDUCTION IN NATIONAL POLICY DOCUMENTS



### OPIOID AGONIST THERAPY (OAT)

88 countries with at least one OAT programme in 2023



### DRUG CONSUMPTION ROOMS (DCRs)

17 countries with legal and operational DCRs in 2023



## THE GLOBAL STATE OF HARM REDUCTION 2023 UPDATE

Harm reduction refers to policies, programmes and practices that aim to minimise the negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, drug policies and drug laws. It is grounded in justice and human rights. It encompasses a range of health and social services and practices that apply to drugs, such as information on safer drug use, drug consumption rooms, needle and syringe programmes, overdose prevention and reversal, opioid agonist therapy, housing, drug checking and legal aid services.

This page presents an update to the key data in our flagship report, [The Global State of Harm Reduction](#). The full report is published every two years, with updates of the key data in between editions of the report. This update also summarises some of the key developments in harm reduction and drug policy since the launch of the eighth edition to our flagship report, published in November 2022.

### Updates:

- The total number of countries that include explicit supportive reference to harm reduction in national policy documents has increased by four, from 105 to 109. New countries are Cambodia, Malawi, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Togo.
- For the first time in 2023, Egypt<sup>a</sup> has commenced implementation of opioid agonist therapy (OAT) programmes taking the global tally to 88 countries.
- One country (Ukraine<sup>b</sup>) began implementing needle and syringe programmes (NSP) in prison. A second country (France<sup>c</sup>) resumed its prison NSP programme, while Armenia suspended its prison NSP programme, bringing the total number of countries implementing prison NSP in 2023 to 10.

- Colombia<sup>d</sup> launched a new drug consumption room (DCR) in Bogota bringing the global tally of DCRs to 17.
- Two new countries, Colombia and Moldova, began peer distribution of naloxone.
- There were no reports of countries ceasing implementation of needle and syringe programmes (NSP), opioid agonist therapy (OAT), drug consumption rooms (DCRs), take-home and peer distribution of naloxone, or safer smoking kits distribution.
- In Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, sharp increases in overdose deaths have been reported in recent years (a trend which has continued in 2023) with the rise in mortality rates due to the toxic drug supply (contaminated drugs, prescription opioids, heroin and fentanyl).

People who use drugs are adversely affected by HIV and viral hepatitis. To respond to this challenge, evidence-based harm reduction services must be adequately resourced. Punitive laws negatively impact the provision of services. Decreasing criminal penalties associated with drugs and making sure the rights of criminalised populations are preserved and protected would positively impact the availability of harm reduction services.

Health, justice and human rights continue to remain inaccessible for key and vulnerable populations. Stigma and discrimination continue to hamper equal access to healthcare for people who use drugs, and women face significantly higher levels of exclusion and barriers to treatment.

Harm reduction policies and programme coverage of services have expanded in some regions. Canada introduced legislative reforms to include support for the decriminalisation of drug use and possession in British Columbia in a 3-year pilot effective January 2023. In South Africa and the United States, harm reduction services, including interventions for viral

a Implementation of Egypt's first OAT programme commenced in March 2023 with four hospitals in 3 governorates (Cairo, Alexandria, and Suhag) with 166 clients enrolled receiving methadone. This follows a 2020 ministerial decree issued to authorise its introduction.

b In Ukraine, an NSP prison pilot has launched in 2023.

c In France, we note the availability of NSP in Mont Pelier prior to 2022.

d HRI's research indicates the Bogota DCR is acknowledged by the city government but not explicitly or formally authorised.

hepatitis for people who use drugs, increased in 2023. In Australia, Colombia and Iceland, increased access to harm reduction services were reported.

## NEW HEALTH POLICY AND GUIDANCE

In July, The World Health Organization (WHO) updated the *Consolidated guidelines on HIV, viral hepatitis and STI prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care for key populations* which outlines a public health response in five key population categories: men who have sex with men, sex workers, people in prisons and other closed settings, people who inject drugs, and trans and gender diverse people. Importantly, this [update](#) covers parts of the guidelines specific to people in prisons and other closed settings.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also launched a new briefing on gender-based violence and women who use drugs at the International Network of Hepatitis in Substance Users (INHSU) Conference on 20 October 2023.

## INVESTMENT IN HARM REDUCTION

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (The Global Fund) published a harm reduction [technical brief](#) in 2022 which updated parameters for harm reduction funding within Grant Cycle 7 (2023-2025), including for hepatitis programming. It considered harm reduction as a 'program essential', allowed funding requests for programmes for people who use drugs and their sexual partners, rather than only people who inject drugs, increased the scope for stimulant harm reduction and hepatitis B and C treatment for people who inject drugs regardless of HIV status.

This year, UNITAID pledged USD 31 million investment in harm reduction to prevent hepatitis C amongst people who inject drugs and other at-risk populations.

## DRUG POLICY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In September 2023, the [Report](#) of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) outlined human rights challenges in addressing and countering current attitudes to drugs. It offered an overview of recent positive developments, advocating for a shift towards more human rights-centred drug policies with recommendations on the way forward. It highlights the lack of, and unequal access to, drug treatment and harm reduction services which result in nearly 600,000 drug-related deaths each year from viral hepatitis, HIV, overdose, and injuries. Other major issues of concern include: the failure of the war on drugs and current drug control measures, overincarceration and prison overcrowding, the use of the death penalty for drug offences and the disproportionate impact on groups such as Indigenous peoples, people of African descent, women, children, and young people.

In April 2023, the UN Human Rights Council concluded its 52<sup>nd</sup> Session, adopting for the third time a [Resolution](#) on the human rights implication of drug policy. The resolution, which now makes explicit supportive reference to harm reduction, reaffirms member states' commitment to uphold human rights for all on the development and implementation of drug policies. It calls on member states to consider alternatives to incarceration, conviction and punishment.

In December 2022, advocates welcomed historic support for UN General Assembly [Resolution](#) on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. In the same period, the Council of the European Union stated its support for a human rights-based approach to drug policies in its [outcome document](#) and encourages countries to "strongly oppose imposition of disproportionate and inhumane penalties for drug-related offences, such as the death penalty."

In April 2023, Malaysia<sup>e</sup> abolished the mandatory death penalty for all offences (including drug-related offences). Indonesia's new criminal code, enacted in December 2022, which will come into force in January 2026, introduces a system of 'probation' for people on death row.

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Designed by ESCOLA.

### Methodology

The information presented in the Global State of Harm Reduction 2023 Update has been gathered with the support regional and national partners who provided quantitative and qualitative data updates. A desk review of the relevant literature was conducted scanning research papers and reports from relevant stakeholders including from harm reduction and drug policy colleagues, technical partners, civil society and networks of people who use drugs.

**To report any inaccuracies, please contact us at [office@hri.global](mailto:office@hri.global).**

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<sup>e</sup> In Malaysia, mandatory death penalty for all offences was abolished in April 2023, the new law came into force in July 2023 with at least 1,300 people on death row eligible for sentencing review, most of whom are convicted for drug trafficking.