



Dear GPC Key Populations Community of Practice member,

The 8th KP COP event was held on 29 November 2023 and focused on harm reduction interventions for people who inject and use drugs. We thank you for your participation and interesting discussion.

▼ Scroll down for resources and reflections from the event



We had over 100 unique participants attend across the two sessions

Event highlights

Daria Matyushina (UNAIDS) opened the session and set the objectives of the online event, including understanding the needs and roles of PWU/ID in scaling harm reduction interventions, orienting participants on the key elements of these programmes, and sharing how national governments have spearheaded scaled-up interventions in their countries.

Monica Ciupagea (UNODC) then presented on a global overview of harm reduction interventions. The presentation highlighted an increase in drug injection and related health issues like hepatitis C globally, emphasising the need for harm reduction strategies.

PWUD networks shared their experiences and challenges in implementing community led harm reduction programmes:



Angela McBride (South Africa, NPUD) emphasised the importance of supporting existing harm reduction initiatives that are "run and done" by PWU/IDs themselves

Edo Augustin (Indonesia, PKNI) reflected on the use of data in support of evidence-based decision making and advocating for harm reduction programming in the country



Edem Ekpenyong (Nigeria, NPUD) touched on challenges related to the distribution of needles and the lack of methadone availability

Oleg Dumar (Ukraine, VOLNA) highlighted the integration of harm reduction services and the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the ongoing conflict in Ukraine



Representatives from government and civil society organisations also presented on their country experiences:



Dr. Do Huu Thuy (Vietnam, Authority for AIDS Control) highlighted key enablers for Vietnam's harm reduction efforts, namely supportive government policy, good collaboration with MoH, international support, and meaningful participation with civil society

Tinatin Sagymbaeva (Kyrgyzstan, Ministry of Health) presented efforts within Kyrgyzstan to integrate harm reduction into their health system



Timothy Kilonzi (Kenya, National Syndemic Diseases Control Council) noted that a positive policy environment, participation of the community and strong coordination mechanism has helped in scaling harm reduction programmes in the country

Tetiana Deshko (Ukraine, Alliance for Public Health) discussed the impact of the war but through innovative solutions, like mobile clinics, online consultations, and artificial intelligence, programmes have continued



PEPFAR and the Global Fund emphasised the importance of efficient and sustainable service delivery, with reference to take-home dosing methods and community-led responses. They also recognised the need for improved advocacy and funding to meet growing demands in harm reduction services.

Catch the [SSLN Satellite Session](#) coming up at ICASA on Saturday 9th December where we will be furthering the conversation on harm reduction.

Speaker presentations ▼

Morning session / Afternoon session



Webinar recordings ▼

Morning session / Afternoon session



**Participant perspectives on challenges with scaling
harm reduction programmes**



Add to your resource list

Practical guides: *Establishing and delivering evidence-based, high-quality opioid agonist therapy services | Addressing the Specific Needs of Women Who Inject Drugs*

Reports: *Continuation of opioid agonist therapy and needle and syringe programmes during the Covid-19 pandemic*

Advocacy briefs: *How we can draw on the experience of COVID-19 to improve access to opioid agonist therapy | Addressing gender-based violence against women and people of diverse gender identity and expression who use drugs*

Technical Guides: *HIV Prevention, Treatment, Care and Support for People Who Use Stimulant Drugs | Addressing the Specific Needs of Women Who Use Drugs | Technical Guidance on Tailoring Vaccination Campaigns and COVID-19 Services for PWUD*

Access the recordings of the previous webinars through the SSLN YouTube channel ▼

1. [Financing & sustaining Key Population programmes \(session 1\)](#)
2. [Financing & sustaining Key Population programmes \(session 2\)](#)
3. [Scaling up effective programmes with young Key Populations \(session 1\)](#)
4. [Scaling up effective programmes with young Key Populations \(session 2\)](#)
5. [Navigating the WHO's 2022 Consolidated Guidelines \(session 1\)](#)
6. [Navigating the WHO's 2022 Consolidated Guidelines \(session 2\)](#)
7. [Measuring and monitoring the KP programme outputs and outcomes at national and global level \(session 1\)](#)

8. [Measuring and monitoring the KP programme outputs and outcomes at national and global level](#) (session 2)

Reach out to us

For more information on the Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC), the Key Populations Community of Practice (KP COP), or support towards implementing harm reduction programmes, please reach out to us and visit our websites: [GPC website](#) | [SSLN website](#)

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