



HARM REDUCTION
INTERNATIONAL

Annual Report 2018

At the intersection
of drug policy,
public health
and human rights

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Letter from the Executive Director



2018 was a momentous year for Harm Reduction International, which continued to evolve and maintain its position as a leader working at the intersection of drug policy, human rights and public health.

In September, we said goodbye to Dr Rick Lines, who moved into academia after 11 years with Harm Reduction International – including eight as the Executive Director. It is a privilege to for me to step into this role and lead an organisation with such a strong history of cutting edge research and analysis.

We began implementing our 2018-2020 Strategic Plan, and further honed our areas of expertise, focusing on four streams of work: Public Health and Social Policy; Human Rights and Justice; Sustainable Financing; and, the international conference.

I am immensely proud of our work in 2018, both in how it engaged decision makers in vital discussions on the health and wellbeing of our societies, and provided data and analysis for human rights advocates around the world. Highlights included our most ambitious global mapping of harm reduction interventions ever, unique documentation of the death penalty for drug offences, and ground-breaking research on funding for harm reduction. Collectively, these initiatives pushed debate forward and ensured Harm Reduction International's work remains at the forefront of global advocacy and analysis.

Harm Reduction International continued to build and strengthen alliances with local, national and international networks of people who use drugs, academia and civil society to

advance our common objectives of securing the rights, health and dignity of people who use drugs. These alliances included work with frontline lawyers and advocates in Asia, research with community organisations across Sub-Saharan Africa, and collaborative initiatives with UNAIDS, the World Health Organization and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Harm reduction is now rightly understood as something more than a medical response to infectious diseases. The issues closest to our hearts are inextricably linked with issues of race and health, poverty and gender, discrimination and criminalisation. We are committed to calling out complacency in public policy, communicating the evidence for harm reduction and connecting our vision with other movements to achieve truly inclusive, fair and equal societies.

We finished 2018 enthusiastic about the next steps in our work with new allies and movements around the world, and proud of our strategic engagement with UN agencies, multilateral institutions and government representatives.

Sincere thanks to all of our allies and partners who collaborate with and support us in our fight for social justice, and to our donors, without whom none of our work would be possible.

We look forward to another ambitious year.

Naomi Burke-Shyne

Executive Director

Harm Reduction International

Harm Reduction International is a leading NGO dedicated to reducing the negative health, social and legal impacts of drug use and drug policy. We promote the rights of people who use drugs and their communities through research and advocacy to help achieve a world where drug policies and laws contribute to healthier, safer societies.

The organisation is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

We work to ensure that lifesaving harm reduction interventions are adequately funded; to monitor gaps and progress globally in the availability of health and social services for people who use drugs; and, to ensure nobody's rights are violated in the name of drug control. This work comes together at our biennial international conference, which is the main global forum for the exchange of information and best practice at the intersection of human rights, drug policy and harm reduction.

Harm Reduction International is an international, not-for-profit NGO. It is a charitable company limited by guarantee, meaning it is incorporated and registered with the UK Charity Commission (Charity Number – 1117375) and at Companies House (Company number – 3223265).

Strategic Plan 2018-2020

Harm Reduction International began a new strategic period in 2018, which built on the work carried out under the Strategic Plan 2014-17.

Harm Reduction International takes on the Strategic Plan 2018-2020 under our ongoing vision and mission.

Vision:

Our vision is a world in which individuals and communities benefit from drug policies, practices and laws that promote health, dignity and human rights.

Mission:

Harm Reduction International works to reduce drug-related harms by promoting evidence-based public health policy and practices, and human rights-based approaches to harm reduction through an integrated programme of research, analysis, advocacy and partnerships.

The Strategic Plan 2018-2020 was developed through internal consultation - including reflections on the impact of the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 - and followed by external consultation with key partners and experts. The Strategic Plan 2018-2020 carries forward a focus on strengthening the evidence base, and encouraging political and financial commitments to harm reduction.

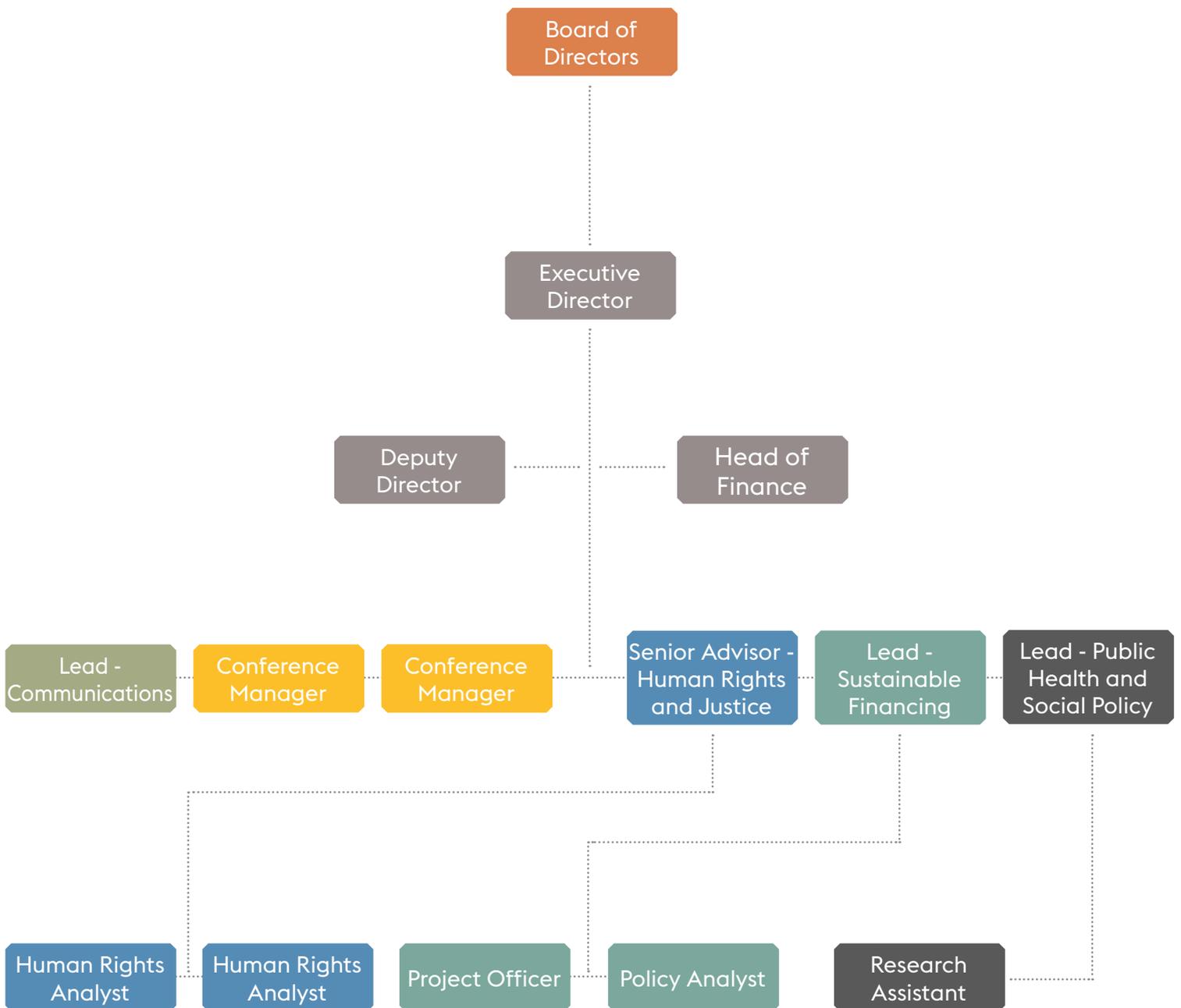
The Strategic Plan 2018-2020 pursues our mission through the following strategic objectives:

1. To build and share the evidence-base for harm reduction policies, practices and laws
2. To strengthen constituencies and build new allies to advocate for harm reduction and human rights
3. To increase political will to protect, respect and fulfil the human rights of vulnerable individuals and communities, by funding and implementing harm reduction

Outputs from each of Harm Reduction International's four teams support achievement of the strategic objectives.

Our organisational objectives articulated in the Strategic Plan 2018-2020 include maintaining strong financial management practices, and further diversifying our fund base; motivating and supporting staff and management; and, ensuring our work is supported by good governance and effective oversight mechanisms.

The Organisation



Governance – Our Board of Directors

Harm Reduction International is governed by a board of directors under a foundations model of governance, in which the directors are also the members of the organisation. Board appointments are made by resolution of the board itself.

As a charitable company, the board of directors also serve as trustees of Harm Reduction International, in compliance with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Our board of directors as of 31 December 2018 were:

Mr John Ryan (Chair)

Ms Susie McLean (Vice-Chair)

Mr Ivan Varentsov (Secretary)

Ms Patricia Haddad (Treasurer)

Prof. Patrick O'Hare

Ms Alison Crocket

Ms Olga Belyaeva

In 2018, the Harm Reduction International board of directors committed to strengthening the skills and diversity of the board. In late 2018, the board appointed two new members with expertise in communications and public relations, and development and health financing, to join the board in 2019.

Networks and Advisory Groups

Harm Reduction International actively participates in international and regional fora, and initiatives to build networks that strengthen harm reduction advocacy around the world. These activities support the achievement of the organisation's strategic objectives.

Harm Reduction International is an invited, expert member of the Strategic Advisory Group to the United Nations on HIV and Drug Use (SAG), and leads the SAG's working group on financing for harm reduction.

To advance our UN level advocacy, Harm Reduction International contributes to the Vienna NGO Committee and the Civil Society Taskforce on Drugs (a joint initiative of the Vienna and New York NGO Committees), the

World Health Organisation Working Group on Hepatitis and Substance Use, and the Geneva Platform on Health, Human Rights, and Psychoactive Substances.

At regional and national levels, we contribute to the EU Civil Society Forum on Drugs; the United Kingdom Harm Reduction Working Group, and the Correlation European Harm Reduction Network.

Harm Reduction International is a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, STOPAIDS, the Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) and the nascent Working Group on Stimulants and Harm Reduction.



Our Work



Public Health and Social Policy

In December 2018, we published the sixth and most comprehensive edition of our flagship publication - the Global State of Harm Reduction. The report continued its tradition of mapping global data and responses to HIV and hepatitis C epidemics related to injecting and non-injecting drug use around the world. In addition, this report was our most ambitious in scope, covering for the first time harm reduction responses to stimulant use and new psychoactive substances, and gender sensitive services for women who use drugs.

The Global State of Harm Reduction remains the only independent analysis on harm reduction developments worldwide – both in terms of policy and service provision - and is a leading resource for academics, advocates and UN agencies, among others. The 2018 report benefitted from the coordinated effort of over 100 harm reduction practitioners, academics, advocates and activists from around the world - a testament to Harm Reduction International's strong links with actors at local, national, regional and international levels.

We reported in 2018 that the global harm reduction response has effectively stalled since 2014. Overdose, HIV and hepatitis C crises continue, among myriad health and social problems related to drug use and drug policy, yet many countries are neglecting them in favour of punitive approaches to drug use. The harm reduction response to stimulant use remains severely limited; however, innovative interventions are emerging in every region.

The Public Health and Social Policy team conducts original research and analysis to track developments in harm reduction and ensure people who use drugs have the health and social services they need.

Our independent analysis focuses on the uptake of harm reduction approaches worldwide, both in terms of policy and service delivery, to support advocacy in the scale-up of harm reduction. Further, we track innovative reduction programmes for particular populations of people who use drugs, including women and people in prison.

Our continual monitoring of trends in harm reduction helps to inform the evidence-base in this area, and serves as a resource for people working in the fields of public health, human rights and drug use.



The launch of the Global State received significant attention among international media - including pieces in outlets in Nigeria, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand - and was the subject of a dedicated article in TIME Magazine. The Global State launch event, held at The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand in Bangkok, was livestreamed and has received over 1,000 views.

Research from the Global State of Harm Reduction is the foundation of our international advocacy work – supporting our engagement in 2018 at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, the inaugural East African Harm Reduction conference in Nairobi, and at the 4th European Harm Reduction Conference in Bucharest. At each of these fora we presented our latest analysis on global trends in health and social services for people who use drugs, and reaffirmed the well-established evidence base for harm reduction – showing it is cost-effective, protects against HIV and hepatitis C, and saves lives.

We were proud to be a joint host of the Third Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Harm Reduction in Bangkok with the Global Partnership on Drug Policies and Development (on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), the Thai Office of Narcotics Control Board (ONCB), and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC). The EGM is a critical forum for the exchange of information and understanding on harm reduction trends and best practice between government decision makers and civil society. Harm Reduction International presented its latest research on innovative harm reduction responses for stimulant users in Asia and around the world, emphasising that while new responses have emerged, they are currently small scale and ad hoc.

Recognising our role at the forefront of monitoring and analysis of harm reduction trends, in late 2018 the Public Health and Social Policy team co-ordinated the establishment of a new international Working Group on Stimulants and Harm Reduction. This group is comprised of experts and practitioners advancing the evidence base, and advocating the scaled up harm reduction response, for stimulant use.

Finally, the Public Health and Social Policy team actively increased engagement with the European harm reduction community – including through a new advisory role with the Correlation monitoring project. The team has continued to build new alliances in sectors where work intersects with our advocacy aims – especially in hepatitis treatment and prevention, and prison reform – by bringing expertise to these areas.



Human Rights and Justice

In 2018, we further strengthened the evidence base for advocacy toward abolition of the death penalty for drug offences through publication of our fifth Global Overview on this subject. Harm Reduction International remains the only organisation conducting research and analysis specifically on the death penalty for drug offences.

The Global Overview found that between January 2015 and December 2017, at least 1,320 people are known to have been executed for drug-related offences in at least five countries: China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Singapore (figures from China are not included in this number due to the lack of reliable estimates). Iran remained the most prolific executioner for drug offences, accounting for nearly 90% of all known drug-related executions during the period analysed.

The report also analysed the increased utilisation of extrajudicial killings in Southeast Asia as part of violent anti-drug campaigns. Our continual monitoring of human rights abuses such as these enabled us to provide timely opinion on developments in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in 2018, through the publication of op-eds with Project Syndicate, Filter Magazine and others.

At the international policy level, we underscored human rights violations committed in the context of drug control and worked to increase political commitment to the rights of people who use drugs. We did this by providing data and analysis on the death penalty for drug offences, compulsory detention

The Human Rights and Justice team monitors rights abuses committed globally in the name of drug control, and advocates to promote the human rights of people who use drugs and their communities.

Currently, our research and analysis tracks use of the death penalty for drug offences, extrajudicial killings, and the compulsory detention of people who use drugs, to help fight for the rights of some of the most marginalised groups in society, including incarcerated people.

Our advocacy places human rights firmly at the centre of a harm reduction approach to punitive drugs policies and laws, recognising these to be detrimental to achieving the right to health for all and improving public safety.



and drug treatment to mandated UN bodies – including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Committee, and the UN Human Rights Council.

Additionally, in partnership with local activists, we engaged in the Universal Periodic Review of China and Malaysia through submissions and advocacy with states and UN agencies, and organised side events at the UN Commission on Narcotics Drugs in Vienna and at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. These events included participation from the former President of Switzerland and member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, Ruth Dreifuss, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the EU and the former mayor of Prague and member of the Global Commission on Drug Policy, Pavel Bem.

We continued to build and strengthen our networks with key civil society partners both at the local and at the international level through participation in advisory and working groups, and took action to strengthen the link between the human rights and drug policy fields. One example of this was Harm Reduction International's convening of Indonesian human rights lawyers to strengthen skills and strategies for legal representation in capital drug cases, with lessons from Malaysia, India and the Philippines. The meeting was co-organised with the Institute of Criminal Justice Reform and LBH Masyarakat, and provided an opportunity for capacity building and enhancing collaboration on efforts to end the death penalty.



Sustainable Financing

The Sustainable Financing team provided ground-breaking new evidence in 2018 on the state of harm reduction funding in low- and middle-income countries and its implications for the global HIV response with the publication of its latest research at the 22nd International AIDS Conference (IAC) in Amsterdam.

The report - The lost decade: Neglect for harm reduction funding and the health crisis among people who use drugs - found that in 2016, US\$188 million was allocated for harm reduction. This is the same amount as in 2007 and just 13% of the US\$1.5 billion that UNAIDS estimates is required annually by 2020 for an effective response to HIV among people who inject drugs. The report also found international donor funding - which accounts for two thirds of all harm reduction funding - fell by almost one quarter from 2007-16.

The report's findings were amplified through an exclusive opinion piece in Devex and received pickup in international media, including in AFP, which was republished in Malaysia, France, and the Philippines.

Launching the report at the IAC enabled the team to engage with donors and other key stakeholders on the need to address the harm reduction funding crisis. This included the Strategic Advisory Group to the UN on HIV and Drug Use, presenting these results directly to the Executive Director of the Global Fund, and collaborative presentations with UNAIDS, UNODC and the International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD).

The Sustainable Financing team provides tools, strategic analysis and evidence to support advocacy for the adequate funding of harm reduction.

We are the only non-governmental organisation tracking harm reduction funding trends globally - including support provided by international donors and domestic governments - and the impact these have on the global HIV and other health responses.

We support advocacy for increased investment in harm reduction, including campaigning for the redirection of funding from ineffective drug law enforcement to harm reduction and work with national partners to gather evidence to inform budget advocacy.



In recognition of the Global Fund’s crucial role in financing harm reduction – it remains the largest donor worldwide – the Sustainable Financing team focused much of its advocacy in 2018 on this donor. In May 2018, we issued a targeted briefing to Global Fund Board Members, calling upon them to support changes that would help to achieve the goal of ending AIDS for people who inject drugs and other key populations.

To complement efforts to increase international donor commitments for harm reduction, we began to explore the particular role that philanthropic donors might play in addressing the funding crisis for harm reduction. Our research found that while philanthropic donors were major contributors to the HIV response, only 1% of this funding was allocated to harm reduction in low and middle-income countries. With this in mind, we engaged with the Funders Concerned About AIDS (FCAA) and shared our research at their Annual Summit in Washington DC in November 2018, which included philanthropic donors and private foundations such as amfAR, Robert Carr Fund, Open Society Foundations, the Levi Strauss Foundation and Viiv Healthcare.

In an effort to link local advocacy to global efforts, a significant portion of our work in 2018 was focused on supporting research and campaigning in Asia for increased harm reduction funding. We developed and supported the implementation of tools to track harm reduction investment with national partners in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Together with detailed research on law enforcement expenditure, the body of evidence we have amassed on the benefits of financing harm reduction adequately forms the basis for campaigns in Thailand and Indonesia. These advocate the redirection of resources from drug law enforcement to harm reduction approaches, and Harm Reduction International strengthened its support of domestic advocates through the delivery of two capacity-building workshops and materials to guide campaign launches.



International Conference

The International Conference team spent 2018 planning for the 2019 international conference (HR19) to be held in Porto, Portugal. Together with the local conference partner, Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento (APDES), the team worked to determine the key themes and selling points for the conference, to encourage the submission of abstracts and to identify major partners. Further, it managed the logistics for the conference, appointing key suppliers and arranging services to be delivered at HR19.

The Conference team settled on the theme of 'People Before Politics' for HR19. This helped convey the core of the conference's key message – placing people's lives before misguided political ideology on drugs – and provide engaging materials to help increase registration numbers and sponsorship/funding.

A range of digital advertising materials were created to regularly promote the conference via social media and emails to subscribers, and helped ensure that by the end of 2018, registration numbers were outpacing those for the previous Harm Reduction International Conference. In addition, HR19 received a larger number of abstracts than were submitted for the 2017 conference.

Harm Reduction International's history is firmly rooted in the Harm Reduction International Conference, which began in Liverpool in 1990.

The conference - now held biennially - is an integral part of our work to mobilise for reform.

The conference is the main global forum for the exchange of information at the intersection of human rights, public health and drug policy and attracts over 1,000 international delegates, including service providers, policy makers, UN officials, researchers, advocates and networks of people who use drugs, among others.

PEOPLE AS PESSOAS
BEFORE POLITICS ANTES DA POLITICA

 **HR19**

PORTO 28 APRIL – 1 MAY 2019

In November 2018, Harm Reduction International hosted the Executive Programme Committee (EPC) in London. Over three days, this group of representative experts from the harm reduction field around the world reviewed more than 1,200 abstracts and created the sessions that would go on to make up the HR19 programme. The EPC came after an initial review of the abstracts by over 100 people from around the world as part of an online international review process.



Statement of Financial Position

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2018	
Fixed Assets	
Tangible Assets	£22,667
Current Assets	
Debtors	£330,192
Cash at Bank and in hand	£161,117
	£491,309
Creditors	(£439,674)
Net Current Assets	£51,635
Net Assets	£74,302
Charity Funds	
Restricted	£139,775
Unrestricted	(£65,473)
	£74,302

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	2018	2018	2018
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	£218		£218
Charitable activities	£227,874	£417,168	£645,042
Investments	£92		£92
Total Income	£228,184	£417,168	£645,352
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	£371,282	£377,317	£748,599
Total expenditure	£228,184	£417,168	£645,352
Net income/ (expenditure) before transfers	(£143,098)	£39,851	(£103,247)
Transfers between Funds	(£44)	£44	-
Net income/ (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	£143,142	£39,895	(£103,247)
Net movement in funds	£143,142	£39,895	(£103,247)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	£77,669	£99,880	£177,549
Total funds carried forward	(£65,473)	£139,775	£74,302

Harm Reduction International is supported by

- Open Society Foundations
- The European Commission
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- Robert Carr Fund for civil society networks
- Elton John AIDS Foundation
- MAC Aids Fund
- The World Health Organization
- Government of Switzerland Federal Office of Public Health



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