

# **Scientific research and innovation: what is the future of African harm reduction?**

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# What are the main challenges for R&I in Africa?

- Engage & empower Civil Society...
- Transform findings in actions...!
- Popular/community appropriation
- South-south collaboration: intra and inter-universities
- Research with « reduced » means, at human scale: Its, ...

## 1. Advocacy:

- reduction vs prohibition, regulations & laws
- Targets: health professionals, parliamentarians, governments, firms& industries

## 2. Clinical research

## 3. Action targeting the youngest: **schools**

# How can PH research boost harm reduction programs?

1. **Identifying context-specific needs:** cultural practices, prevalence & distribution of substance use, high risk behaviors ...

Research can help tailor specific harm reduction programs

2. **Building evidence for interventions** (Capture local data)

Effectiveness of Harm Reduction interventions

Robust data for advocacy

3. **Advocacy through data**

4. **Addressing stigma & discrimination**

Insight to design community based awareness campaigns

5. **Informing policies & resources allocation**

Ex: cost effectiveness studies to compare harm reduction strategies with punitive measures

# How can PH research boost harm reduction programs?-2

## **6. Capacity building**

Identifying needs

Engaging civil societies & communities

## **7. Addressing cross border issues**

Drug traffic

Sex trade

Help harmonize policies, strategies, legislation