



Annual Report 2024



International
Network of People
who Use Drugs



“Our community continues to face much adversity, be it stigma, political instability, funding shortfalls, or repression, but we meet these challenges with unwavering solidarity and vision. Whether fighting to expand access to harm reduction, demanding a seat at the table for our communities, or speaking truth to power at all levels of governance, INPUD remains the global standard bearer for drug user-led resistance and reform.”

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Letter From the Executive Director

To our community, supporters, and fellow advocates across the globe,

After previously serving as Chair of the Board, it is an honour to address you as INPUD's Executive Director for the first time. Taking on this role at the juncture of 2024 and 2025—at such a pivotal moment for our movement—is both an honour and a responsibility I accept in service to all people who use drugs around the world.

I would first like to take a moment to thank my predecessor, Judy Chang, for leading INPUD through 7 years of growth and successful advocacy. Since she was brought on as Executive Director in 2017, Judy oversaw a period of growth that expanded our impact on global advocacy and human rights institutions, while working tirelessly to open up new funding streams and assistance for national and regional networks of people who use drugs. Judy masterfully shepherded INPUD through the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw our communities left behind by governments as our global health systems unravelled. Through this difficult time, Judy ensured INPUD remained true to its mission of centring the voices of people who use drugs in all levels of advocacy. Her impact on our community is immeasurable, and we wish her all the best in the next steps.

This past year was marked by powerful reminders of our community's strength, creativity, and determination. We have continued to defy marginalisation and push back against systems that criminalise, stigmatise, and ignore us. We have demonstrated—once again—that people who use drugs are not only experts in their own

lives but also leaders in shaping the future of health, human rights, and social justice.

In 2024, INPUD made bold strides to demand community inclusion on drug decriminalisation at the global level, continuing a decade of advocacy on this issue. Decriminalisation is not merely a policy we champion—it is an organising force across regions. From South Africa to Nigeria and from Kyrgyzstan to Costa Rica, we supported drug user-led networks in building legal advocacy strategies, conducting national assessments, and directly influencing funders and decision makers to include decriminalisation as a key priority.

Furthermore, this year, INPUD made history as the first drug user-led network selected to deliver short-term technical assistance under the Global Fund's CE-SI programme. We supported the submission of two UPR shadow reports by national drug user networks in Nigeria and Kenya. We led community-based research on hepatitis C prevention in multiple countries. We also advanced critical conversations on pandemic preparedness, human rights, and governance reform. Along the way, we also looked inward to strengthen our governance processes and initiated the process of drafting a new strategic plan for 2025–2029.

Our community continues to face much adversity, be it stigma, political instability, funding shortfalls, or repression, but we meet these challenges with unwavering solidarity and vision. Whether fighting to expand access to harm reduction, demanding a seat at the table for our communities, or speaking truth to power at all levels of governance, INPUD remains the global standard bearer for drug user-led resistance and reform.

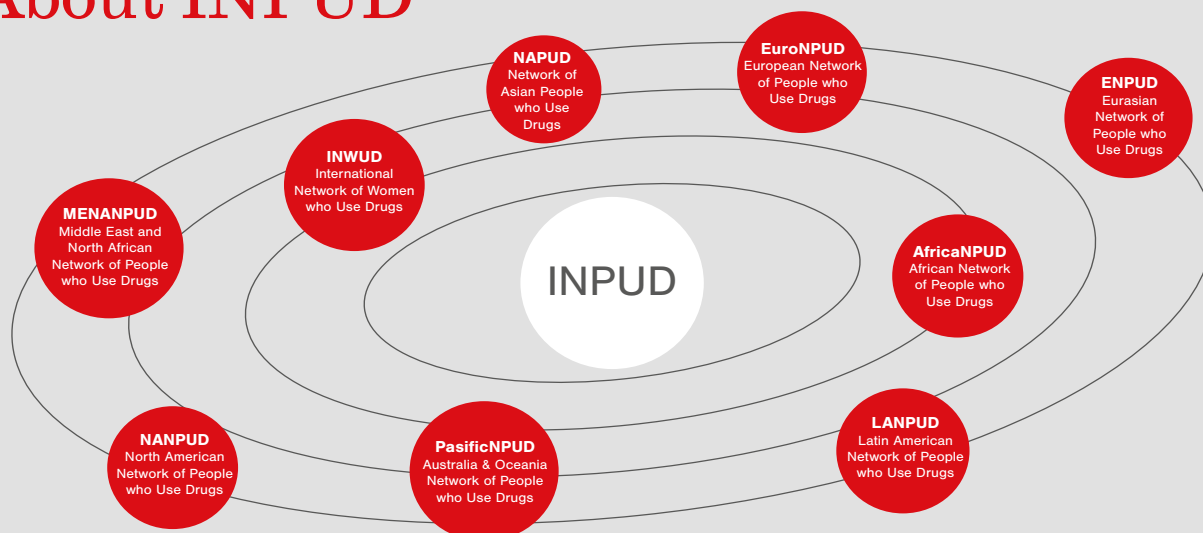
To our networks, allies, donors, and every person who uses drugs and continues to believe in our shared struggle: thank you. You are the heart of this movement. Together, we will keep pushing, keep building, and keep claiming our right to live in dignity and freedom.

In solidarity,

Anton Basenko

Executive Director, International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD)

About INPUD



The International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) is a global peer-based organisation that seeks to promote the health and defend the rights of people who use drugs.

INPUD exposes and challenges stigma, discrimination, and the criminalisation of people who use drugs and their impact on the drug-using community's health and rights. We achieve this through processes of empowerment and advocacy at the international level while supporting empowerment and advocacy at community, national, and regional levels. INPUD's founding document is the Vancouver Declaration, which was developed at the 2006 International Harm Reduction Conference in Vancouver. The [Vancouver Declaration](#) sets out the demands of people who use drugs and emphasises that our human rights must be respected and our health and well-being prioritised.

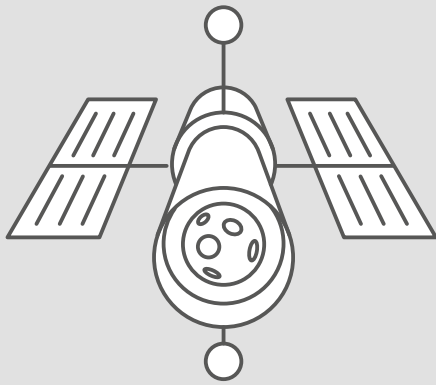
INPUD believes that people who use drugs should be meaningfully represented in decision-making processes that affect our lives. We seek to represent people who use drugs in international agencies, such as the United Nations and those undertaking international development work, to demonstrate that the unique insight of people who use drugs can deliver better results in health, harm reduction, and HIV treatment/prevention for individuals and the wider community. We are asking the international community to stop always framing us as the problem and instead recognise that we are part of the solution when it

comes to addressing problems associated with drugs and drug policy around the world.

INPUD works with and through regional networks and the International Network of Women who Use Drugs (INWUD) to achieve common aims and objectives. All member organisations are required to endorse and support the values and principles within the Vancouver Declaration and our Consensus Statement on Drug Use under Prohibition—Health, Human Rights, and the Law. Alongside INWUD, INPUD's current members are the Pacific Network of People who Use Drugs (PaNPUD), the African Network of People who Use Drugs (AfricaNPUD), the Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs (ENPUD), the European Network of People who Use Drugs (EuroNPUD), the Latin American Network of People who Use Drugs (LANPUD), the Middle East and North African Network of People who Use Drugs (MENANPUD), the Network of Asian People who Use Drugs (NAPUD), and the North American Network of People who Use Drugs (NANPUD).

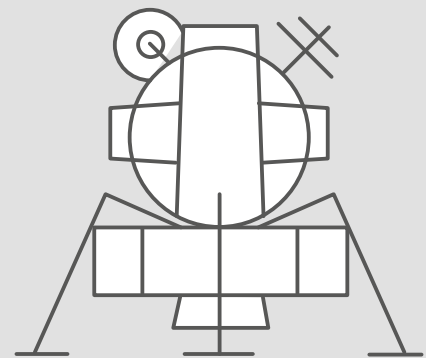
The Secretariat, which is registered in the United Kingdom, works on policy and advocacy, programmes, finance and administration, and management.

INPUD is governed by its Board of Directors, which represents the eight regional member networks and INWUD. These Directors are elected by the regions, are responsible for the stewardship of INPUD, and are accountable to the Boards or Steering Committees of their respective networks.



Vision

We envision a world where people who use drugs are free to live their lives with dignity.



Mission

INPUD is a global peer-based organisation that seeks to promote the health and defend the rights of people who use drugs by highlighting and challenging stigma, discrimination and the criminalisation of people who use drugs through processes of empowerment and advocacy at the international level while supporting empowerment and advocacy at community, national and regional levels.

Principles

Pro drug user rights: People who use drugs have the right to be treated with dignity and respect and to live their lives free from discrimination, stigma and health and human rights violations.

Pro self-determination and self-organising:

People who use drugs are best placed to represent their interests and the network will champion the prioritisation of people who use drugs in consultation and advocacy processes.

Pro harm reduction and safer drug use: Harm reduction services should be available and accessible to all people who use drugs, which includes information on safer drug use strategies.

Respecting the right of people to take drugs: We take a non-judgemental, rights-affirming approach to drug use and believe people who use drugs have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

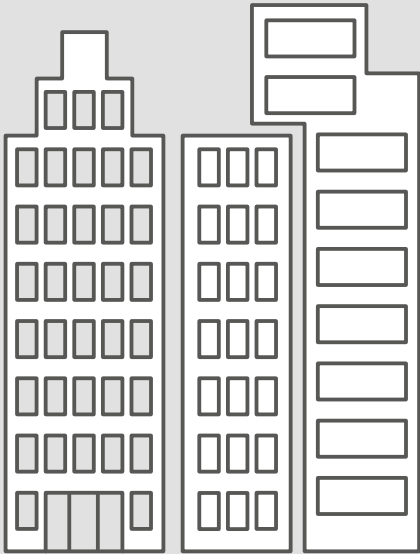
Pro legalisation: We are committed to achieving fundamental drug policy reform, including the full decriminalisation of drugs without sanctions as an intermediate reform on the path to INPUD's goal of legalisation of all drugs.

Pro equality: INPUD's organisational philosophy is based on self-determination, equity and social justice principles.

Goals

1. An end to drug prohibition, the legalisation of drugs and the protection of the human rights of people who use drugs.
2. Effective prevention, treatment, care and support for people who use drugs who are living with or affected by HIV, viral hepatitis, TB and other relevant health issues.
3. Universally available, low-threshold harm reduction to support safer drug use and reduce drug-related harm among people who use drugs.
4. Self-determining networks of people who use drugs that advocate for their own health, citizenship and human rights.

Structure and Governance



Secretariat

Current Secretariat:

Anton Basenko, Executive Director

Olga Szubert, Deputy Director

Tina Chkhaidze, Financial Manager

Chantelle Griebenhouw, Administration Officer

Annie Madden, Project Lead

Lana Durjava, Communications Lead

Aditia Taslim, Advocacy Lead

Isaac Ogunkola, Global Fund Programme Manager

Additional Secretariat Members in 2024:

Judy Chang, Executive Director

Kim Jackson, Office Manager

Gayané Arustamyan, Global Fund Programme Manager

Leah McLeod, Communications Specialist

Board of Directors

Louise Beale Vincent, United States (Interim Chair)
Representative of North American Network of People who Use Drugs (NANPUD)

Hassan Turaif, Bahrain (Treasurer)
Representative of Middle East and North African Network of People who Use Drugs (MENANPUD)

Happy Assan, Tanzania
Representative of International Network of Women who Use Drugs (INWUD)

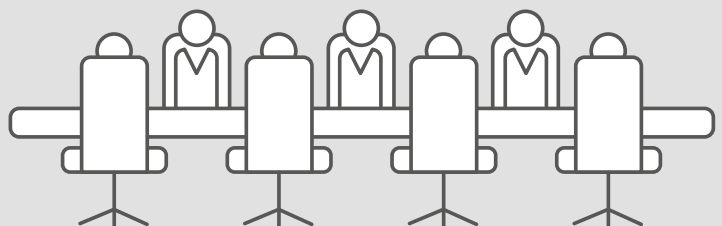
Ernesto Cortes, Costa Rica
Representative of Latin American Network of People who Use Drugs (LANPUD)

Jane Marie Dicka, Australia
Representative of Pacific Network of People who Use Drugs (PaNPUD)

John Melhus, Norway
Representative of European Network of People who Use Drugs (EuroNPUD)

Johann P Nadela, Philippines
Representative of Network of Asian People who Use Drugs (NAPUD)

Kassim Nyuni, Zanzibar
Representative of African Network of People who Use Drugs (AfricaNPUD)



Highlights and Achievements

Community Mobilisation and Empowerment

Jude Byrne Leadership Award and Mentorship Programme

Co-developed by INPUD and the International Network on Health and Hepatitis in Substance Users (INHSU), the [Jude Byrne Emerging Female Leader Award](#) aims to recognise and uplift the achievements of female activists who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to addressing the health and rights of people who use drugs. The award is named after legendary drug user activist Jude Byrne, a pioneering advocate for the human rights of people who use drugs and former chair of the INPUD board.

In 2024, the third year of the award, we received 26 nominations from 15 countries, highlighting the growing global presence of female leaders in this community. [Two recipients, as well as one special recognition awardee, were granted full scholarships to attend the INSHU conference.](#) They also participated in a mentorship programme co-developed with INPUD, designed to further enhance their leadership capacity and amplify their impact within their communities.

Congratulations to the 2024 awardees:

Alla Bessenova, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

“Kyrgyzstan and other EECA countries face increasingly oppressive governments that restrict civil society, especially in harm reduction and advocacy. With this award and mentorship, I hope to strengthen women-led networks and activists facing violence and human rights violations. The mentorship will also support me in conducting a gender assessment of HIV services for women who use drugs in Kyrgyzstan, building community capacity, and fostering partnerships to support human rights defenders and enhance community-led programmes.”

Sarah Whipple, Sacramento, California, USA

“I deeply admire Jude Byrne’s legacy of fearless drug user activism, and I am so excited to learn



Above: Judy Byrne, legendary drug user activist and a pioneering advocate for the human rights of people who use drugs

from mentors in the international harm reduction movement. One of my primary goals for the award is to develop a group that provides harm reduction resources to Sacramento’s LGBTQIA+ community. I also hope to develop skills in non-hierarchical leadership and resilience in the face of anti-harm reduction backlash.”

Special Recognition Award: Angela McBride, South Africa

“I’ve had the privilege of working for a community of people who use drugs in South Africa, who have faced some harsh realities but who have chosen to stand up and say no. No to hate, no to discrimination, no to violations, and yes to change, to harm reduction. Together, we’ve formed a powerful community, still growing, but a lot stronger and more aware than we were. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity and unbelievably thankful to the magnificent humans who I work alongside and have helped me be me, someone who supports her community with the love, kindness, and compassion they deserve. I am super excited to learn more about how I can become a better guide to my community and how to better navigate a forever-changing and quite intimidating global environment.”



Above: 2024 International Drug Users Day

International Drug Users Day—“Drug Use = Our Choice, Abstinence = Your Choice, Prohibition = No Choice”

Every year on International Drug Users Day (November 1st), people who use drugs all over the world celebrate our history and affirm our rights. INPUD was formally launched on International Drug Users’ Day in 2008 by drug user rights activists seeking to create an international platform where members of our community could confidently and proudly advocate for the health and human rights of people who use drugs globally. Each year since, we have marked this day with a celebration of our diverse, vibrant communities’ accomplishments, while also acknowledging that our work is more critical than ever. [For the 2024 campaign](#), INPUD provided 35 small grants to national networks across Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas, enabling national and local advocacy efforts across these regions.

Mobilising Community on the CUTTS Hep C Project

INPUD, as a member of the consortium led by Médecins du Monde, continues to lead global community engagement efforts for the CUTTS Hep C Project—an ambitious international initiative aimed at improving hepatitis C prevention, testing, and treatment for people who inject drugs. Working alongside community partners in Armenia, Georgia, and Tanzania, INPUD trained and supported local researchers to carry out studies that centre the voices of people who use drugs. These studies explored the community’s preferences and experiences with low-dead-space syringes and needles (LDSS/N), long-acting buprenorphine (LADB), and models of care for hepatitis C. By the end of the year, Phase 1 of the research was successfully completed in Armenia and Georgia, with analysis underway to guide the next stages. Although delays in ethics approvals postponed fieldwork in Tanzania, INPUD ensured all

preparations and trainings were completed so work could begin in 2025.

INPUD also took on the role of Secretariat for the project’s Community Advisory Board (CAB) across all three consortia, covering a total of 10 countries. In this capacity, we were responsible for coordinating meetings, supporting board members, and strengthening the board’s influence in project decision-making. Through international conferences, webinars, and policy forums, INPUD brought community-led research to the global stage—amplifying lived experience and pushing for better access to harm reduction tools and services. In parallel, INPUD launched a Community-Led Monitoring process to identify key challenges and prepare for grassroots advocacy efforts in the year ahead. Despite political and logistical challenges, INPUD remained committed to placing the voices and rights of people who use drugs at the centre of hepatitis C programming worldwide.

Strengthening Board Election Process

INPUD significantly improved its governance system by developing a structured action plan to strengthen governance, focusing on enhancing Board election processes. A comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and guiding document outlining the Board election process were developed. This framework included a sample call for nominations, clearly defined skills and selection criteria for candidates, Terms of Reference (ToR) for elected Board members, and guidance on establishing an electoral commission to oversee the process. Once completed, the Board approved the SOP and guiding document, establishing a transparent and structured approach to future Board elections.

As part of the governance strengthening process, INPUD also reviewed the Articles of Association and recommended amendments to align them with the revised electoral process. Additionally, annexes to the SOP were finalised to provide clarity on implementation. These enhancements have significantly improved the transparency, accountability, and effectiveness of Board governance, ensuring that future leadership transitions are both structured and inclusive.

INPUD Strategic Plan (2025–2029): Community, Conviction, and Collaboration Are Catalysts of Change: Defending the Health, Rights, and Dignity of People who Use Drugs Globally

With our previous strategic plan expiring in 2024, INPUD initiated the process to draft a new strategic plan. We started by creating an outline based on previous years, including soliciting feedback and insights gathered from our partners, donors, and other key stakeholders. This process contributed to an internal discussion held during our face-to-face board meeting, along with a dedicated meeting focused exclusively on the strategic plan's development. The new strategic plan is designed to enhance INPUD's direction and positioning within the global HIV landscape, as well as broader health, human rights, feminist, and social justice spheres. The strategic plan was finalised in 2025.

Programming and Technical Assistance

Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Engagement and Why It Is Important for People who Use Drugs—Technical Brief

In January 2024, INPUD published a technical brief shedding light on drug user engagement in the Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs) and identifying approaches to strengthen and support our community in Global Fund-related processes. INPUD spoke with community leaders in Nepal, Ukraine, Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Costa Rica to showcase their successes and challenges, share tips and advice to support other drug user-led networks in LMICs in engaging with their CCMs, and identify potential solutions to addressing existing barriers in CCM processes.

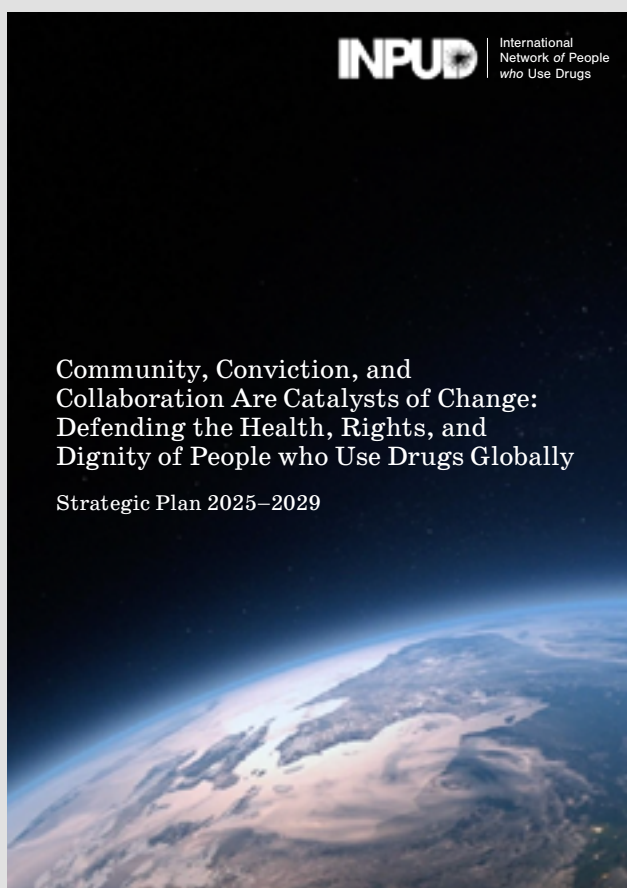
Providing Short-Term Technical Assistance Through the Global Fund CE-SI

In 2024, INPUD received new funding from the Global Fund to deliver short-term technical assistance (TA) through the Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CE-SI). Although secured in 2023, the implementation period spans from 2024 to 2026, with 2024 marking the first year of funding. Notably, this is the first time a drug user-led network has been selected as an official short-term TA provider—a milestone that highlights the growing recognition of community-led advocacy and reflects INPUD's long-standing, trusted partnership with the Global Fund.

Long-term and short-term technical assistance through CE-SI supported national networks in Nigeria, Kyrgyzstan, Tanzania, and Egypt, strengthening advocacy capacity and guiding community engagement in Global Fund processes. These initiatives ensured community-led priorities were integrated into funding requests and national HIV strategies. Notably, in Egypt, INPUD partnered with Al Shehab Foundation and Caritas Egypt, influencing the GC7 funding request to prioritise harm reduction and community-led programmes. This collaboration strengthened local advocacy capacity and advanced community-led engagement in national HIV funding decisions.

Amplifying the Voices of Communities in the Global Fund Grant Revision Process

Following up [on a successful webinar](#) in June 2024, INPUD published [technical guidance](#) advising drug user-led networks on the practice of renegotiating (or reprogramming) country-based, signed-off grants during the Global Fund's mid-cycle grant revision. This brief is intended to demystify the concept of the grant revision, provide an overview of revision types and processes, and address key barriers and opportunities for meaningful community engagement. INPUD's technical advice unpacks the scope and conditions of the community's involvement in grants revision, from how to build the necessary relationships to win a seat at the table, through understanding and applying the Global Fund's predefined triggers for review, to entering negotiations with an evidence-based case built by applying information gathered through community monitoring tools. The technical brief is available in English, French, Spanish, and Russian.



Top left: Strategic Plan 2025–2029

Top right: Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Engagement and Why It Is Important for People who Use Drugs

Bottom left: Amplifying the Voices of Communities in the Global Fund Grant Revision Process

Partnership Guide for Drug User-Led Networks: The Good, Bad and Ugly

[This Guide](#) has been written to provide drug user-led networks with invaluable advice for building the sorts of partnerships that will advance our movement and make us stronger. It draws from our regional networks' experience of making an effective audit of partnerships we have already forged and assessing new partnerships as they develop. As other key populations have found, partnerships not only bring in necessary funding but can also be wonderful collaborations that move our goals forward, where power is shared with us and we are introduced into a variety of relevant forums and projects. The guide is available in English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

Advocacy and Campaigning

Engaging in Cross-Sector Partnerships

INPUD continues to hold seats in global advocacy forums, working groups, and committees where we amplify the voices of people who use drugs.

Forums on drug policy, human rights, and harm reduction:

- UN Office on Drugs and Crime—Civil Society Organisation Group (UNODC-CSO)
- Drug Policy Consortium for the General Comment on the Impact of Drug Policies on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (The Consortium)
- UN Strategic Coordination Group on Drug Use, HIV, Health, and Human Rights (SCG)
- UNODC Working Group on Prisons

Forums on HIV and global health:

- Global Fund's Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CE-SI)
- International Network on Hepatitis in Substance Users (INHSU)—International Core Committee and Community Committee
- UNAIDS Global HIV Prevention Coalition—Working Group
- UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB)
- Community Delegation to the UNITAID Board
- WHO Technical Working Group on Hepatitis and People who Inject Drugs and the technical working group for people who inject drugs in prisons
- Developed Country NGO Delegation to the Global Fund Board (DevDel)

- Communities Delegation to the Global Fund Board
- Global Fund Community, Rights, and Gender (CRG) Advisory Group
- Global Health and Pandemic Preparedness Group
- UNITE Advisory Steering Committee

Additionally, INPUD continues to participate as an observer at the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB).

Hanging by a Thread: Towards a Pandemic Agreement

As part of INPUD's ongoing advocacy work on the WHO-initiated Pandemic Treaty, [INPUD crafted a strong document](#) presenting the key issues for communities of people who use drugs for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR). The submission reaffirms INPUD's commitment to evidence-based, community-led, rights- and equity-focused strategies and services that are adequately funded. Key recommendations promote a spirit of solidarity, equity, and access to person-centred healthcare, including advocating for the mainstreaming of human rights language throughout the Agreement and addressing significant inequities and barriers to enable adequate access to pathogen benefits and benefits sharing by Member States.

Additionally, in January 2024, [INPUD held a webinar](#) to discuss PPPR, development with the WHO-led Pandemic Accords, and what all of this means for communities of people who use and inject drugs at the country level. The webinar summarised key messages and action steps for ongoing engagement and advocacy on PPPR.



Top left: Partnership Guide for Drug User-Led Networks: The Good, Bad and Ugly

Top right: Annie Madden and Judy Chang giving update on UNAIDS hepatitis C portfolio of projects at INHSU2024 Community Day

Bottom right: Judy Chang presenting at World Hepatitis Summit 2024 in Lisbon

Bottom left: Hanging by a Thread: Ensuring People, Human Rights and Equality are at the Center of the Pandemic Agreement

Global Consultation Forum on the Impact of Drug Policies on the Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of People who Use Drugs

Early in 2024, [INPUD facilitated a consultation with 27 community members](#) and other stakeholders as part of an effort to shape the first-ever General Comment on drugs and drug policy by the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR). This General Comment clarified State obligations relating to the impact of drug policies on the enjoyment of rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Our consultation recommended that the General Comment produce guidance that addresses:

- the effects of criminalisation on state-sanctioned violence and law enforcement,
- the impacts of drug policies on access to health and the necessity of evidence-based harm reduction programming,
- the need for increased funding and support for community-led research and monitoring initiatives,
- the removal of barriers to employment and housing for people who use drugs,
- the necessity for legislation that explicitly protects people's right to bodily autonomy and prohibits coerced or forced medical interventions,
- the disproportionate impact of drug policies on women and the accompanying need for gender-sensitive harm reduction programmes, and
- the development and implementation of targeted poverty reduction strategies that comprehensively address the underlying social determinants of health.

This ongoing advocacy continues to influence the Treaty Body experts' recommendations, positioning community voices at the centre of international human rights dialogues. This engagement reinforces the importance of community perspectives in setting global human rights norms and ensures the experiences of people who use drugs guide future decision-making. This consultation is also part of the broader work of the Global Drug Policy Consortium for the General Comment on the Impact of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, funded by the Open Society Foundation.

Community Engagement in Human Rights Mechanisms

UPR Nigeria: In 2024, INPUD played a crucial role in supporting DHRAN's attendance at the 45th Universal Periodic Review (UPR) working group session. This engagement allowed DHRAN to observe the proceedings regarding Nigeria's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) review and to assess the effectiveness of our advocacy efforts. Our aim was to encourage supportive Member States to include progressive recommendations that could significantly impact the lives of people who use drugs in Nigeria. Through this collaboration, we could better understand the advocacy landscape and highlight the importance of our work in promoting the rights and well-being of people who use drugs. As a result of our work, Member States raised concerns about torture and inhumane treatment, aligning with the recommendations submitted by [DHRAN in their shadow report](#). DHRAN has since [established an MoU with the National Human Rights Commission](#) to monitor and document human rights violations affecting people who use drugs.

UPR Kenya: Building on the success achieved in Nigeria, INPUD extended its support to Women in Response to AIDS and Drug Addiction (WRADA) in Kenya, facilitating the submission of a [UPR shadow report](#) and engaging in advocacy efforts at the country level. WRADA led the formation of a coalition of drug user-led networks and organisations, consulted a wider community of people who use drugs, and successfully drafted and submitted the first shadow report from the community of people who use drugs for the 49th session of the UPR, where Kenya's commitments and human rights obligations will be assessed. This groundbreaking submission reinforces a commitment to advocating for the rights and needs of people who use drugs amid evolving legal and health challenges. INPUD played a crucial role by providing guidance and technical assistance in planning the country-level advocacy strategy. This included engaging and advocating with the permanent missions in Geneva during the UPR pre-session in early 2025.

Community Consultation on Decriminalisation

Over the past decade, INPUD has been championing community-led perspectives on decriminalisation, initiating crucial conversations that have established us as a thought leader on the issue. Through this work, we have strategically leveraged high-level platforms and partnerships to bring drug user voices to the heart of global guidance on decriminalisation. In 2024, this work reached a new stage as we secured funding and approval for a new collaboration with Release UK and the International Centre on Human Rights and Drug Policy (HRDP) at the University of Essex on a new project to shape global guidance on drug decriminalisation.

The objectives of this project are to:

- lead on the development of a UNAIDS publication and training materials on good practices in the decriminalisation of drug use and possession for personal use in relation to HIV outcomes,
- provide remote technical support to two to four UNAIDS country offices in post-meeting follow-up activities as required, and
- support the implementation of the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy and the United Nations System Common Position Supporting the Implementation of the International Drug Control Policy Through Effective Inter-Agency Collaboration (UN Common Position).

We began by organising a consultation with 35 representatives of the global community of people who use drugs. Findings from this consultation showed that most decriminalisation models are partial and can be punitive—flaws INPUD has previously highlighted via community-led perspectives in our publications “Is Decriminalisation Enough? Drug User Community Voices from Portugal” (2018) and “Progress or Political Red Herring” (2021). Consistent with this prior research, community members stressed the need for harm reduction, peer-led services, and social protections while highlighting concerns about administrative sanctions, legal thresholds, and healthcare access. Feedback from the community consultation was incorporated into the first draft of the UNAIDS Guidance Document on Decriminalisation. The community consultation was followed by a broader consultation with civil society organisations

in late 2024. This consultation solicited feedback on the first draft of the Guidance Document from UN agencies, academics, and NGOs. This feedback was incorporated into a second draft, which was discussed in a follow-up consultation 2 months later.

By contributing to high-level discussions on legal regulation, INPUD continues to showcase the importance of community-led narratives in shifting global drug policy debates. Conducting these consultations laid the groundwork for the development of the UNAIDS Guidance, calling for full decriminalisation, set to launch in April 2025. INPUD’s participation in the Amsterdam Cities Conference on Legal Regulation and our leadership role in the UN Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) further highlight the progress of this advocacy. Through our leadership in this initiative, INPUD is driving a global shift towards human rights-based drug policies, reinforcing its leadership in global drug policy reform and contributing to sustainable HIV responses.

Influencing the Global Fund to Strengthen Community-Led Harm Reduction

In 2024, INPUD deepened its strategic engagement with the Global Fund to strengthen the role of community-led harm reduction and HIV responses within Grant Cycle 7 (GC7). Through both short- and long-term Technical Assistance (TA) under the Community Engagement Strategic Initiative (CE-SI), INPUD supported national networks of people who use drugs in advocating for programming that reflects the lived experiences and needs of people who use drugs. In Egypt, INPUD facilitated consultations that shaped the country’s HIV/TB funding proposal. In Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, and Tanzania, sustained TA focused on building advocacy capacity and empowering local leadership to influence national HIV strategies. Notably, INPUD’s support in Nigeria led to a scale-up of needle and syringe programmes (NSP) from two to 19 sites, with accompanying work on monitoring opioid agonist treatment and naloxone distribution. In Kyrgyzstan, a needs assessment on synthetic drug use laid the groundwork for improved service delivery, and community participation in pilot projects for new treatments gained traction despite legal and regulatory hurdles.

Despite these gains, implementation challenges emerged in 2024, with delays in the Global Fund's programme delivery mechanisms and limited responsiveness from the Principal Recipient, underscoring the need for better coordination with community partners.

Advocating Against the Death Penalty in Nigeria

Building on their 2023 advocacy roadmap and legal environment scan, INPUD provided support to the Drug Harm Reduction Advocacy Network (DHRAN) in Nigeria on an event pushing back on the recently amended NDLEA Act, which introduces the death penalty for drug offences. The [Drug User Community Dialogue](#) was the third edition of an annual virtual event, held on July 2nd this year, with the title *Rethinking Nigeria's Drug Law: Harm Reduction and Other Evidence-Based Approaches*. Over 200 attendees participated virtually, including members of the Nigerian drug user community, government agencies and parastatals, human rights institutions, and the general public. During the dialogue, community advocates emphasised the complete lack of evidence supporting the effectiveness of the death penalty as a deterrent for drug use. This advocacy from the community was backed up by representatives from the National Human Rights Commission, the Centre for Research and Information on Substance Abuse (CRISA), and the Global Fund.

Our Rights, Everybody's Rights and the 2024 Harm Reduction Bill, Kenya

Following the 2023 global training of trainers under the “[Our Rights, Everybody's Rights](#)” programme, INPUD collaborated with KeNPUD, SANPUD, AfricaNPUD, WRADA, and Kuza Trust to support the development of a 5-year advocacy roadmap, with a specific focus towards the proposed 2024 Harm Reduction Bill in Kenya. Alongside trainers from Kenya and South Africa, INPUD designed and delivered a workshop that included two sessions with government officials. One session featured a panel discussion with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Syndemic Disease Control Council, a strategic advocacy partner on the Bill. The other session was attended by representatives from the Policy and Research Department of the Kenyan Parliament, who are the principal writers of the Bill. As a result of these efforts, a Harm Reduction Bill Task Team consisting of drug

user advocates in Nairobi was established to review the current version of the Bill, conduct community consultations, and provide recommendations for Parliament members upon their return from recess in February 2025.

Advocacy at the 67th Commission on Narcotic Drugs

For the fourth time, INPUD, in collaboration with the UNODC HIV/AIDS Section, IAS, WHO, and UNAIDS, successfully organised a multistakeholder consultation to incorporate both scientific and community perspectives into the statement delivered at the CND plenary. [The resulting statement](#) highlighted key community priorities, crucial given the limited civil society input at the CND.

In 2024, INPUD maintained its engagement at the high-level segment on the mid-term review of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration of the CND, building on the momentum established through advocacy efforts from the previous year. Jessica Morales, a recipient of the 2023 Jude Byrne award, represented INPUD and the Latin America Network of People who Use Drugs (LANPUD) at the high-level roundtable discussion, which focused on the path forward for implementing the 2019 Ministerial Declaration. Additionally, INPUD organised a [successful side event](#) that addressed the challenges related to inadequate and unequal access to treatment and harm reduction, aligning with the OHCHR side-event series and their report to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/54/53](#)). Member States involved in the side event included Czechia, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Portugal, Switzerland, and Uruguay. INPUD also collaborated with various civil society organisations and the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC) to advocate for stronger language in the [groundbreaking resolution](#) that, for the first time, featured harm reduction.

Participating in AIDS2024

In 2024, INPUD, along with regional and national networks, significantly increased the visibility and presence of people who use drugs at AIDS2024 by actively engaging in key sessions and workshops. Among the notable highlights was the launch of the [Future of AIDS Movement](#) report, which incorporated inputs from global consultations organised by INPUD and other key population networks and individuals



Top left: The Global Fund Grant Cycle 7

Top right: Anton Basenko's speech at AIDS Conference 2024 in Munich

Centre right: Jess Morales representing LANPUD and INPUD at CND67 High-Level Segment

Bottom left: Judy Chang at CND67 at the High-Level Side Event on Ending Inequalities End AIDS

Bottom right: Judy Chang speaking at AWID Forum 2024

worldwide. This report illustrates vital issues and recommendations from key population networks aimed at sustaining the HIV response and fostering key population-led movements. The report has drawn interest from key stakeholders and potential donors, opening doors for future funding. Additionally, during the closing plenary, Anton Basenko, INPUD's Board Chair, delivered a powerful and inspiring speech [emphasising the urgent need for decriminalisation of drugs](#).

Promoting Narcofeminism at AWID Forum 2024

In 2024, INPUD continued our advocacy into feminist and gender justice spaces by [amplifying the narcofeminism agenda at the AWID Forum 2024](#), strategically positioning drug use and decriminalisation as feminist issues. This marks the first time in AWID history to have a woman who uses drugs speaking at the plenary session of the Forum, explicitly advocating for the inclusion of women who use drugs in feminist discourses on bodily autonomy and gender equality. By building alliances with feminist movements, INPUD broadened its advocacy reach and strengthened intersectional solidarity, enhancing the visibility of gender-specific challenges faced by women who use drugs.

Advocacy on UNAIDS Global Decriminalisation Guidance

In 2024, INPUD collaborated with UNAIDS, the University of Essex, and Release UK to develop global guidance on decriminalisation, set to launch in April 2025. This initiative strategically positioned INPUD as a key influencer in shaping global drug policy, ensuring that community-led perspectives and human rights principles are central to the guidance. The guidance supports countries in aligning their drug policies with the UNAIDS 10–10–10 societal enabler targets, aiming to eliminate punitive legal environments and enhance community-led responses.

INPUD's participation in the Amsterdam Cities Conference on Legal Regulation and our leadership role in the UN Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) further highlight the progress of this advocacy. By contributing to high-level discussions on legal regulation, INPUD showcased the importance of community-led narratives in shifting global drug policy debates. This achievement is the culmination of a decade of sustained advocacy for drug decriminalisation, demonstrating the impact of INPUD's strategic leadership. By championing community-led perspectives and using evidence from previous publications, INPUD initiated crucial conversations about the need for human rights-based drug policies, laying the groundwork for the development of the UNAIDS Guidance calling for full decriminalisation. This strategic advocacy not only influences immediate policy change but also sets a new precedent for global drug policy reform. By leading this initiative, INPUD is driving a global shift towards human rights-based drug policies, reinforcing its leadership in global drug policy reform and contributing to sustainable HIV responses.

Highlights From Regional and National Networks

African Network of People who Use Drugs (AfricaNPUD)

AfricaNPUD played a key role in regional and international advocacy in 2024. The network contributed to Kenya's Universal Periodic Review shadow report, highlighting urgent human rights issues such as criminalisation, stigma, and limited harm reduction access. At the 67th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), AfricaNPUD successfully advocated for harm reduction and community-led funding, with three African countries—Ghana, Morocco, and South Africa—voting in support of resolutions backing these proposals.

AfricaNPUD continues to expand its reach, including the launch of efforts to establish a national network in Ghana. The network continued to participate in high-level sessions hosted by UNODC, WHO, and the Group of Friends of the HIV Program, where they challenged harmful stereotypes and emphasised that people who use drugs should be equal partners in HIV policy and resource allocation.

Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs (ENPUD)

ENPUD led several pioneering initiatives in 2024 to advance human rights and gender equity. The network conducted community-led gender self-monitoring to identify and address barriers faced by women in drug user communities. This informed internal reforms and emphasised the value of narcofeminism as a transformative approach to advocacy.

ENPUD also developed the concept for a mobile app, SafeDrive, which proposes a rights-based alternative to urine testing by assessing cognitive function for driving. Additionally, ENPUD pursued strategic litigation in Georgia to challenge restrictions on opioid agonist treatment (OAT), advocating for greater autonomy and access for people who use drugs. These bold actions reflect ENPUD's leadership in intersectional, community-led advocacy across Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Latin American Network of People who Use Drugs (LANPUD)

LANPUD's most notable accomplishment in 2024 was the creation and implementation of a Legal Assessment Tool across 10 Latin American countries. This innovative instrument was designed to evaluate the legal environment affecting the rights to non-discrimination, health, and freedom from arbitrary detention. The research revealed systemic gaps, including the lack of recognition of people who use drugs within HIV policies, criminalisation of drug use, and pervasive stigma within healthcare settings—obstacles that significantly hinder access to care. This work was community-led and supported through collaboration with the Global Fund's ALEP+PC regional consortium. Through interviews, focus groups, and legal reviews, LANPUD's findings were used to inform evidence-based advocacy efforts. These efforts aim to promote decriminalisation, reduce institutional stigma, and advocate for inclusive health policies. The Legal Assessment Tool not only empowered LANPUD with robust data for advocacy but also served as a model for cross-sector collaboration between civil society, policymakers, and human rights institutions.

Additionally, LANPUD strengthened movement leadership by establishing governance structures that promoted inclusiveness and intersectionality. Despite operating in challenging environments marked by punitive drug laws, LANPUD's accomplishments in 2024 significantly bolstered the regional advocacy infrastructure, laying a foundation for continued rights-based policy reform and expanded access to HIV services.



Above: LANPUD

National Survivors Union (NSU)

In 2024, the National Survivors Union (NSU) of the United States expanded its leadership team, broadened advocacy efforts nationwide, and provided expert input across numerous advisory boards supporting research institutions, government agencies, contractors, and peer-led organisations. Key milestones include the appointment of NSU leader Louise Vincent as Board Chair of the International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) and the co-authorship by NSU leaders of approximately 10 peer-reviewed articles covering topics such as hepatitis C and safe supply. NSU also advanced methadone reform through its National Coalition to Liberate Methadone by launching three new working groups, continuing its lobbying efforts, and presenting at national addiction medicine conferences, including AMERSA and ASAM. Its virtual methadone reform advocacy group, *Naturally Noncompliant*, engaged community members in developing a methadone patient bill of rights. Additionally, the organisation revitalised its biweekly national drug user organising call, led by Robert Suarez and Dinah Ortiz, featuring rotating expert speakers and strategic campaign planning.

NSU undertook several notable projects in 2024. The organisation continued a collaborative living white paper addressing the working conditions of people with lived experience in research, harm reduction, policy, and service delivery, with completion anticipated in 2025. The NSU sex worker organising team released the Quick and Dirty Election Guide, a zine using accessible language to explain election issues while framing sex workers and people who use drugs as a political constituency. The team also spearheaded a sign-on letter opposing legislation that further criminalises sex work clients, such as a recent bill in Maine, which garnered support from nearly 100 organisations across harm reduction, sex work, and LGBTQI+ advocacy sectors. NSU's flagship affiliate group, NC Survivors Union's *Narcofeminism Storyshare*—a collaborative autobiographical storytelling and training initiative combating stigma against people who use drugs—launched its first international train-the-trainer programme in Brisbane, Australia, and published its inaugural peer-reviewed article in *Contemporary Drug Problems*.

Network of Asian People who Use Drugs (NAPUD)

NAPUD provided direct support to community-led advocacy across Asia in 2024. In Vietnam and Bangladesh, the network funded national efforts to document the impact of punitive drug laws and engage government stakeholders through research and position papers. In Nepal, NAPUD supported women-led networks to influence the Global Fund's GC7 process, securing commitments for gender-responsive harm reduction services.

NAPUD also launched a regional photo contest to spotlight drug user-led advocacy through storytelling, increasing engagement and visibility across eight countries. These initiatives, supported by ViiV Healthcare through INPUD, strengthened grassroots leadership and built momentum for regional reform.

Pacific Network of People who Use Drugs (PaNPUD)

In an effort to remain inclusive, in 2024, the Pasifika regional network changed its name to the Pacific Network of People who Use Drugs (PaNPUD). The PaNPUD Board of Directors has been working together to select the best model for the region by assessing and learning from the other regions and choosing what would be the most beneficial to connect communities across the diverse countries and islands of the Pacific. PaNPUD determined that a decentralised approach would be best and developed a Discord Server to create a safe community space to develop the network of people who use drugs across the Pacific region. The PaNPUD server is intended to be a safe and supportive space for people who use drugs, providing chat channels for each country network to nurture peer connection across the region; harm reduction channels for peer education on safe injecting, BBV, overdose prevention, and self-care to share peer knowledge and expertise to support the health and well-being of our communities; and drug alerts and warnings to increase community awareness. PaNPUD is currently designing a new logo and launching a new website. With the present HIV crisis in Fiji that is deeply impacting people who inject drugs, many Australian community members have been involved in a research assessment conducted by an Australian and a Fijian Research Institute to support the community in Fiji and better inform the Fijian and Australian Governments on what is needed in terms of actions, funding, and priorities.

South African Network of People who Use Drugs (SANPUD)

In 2024, SANPUD worked to ensure that the Global Fund's Grant Cycle 7 (GC7) planning processes were community-informed by facilitating consultations and contributing to South Africa's funding request. These efforts emphasised harm reduction, decriminalisation, and the inclusion of people who use drugs in programme design and implementation. SANPUD also partnered with academic institutions and community groups to produce new research highlighting the barriers that women who use drugs face in accessing services. Their community-led documentation uncovered critical gaps in service delivery and informed recommendations to national stakeholders and international donors. Additionally, SANPUD played a leading role in regional coalition building, participating in global advocacy efforts through the African Network of People who Use Drugs and INPUD.

Women in Response to HIV/AIDS and Drug Addiction (WRADA)

In 2024, WRADA contributed to the first-ever shadow report in Kenya on human rights violations faced by people who use drugs, presenting its findings at the UPR pre-sessions in Geneva. The network also advocated for the Kenyan Harm Reduction Bill of 2024 to be passed in consultation with affected communities. WRADA's community-led approach ensured the meaningful inclusion of women who use drugs throughout the documentation, consultation, and advocacy process.

Financial Summary

INCOME 2024

Total income received in 2024 £1,601,193.39

INCOME 2023

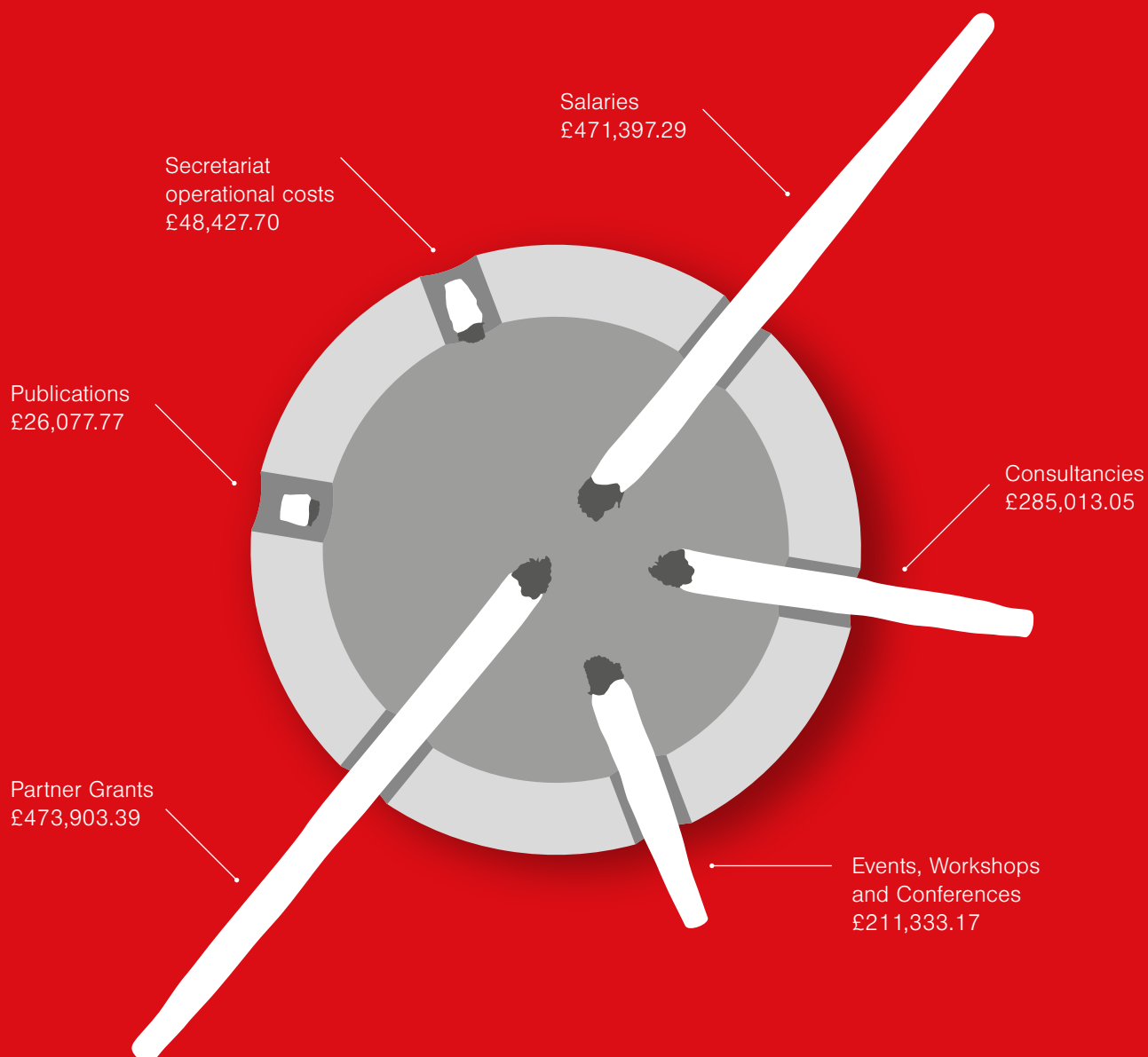
Total income received in 2023 £1,146,468.49

EXPENDITURE 2024

Secretariat operational costs	£48,427.70
Salaries	£471,397.29
Consultancies	£285,013.05
Events, Workshops and Conferences	£211,333.17
Partner Grants	£473,903.39
Publications	£26,077.77

EXPENDITURE 2023

Secretariat operational costs	£58,229.76
Salaries	£344,487.21
Consultancies	£195,602.35
Events, Workshops and Conferences	£134,018.26
Partner Grants	£354,580.43
Publications	£19,251.38





“To our networks, allies, donors, and every person who uses drugs and continues to believe in our shared struggle: thank you. You are the heart of this movement. Together, we will keep pushing, keep building, and keep claiming our right to live in dignity and freedom.”

The International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD) is a global peer-based organisation that seeks to promote the health and defend the rights of people who use drugs. As an organisation, INPUD is focused on exposing and challenging stigma, discrimination and the criminalisation of people who use drugs and their impact on the drug-using community's health and rights. INPUD works to achieve its key aims and objectives through processes of empowerment and advocacy at the international level and by supporting empowerment and advocacy at community and regional levels.

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Written by Jake Agliata

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