



Evidence, communities and policy: The way forward for the HIV response and harm reduction in Armenia and Georgia

19-20 May 2026

Ani Grand Hotel
Yerevan, Armenia

Regional meeting programme

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Day 1 programme*: Tuesday, 19 May 2026

09:00 – 10:00	Registration
10:00- 11:00	Meeting opening
10:00 – 10:25	Welcome remarks
10:25 – 10:35	Overview of HIV in Armenia
10:35 – 10:45	Overview of HIV in Georgia
10:45 – 11:00	Question and answer (Q&A) session
11:00 – 13:30	Session 1 – Advancing harm reduction for people who use drugs: Insights from Armenia, Georgia and the region
11:00 – 11:05	Introduction and framing
11:05 – 11:15	Harm reduction in EECA: Drug use trends, responses and results
11:15 – 11:25	Progress on drug trafficking strategy in Armenia
11:25 – 11:35	Naloxone accessibility in Armenia
11:35 – 12:05	Coffee break and networking
12:05 – 12:15	Human rights violations against people who use drugs in Armenia
12:15 – 12:25	State policy on drug use and illicit trafficking in Armenia: Analysis of legislation and judicial practice
12:25 – 13:05	Panel – Turning evidence into action: Applying regional harm reduction lessons in Armenia
13:05 – 13:30	Q&A
13:30 – 14:30	Group photo, lunch break and networking
14:30 – 16:00	Session 2 – Breaking barriers: Advancing human rights and reducing HIV-related stigma
14:30 – 14:35	Introduction and framing
14:35 – 14:45	Human rights violations against people living with HIV in Armenia in 2025
14:45 – 14:55	Community-led approaches to reducing HIV stigma: Lessons from EECA
14:55 – 15:35	Panel – Turning lessons into impact: Strategies for reducing HIV stigma in Armenia and Georgia
15:35 – 16:00	Q&A
16:00 – 16:25	Coffee break and networking
16:25 – 17:55	Session 3 – Preparing for transition: Securing sustainable financing for Armenia's HIV response
16:25 – 16:30	Introduction and framing
16:30 – 16:40	The changing HIV financing landscape in Armenia: Needs, gaps and transition risks
16:40 – 16:50	Navigating post-Global Fund sustainability: Lessons from a country transition experience
16:50 – 17:30	Panel – Financing the future: Practical and innovative pathways for sustaining Armenia's HIV response
17:30 – 17:55	Q&A
17:55 – 18:20	Closing of day 1
17:55 – 18:00	Closing remarks
18:00 – 18:20	For interested participants: Presentation of CUTTS programme preliminary outcomes

**This programme is subject to changes*

Day 2 programme*: Wednesday, 20 May 2026

09:00 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome remarks
10:05 – 10:50	Special session - Intellectual property, innovation, and access to HIV medicines
10:05 – 10:10	Introduction and framing
10:10 – 10:20	Access to HIV medicines and patent oppositions innovations in the EECA region
10:20 – 10:30	Influence of intellectual property on access to essential medicines and harm reduction
10:30 – 10:40	Innovative HIV medicines: Long-acting options, emerging trends and voluntary licences
10:40 – 10:50	Q&A
10:50 – 17:45	Creation lab: Recommendation design
10:50 – 11:05	Day 1 summary
11:05 – 11:15	Recommendation design introductions
11:15 – 11:20	Group set up
11:20 – 11:55	Recommendation design Initial reflections and brainstorming on the questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How can Georgia expand early HIV diagnosis and reduce late presentation through innovative and community-led approaches?2. How can mechanisms to sustain and improve Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) programs in Georgia be optimized?3. How can Armenia put the anti-discrimination law into practice, and what concrete advocacy actions are needed over the next 6–12 months to ensure its adoption and implementation?4. How can community-led initiatives in Armenia be initiated, strengthened, and sustained, particularly in areas where community leadership (including among people who use drugs) is still emerging?5. How can communities and the Ministry of Health work together to support a sustainable and rights-based transition from Global Fund support, and what concrete steps are needed to ensure continuity of essential services?
11:55 – 12:15	Coffee break and networking
12:15 – 13:45	Recommendation design continued Continued reflection on questions and development of concrete and actionable recommendations and solutions.
13:45 – 14:45	Group photo, lunch break and networking
14:45 – 16:15	Report back from recommendation design Presentation of recommendations and plenary discussion with feedback for each group.
16:15 – 16:35	Coffee break and networking
16:35 – 17:20	Recommendation design continued Refining of recommendations based on feedback and development of actionable implementation steps
17:20 – 17:45	Regional meeting evaluation and closing

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