ANNUAL REPORT 2020

HARM REDUCTION

Mainline's mission is to promote health and fulfil the human rights of people who use drugs without a primary focus on the reduction of drug use and with respect for the individual drug user's freedom of choice and human potential.

WELCOME

WORDS OF WISDOM

The year 2020 was extraordinary. Nobody saw the Corona pandemic coming. Yet, as a harm reduction organisation, we were able to draw lessons from the past.

The fear of an unknown disease. Not knowing who is going to be hit. The concerns about vulnerable people and the impact of a new disease on our daily contact with others. We've all been there before. With hepatitis, for Before you lies Mainline's annual report on the strange year 2020. A year in which we made ourselves very useful despite everything. A year of adapting and persevering. With great results. A year also in which we were reminded of the importance of human contact, solidarity and compassion. In short, a year in which the harm reduction values turned out to be extraordinarily - important.

Enjoy the read, The Mainline team example. And with HIV / AIDS. Familiarity does not always endear, but our experiences at the minimum made us resilient in crisis year 2020.



SIGNALS, TRENDS AND THEMES



Mainline's fieldwork team had to overcome major challenges in 2020. But our field workers persisted, via telephone, e-mail and Corona-proof visits. And the international work also continued at full speed.

First, we said goodbye to the iconic Mainline bus. For almost 20 years Mainline toured the fringes of the country to open the bus doors everywhere for a cup of coffee and a good conversation. But the bus was getting old, and Corona left him with little to do. We were also no longer able to spontaneously visit drug consumption rooms, methadone posts and social pensions. But our field workers persisted, via telephone, e-mail and Coronaproof visits. We made ourselves useful by monitoring the impact Corona and its measures had on people who use drugs. We published a "<u>Corona Monitor</u>

(<u>https://mainline.nl/posts/show/13486)</u>" four times together with the Trimbos Institute and the MDHG.

We closely followed new drug trends such as 3-MMC and noted the increasing popularity of crystal meth

(https://mainline.nl/posts/show/14061/qa-alleswat-je-wil-en-moet-weten-over-crystal-meth) particularly in the gay scene - and "wheelie bin" use (poly-drug use) among young people. The international work also continued at full speed. For several years now, Mainline has been trying to put harm reduction for people who use stimulants (speed, crystal meth, coke, 3-MMC) on the map. And we finally properly succeeded in this in 2020. A good example is our work in <u>Indonesia</u>

(https://english.mainline.nl/posts/show/7699), where we combined research with setting up harm reduction for people who smoke meth. In Vietnam, with partner SCDI and with the support of Open Society Foundations, we established up a "<u>field lab</u>

(https://english.mainline.nl/posts/show/12888/hanoifield-lab-for-stimulant-harm-reduction)": a regional expertise center for stimulant harm reduction. The field lab's field workers pay a lot of attention to mental health. This is also an important theme in Indonesia, where we trained a large group of health professionals on mental health and where the local university Atma Jaya developed a practical mental health guideline.

The year 2020 offered Mainline the opportunity to work more intensively with young people. Mainline is part of the "<u>Young,</u> <u>Wild and .. Free?</u>

(https://english.mainline.nl/posts/show/13820/youngwild-and-free)" project, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2020 we trained community researchers from Kenya, Russia, Vietnam and South Africa. These peers then investigated what young drug users experience and need. In 2021, we will start two pilots for young people who use drugs based on their assessments: one in Kenya and one in South Africa. In the Netherlands, we will also focus more on young people in 2021, within the new <u>Peer2Peer project</u>

(https://mainline.nl/posts/show/14030/peer2peer).

965

people who use drugs spoke to our

field workers

193

professionals received counseling

and advise from Mainline

37 people completed our annual drug

user survey

BUILDING BRIDGES WITH BRIDGING THE GAPS

2020 was the final year of the <u>Bridging the Gaps programme</u> (<u>https://hivgaps.org/)</u>, in which Mainline has been active for almost 10 years in total. Through Bridging the Gaps we financed harm reduction projects in Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Tanzania, Vietnam and South Africa for many years. With the finish in sight, we achieved a number of wonderful successes with our partners.

For example, four of our pilots in Pakistan were scaled-up in the new Global Fund programme in Pakistan. One of the pilots showed an <u>HIV prevalence among non-</u> <u>injecting drug users</u>

(https://english.mainline.nl/posts/show/11955) of more than 6% (<1% in the general population). This study gave 2,000 of these people access to HIV services. Another example: investments through Bridging the Gaps allowed more than 1,000 persons who use drugs to access a viral load test every month.

In Tanzania, Mainline supported the key harm reduction organisation in Dar es Salaam: Mukikute. Something easier said than done, given the repressive government and limited resources. Through Bridging the Gaps, a number of Tanzanian colleagues were able <u>to</u> <u>visit Kenya</u>

(https://english.mainline.nl/posts/show/12946) to learn from their work with female drug users. And in addition to offering support for basic harm reduction services, we worked on a study to prove the effectiveness of needle

In both <u>Indonesia (https://mainline-</u> eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/7699) and <u>Vietnam</u> (https://mainline-

eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/11649), Mainline worked steadily with partners Karisma, PKNM, Atma Jaya University and SCDI to improve harm reduction for people who use crystal meth. In Indonesia, health workers have been trained to provide better support for meth users, including by paying attention to mental health. A "Stimulant Field Lab (https://mainlineeng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/12888/hanoi-fieldlab-for-stimulant-harm-reduction)" has been formally established in Vietnam. It is a place where grassroots organisations from the region can learn about stimulant harm reduction: knowledge for which there is an enormous demand. Both initiatives have been evaluated. Mainline will remain involved in this initiative in 2021 and participate in the expansion of the hub.

Finally, in <u>South Africa (https://mainline-eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/7698)</u>, Mainline worked with its partners FPD and TB / HIV Care on offering mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). We looked to improve the situation of people who use meth and of female users. Mainline's work in South Africa is nicely summed up in a <u>track record</u> (<u>https://mainline-</u>

eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/11411) that was released in 2020. In addition, in 2020 we started work with young drug users within the project <u>Young, Wild and..Free?</u>

<u>(https://mainline-</u>

eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/13820/young-wildand-free)

Now that the Bridging the Gaps programme has been completed, we would like to thank all



exchange. A research report

(https://english.mainline.nl/posts/show/14131) shows that needle exchange is not only effective in preventing HIV infection, but also in improving the guality of life of drug users in many ways.

The work with women who use drugs in Kenya received significant recognition in 2020. For example, their work was described in the report "The Impact of Global Drug Policy on Women: Shifting the Needle (https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/doi/10.1108/9781839828829)". The training for outreach workers developed by Mainline with MEWA was incorporated into the national HIV curriculum in 2020. And as a result, outreach workers across the country now have the opportunity to improve their skills with this training. MEWA already provided a number of training courses on outreach in 2020.

the partners with whom we have worked for all those wonderful years. We will continue to work with most of them: Mainline will remain active in Kenya, Pakistan, Vietnam and South Africa in 2021. We have built partnerships for life and learned a tremendous amount. We would also like to thank all Alliance partners within Bridging the Gaps: INPUD, COC, SOA AIDS Netherlands, AFEW International, NSWP, MPact. GNP +. ITPC and of course Aidsfonds. Finally, we thank the Dutch Ministry of Foreign

(https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ministeries/ministerievan-buitenlandse-zaken) for its support. confidence and flexibility. The harm reduction field will not soon forget your support! The final evaluation of the Bridging the Gaps programme (https://hivgaps.org/evaluation/2020-bridgingthe-gaps-2016-2020-end-evaluation-full-

report/) can be found online.

11.450

people who use drugs reached with harm reduction services in South Africa

5.797

people in the same country were able to access HIV testing and treatment

10.228

people who use drugs received psychosocial support. Thanks to a fruitful collaboration with Global Fund and CDC/PEPFAR.

CHEMSEX



Mainline has been working in the **Dutch chemsex scene for many** years and continued to do so in 2020. We are committed to improving the health of gay men who use drugs intensively during sex.

Despite Corona, we were able to continue the fieldwork and support groups (https://mainline.nl/posts/show/13507/chemsexsupport) for men from the scene. Working online made it even easier in some respects to get national coverage. We made a lot of information available on our website (https://mainline.nl/posts/show/14061/ga-alles-<u>wat-je-wil-en-moet-weten-over-crystal-meth</u>) and worked on various publications. In 2020, we started a major study as a follow-up to our 2016 'Tina and Slamming' study (https://mainline.nl/posts/show/14022/breaking-(https://mainline.blogbird.nl/uploads/mainline/Chemsexreport_bdf1.bdf) The results will be published in 2021.

In 2020 we also explored drug use in "other" sexual settings: among swingers, for example. More about this will follow next year.

Because the emerging production of crystal meth is a major concern in the Netherlands, Mainline is regularly approached by the media. De Volkskrant

(https://www.volkskrant.nl/nieuws-

achtergrond/crystal-meth-gebruikers-zijn-geenkinky-subscene-freaks-het-zou-je-buurmankunnen-zijn~bb7400ad/) published a large article in which we could nuance the sometimes heated public debate. And we posted extensive information about meth on our website

(https://mainline.nl/posts/show/14061/ga-alleswat-je-wil-en-moet-weten-over-crystal-meth). We also wrote blogs to counter common misperception of meth

meth-iedereen-speelt-zijn-rol-precies-volgenshet-script). In addition, Mainline gave advice to professionals who work with men from the scene and we expanded our training offer on chemsex (https://www.mainlinetrainingen.nl/).

In the meantime, the demand for information about chemsex and effective ways to support men in the rest of the world is increasing. Mainline developed an e-learning (https://mainline-

eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/8360/chemsex) about chemsex and included lived-experiences from Asia and South Africa. A second part of the e-learning is under way and is expected to be released in mid-2021. Mainline was active in all kinds of international meetings, especially in the Asian region, to share our knowledge about chemsex.

TRAINING

Mainline provided all kinds of <u>training courses</u> (<u>https://www.mainlinetrainingen.nl/)</u> in the Netherlands and abroad in 2020.

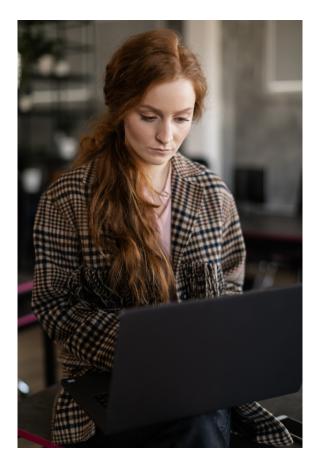
There is a particular demand for training on the harm reduction approach, drugs and its effects, addiction, and institutional policy on drug use. Mainline expanded its training offer and now offers special training on how to deal with <u>erratic behaviour</u>

(https://mainline.nl/posts/show/12368/omgaanmet-verward-gedrag), double and triple diagnoses, the use of GHB in social services, the ins and outs of chemsex, making contact and overdose prevention. We have a completely <u>new training page</u> (<u>https://www.mainlinetrainingen.nl/</u>) on our website. Here you can find our current offer. In 2021 we will also provide more training courses with open registrations. Keep an eye on our <u>Linkedin-page</u>

(<u>https://www.linkedin.com/company/mainline-</u> <u>foundation</u>) to stay up to date.

Many of our training courses were moved online in 2020. And after we had overcome our resistance (Mainline likes contact), this went well beyond expectations. Many of our training courses could continue as planned in Internationally, we trained many of our partners within the Bridging the Gaps programme, including on work with women who use drugs (https://mainlineeng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/13821), working with peers (https://mainlineeng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/14140/peer-worktraining), stimulants (https://mainlineeng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/12888/hanoi-fieldlab-for-stimulant-harm-reduction) and mental health (https://mainlineeng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/14139/trainingmental-health-and-psycho-social-support). Looking back on 2020, we are most proud of the candidates from our international train-thetrainer programme (https://mainlineeng.blogbird.nl/page/find-a-trainer). They are now all fully-fledged harm reduction trainers and can be deployed as trainers in their own or a neighboring country. The trainers can all be found on our website (https://mainlineeng.blogbird.nl/page/find-a-trainer).

In addition to training, Mainliners can now also be "hired" as a <u>consultant (https://mainline-</u> <u>eng.blogbird.nl/page/consultancy)</u>. It turns out that even as a consultant you can remain grounded, practical and down-to-earth. In 2021 our consultancy assignments will offer us a lot



2020, despite Corona. We worked on our first full-fledged chemsex e-learning

(https://mainline-

<u>eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/8360/chemsex)</u> and time that was 'freed up' by Corona gave us the opportunity to develop more long-term pathways for training. of new opportunities: to share our knowledge and to strengthen the international harm reduction field.

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trainings were provided by Mainline across the Netherlands and despite the COVID-19 crisis. Our <u>training offer</u> (<u>https://www.mainlinetrainingen.nl/</u>) moved online to various digital channels. This in the end gave our training offer an inspiring new impuls.

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organisations learned about drugs, making contact en <u>understanding</u> <u>erratic behaviour (https://mainline.nl/posts/show/12368/omgaan-metverward-gedrag)</u>, addiction and mental health. We are currently working on longer-term training series with several organisations: a nice new move for Mainline!

HARM REDUCTION CAMPAIGN



In 2020 Mainline made itself heard in all kinds of ways. We previously mentioned our interview in 'de Volkskrant (https://www.volkskrant.nl/nieuwsachtergrond/crystal-methgebruikers-zijn-geen-kinkysubscene-freaks-het-zou-jebuurman-kunnen-zijn~bb7400ad/)' and the blogs we wrote about the misperceptions of drugs (https://mainline.nl/posts/show/14022/hbneakingor continued Dutch support for meth-iedereen-speelt-zijn-rolprecies-volgens-het-script). An important campaign of ours was aimed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Minister Kaag of **Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.** This campaign (https://www.harmreduction.nl/) focused on the Ministry's decision to end direct investment in harm reduction after 2020.

We drew up a petition together with 331 organisations from 95 countries (https://mainlineeng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/13571) across the world. We eventually offered this petition to Parliament and to Minister Kaag. We made the website www.harmreduction.nl (https://www.harmreduction.nl/), with an accompanying publication. Ultimately, we received support from a majority in Parliament, who voted in favour of a motion (https://mainline.nl/posts/show/13765/tweedekamer-stemt-v%E1%BD%B9%E1%BD%B9r-harm-

harm reduction.

Whether action will be taken in 2021 in response to this demand of Parliament is a big question mark. Especially in times of Corona and a looming economic crisis. Mainline has since found other ways to finance its international work. But the major shortages in the international harm reduction field are dire, as shown by a report by Aidsfonds (https://aidsfonds.org/news/new-study-fundingfor-key-populations-affected-by-hiv-and-aidsway-off-track) and a recent publication by Harm Reduction International (https://www.hri.global/failure-to-fund).

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police officers and judges trained in human rights in <u>Tanzania</u> (<u>https://mainline-eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/10240</u>)



stakeholders in <u>Indonesia (https://mainline-</u> <u>eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/7699)</u> convinced of the usefulness and necessity of stimulant harm reduction

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

In 2020 we released four wellreceived <u>Mainline magazines</u> (<u>https://mainline.nl/page/mainlinemagazine)</u> with the themes:

In addition to the Corona monitors, Mainline participated in various studies. An investigative report was published on the inhumane life-circumstances of women who

confusion, love, pain and dreams. In addition, we published a special edition on drug use in Corona times (https://mainline.nl/posts/show/13713):steam ahead on this topic to bring about nine personal stories with beautiful photos of Mona van den Berg.

Our "erratic behaviour" project resulted in training and a practical guide: "Understanding Misunderstood Behaviour: Dealing with Erratic Behaviour in Shelters

(https://mainline.nl/posts/show/12368/omgaanmet-verward-gedrag)". In addition, in 2020 we continued to focus the use of doping in the recreational sports. Amateur athletes often use in a "blast and cruise" rhythm - in which steroids courses follow each other non-stop. This is one of the health risks that appears in the report "Always Anabolic

(https://mainline.nl/posts/show/13772/altijdanabool-anabole-stero%C3%AFdengebruikzonder-pauzes)". In 2021 we will start a new project in the sports scene

(https://mainline.nl/posts/show/13839/mindfulmuscles) and we hope to put harm reduction for this group on the map once and for all. In <u>an interview</u>

(https://mainline.nl/posts/show/13973/interviewhoe-het-anabolen-kuurtje-verschoof-naar-nonstop-inname) with Mainliner Tjeerd de Zeeuw you can read why this is important. Extensive harm reduction information for users of Performance and Image Enhancing Drugs (https://mainline.nl/posts/show/12910/steroiden) is also available on our website.

Working with peers

(https://english.mainline.nl/posts/show/13821/women-users (https://blogbird.b-cdn.net/mainlinewho-use-drugs-peer-workers) (people who actively use drugs) has always been a priority for Mainline. But many organisations struggle

use drugs in Kenya. A reality full of violence (https://mainline-

eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/13834/genderbased-violence). In 2021, Mainline will go full change for these women. In Indonesia the same applies to the work on prison health (https://mainline-

eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/13822/prisonhealth). A large part of the prison population in Indonesia uses drugs, but they have limited access to health care. It is an often forgotten group of people. Three studies were published on this topic in 2020. The aforementioned studies were made possible through ITPC and the Robert Carr Network Fund.

Research within the Bridging the Gaps programme yielded three academic publications. A first publication is about the importance of working with peers (https://mainline-

eng.blogbird.nl/posts/show/11666/multicountry-study-on-harm-reduction-and-<u>community-involvement</u>). The findings from this study were also made available in a more accessible report. The Community Matters (https://blogbird.b-cdn.net/mainlineeng/Community_Matters.pdf) report was published in three languages and can be found on our website. The other two publications concerned research from Pakistan. A first study investigated the factors that increase adherence to anti-retroviral therapy (https://blogbird.b-cdn.net/mainlineeng/ART_Adherence_MWID_in_Pakistan_IJDP_2021.pdf). A second study examined <u>HIV prevalence</u> among the female partners of injecting drug

eng/HIV incidence female spouses of MWID in Pakistan HRJ 2021 (002).pdf)

in Pakistan. Prevalence was found to be 8%



with drug use in the workplace. And conversely, peers often feel that they have not been seen or treated as fully-fledged staff members. Mainline published practical tools for working with peers based on a study in South Africa. We will translate this guide into training in 2021. (<1% in the general population). The research provides reason to recommend this group of women for PreP.

90

professionals trained in stimulant harm reduction in <u>Vietnam</u> (<u>https://english.mainline.nl/posts/show/11649)</u>



professionals trained in <u>Kenya</u> (<u>https://english.mainline.nl/posts/show/7696</u>) on harm reduction and on how to work with women who use drugs

POPPI



Mainline's sister Poppi Drugs Museum Amsterdam (https://poppi.amsterdam/) also achieved great success in 2020. The museum (in the making) organised its first longer pop-up exhibition: Dutch Drugs Stories (https://poppi.amsterdam/evenementen/dutehwhich takes you to the Amsterdam <u>drug-stories/)</u>.

Poppi unveiled a unique photo archive for the general public during this exhibition. Photos by award-winning photographers showed the Dutch drug scene in a raw and moving way.

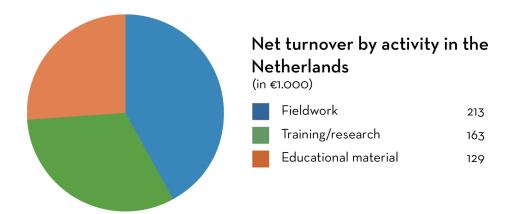
For a full month, the Vrij Paleis was devoted to Dutch drug history and in the evenings we organised debates, film screenings and theme evenings about drugs. Live tours were provided by people who experienced life on the street up close. And of course visitors could also take the Digital Drugs Tour (https://poppi.amsterdam/digital-drugs-tour-2/).

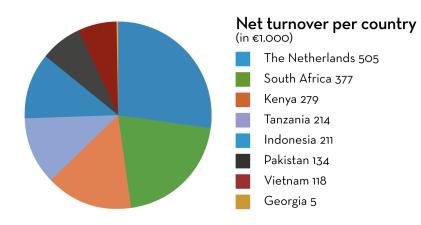
hard drug scene of the 1980s and 1990s, is now included in Poppi's regular offer.

In 2021, Poppi hopes - if Corona cooperates to be even more visible. Do you want to support our museum in its mission? You can now also buy shares in our company (https://poppi.amsterdam/aandelen-2/)!

FINANCE

FINANCE





BALANCE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020	2020	2019
Tangible fixed assets	31.310	23.462
Accounts reveivable	4.778	540
Receivables from donors	85.785	17.019
Other receivables	39.277	26.878
Subtotal	161.150	67.899
Cash, bank and equivalents	307.952	846.051
Total assets	469.102	913.950
	409.102	913.950
Continuity reserves	42.286	85.546
Reserves for special purposes	0	30.000
Total reserves	42.286	115.546
Long term subsidy liabilities	102.524	686.033
Other payables	324.292	112.371
Total debt	426.816	798.404
Total liabilities	469.102	913.950

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT AS AT 31 DEC.	2020	2019
Revenue from subsidies	1.843.322	1.892.782
Other revenue	7.300	0
Total revenues	1.850.622	1.892.782

Direct project costs	959.301	927.601
Allocated project costs	916.788	1.033.096
Subtotal of expenditure attributed to objectives	1.876.089	1.960.697
Management and administration costs	964.581	973.653
Allocated project costs	-916.788	-1.033.096
Subtotal of expenditure on mgmt and administration	47.793	-59.443
Total expenditure	1.923.882	1.901.254
Balance of income and expenses	-73.260	-8.472
ALLOCATION OF INCOME IN 2020 and 2019	2020	2019
Continuity reserves	-73.260	-8.472
Total allocation of income in 2020 and 2019	-73.260	-8.472

* Result 2020

The negative result is due to the large decline in Mainline's training activities, as a direct consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic. The organisation was able to retain most of its employees.

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