

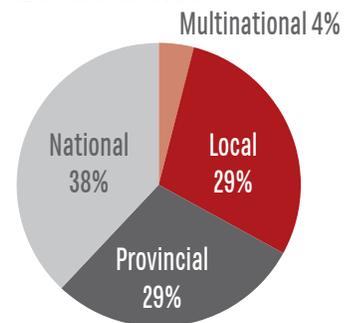
TRANS* ORGANIZATIONS AND FUNDING IN CENTRAL AMERICA

A global survey of trans* organizations and funding was conducted in 2013. Twenty five organizations from Central America responded to the survey. This fact sheet details not only their funding situations but also their organizational characteristics, leadership, areas of work and areas of growth as well as opportunities for what donors funding in this region can support. Organizations in Central America are less likely to have funding when compared with other regions of the world, with over half reporting budgets under US\$5000 (56%) and just 20 percent with budgets over US\$20,000 in 2013.

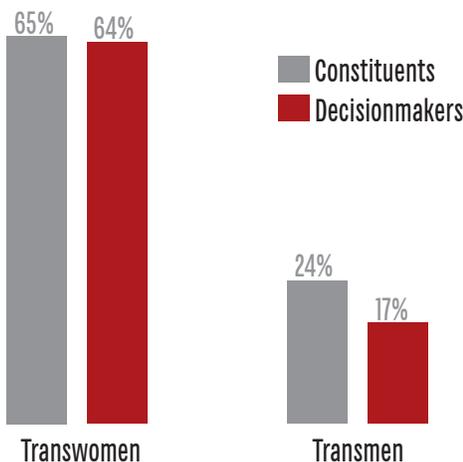
Annual budget of trans* organizations



Levels of work



Trans* leadership: Constituents and decision makers



¹ Organizations responding to this survey do not necessarily represent all organizations working in the region

Trans* Organizations in Central America

Nearly one third (32%) of trans* organizations in Central America are programs of another organization. Slightly more than half (56%) have at least one paid staff member and about one in five (21%) are registered as nonprofits. Slightly over half have external funding (56%), with a further one fifth (20%) having sought external funding unsuccessfully.

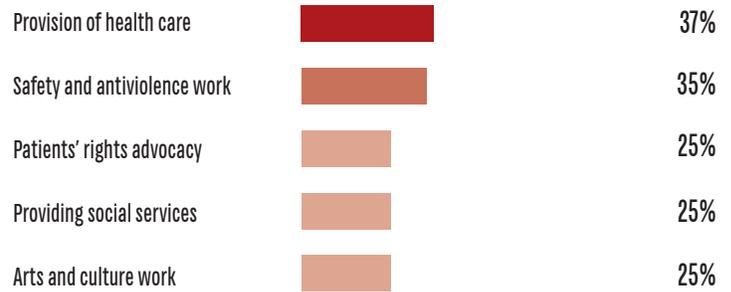
Two thirds of organizations reported that most or all of their decision makers are transwomen. This reflects their constituencies, since similar numbers of organizations reported that most or all of their constituents identify as transwomen. There was a larger gap for transmen, with more organizations saying most or all of their constituents identify as transmen (24%) compared to most or all decision makers (17%).

Nearly one half (45%) of trans* organizations in Central America say that most or all of their constituents are living with HIV, while nearly one third (31%) say most or all of their constituents are sex workers.

Most common areas of work



Most common areas to expand



Trans* Funding

Trans* organizations in Central America that have external funding are most likely to be supported by international organizations (e.g. United Nations, Global Fund) (40%), foundation donors (28%), governments of foreign countries or community fundraisers and membership fees (16% each). They experience common barriers such as not having staff or volunteers who know how to fundraise or write grants (81%), not knowing where to look for applicable funding (63%) and long delays in payment or responses from funders (40%). Two in five (40%) spent most or all of their money on HIV-related activities.

Trans* Areas of Work

The most common type of work trans* organizations do is working to improve attitudes (95%). Many (79%) also hold support groups and work on HIV/AIDS prevention (87%).

Among work they are not yet doing, the largest number of organizations would like to expand to do safety and antiviolence work (35%), while a further one fourth (25% each) would like to work on patients' rights advocacy, provide health care or social services and do arts and culture work.

Capacity Building for Trans* Organizations

When choosing among options for capacity building, trans* organizations in Central America were most likely to say they would appreciate opportunities for networking (74%), skills training (74%) and mentoring (66%). Among options for skills training, organizations most want help with fundraising (66%), budgeting and financial management (65%) and political advocacy (44%).

Grantmaker Interests and Opportunities

- Donors interested in supporting independent trans* focused organizations and trans* led organizations could consider funding in Central America given the predominance of independent trans* organizations and better representation of trans* people as decision makers.
- Central American trans* organizations would benefit from better outreach efforts from donors about funding opportunities and efforts to simplify and provide technical assistance in application processes as these were significant barriers to accessing external funding.
- Central American trans* organizations were least likely to be registered as nonprofits and are less likely to have paid staff. To support organizations in this region, intermediaries/fiscal agents may be required.
- Donors could better align with the needs and interests of trans* organizations in this region by supporting provision of health care, safety and antiviolence work, patients' rights advocacy, social services and arts and culture work.
- Trans* organizations in Central America wanted skills training, networking and mentoring. In terms of skills training, they were interested in fundraising and budgeting and financial management.

Methodology This fact sheet is part of a larger project to track the funding of trans* organizations globally. It is a collaboration of Arcus Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Global Philanthropy Project's Trans* Working Group and Strength in Numbers Consulting Group, Inc. GATE (Global Action for Trans* Equality) and AJWS (American Jewish World Service) collected 340 surveys from trans* organizations asked to report their information, experience and opinions in November 2013. GATE and AJWS distributed the survey through an open call in English, Spanish and French. The data appear in several reports, some of which can be found on the GATE website (www.transactivists.org). Due to differing categorization, data presented here may not match exactly other analyses from the same data set. SurveyMonkey was used for data collection and SPSS and Stata were used for data analysis. The United Nations regional country categorizations were used to categorize countries into regions. Regions with fewer than 20 responses were not analyzed separately due to privacy concerns. Fact sheets are available on the following world regions: Central America, South America, East Africa, South Asia and Southeast Asia and the following topics: sex work, HIV/AIDS, transwomen and transmen. Organizations selected (1) current and potential areas of work (2) areas of capacity building and (3) barriers to funding from discrete lists created by staff from GATE and AJWS. External funding refers to funding acquired through means other than community fundraisers and membership fees. For more information on methodology, please see *The State of Trans* and Intersex Organizing* at www.transactivists.org or contact Strength in Numbers at info@StrengthInNumbersConsulting.com