A global survey of trans* organizations and funding was conducted in 2013. One hundred and twelve organizations say that most or all of their constituents are transmen, which is 36 percent of those who took part in the trans* funding survey. Twenty five percent of organizations with most or all transmen constituents also say they serve most or all intersex people. This is compared with 7 percent of those with some, a few or no transmen constituents. This fact sheet details not only their funding situations but also their organizational characteristics, distribution by region, areas of work and areas of growth as well as opportunities for what donors can support.

Organizations with most or all transmen constituents have similar budgets to other trans* organizations, with many (40%) reporting budgets less than US$5,000 in 2013. These organizations are more likely to work at the local level than those that have no, few, or some transmen constituents (46% vs. 32%); work at other levels was similar to other organizations.

Trans* Organizations with Primarily Transmen Constituents

Similar to other organizations trans* organizations, 40 percent of those with primarily transmen constituents are programs of another organization and just under half have paid staff (48%). About two thirds (66%) are registered as a nonprofit.

Trans* organizations are more likely to say that transmen make up most or all of their constituents in Eastern Europe and Eurasia (56%). However, in Eastern Europe and Eurasia, just 38 percent of organizations say that most or all of their key financial decision makers are transmen. A similar gap exists in Asia and the Pacific Islands (46% vs. 26%).

Trans* leadership: Constituents and decisionmakers
Trans* Funding

About one in five (21%) spends most or all of their money on HIV. About half (53%) have external funding, with a further 21 percent having sought such funding unsuccessfully.

Organizations with primarily transmen constituents are most likely to have funding from foundation donors (29%), donations from individuals or businesses (27%) or community fundraisers and membership fees (23%). These organizations experience common barriers to funding such as a lack of staff or volunteers who know how to fundraise or write grants (41%), long delays in payment or response from funder (41%) and long and complicated funding applications (40%).

Trans* Areas of Work

Organizations that say that their constituents are most or all transmen are most likely to work to improve social attitudes (86%), do policy and legal advocacy (78%) and run support groups (75%). Areas where they would like to expand their work include health care (33%), social services (32%) and safety and safety and antiviolence work (31%).

Capacity Building for Trans* Organizations

The most helpful nonfinancial support these organizations would like to receive is skills training (77%), mentoring (71%) and networking (69%). Among skills they would like to learn, fundraising (68%), program strategy and development (39%) and budgeting and financial management (37%) were most important.

Grantmaker Interests and Opportunities

- Leadership development for transmen in Eastern Europe and Eurasia and Asia and the Pacific Islands is critical, given large disparities between trans* constituents and decision makers.
- Donors interested in funding intersex work may consider organizations with primarily transmen as constituents, as these organizations also have higher numbers of intersex constituents.
- Trans* organizations serving primarily transmen spend less of their funds on HIV prevention activities, are more likely to have foundation funding and are less likely to have sought external funding unsuccessfully. Donors could put effort into maintaining access to external funding for these groups, especially since they are less reliant on HIV global funding streams.
- Donors could better align with the needs of trans* organizations with primarily transmen constituents by supporting the provision social services, safety and antiviolence work and patients’ rights advocacy.
- Organizations with primarily transmen as constituents want skills training more than any other type of capacity building support from donors, particularly in the areas of fundraising, program strategy and development and community organizing.

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 match 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 (i) current and potential areas of work (ii) areas of capacity building and (iii) barriers to funding from discrete lists created by staff from GATE and AJWS. External funding refers to funding acquired through means other than 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.