

WHERE ARE THE GLOBAL COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR LGBTI COMMUNITIES?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Report Summary

Recommendations

- **Humanitarian donors and implementing agencies:** the needs of LGBTI communities must be acknowledged and addressed within the global COVID-19 response and more broadly within the international humanitarian system.
- **Funders currently supporting LGBTI organizations:** maintain or increase funding and remain flexible with grantee partners as they adjust to emerging on-the-ground community needs.

Background

- Six months into the pandemic, GPP conducted the COVID-19 Global LGBTI Funders Survey of the leading government, multilateral, and philanthropic funders of global lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) issues.
- The 24 funders who participated in the survey represented just under half (47%) of all funding awarded on LGBTI issues globally (excluding funding focused on the U.S.) and 4 in every 10 grants given in 2018.

LGBTI organizations at the forefront of addressing COVID-19

- **More than 80% of the LGBTI funders** who responded to the GPP COVID-19 Survey **said that many or most of their grantee partners had shifted focus** from existing programs **to providing services to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among their community.**
- **More than 80% had shifted focus** from existing programs **to providing livelihood, shelter, legal assistance, or other forms of support to address the impact of COVID-19.**

Leading funders of global LGBTI issues plan to stay the course

- LGBTI organizations have been able to pivot to address humanitarian needs in part because of the flexibility of many of the existing LGBTI funders.
- Among the 24 LGBTI funders who provided GPP with forecasted budgets for LGBTI grants in 2021, **the total funding for LGBTI issues (excluding funding focused on the U.S.) is expected to increase by 20% from 2018 levels (US\$90 million in 2021 vs \$71.1 million in 2018).**
- The existing funders of LGBTI organizations, including the 24 who participated in the GPP COVID-19 survey, are largely human rights funders and/or adopt a human rights-based approach to their grantmaking. Survey respondents from 4 government donors each work within human rights-related programs in their respective agencies.

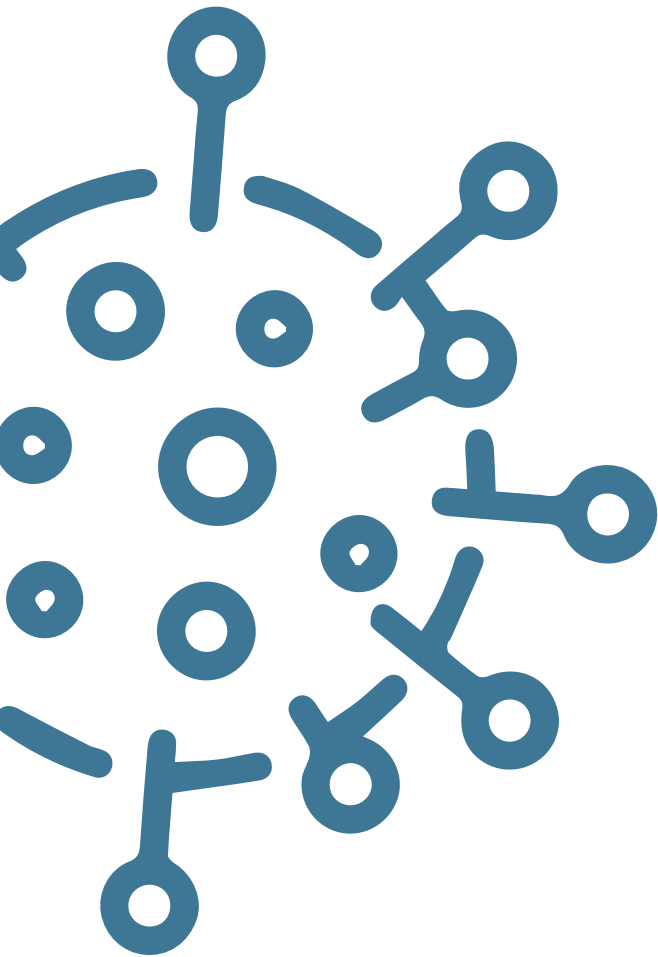
Yet, LGBTI issues have been excluded from global COVID-19 humanitarian response resources

- In 2020, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs released the UN COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP), which outlined a coordinated response plan for the international humanitarian system.
- **As the GHRP acknowledges that LGBTI communities are a group in particular need of protection against the impact of the pandemic, it is imperative that humanitarian actors take steps to address their needs.**
- As of mid-November 2020, just over \$6 billion had been committed by government and multilateral donors as well as private sources to address the humanitarian impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic based on data available from OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS) database.
- Just over half of that funding (\$3.4 billion) was tied to the GHRP, with the remainder disbursed through a range of other humanitarian funds/appeals.
- **Of 4467 recorded resource flows addressing COVID-19, only 1 explicitly described funding to support LGBT communities.**
- **Among the top five donors (US, Germany, Japan, UK and EU),** who account for more than half of all humanitarian resources committed to addressing the impact of the global pandemic, **none explicitly identified LGBTI communities** as a priority, vulnerable, or at-risk population in their COVID-19 humanitarian response strategies and guiding statements.

- A review of the top 20 recipients of humanitarian funding for global COVID-19 response as tracked through the FTS paints a similar picture.
- The exclusion of LGBTI communities as a priority population within COVID-19 response plans and public statements suggests that humanitarian resources pledged by the world's largest donors are not systematically or directly targeting the needs of LGBTI communities.

Implications for the global LGBTI movement

- Without increased resources to address humanitarian needs of the communities they serve, already overburdened LGBTI organizations will be stretched even further.
- This will impact the capacity of some organizations to advance human rights and respond to anti-rights attacks that have increased in some contexts during the pandemic.
- Yet, the global pandemic provides an opportunity to break down the invisibility of LGBTI issues within the international humanitarian system.
- Addressing humanitarian needs may require new skills and relationships for both LGBTI groups and funders as well as humanitarian actors.



ABOUT GPP

Global Philanthropy Project (GPP) is a collaboration of funders and philanthropic advisors working to expand global philanthropic support to advance the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people in the Global South and East.

Established in 2009, GPP's 21 member organizations include many of the leading global funders and philanthropic advisors for LGBTI rights. As the first international cohort of LGBTI funders, GPP is internationally recognized as the primary thought leader and go-to partner for donor coordination around global LGBTI work.

Contact:

Global Philanthropy Project

c/o Community Initiatives

1000 Broadway Suite #480, Oakland, CA 94607

info@globalphilanthropyproject.org

<http://globalphilanthropyproject.org>

Twitter: @gpp_updates

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