

# REGENBOGEN- PHILANTHROPIE

Deutsche Förderung von LSBTIQA+ Menschenrechtsarbeit  
im Globalen Süden und Osten



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2009, Dreilinden has been gathering data at irregular intervals on German funding of human rights work addressing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual (LGBTIQA+) issues in the Global South and East. This is the fifth edition of the *Regenbogen Philanthropie* study. One of the objectives of the study is to draw German funders' attention to the needs of LGBTIQA+ people in the Global South and East. To this day, these target groups remain underfunded, a fact which also becomes apparent in the present study. In 2018, for example, Germany's share of global LGBTIQA+ funding was just 3.59 per cent – although generally Germany has been identified as the world's second most generous donor country.

## Funders and funding levels in 2018 and 2019

This study incorporates responses given by 21 German funding organisations that provided a total of € 5,862,759 to 213 projects in the years 2018 and 2019. Nineteen of those funders supported LGBTIQA+ human rights work in the Global South and East with a total of € 2,361,319 and 108 projects in 2018. They include three government organisations, three public foundations, four private foundations, and nine civil society organisations. In 2019 our study incorporated two additional civil society organisations. The total funding provided in 2019 was € 3,501,440 to 105 projects (Chart 1).

In Germany, funding for LGBTIQA+ communities in the Global South and East takes on many different forms. It ranges from the funding of LGBTIQA+ people and groups within government projects worth millions of euros to small-scale, self-initiated support from civil society actors within international networks. Our latest study was able to include for the first time

certain international development charities such as Bread for the World and Christliche Initiative Romero, which shows that even faith-based organisations are increasingly turning their direct attention to LGBTIQA+ matters.

## German funding levels in international comparison

In the 2017–2018 Global Resources Report (GRR), German government organisations rank only eleventh as funders of international aid for LGBTIQA+ issues, with a total sum of US\$ 1,453,484, behind Danish government organisations, which provided US\$ 4,718,030. At the top of the ranking are Swedish government organisations, which provided US\$ 30,464,863 ([Global Philanthropy Project, Funders for LGBTQ Issues 2020, p. 33](#)).

In consultation with researchers at the Global Philanthropy Project, we found that worldwide LGBTIQA+ funding in the Global South and East totalled the equivalent of € 93,071,528 (US\$ 112,286,143; including regranting) in 2018. We can compare that sum directly with our own figures. If we count regranting and double-counting, we can say that German funders provided a total of € 3,345,552 in 2018. That means that the German contribution to overall LGBTIQA+ funding in the Global South and East was just 3.59 per cent. At the same time, German government support amounts to only 1.33 per cent of the total GRR funding sum – and that includes funds received through private organisations.

And yet, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Germany has the second-largest official development assistance (ODA) volume in the world ([OECD 2020](#)). In 2018 that volume was US\$ 25.67 billion (€ 21.47 billion). If we compare

**CHART 1** › Funders by type of organisation; including total funding amount and total number of projects (2018, 2019)

	2018	2019
Government organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Foreign Office</li> <li>• Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth</li> <li>• Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal Foreign Office</li> <li>• Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth</li> <li>• Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development</li> </ul>
Public foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heinrich Böll Foundation</li> <li>• Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future"</li> <li>• Anonymous funders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heinrich Böll Foundation</li> <li>• Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future"</li> <li>• Anonymous funders</li> </ul>
Private foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dreilinden gGmbH</li> <li>• filia.die frauenstiftung</li> <li>• Hannchen Mehrzweck Foundation</li> <li>• Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dreilinden gGmbH</li> <li>• filia.die frauenstiftung</li> <li>• Hannchen Mehrzweck Foundation</li> <li>• Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation</li> </ul>
Of which LGBTIQ+ foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dreilinden gGmbH</li> <li>• Hannchen Mehrzweck Foundation</li> <li>• Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dreilinden gGmbH</li> <li>• Hannchen Mehrzweck Foundation</li> <li>• Hirschfeld-Eddy Foundation</li> </ul>
Civil society organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bischöfliches Hilfswerk MISEREOR e. V.</li> <li>• Bread for the World</li> <li>• Christliche Initiative Romero e.V.</li> <li>• German AIDS Service Organization</li> <li>• Frauenliebe im Pott e.V.</li> <li>• Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany</li> <li>• Oxfam Germany</li> <li>• Ecumenical Working Group "Homosexuals and Church"</li> <li>• Anonymous funders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action for World Solidarity</li> <li>• Bischöfliches Hilfswerk MISEREOR e. V.</li> <li>• Bread for the World</li> <li>• Christliche Initiative Romero e.V.</li> <li>• German AIDS Service Organization</li> <li>• Frauenliebe im Pott e.V.</li> <li>• Fußball und Begegnung e.V. – Discover Football</li> <li>• Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany</li> <li>• Oxfam Germany</li> <li>• Ecumenical Working Group "Homosexuals and Church"</li> <li>• Anonymous funders</li> </ul>
Of which LGBTIQ+ organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frauenliebe im Pott e.V.</li> <li>• Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany (LSVD e.V.)</li> <li>• Ecumenical Working Group "Homosexuals and Church"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frauenliebe im Pott e.V.</li> <li>• Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany (LSVD e.V.)</li> <li>• Ecumenical Working Group "Homosexuals and Church"</li> </ul>
<b>Total yearly funding</b>	<b>€2,361,319</b>	<b>€3,501,440</b>
<b>Total projects</b>	<b>108 projects</b>	<b>105 projects</b>

the total funding of € 2,361,319 that our study recorded in 2018 with that vast sum, we see that just 0.01 per cent of Germany's development assistance went to LGBTIQ+ issues.

## The three biggest funders over time

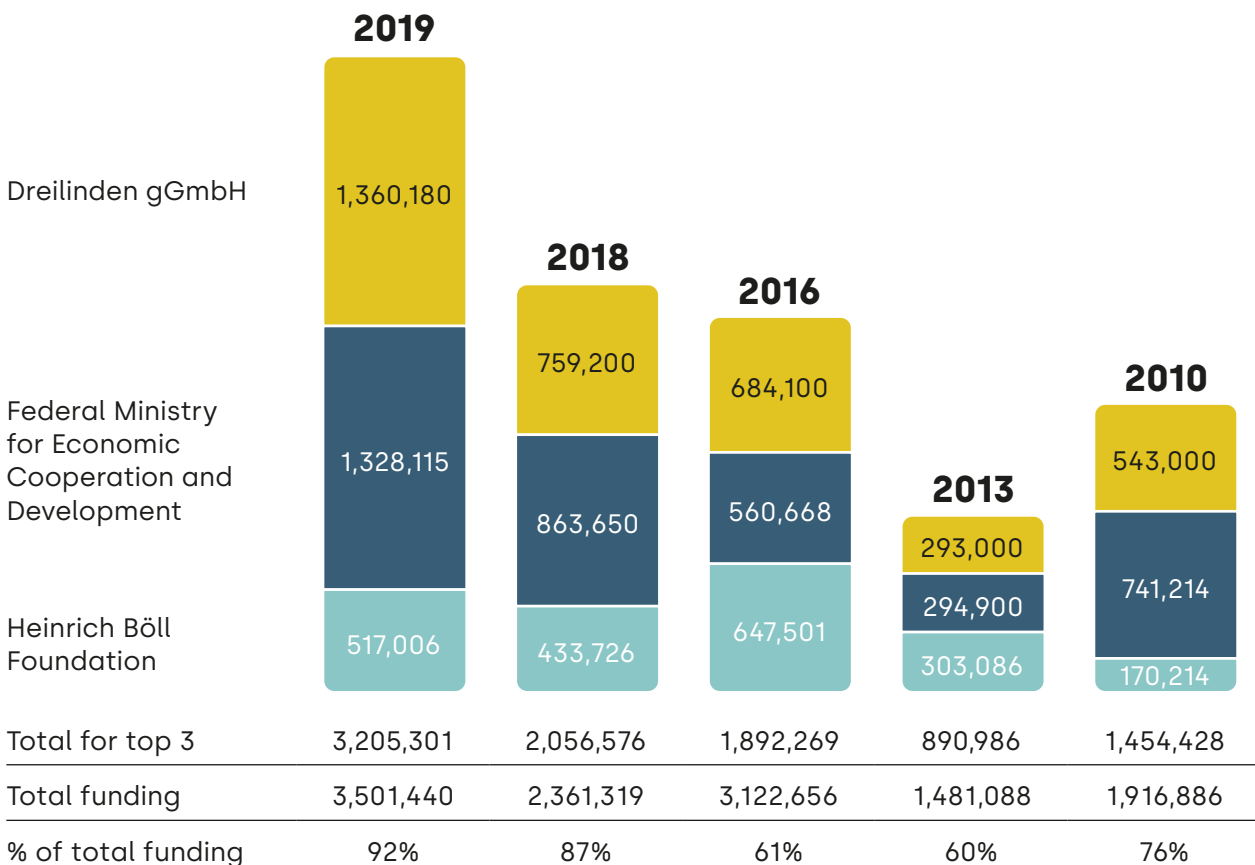
The three biggest funding organisations have remained the same since the second edition of *Regenbogen Philanthropie* in 2010: Dreilinden gGmbH, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), and the Heinrich Böll Foundation. However, the rankings and the funding amounts have altered between the studies. While BMZ provided the most funding in 2010 and 2018, with around € 740,000 and almost € 860,000 respectively, Dreilinden provided the most LGBTIQ+ funding

in the Global South and East in 2016 and 2019, with around € 680,000 and almost € 1.4 million respectively. In 2013, the Heinrich Böll Foundation took the top spot with almost € 300,000.

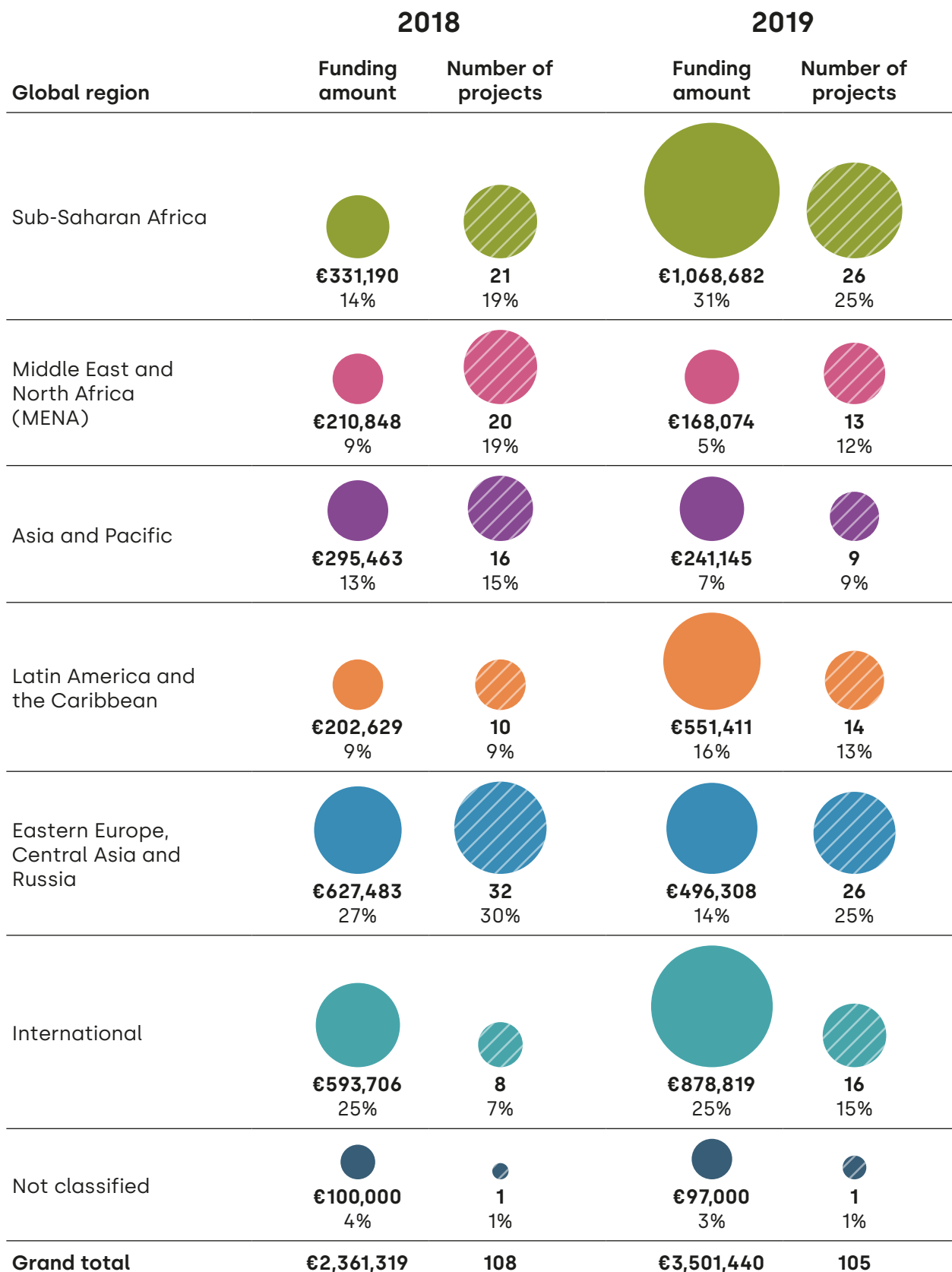
## Geographical distribution of funding in 2018 and 2019

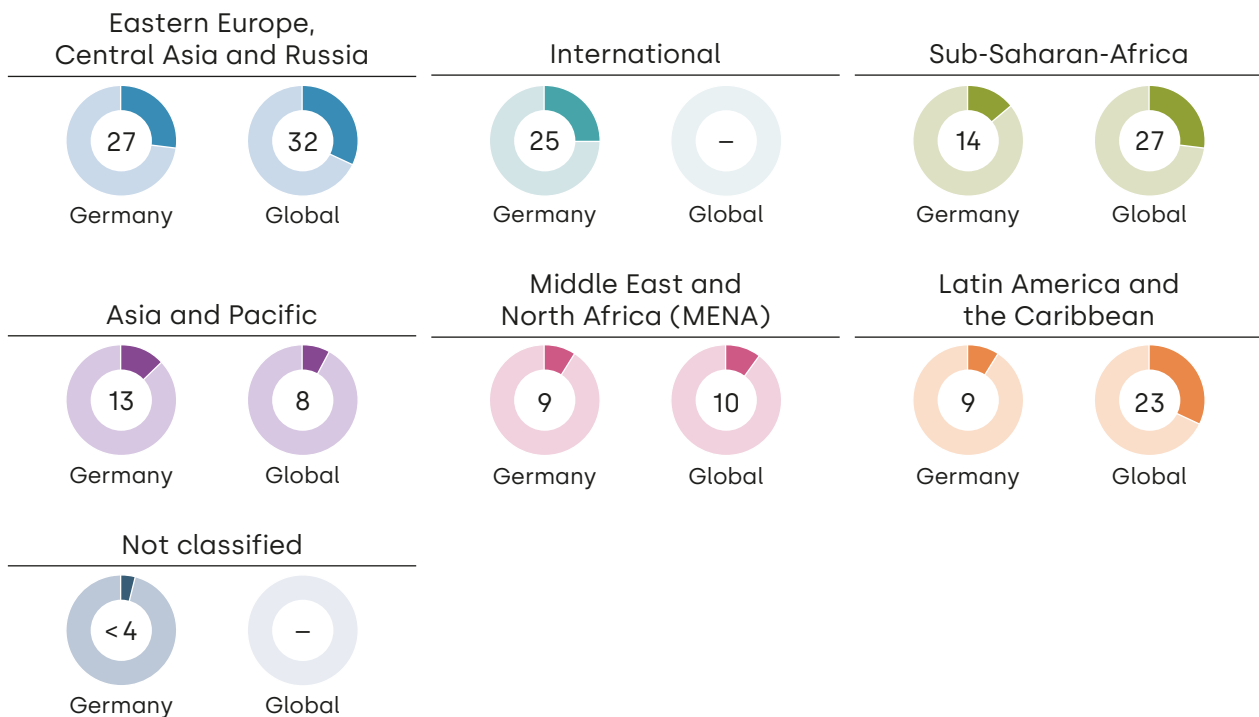
The total funding of € 5,862,759 for 2018 and 2019 was distributed differently across global regions in those two years. While in 2018 the highest number of projects (32) were implemented in Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Russia and that region received the highest amount of funding (€ 627,483), in 2019 sub-Saharan Africa came out on top with 26 projects and € 1,068,682. The global region receiving the lowest amount of funding also changed. In 2018 Latin America and the Caribbean re-

**CHART 2** › Top 3 funders, by total amount; including percentage of total funding (in €, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2013, 2010)



**CHART 3** › Regional breakdown of funding and projects in absolute and percentage terms (in €, 2018, 2019)



**CHART 4** › Regional breakdown of German vs global funding in percentage terms (2018)

ceived the smallest amount (€ 202,629), but in 2019 the region received the second-highest amount of direct funding in the Global South and East. In 2019 the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) received the lowest amount of funding (€ 168,074), and it was also fairly low down the ranking in 2018 – in fourth place with € 210,848. What has remained constant are the regranting projects and interregional funding (“International” category). In both years they occupied second place. There was a considerable increase in regranting in 2019. The “Not classified” category refers to a project for which no geographical location was provided.

### Geographical distribution of funding in 2018, in international comparison

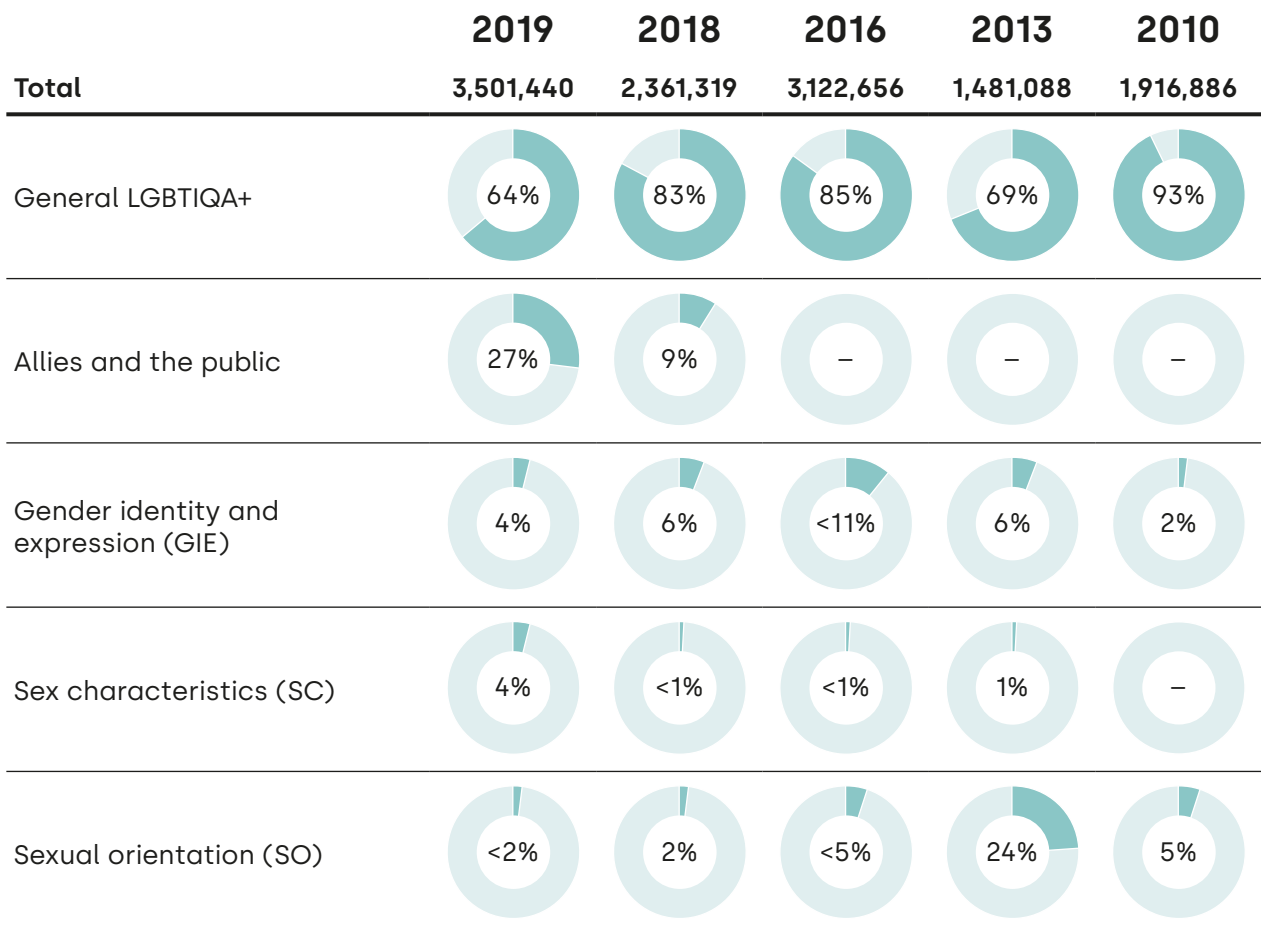
In international comparison, the global region of Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Russia occupied the top position both in Germany and worldwide. Not counting regranting and interregional projects (the “International” category), sub-Saharan Africa took second place in the

international comparison in the 2018 funding year. The biggest difference can be seen in Latin America and the Caribbean: while almost a quarter (23 per cent) of total global funding went to this region, only nine per cent of German funding was allocated there. Sub-Saharan Africa came in third place for German funding, with 14 per cent. The figures for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are roughly the same, with nine per cent from Germany, and ten per cent globally. The Asia and Pacific region received the least support from global sources (eight per cent) but was in the middle of the German ranking, at 13 per cent of the total funding provided.

### Distribution of funding among target groups over time

In all the years that we have been conducting this study, since starting in 2009, more than half of the funding has been allocated to projects in the category “General LGBTIQA+”. In 2013 and 2019 the percentage was something over 60 per cent; in all other years it was bet-

**CHART 5** > Breakdown of total funding among target groups (2019, 2018, 2016, 2013 and 2010)



ween 83 and 93 per cent. No distinct trend can be observed over the years. Although direct comparison is difficult, it is noticeable that there has been increased differentiation over the years and that more target groups are being supported. It is particularly gratifying that there has been a clear increase in the number of projects relating to gender identity and expression and projects for intersex people (“Sexual characteristics” category), whose legal, social and medical situation is still dramatic around the world, making support for the gradually expanding intersex movement an urgent necessity. But while human rights work for intersex people has recently begun receiving funding, our studies to date have found that sex workers are rarely regarded as a target group. And this despite the fact that for years the Trans Monitoring Project has identified trans sex workers – who are usually immi-

grants and people of colour – as one of the most at-risk groups (Transrespect versus Transphobia (TvT) 2019; Global Philanthropy Project et al. 2021).

### Funding in a pandemic

We undertook the study in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, which has further worsened the already precarious situation of LGBTIQ+ people and organisations in several countries around the world. We have observed a political and economic shift to the right in the wake of the pandemic, and we know that LGBTIQ+ communities are typically targeted in such times by right-wing groups. LGBTIQ+ people often meet with obstacles in accessing the labour market and healthcare (e.g. Baumgartinger in progress; Fisk, Byrne 2020; Winter

et al. 2018; East Africa Trans Health and Advocacy Network 2018), and a pandemic exacerbates that situation – as is shown vividly in reports by OutRight Action International (2020a, 2020b) and in research conducted by the Asian Pacific Transgender Network (Singh 2020).

The pandemic thus entails greater hardship for the LGBTIQ+ target groups, as is demonstrated by the increase in Covid-19-related project submissions to several foundations and civil society organisations. The discontinuation of support structures – many originally set up for the long term – represents a serious blow for LGBTIQ+ communities around the world, both immediately and in the longer term (Global Philanthropy Project 2021). The pandemic threatens the very existence of some civil society structures, and of course that has an impact on funding for LGBTIQ+ human rights work. For example, some support organisations in Germany are having difficulties staying in contact with their project partners, as their involvement depends on how well equipped they are technically and what the situation in their specific country is like. Also, in many cases positive awareness among local populations can be heightened by public events such as festivals, but during the pandemic such events have not been possible, or only on a very limited scale.

German funders have had various responses to the altered situation. Alongside introducing measures like establishing closer contacts with civil society actors on the ground and developing new formats such as Covid-19 emergency funds, German foundations and civil society organisations have reacted with great flexibility. Creative measures have included rededicating funds to allow for a more flexible response to the Covid-19 crisis, rechanneling internal funds earmarked for a project that couldn't proceed because of the pandemic into direct support for local LGBTIQ+ people suffering from a Covid-19 infection, sending book parcels, and supporting further applications instead of hosting a partnership week.

But, most importantly, where possible, organisations have adapted to digital formats such as digital storytelling or online seminars and conferences.

## Methodology and data

There are many ways to support human rights work around the world. In the *Regenbogen Philanthropie* studies we focus on the financial aspects, in the current edition on the years 2018 and 2019. Since the survey was conducted in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, we also asked how funders have been dealing with the changes that came about during 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

We contacted more than 100 organisations and received evaluable responses from 29. Of those, eight stated that they do not (financially) support LGBTIQ+ human rights work. That means our study has incorporated the responses of 21 organisations. All figures are self-reported by the funding organisations, and have been converted into euros except in international comparisons, where some amounts are given in US dollars.

We make our comparisons on the basis of the previous *Regenbogen Philanthropie* study (Baumgartinger/Knoke 2018). For international comparisons we primarily use the Global Resources Report (GRR; Global Philanthropy Project, Funders for LGBTQ Issues 2020). Thanks to our collaboration with the Global Philanthropy Project, we can request specific data that fits in with our research design. Although it is difficult to make direct comparisons because of the variety of different research designs, certain tendencies can be identified. In order to simplify our international comparisons, we have adapted our geographical and target group categories to those of the GRR. We categorised the responses related to target groups following the SOGIESC acronym used by GRR, adding our own categories of "General LGBTIQ+" and "Allies and the public".