

APPENDIX I

THE STATE OF INTERSEX ORGANIZING

3RD EDITION

2024



GLOBAL
PHILANTHROPY
PROJECT



APPENDIX I. FUNDER BRIEFING: THE STATE OF INTERSEX FUNDING

Authors: Mauro Cabral Grinspan and Ezra Nepon
for Global Philanthropy Project

Methodology

This brief is based on a comparative analysis of data from two sources.

1. The 2023 *State of Intersex Organizing* (3rd Edition) global survey results, analyzing responses from 151 intersex organizations about their organizational structure, budget, funding needs, and priorities.
2. The 2021–2022 *Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities*, analyzing data on over 20,000 grants awarded to LGBTI movements worldwide by nearly 1,300 foundations, intermediaries, and corporations; 13 governments; and three multilateral agencies over the two years of 2021–2022.³⁷

The State of Intersex Organizing survey solicited data from organizations or groups that specifically and primarily exist to work with intersex people or on intersex issues. In comparison, the *Global Resources Report* offers a few ways to evaluate intersex funding: **grants given to intersex-specific grantees** (referred to in the brief as intersex-focused organizations or intersex organizations), **grants focused on intersex populations**, and **grants focused on intersex issues**. Funding for intersex populations or issues may be awarded to intersex-focused organizations or organizations with a broader mission. **While the *Global Resources Report* generally focuses on funding by population, this brief generally focuses on funding to intersex organizations.** The form of intersex-focused grant funding referenced in comparison is indicated throughout the text.

³⁷ Published June 2024.
globalresourcesreport.org

The State of Intersex Organizing was a global survey including responses from groups based in and focused on the United States. The *Global Resources Report* also analyzes the global LGBTI funding landscape, including grants focused on the United States. However, the funding context for LGBTI issues within the United States differs and is quite distinct from funding outside of the United States.³⁸ Unless explicitly indicated, the *Global Resources Report* data in this brief excludes funding focused on the U.S. When the U.S. is included, this will be indicated by a **US +**

The following section provides more detailed information on the current funding challenges faced by intersex organizations.

All monetary amounts are reported in United States dollars (\$).

FUNDING CHALLENGE 1

Intersex funding has stayed low and is an extremely small percentage of global LGBTI grantmaking.

***The State of Intersex Organizing* survey found that about half of intersex organizations had annual budgets under \$20,000; 13% had no budget.**

While 151 intersex organizations were included in *The State of Intersex Organizing* survey analysis, the 2021–2022 *Global Resources Report* analyzed grants awarded to about 85 intersex-focused organizations. These numbers support the survey findings that 35% of intersex groups received no external funding and therefore would not be represented in the *Global Resources Report*—suggesting that the survey respondents and grantee list are both a relatively accurate representation of current global intersex organizing.

In the 2021–2022 *Global Resources Report*, intersex-focused organizations received 219 grants totaling \$7 million, or less than 2% of the global LGBTI total.³⁹

The average grant to an intersex-focused organization was \$31,437, and the median was \$5,000.⁴⁰ In comparison, the average overall LGBTI grant size was \$55,402, and the median was \$12,000.

Overall, intersex-focused organizations received less than 2% of global LGBTI funding. These numbers clearly show that while the funding environment for intersex work has improved over recent years, it remains extremely limited.

³⁸ For detailed information about funding focused on the United States, see *Funders for LGBTQ Issues' 2022 Resource Tracking Report: LGBTQ Grantmaking by U.S. Foundations*. lgbtfunders.org/research-item/2022-tracking-report (June 2024).

³⁹ When including funds focused on the United States, funding for intersex populations totaled just 1% (\$10 million) of global LGBTI funding (\$905 million). For funding specifically focused on the United States, intersex populations received less than 1% (0.45%).

⁴⁰ When including funds awarded for regranting for work outside of the United States, the total amount is \$7,961,400, representing 230 grants; the average grant amount increases to \$33,735 and the median to \$13,563.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 2

Intersex organizations receive little external funding.

***The State of Intersex Organizing* survey found that most intersex organizations received under \$20,000 in external funding; 35% had none.**

The *Global Resources Report* documents intersex organizations that received grant awards reported by donors. Of these, in 2022, 58% of grantees received under \$20,000. Globally, only 22 intersex-focused grantees received over \$20,000 in 2022.

Of these grants, 76% of the funds were focused on intersex populations, while 24% were focused on allied populations—generally for programs with shared trans and intersex focus.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 3

Intersex organizations remain dependent on a very small number of donors.

***The State of Intersex Organizing* survey found that most intersex organizations had two or fewer external funding sources.**

Confirming the survey results, 86% of intersex organization grantees in the 2021–2022 *Global Resources Report* had received funds from three or fewer donors, with 66% having only one reported donor.

The survey found that most external funding for intersex organizations was from foundations and intermediary NGO grantmakers.

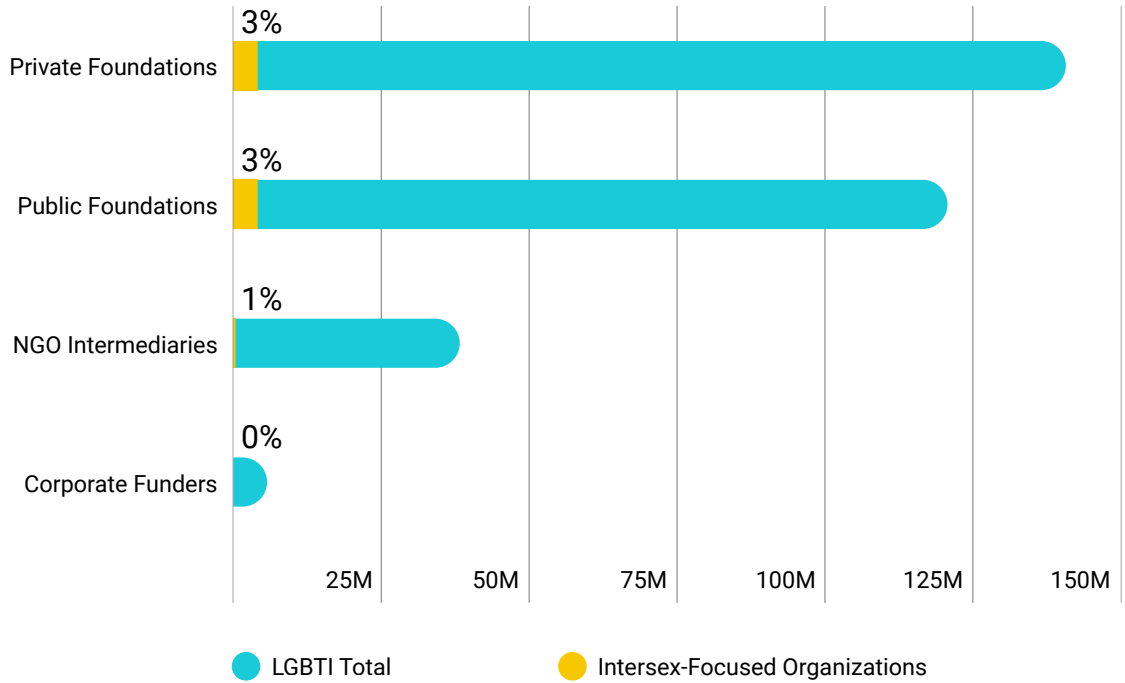
According to the 2021–2022 *Global Resources Report*, intersex-focused organizations worldwide were supported by 24 public foundations, 8 private foundations, and 6 NGO intermediaries—a total of 38 out of 248 nongovernmental donors.³⁹ No corporate donors reported providing support.

Furthermore, almost half (47%) of the total number of grants to intersex organizations was awarded by just one grantmaker—the Intersex Human Rights Fund (IHRF) of Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, a key intermediary donor but one with a small average grant size of about \$12,000. In 2021–2022, five large private foundations reported grants to IHRF for redistribution to intersex organizations.

⁴¹ 15% of the total number of foundations supporting non-U.S.-focused grantees.

The following table shows the amount of money awarded to intersex organizations, compared with total LGBTI amounts.

Chart 1A: Funding to Intersex-Focused Organizations and Percentage of Total LGBTI (2021–2022)



FUNDING CHALLENGE 4

Governments and multilaterals are providing extremely scarce support.

While intersex organizations report receiving domestic and international government funding and some multilateral funding, almost none is documented in the *Global Resources Report*.

Fifteen percent of respondents to *The State of Intersex Organizing* survey reported receiving support from their own government, 19% reported receiving funds from other governments (international development aid), and 13% reported receiving funds from multilateral organizations.

While the *Global Resources Report* does not track or report on domestic government funding, in 2021–2022, only one government reported directly supporting any intersex organization through international development aid, with a total amount of less than \$25,000—and the grant was focused on both intersex and trans populations. This amount represents 0.01% of the total global LGBTI funding reported by 13 governments.

When analyzing government funds focused on intersex populations from 2021–2022, three governments awarded a total of about \$50,000.

While three multilateral organizations reported a total overall LGBT amount of \$7.4 million to the *2021–2022 Global Resources Report*, none reported providing direct support for intersex-focused organizations, and no funds were awarded with exclusive focus on intersex populations.

This disjunction of survey response and funding data indicates a need for improved reporting and tracking to document government and multilateral funds reaching intersex organizations.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 5

The intersex movement has expanded geographically, but funding remained concentrated.

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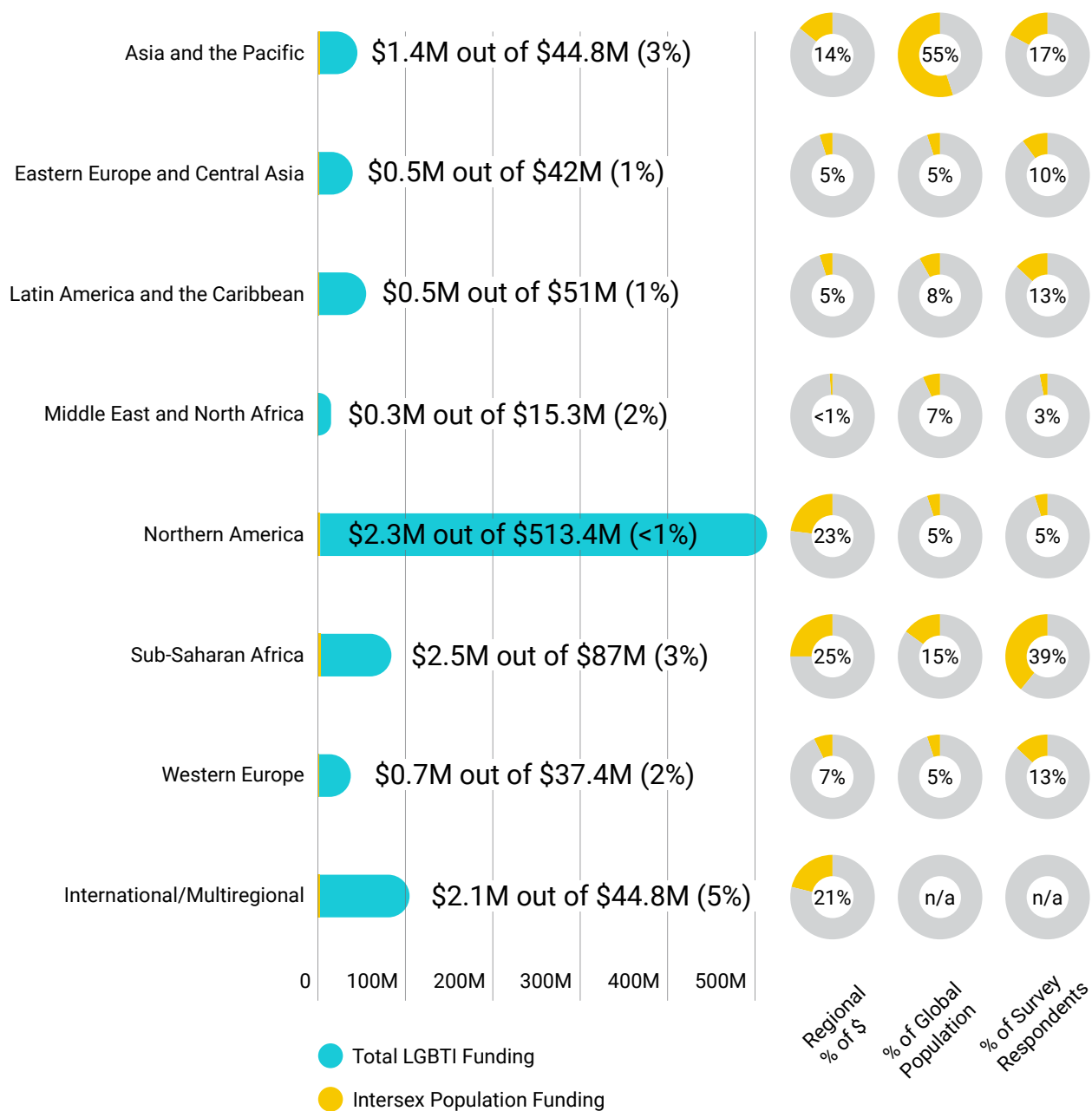
Intersex organizations are underfunded across all regions, but the largest funding proportions are focused on Sub-Saharan Africa and Northern America and work at the International or Multiregional levels.

Reviewing intersex funding by world region in the *2021–2022 Global Resources Report*, the findings are similar to those in the survey. The chart below compares funding to intersex populations relative to total LGBTI funding and in the context of world population proportions. In this view, there are clear regional disparities and gaps—with particularly low funding levels relative to population size in Asia and the Pacific.

Notably, about half of the funding for intersex populations was focused on the Global South and East, and about 21% was in the International/Multiregional space.⁴² These portions were significantly higher than those focused on LGBQ or trans funding.

⁴² Nine percent of the multiregional funding was also focused on the Global South and East.

Chart 2A: Funding to Intersex Populations, by World Region (2021–2022)



FUNDING CHALLENGE 6

Intersex organizations meet a wide range of community needs, but funding is not fully aligned.

Intersex organizations are active on a wide range of issues and strategies but do not necessarily receive funding for the breadth of this work.

In *The State of Intersex Organizing* survey, respondents were active across a range of strategies and reported performing a median of three activities. Asked about their most underfunded needs, the top priority responses were advocacy against normalizing interventions (53%) and general work for intersex human rights (48%).

In the *Global Resources Report*, for funds focused on intersex organizations in 2021–2022, 88% was focused on the issue of human rights, with 81% concentrated specifically on intersex rights—this aligns with 96% of survey respondents reporting an advocacy focus and the indicated priorities for funding needs. However, 82% of survey respondents also indicated a focus on health and wellness, yet only 4% of intersex-focused grants addressed this issue, and most of that funding focused on the sub-issue of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention.

Relatedly, intersex funding analyzed by strategy showed a much higher portion focused on advocacy (75%) compared to general LGBTI funding (54%) and found lower ratios of funding focused on direct services, capacity building, and culture/media work.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 7

Intersex organizations have few paid staff and limited support for wellbeing and burnout prevention.

***The State of Intersex Organizing* survey found that most intersex organizations are led by unpaid intersex people, and they report high levels of strain and burnout, yet there is scarce funding to specifically address capacity issues.**

In the 2021–2022 *Global Resources Report*, donors reported that 71% of their funding to intersex-focused organizations was for

general operating support and 26% for program support. The additional funds included 1% each for emergency funding, capacity building, and capital support (funds for buying or renovating property). This significantly differs from the overall statistics for LGBTI funding, where only 37% of funds are noted for general operating support and 52% for program support. Despite receiving a higher-than-average proportion of general operating support, often a donor strategy to enable more flexibility for grantees' emerging needs, it is clear from the survey that intersex organizations are still struggling meaningfully with capacity issues. Donors may consider awarding increased funds for capacity building, emergency assistance, and other responsive and strengthening supports.

Relatedly, 43% of respondents identified responding to COVID-19 impacts on intersex communities as one of the challenges they have faced in recent years. Evaluating COVID-focused funding in the *Global Resources Report* from 2019–2022, about \$505,000 was awarded to intersex-focused organizations and just over \$650,000 focused on intersex populations—2% of the total, similar to overall intersex funding levels with global LGBTI totals.

The survey found that few intersex organizations have dependable multiyear funding. In contrast, in the *2021–2022 Global Resources Report*, 64% of grant funds to intersex-focused organizations were multiyear (more than one year), more than the average of 59% for all grantees. This difference between the survey and the *Global Resources Report* again affirms that the survey received responses from many organizations whose funding is not fully documented in the *Global Resources Report*—and these undocumented grants were more likely to be single-year awards.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 8

Underfunded intersex organizations serve as a crucial resource for intersex movements and communities.

***The State of Intersex Organizing* survey found that nearly all intersex-focused work is being done by specifically intersex organizations.**

Of grants awarded to intersex populations, when reviewing specifically intersex-focused grants in the *Global Resources Report*, 99.7% were awarded to intersex-focused organizations. When multi-population grants were included, 74% of funding went to intersex-focused organizations, with most other funds going

to general LGBTQI groups (12%), trans groups (7%), and LBQ-focused groups (5%).

The survey found that intersex organizations hold a key role in supporting other intersex groups and individuals through sub-granting.

Among the groups surveyed, 22% reported giving sub-grants to individuals, while 17% gave grants to other intersex organizations. This self-reported grantmaking spanned across budget sizes. However, the only funding reported as being awarded for regranting in the *Global Resources Report* was directed to Astraea's Intersex Human Rights Fund—this suggests that intersex groups of all sizes are supporting each other and their communities from their own resources more often than from grant funding specifically intended for that purpose.