

APPENDIX I

THE STATE OF TRANS ORGANIZING

3RD EDITION

2024



APPENDIX I. FUNDER BRIEFING: THE STATE OF TRANS FUNDING

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Methodology

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

1. The 2023 *State of Trans Organizing* (3rd Edition) global survey results, analyzing responses from 449 trans 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 2021–2022.⁴³

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

⁴³ Published June 2024.
globalresourcesreport.org

The State of Trans Organizing was a global survey that included 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.⁴⁴ 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 +**

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

FUNDING CHALLENGE 1

Trans funding remains a small percentage of total global LGBTI grantmaking.

Funding for trans populations has increased, yet funding to trans-focused organizations is significantly lower.

Funding for all global trans populations (including the United States) totaled \$134.9 million in 2021–2022, 15% of the total. For grants to organizations focused on the U.S., funding for trans populations made up 17% of the total LGBTI funding. Outside of the United States, trans funding accounted for less—13%.

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Excluding U.S.-focused funding, in the 2021–2022 *Global Resources Report*, trans-focused grantee organizations received about 1,200 grants totaling \$30 million, or about 8% of the global LGBTI total.

The average grant to a trans-focused organization was \$25,400, and the median was \$4,521. In comparison, the average overall LGBTI grant size was \$55,402, and the median was \$12,000.

These numbers clearly show that although the funding environment for trans work has improved over recent years, it has remained low, especially in the context of escalating attacks on trans communities worldwide. For example, just one anti-trans organization (Alliance Defending Freedom) had over \$183 million in combined 2021–2022 income – more than the entire global trans movement.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ 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).

⁴⁵ Revenue records for the Alliance Defending Freedom retrieved from the ProPublica Nonprofit Explorer. projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/541660459

FUNDING CHALLENGE 2

Trans organizations receive little external funding.

***The State of Trans Organizing* survey found that most trans organizations had annual budgets under \$20,000, and 14% had no budget.**

In contrast to the 449 trans organizations included in *The State of Trans Organizing* survey analysis, the *2021–2022 Global Resources Report* included grants awarded to about 475 trans-focused grantee organizations.

In 2022, 58% of these trans-focused grantee organizations received under \$20,000. Globally, only 125 trans-focused organizations received over that amount.

Given that 30% of trans organization survey respondents reported receiving no external funding, these findings align to affirm the extremely low levels of grant funding.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 3

Trans organizations remain dependent on a few donors.

***The State of Trans Organizing* survey found that most trans organizations had less than three external funding sources.**

Confirming the survey results, 95% of trans organization grantees in the *2021–2022 Global Resources Report* had received funds from three or fewer donors, with 78% having only one reported donor.

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

According to the *2021–2022 Global Resources Report*, most trans organizations were supported by public foundations (58), followed by private foundations (17) and NGO intermediaries (13), and corporate foundations⁴⁶ (4)—a total of 92 out of 248 non-governmental donors (37%).⁴⁷ Of these, over half (53%) awarded average grant amounts under \$20,000.

Furthermore, almost one-third (30%) of the total number of grants to trans organizations were awarded by just three intermediary

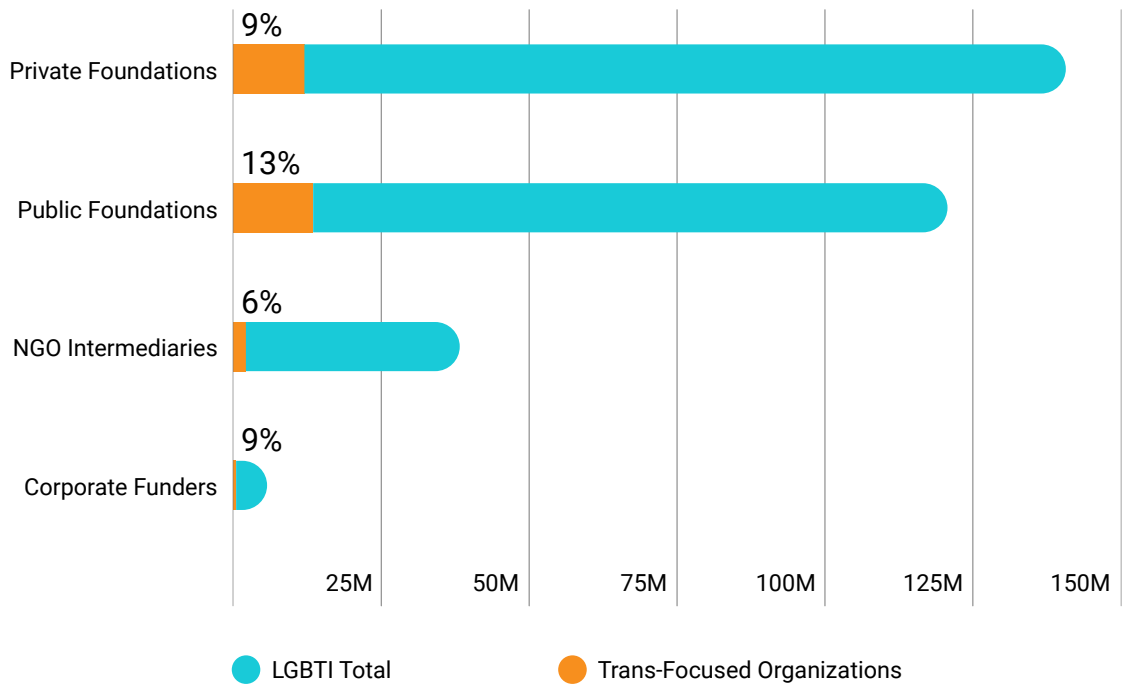
⁴⁶ All corporate donors were HIV-focused funders.

⁴⁷ Total number of foundations supporting non-U.S.-focused grantees.

grantmakers—Freedom House (Dignity for All: LGBTQI+ Assistance Program), Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, and International Trans Fund.

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

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



FUNDING CHALLENGE 4

Support from governments and multilaterals remains low.

While trans organizations reported government and multilateral funding, much less was documented in the *Global Resources Report*.

Almost 25% of respondents to *The State of Trans Organizing* survey reported receiving support from another country’s government (international development aid), over 21% reported receiving funding from their own country’s government, and 20% reported receiving funding from a multilateral organization.

While the *Global Resources Report* does not track or report on domestic government funding, in 2021–2022, only 4 governments out of 13 reported supporting trans organizations through

international development aid, with a total amount under \$900,000. This represents just 0.5% of the total provided by governments to global LGBTI movements. Notably, of government funding awarded to trans organizations, 23% was awarded through embassies.

Only one multilateral institution reported funding trans organizations—for less than \$400,000, representing 5% of multilateral funding for global LGBTI issues.

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

FUNDING CHALLENGE 5

The trans movement has expanded geographically, but funding has stayed concentrated.

The majority of global trans funding is focused on the United States.

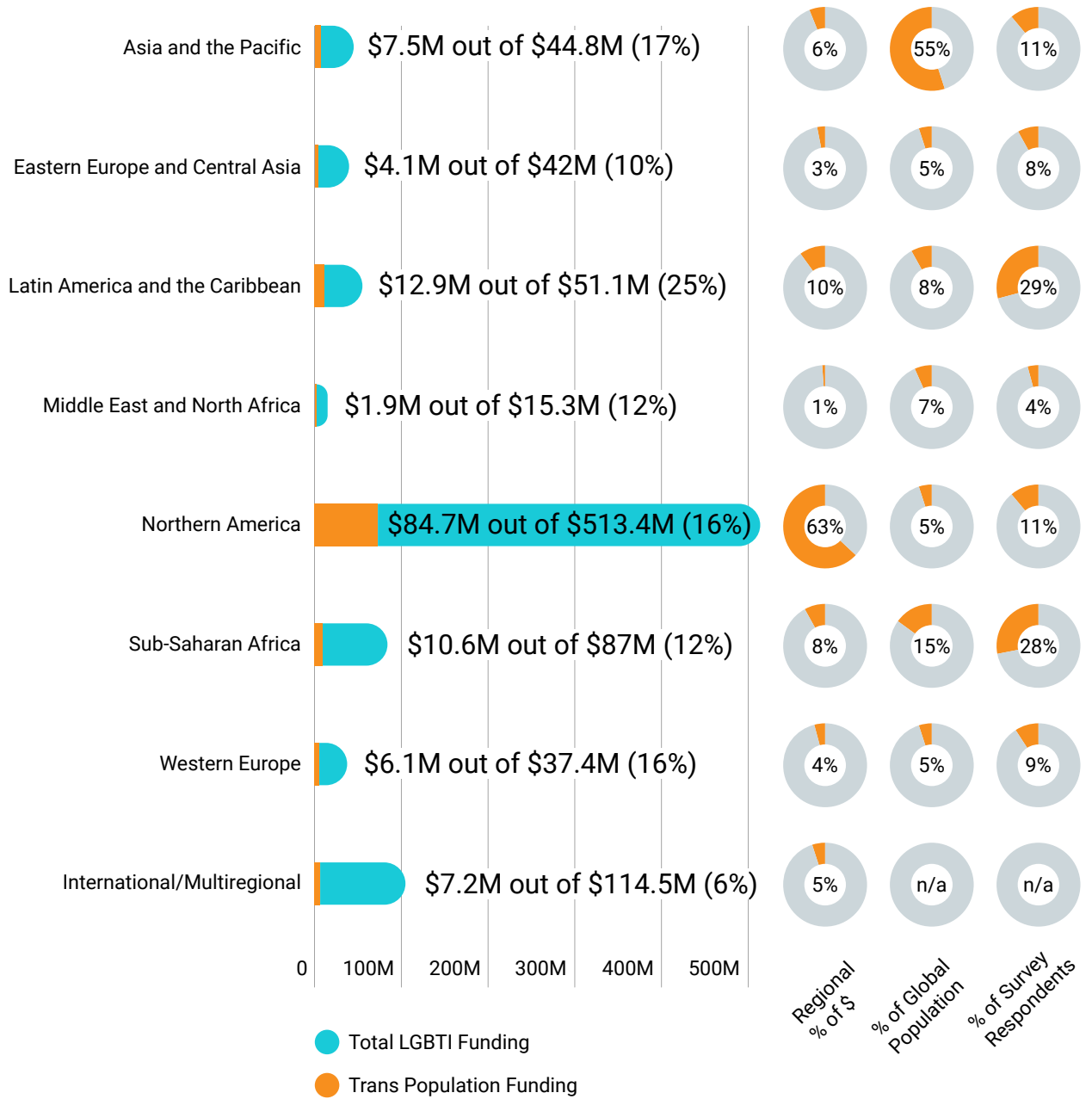
Reviewing trans funding by world region in the *2021–2022 Global Resources Report*, **most trans funding was focused on the Global North (67%), with 93% of that amount focused specifically on the United States.** Aside from funds focused on the United States, the highest portion of trans funding was Latin America and the Caribbean (10%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (8%).

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The chart below shows funding to trans populations in the context of all LGBTI funding for each world region, by amount and percent. In comparison, the percentage split of trans funding awarded to each world region is shown, along with the split of world population size by region, and the regional percentages of *The State of Trans Organizing* survey respondents.

Trans funding did make up sizable portions of overall LGBTI funding in some world regions. Yet the overall amounts maintain levels far lower than the trans or overall LGBTI movement needs. Furthermore, the low funding levels relative to population size indicate ongoing gaps—with particularly low funding levels relative to population size in Asia and the Pacific.

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



FUNDING CHALLENGE 6

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

Trans organizations are active across a very wide span of issues and strategies, but they do not necessarily receive funding for the breadth of their work.

In *The State of Trans Organizing* survey, respondents were active across various strategies and reported performing a median of 19 activities. When asked about their underfunded needs, the top responses were work for general trans human rights (27%); improving health care access (19%); employment, benefits, and livelihood (19%); and movement-building resources (19%).

In the *Global Resources Report*, funds focused on trans organizations in 2021–2022 followed similar trends to general LGBTI funding in their breakdown by issue and strategy. Human rights was the top issue focus at 65%, with 52% focusing on the sub-issue of gender identity rights. However, only 8% was focused on health and wellness, with about half of that funding focused on the sub-issue of mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention. While a top priority for movements, the issue of economic inclusion received only 3% of funding for trans organizations.

Trans funding analyzed by strategy went mainly to advocacy (58%), with lower amounts to direct services (18%), capacity-building (14%), and other strategies. These findings indicate that key priorities of trans movements are not being matched by current funding priorities/focus.

Trans organizations are key in supporting other trans groups and individuals through sub-granting.

Among the organizations surveyed, 36% reported giving sub-grants to individuals, while 31% gave grants to other trans organizations. This self-reported grantmaking spanned across budget sizes. However, the trans-focused funding awarded for regranteeing in the *Global Resources Report* went to just five organizations. Furthermore, 76% of these funds were awarded to the International Trans Fund, a key intermediary foundation and participatory grantmaker. This suggests that trans 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.

Trans people are highly represented among those impacted by discrimination, violence, and other groups under attack.

In the *2021–2022 Global Resources Report*, grants for several other global LGBTI subpopulations reflected significant funding focused on trans people: 11% of funds focused on immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers; 14% of funds focused on children and youth; and 22% of funding for survivors of violence. Similarly, trans people were a key population in funding focused on global LGBTI funding by sub-issue, including humanitarian response (12%), anti-violence (18%), work around families (22%), sports (35%), and sex worker rights (47%).

While trans people faced specific challenges during the early years of the COVID-19 pandemic, and 42% of survey respondents said that responding to COVID impacts on trans communities was a challenge for their group, the *Global Resources Report* shows that 13% of LGBTI COVID-related funding went to trans organizations between 2019 and 2022—similar to levels of overall trans funding.

Further, the *Global Resources Report* data finds that 155 of the 170 grants awarded to trans individuals in 2021–2022 were emergency funds for people facing persecution or threats or requiring emergency evacuation.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 7

Trans organizations have some paid staff, but leadership are stretched, attacked, and harassed – support for wellbeing is under-resourced.

Most trans organizations are led by trans people (paid and volunteer), 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*, 54% of grant funds to trans-focused organizations were multiyear (more than one year), slightly less than the average of 59% for all grantees. Of trans-focused grants reported to the *Global Resources Report*, more than half (57%) were for general operating support. Only 2% was focused on capacity building.

These levels are not sufficient to meet the conditions that trans organizations and communities are facing, especially given that many trans organizations who took the survey reported that they

are not receiving any grants. And with low budget sizes and few donors, most trans organizations that do receive grants are not yet benefiting from the intended stabilizing effects of multiyear and general operating funding.

FUNDING CHALLENGE 8

Scarce funding is focused specifically on the different needs of trans women, trans men, and other trans subpopulations.

The State of Trans Organizing survey found that 50% of responding organizations were focused on trans people in general, and 23% were focused on both trans and intersex people. Furthermore, 12% focused specifically on transfeminine people and trans women, 7% on transmasculine people and trans men, and 8% on other gender diverse communities.

However, in the *2021–2022 Global Resources Report*, 85% of grants to trans populations were directed to the broader umbrella category of transgender, while only 13% was focused specifically on trans women, 2% focused on trans men, and less than 1% to other gender-diverse communities.

48 [cdc.gov/hiv/policies/data/transgender-issue-brief.html](https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/policies/data/transgender-issue-brief.html)

49 Notably, the Funders Concerned About AIDS 2022 tracking report “Philanthropic Support to Address HIV and AIDS in 2022” shows nearly \$32 million awarded with a focus on trans as a key population in their Populations of Focus chart (page 10). This much higher number is due to a methodology difference, as explained in footnote 8 of the FCAA report: “Many individual grants target multiple categories and populations. In those cases, the total amount of the grant is counted for each category. For example... a grant for transgender women is counted for both transgender populations and women and girls.” resourcestracking.fcaaid.org This means that the \$32+ million total includes the full amount of any grant that includes trans as one of multiple populations. In contrast, the *Global Resources Report* only documents the amount of funding specifically focused on LGBTI (or subpopulation). Additionally, FCAA tracking totals include funding focused on the United States, while the *Global Resources Report* does not include U.S. totals in reported grants for PLWHA.

Trans people are still disproportionately affected by HIV, with very little dedicated resources.

In 2022, trans people faced 14 times higher HIV prevalence than cis people⁴⁸ and relatedly HIV response ranked as a common focus in *The State of Trans Organizing* survey. Worryingly, the *2021–2022 Global Resources Report* found that, of all funding focused on People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), only 12% was awarded to trans organizations worldwide (excluding the United States).

Funding focused on trans populations was higher, about 20% of all funding for PLWHA.⁴⁹ Of this funding, most was oriented to the broader trans community, with very little explicitly focused on trans subpopulations—with 5% noted as being for trans women and less than 1% for trans men.