

**2017/2018**

# **Global Resources Report**

Government and  
Philanthropic Support for  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
Transgender, and Intersex  
Communities



## SUMMARY for ASIA and the PACIFIC

Global Philanthropy Project Report

# A call for increased investment to make the work for LGBTI human rights and inclusive development stronger and more sustainable

At the onset of the Covid-19 health crisis, the Global Philanthropy Project (GPP) launched, on 28 May 2020, the 2017-2018 Global Resources Report: Government and Philanthropic Support for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Communities. 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. The report is co-developed with Funders for LGBTQ Issues, a network of U.S.-based funders supporting LGBTQ communities.

GPP calls on grantmakers and philanthropic partners to listen to civil society in order to build stronger development assistance response and encourages the LGBTI civil society to use the report as a tool for engaging with existing and potential new funders.



[See full report here.](#)

Acknowledgement:

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## The Big Picture

The [Global Resources Report](#) documents over 19,764 grants awarded by 800 foundations, NGO intermediary funders, corporations and by 15 donor government and multilateral agencies over the two-year period of 2017-2018. The report provides an overview of philanthropic funding for LGBTI issues around the world and documents detailed data on the distribution of LGBTI funding by geography, issue, strategy, and population focus, offering a tool for identifying trends, gaps, and opportunities in the rapidly changing landscape of LGBTI funding.

During the two-year period, global funding totaled approximately \$560 million. This is GPP's third two-year report and between the 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 period, global LGBTI funding grew by over \$57 million or 11 percent. The report also includes over 300 more funders than the previous edition, which points to increasingly comprehensive and accurate documentation of global LGBTI funding data.

Although there is a growth in LGBTI funding in the last six years, there is no significant change in the proportion to overall foundation and donor governments funding. In 2017-2018, the global LGBTI funding from foundations and from donor governments made up less than 31 cents and less than 4 cents respectively out of every \$100 of international development efforts and assistance.

### Geographic focus

The report covers in detail the LGBTI funding within three distinct geographic scopes: (i) the Global South and East (including Asia and the Pacific), (ii) the Global North and (iii) international LGBTI issues such as advocacy in international bodies and instruments or multi-regional support for capacity building.

Some \$323.4 million or 58 % of all funding focused on LGBTI communities in the Global North, some \$173.6 million or 31 % focused on issues in the Global South and East (which includes some \$30.8 million for Asia and the Pacific); and \$63 million or 11 percent focused on LGBTI issues at the international or global level. Funding with an unspecified geographic focus received \$95,274 during the same period.

### Issues and Strategies

Human Rights was the highest funded issue area, followed by Health and Well-Being which includes support to HIV/AIDS. Some other issue areas focused on Families and Communities, Visibility, Education/Safe Schools, Economy; and confronting Violence, Homophobia and Transphobia.

Advocacy, Community Organizing and Public Education were the top funded strategies during 2017-2018, receiving 57% of the total funding. Other strategies included Capacity Building and Training, Direct Service, Philanthropy and Fundraising, Research, Culture and Media.

## Funding for LGBTI issues in Asia and the Pacific

During the 2017-2018 reporting period, 79 grantmakers awarded some \$30.8 million for LGBTI issues in Asia and Pacific. Compared to the previous reporting period for 2015-2016 (with total funding of \$22.3 million), the region shows an increase in total grant amount, number of funders and numbers of grants.

While the Asia and Pacific region saw an increase of some 38 percent in funding compared to the previous period, the funding for 2017-2018 only represents 5.5 percent of the global LGBTI funding reported.

The vast majority (94%) of LGBTI funding for Asia and the Pacific went to grantees in the region while 6 percent was awarded to organizations based in Finland, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Although the bulk of funds goes to groups in the region, resources are still coming from outside the region, which highlights an important advocacy point for regional resource mobilization and partnership building in Asia and the Pacific.

Collectively, the top ten funders for the region awarded \$16.5 million, accounting for 54 percent of all funding for LGBTI issues in Asia and the Pacific.

### Funding by sub-region

The largest amount of funding to the region focused on Southeast Asia, accounting for some \$11 million or 36 percent of the total funding for the region. South Asia received the second largest funding at \$8.3 million and East Asia received some \$5.1 million. A remarkable increase is noted for Oceania with a funding of \$2.6 million compared to some \$660,000 during the previous period.

### Issues addressed

Human Rights received 56 percent out of the total funding of \$30.8 million for LGBTI issues in Asia and the Pacific. It is interesting to observe that the issues on Sexual and Reproductive Rights/Justice and Sex Workers Rights both received less than one percent of the funding targeted for Human Rights.

Health and Well-Being received some 20 percent or \$6.2 million of which \$5.3 million was earmarked for HIV/AIDS. Only relatively small amounts were targeting issue such as cultural competence, data collection and sexual and reproductive health. Confronting Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia receive less than 1 percent of the funding for Asia and the Pacific.

This Global Resources Report covers the period before the onset of the pandemic by end 2019 – early 2020 and, interestingly enough, shows small amounts of funding for issues like Strengthening Families, Housing and Homelessness, Labor/Employment and General Health Services and Health Promotion. Only little money is made available for community empowerment. Future resource mobilization and grants focus for LGBTI communities may look different for the time of COVID-19 and beyond.

## Population Focus

Over the two-year period of 2017-2018, funding for some populations increased in Asia and the Pacific, including for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers; and for Intersex communities. Funding decreased for grants focused on Children and Youth, Transgender Communities and Sex Workers. For the first time, a small amount of funding was documented for Older Adults.

