



GLOBAL FORUM
ON MSM & HIV
MSMGF.ORG

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

**WHEN TIMES
GET TOUGH,
WE GET
TOUGHER**



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A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I think we can all agree, 2016 was a tough year. We saw a rise in violence targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; we witnessed the re-emergence of xenophobic, conservative populist movements; and we experienced stunning political setbacks in the global fight against AIDS. 2016 was tough but MSMGF rose to the occasion, lifting our voice, with countless other advocates, to champion the lived experiences of gay and bisexual men around the world.

In 2016, MSMGF shined a spotlight on gay and bisexual men's community-level contributions to the global HIV response at the International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa. Aligned with the conference's overall theme– *Access, Equity, Rights, Now* –MSMGF's Pre-Conference focused on HIV advocacy and service delivery, with an emphasis on action on access to sexual health services. Our pre-conference was geared towards activists, program implementers, government officials, and researchers interested in aligning their efforts with the latest science on HIV. Participants strategized approaches and shared best practices. We gathered 700 advocates, healthcare professionals, researchers, government officials and donors for a 1-day deep-dive into the issues that matter the most to gay and bisexual men.

MSMGF answered the call to do more to support technical capacity and sensitivity of healthcare professionals. In 2016, we launched CPR, a new e-learning hub designed to revive health systems that are failing gay and bisexual men. The online platform offers continuing education opportunities for healthcare providers, community-based service providers, and other health sector stakeholders to ensure that HIV and sexual health programs for men who have sex with men are aligned with global standards as endorsed by the World Health Organization.

MSMGF also engaged with gay app users. We partnered with Hornet – one of the world's largest gay apps – to reach its 9 million users with educational messages about sexual health and HIV. 53,000 Hornet users overwhelmingly responded to the campaign by documenting their experiences accessing HIV services through a short survey administered through the Hornet app. Users all over the world were encouraged to demand expanded availability of high quality HIV prevention and treatment services.

Additionally, MSMGF directed much of its advocacy and global organizing strength in 2016 towards the United Nations (UN) High-level Meeting to End AIDS, where governmental leaders from around the world convened to review progress and to make future commitments to the world's AIDS response. MSMGF organized the first-ever side event at the UN focused on the needs of gay and bisexual men. Men who have sex with men are among the few groups for which HIV remains uncontrolled in many parts of the world. Despite active attempts by governments like Russia and Iran to bar community participation at the High-level Meeting, we used this forum to produce factual policy briefs, educate UN mission staff, and join forces with other constituency-led community movements.

Unfortunately, the final Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting was just that – political. Political views are not necessarily anchored in evidence or facts. While human rights and women's rights were raised at the meeting, the final Political Declaration spoke sparsely to the disproportionate HIV disease burden still being shouldered by men who have sex with men. For many governments, it is easier to support revisionist and politically motivated understandings of HIV than to face the fact that HIV is principally a sexually transmitted infection, which especially impacts men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender women, and people who inject drugs. It therefore becomes convenient to ignore our communities' needs and the importance of getting to the *right people, with the right solutions, right now* (to paraphrase U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator & U.S. Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy, Ambassador Deborah L. Birx, M.D.).

MSMGF will continue to hold governmental institutions like the U.N. accountable. Silence and denial are not acceptable options to the fundamental structural and social causes of HIV. Left unchecked, homophobia, violence, stigma, and discrimination, will continue to stifle efforts to end AIDS. While we absolutely need political will from governmental institutions to advance our health and rights agenda, we also need sound research and community support to make headway. Our job is to monitor, to document, to educate, to form coalitions, to demand access, to speak truth to power, and to support one another as advocates.

As the year got tough, MSMGF got stronger, thanks to the hard work of our Board, Steering Committee, staff, consultants, community-based partners, and activists worldwide. For example, MSMGF took the bold step of reorganizing its governance structure to include greater numbers of young (under the age of 30) gay and bisexual men and representatives from the Consortium of MSM and Transgender Networks on our international Steering Committee. Young men make up 9 of the 14 members of MSMGF's Steering Committee. MSMGF's Steering Committee is responsible for advising and appointing the agency's Board of Directors. In other words, young activists are now positioned to steward our organization. With new leadership, MSMGF is uniquely prepared to meet challenges head-on, with bold new ideas and strategic action. Stay tuned.



George Ayala
Executive Director



WHO WE ARE

The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF) was founded in 2006 at the Toronto International AIDS Conference by an international group of activists concerned about the disproportionate HIV disease burden being shouldered by men who have sex with men worldwide. The silence at that time about the toll HIV was taking on men who have sex with men was deeply troubling to many community members and advocates working at the frontlines.

Our coalition includes a wide range of people, including HIV-positive and HIV-negative gay men directly affected by the HIV epidemic, and other experts in health, human rights, research, and policy. What we share is our willingness to step forward and to act on disparities in HIV responses targeted to men who have sex with men to end AIDS, and to promote health and rights for all. We also share a particular concern for the health and rights of gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men who: are living with HIV; are young; are from low and middle income countries; are poor; are migrant; belong to racial/ethnic minority or indigenous communities; engage in sex work; use drugs; and/or identify as transgender.

MSMGF is legally registered in the United States as a 501c3 non-profit community-based organization.



VISION

MSMGF envisions a world where the health and human rights of all men who have sex with men are actively recognized, realized, and respected.



MISSION

To advocate for equitable access to effective HIV prevention, care, treatment, and support services for gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men, including gay and bisexual men living with HIV, while promoting their health and human rights worldwide.



VALUES

In all of our work, MSMGF foregrounds the values of human rights, self-determination, and working in coalition. We employ approaches that are community-led, strengths-based, sex positive, critically reflexive, evidence informed, and results oriented. By integrating these values into our policy, programs, research, and communications strategies, we strive to combine the full range of contributions generated by our constituents with methods that achieve smart, effective, and cost-efficient outcomes.

YEAR IN NUMBERS

MSMGF's Reach in 2016

59,841 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people reached with HIV-related services and educational programs

48,700 tweet impressions per month, on average

46,708 users visited msmgf.org for a total of **90,908** page views

7,424 Facebook likes—a **19.6%** increase from 2015

6,771 Twitter followers—a **18.8%** increase from 2015

2,292 advocates, healthcare professionals and other stakeholders trained

914 uses of [@msmgf](https://twitter.com/msmgf) on Twitter

49 email announcements sent to **6,769** subscribers on our mailing list

44 trainings, educational events

43 blog posts published

3 peer-reviewed journal articles

A photograph of four men standing together at what appears to be a conference or meeting. They are all wearing lanyards. The man on the far right is smiling and looking towards the camera. The other three men are looking down at something they are holding together. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what might be a poster or screen.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Placing Gay And Bisexual Men At The Center Of Global HIV Policy Agendas: UN High Level Meeting

With the UN High Level Meeting to End AIDS adopting a new Political Declaration and the International AIDS Conference, 2016 presented a pivotal opportunity for MSMGF to advocate for global strategies and policies that address the unabated and disproportionate impact of HIV among gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men.

We were well prepared—having established the [Global Advocacy Platform](#) to Fast Track the HIV and Human Rights Responses with Gay and Bisexual Men (the Platform) to provide strategic advice to United Nations agencies, major donors, and other stakeholders on HIV program needs and priorities for gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men.

Working with members of the Platform and the Consortium of MSM and Transgender Networks (see further below for a description of the Consortium's work), MSMGF called for strengthened language in the 2016 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS about the needs of gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men, transgender communities, and other key populations, while also calling for the decriminalization of homosexuality, sex work, and injection drug use.

As part of activities leading up to and surrounding the UN High Level Meeting to End AIDS (HLM), and working closely with other key population networks, MSMGF:

- » Co-organized side events (both at the pre-HLM Civil Society Hearings in April and the HLM itself in June)
- » Supported, mentored and coached activists who attended the HLM and who had meetings with their countries' mission staff and governmental officials convening in NYC; and provided ongoing strategic support from April to June to our partners worldwide
- » Produced numerous policy statements jointly with global partners (see text box below).

Finally, in 2016 MSMGF engaged with a number of UN agencies through various working groups and advisory bodies including the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board (PCB) NGO delegation, the WHO Civil Society Reference Group, the UNDP Key Populations Expert Group, and the UNAIDS population-based survey guidance consultation.



MSMGF Speaks Out On the Weak Political Declaration From the UN High Level Meeting To End AIDS

In 2016, the United Nations High Level Meeting to End AIDS provided an opportunity to adopt a bold Political Declaration grounded in evidence and rights-based approaches. Instead, UN member states unfortunately adopted a very weak Political Declaration that did not contain inclusive language, robust targets, or dedicated financing. While it sets ambitious goals to accelerate HIV prevention and treatment targets to deliver treatment to 30 million people by 2020 and end AIDS by 2030, the document fails to adequately include, define, and commit to programming for gay and bisexual men, sex workers, people who use drugs, and transgender people. This oversight seriously undermines any potential to meet the Declaration's ambitious targets to end AIDS.

Throughout the process, MSMGF raised its voice to speak in solidarity with global networks. Through a series of statements between April and June 2016, MSMGF:

- » Highlighted key opportunities for community engagement in processes leading up the High Level Meeting;
- » Proposed a broad range of actions to rectify the deficiencies in the declaration; and,
- » Identified specific and tangible strategies to implement the weak declaration in a manner that nonetheless respects the needs and priorities of key populations, including men who have sex with men.

Please consult the *Communications and Publications* section for a list of statements issued by MSMGF on this topic.

Demanding Our Rights: MSMGF At The International AIDS Conference In Durban, South Africa

The MSMGF organized its seventh Pre-Conference Event at the 2016 International AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa focused on HIV among gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men. To our knowledge, this Pre-Conference Event is the largest global gathering of activists, researchers, implementers, and donors focused on the sexual health and human rights of gay and bisexual men to date. The Pre-Conference, titled **Access + Action: Rights and Demands of Gay and Bisexual Men in the Global HIV Response**, was offered free of charge to nearly 750 attendees.

The MSM Pre-Conference provided a skills building and networking platform focused on the most recent research, best practices, and advocacy strategies that advance the overall goal of unfettered access to HIV-related services. The MSMGF Pre-Conference Program included five plenary presentations and 20 skills building workshops or panel sessions. Topics addressed included: implications of shrinking resources and donor withdrawal from the global HIV response; task shifting demands on LGBT-led community-based organizations; barriers and facilitators of HIV service access; technical capacity of healthcare

systems to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of gay, bisexual men and other men who have sex with men; PrEP demand generation and roll-out for gay and bisexual men worldwide; and coalition building to tackle growing fundamentalism and threats to human rights. Plenary sessions were recorded and will be made available on the MSMGF's website later this year.

As a lead-up to the International AIDS Conference, MSMGF hosted a series of [online video testimonials](#). MSMGF invited creative, influential individuals to record a testimonial that demonstrated their passion for the work they do and that helped keep the focus on the needs of gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men. Over 20 videos were featured on MSMGF's YouTube channel, including submissions from Judge Michael Kirby, Micheal Ighodaro, Graham Norton, Midnight Poonkasetwattana, David Furnish, Niluka Perera, and other advocates from around the world. To read more about our programmatic, media, networking and advocacy activities in Durban, see our [AIDS 2016 Report](#).

AIDS 2016 created the opportunity for MSMGF to convene its Youth Reference Group (YRG), a committee of young men who have sex with men advocates working for the health and human rights. Established early 2010, the YRG was established to advise MSMGF on issues of concern to young gay and bisexual men. The group advocates for the empowerment of young men who have sex with men within the global HIV response through skills building, networking, and meaningful participation in the decision-making processes. The 9-member YRG now constitute the majority of MSMGF's re-constituted International Steering Committee.

Finally, IRGT: A Global Network of Trans Women and HIV, which MSMGF helped to establish, hosted the first ever transgender pre-conference on 17 July 2016, immediately prior to the main conference. The theme **No More Lip Service: Trans Access, Equity and Rights, Now!** highlights the long struggle for equitable inclusion of trans people at all levels in the global HIV/AIDS sector and for the disproportional impact HIV is having on transgender women. The pre-conference exceeded initial expectations, with close to 400 delegates from over 28 countries in attendance. In addition to providing administrative and logistical support for the trans pre-conference, MSMGF also supported the IRGT in their other activities in Durban, including convening the IRGT for strategic planning and organizing the Trans Networking Zone in the Global Village at AIDS 2016.

Ensuring That Funding Is Responsive To Our Needs

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria are the two largest sources of funding for HIV programming in the world. Given their importance, MSMGF works every year to ensure that:

- » these key funding structures recognize and respond to the needs of gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men; and
- » community organizations working with gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men are aware of, and have access to, these funding opportunities to support their programs and activities.



MSMGF Advocated For:

- » Increased sustainability and transition of key population programming in Middle-Income Countries;
- » Intensified investment in advocacy, community responses and community system strengthening; and,
- » Reinforced commitment to addressing human rights and gender inequality, including efforts to address barriers to health services for men who have sex with men and other key populations

PEPFAR

MSMGF continues to work with a broad global coalition of organizations (in partnership with HealthGap, AVAC, and AmFAR), to advocate for increased funding and expanded programming for men who have sex with men and other key populations in PEPFAR-funded programs worldwide.

In 2016, as the PEPFAR Country Operational Plans (COP) development process was underway, we broadly circulated several community updates in order to promote greater engagement of men who have sex with men and other key populations with in-country PEPFAR COP processes.

Further, MSMGF provided direct support to country partners in sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Southeast Asia, preparing advocates for regional COP review processes. We worked closely with partners from Botswana, Indonesia, Kenya, Ukraine and Zimbabwe to conduct advocacy during those countries' COP reviews. Specifically, MSMGF prepared brief but in-depth analyses of draft COPs for each of these countries and shared them with local CBO partners and global advocacy groups in advance of the COP reviews, to reinforce key population advocacy efforts.

As a result of this advocacy, the HIV prevention targets for men who have sex with men were doubled in the Zimbabwe COP, and we received firm commitments from government officials to increase engagement of key populations in decision-making and funding prioritization in Botswana and Kenya.

Global Fund

Working with bodies such as Global Fund NGO delegations, the Global Fund Community, Rights and Gender Advisory Group¹ and Free Space Process partners,² MSMGF advocated for the inclusion of programming for key populations within the new Global Fund Strategy (2017-2022), as a priority area within Catalytic Investments, and as reportable activities through the development of Key Performance Indicators.

The revised Funding Model launched by the Global Fund in 2014 provided unprecedented opportunities for community engagement through multi-sectoral country-level dialogues and Concept Note development processes. However, as the Model was piloted and rolled-out, it became evident that there remained significant barriers to the meaningful engagement of men who have sex with men at the country level, and to effective investment into the programs and services that would meet their needs.

MSMGF also provided ongoing technical support to community partners in their advocacy for better inclusion of the key populations and their needs in processes related to the Global Fund. This technical support included facilitating capacity building workshops for community partners in sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Southeast Asia focused on:

- » improving key population engagement in country dialogues;
- » enhancing key population network involvement in the delivery of technical support at country level;
- » including stronger key population program components in Global Fund Concept Notes and budgets; and
- » developing an HIV community response plan that strengthens existing community-based provision of HIV/STI services among men who have sex with men.

¹ The Community, Rights and Gender Advisory Group is comprised of 18 HIV, TB and Malaria experts on community systems and responses, gender, representatives from key population networks, representatives from the Communities and NGO delegations to the Global Fund Board, and a limited number of technical partners as observers.

² Free Space Process is a coalition of 10 global networks advocating for civil society engagement in the HIV response [<http://icssupport.org/what-we-do/free-space-process>],

THE COMMUNITY ACTION AND LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE: Providing Technical Assistance To Support Meaningful Engagement Of Key Populations In Global Fund Processes



The Community Action and Leadership Collaborative (CLAC) was created in 2014 as part of the Global Fund Community, Rights and Gender (CRG) Technical Assistance (TA) Program, in order to provide short-term technical assistance in support of meaningful key population engagement in Global Fund processes. CLAC is a unique collaboration between AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA), the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), Global Action for Trans* Equality (GATE), the Global Network for Sex Work Projects (NSWP), the International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), and the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC), under the leadership of MSMGF.

Efforts by MSMGF and CLAC have led to the following outcomes:

- » Improved national and regional-level Global Fund processes that benefit from more meaningful engagement and stronger representation of key populations (see Kenya example below);
- » More effective and strategic promotion of joint community priorities within national and regional-level Global Fund processes; and,
- » Inclusion of better designed and budgeted CRG-related interventions in national and regional-level Global Fund Concept Notes and proposals. (see Georgia and Cameroon example below).

KENYA: Engaging Key Populations in Concept Note Development

Working with local partners, CLAC provided technical assistance to a group of key population organizations working with sex workers, women living with HIV, and gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men. These organizations recognized the potential to influence Kenya's HIV/TB Concept Note, but needed support to identify more clearly, and to advocate more strategically for, their joint priorities. At a two-day meeting, 32 representatives received information on the Global Fund, identified joint priorities, reviewed the draft HIV/TB Concept Note, and developed a collective work plan. The coalition of key population organizations sent a letter to the Chair of the Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Drafting Team, along with a report outlining key populations' priorities.

Overall, the TA greatly influenced the Kenya's final Concept Note, including greater attention to sexual and reproductive health services for women living with HIV and to the alignment of national laws affecting key populations with the constitutional right to health.

GEORGIA: Strengthening the Engagement of LGBT Groups in the Global Fund

LGBT Georgia, a national civil society organization with strong advocacy skills, but modest experience of program implementation, requested TA from the Global Fund. The request was supported by the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health—the Principal Recipient for the country’s HIV grant that recognizes the important role of communities in piloting pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among key populations in the country.

The assistance was managed by the CLAC and delivered by ECOM (the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health) and APCOM (the Asia-Pacific Coalition for Male Sexual Health). MSMGF supervised these organizations to conduct the following work:

1. A two-day workshop involving community representatives, the CCM, medical personnel and government officials on innovative HIV prevention methods. This workshop aimed to sensitize participants on issues related to PrEP, particularly for men who have sex with men. This enabled men who have sex with men to identify their own preferences for PrEP services, most notably that they should be provided in community-based settings, rather than medical facilities;
2. Assessment of needs, services and gaps for men who have sex with men, informing a roadmap for a pilot PrEP program for men who have sex with men and sex workers that was included in the Global Fund HIV grant; and,
3. Organizational capacity building for LGBT organizations, enabling LGBT Georgia to fulfill its role with the Global Fund.

CAMEROON: Operating a Task Force to Promote Community Needs to the CCM

The Global Fund initially rejected Cameroon’s HIV/TB Concept Note, partly because it lacked inclusion of key populations’ needs, evidence of their engagement, and details about how related programs would be implemented.



The CLAC provided TA to support Cameroon’s re-submission process. Representatives of key populations—including sex workers, men who have sex with men, people living with HIV, truck drivers and people who use drugs—came together for the first time in the country to identify joint priorities. They established a Taskforce to review the draft Concept Note, compile priority recommendations, and advocate for those priorities with the CCM, including appropriate budget allocations. Representatives of key populations also received support to participate in the Drafting Committee.

Eventually, the Global Fund confirmed a grant for Cameroon that allocated funding for key population programs—notably those for sex workers and men who have sex with men—at an even higher level than requested, representing 10% of the total budget (compared to 4% in the previous Concept Note).

The CLAC Library www.clac.cab

MSMGF/CLAC, in partnership with LINKAGES, update and maintain a resource library for key population-related policy and practice. In 2016, 2118 users visited the CLAC Library for a total of 6847 page views (an 18% increase from 2015).

Leading and Supporting Regional Networks

MSMGF leads and supports the Consortium of MSM and Transgender Networks, which is a groundbreaking alliance of global and regional networks by and for men who have sex with men and transgender communities. The Consortium currently has 10 members of diverse size, scope and focus that, combined, cover all regions of the world: Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EEAC), Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Latin and Central America and the Caribbean (LAC), Southeast Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Through the support of the Robert Carr Networks Fund (RCNF), in 2016 the Consortium was able to solidify organizational capacity of its member networks. This includes core support for hiring key staff, internal and external technical assistance and convening of member governing structures. Members of the Consortium were enabled to create multiple communication tools as well as maintain essential media outlets and websites through this core support. Additionally, the Consortium put coordinated documentation of human rights abuses and systematically monitored human rights. This work was built on the Consortium's training and capacity building initiatives, mainly around advocacy, human rights, and monitoring and evaluation.

The Consortium also supports its members to engage in Global Fund advocacy. Members actively participate in the roll out the New Funding Model of the Global Fund, provide guidance and support for key populations' representation, and meaningfully engage in national strategic plan development, country dialogues and concept note development.

Developing And Mobilizing Leadership For Community Action On Hiv, Sexual Health And Human Rights

Speaking Out

The Speaking Out Initiative is a technical and funding assistance program launched by MSMGF in 2010 to support HIV advocacy efforts and leadership development at the grassroots level for gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men, and transgender activists. It supports local community organizing and advocacy to address structural factors that block access to HIV services and that undermine human rights.

In 2016, MSMGF provided technical assistance to organizations in Cambodia (CamAsean and LINKAGES Cambodia), Ghana (CEPHERG) and El Salvador (ASPIDH), supporting these organizations to train advocates using locally adapted curriculum from *Speaking Out*.

SPEAKING OUT:

CamAsean and LINKAGES Cambodia

MSMGF, CamAsean and LINKAGES Cambodia coordinated a five-day training for men who have sex with men and transgender women from three regions in Cambodia, based on *Speaking Out*. A total of 18 participants attended the training, many of whom had limited prior knowledge of advocacy strategy development.

The content of the training included: 1) sexual orientation and gender identity issues; 2) understanding and planning advocacy strategies; 3) working in challenging environments; 4) using data from LINKAGES in advocacy efforts; 5) introduction to MSMIT and TRANSIT (UN normative guidance documents on implementing HIV and STI programs for men who have sex with men and for transgender women, respectively); 6) introduction to the documentation of human rights abuses; and, 7) creating an inventory of skills and resources.

The training provided an opportunity for participants to discuss sexual, reproductive and health and rights, stigma and discrimination, as well as Cambodian laws and policies hampering HIV work with key populations. In addition to identifying key problems that affect the lives of men who have sex with men and transgender people and their ability to access health services, participants were also able to develop funded advocacy activities to address them.



Providing Technical Assistance And Funding To Community-Led Organizations

In 2016, MSMGF implemented and supported evidence-based programming that addresses HIV, sexual health and human rights among gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men worldwide. We provided technical assistance and grant funding to 20 community-based organizations across 10 countries, covering a wide range of activities including advocacy, policy, service delivery and research related to HIV, sexual health and human rights.

Our technical assistance framework is grounded in partnerships with local community-based organizations, while also engaging other health stakeholders at the country level as necessary. Our process for identifying and prioritizing technical support is dynamic, flexible and responsive to the needs of our partners, their context, and their region, thereby enabling us to tailor responses that are aligned with locally expressed need.

Bridging the Gaps

MSMGF has begun implementing the second phase of its Bridging the Gaps program, which will run from 2016-2020. *Bridging the Gaps* is an international HIV initiative focused on the health and rights of LGBT people, sex workers, and people who use drugs. Funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and led by Aids Fonds, the program was developed and is implemented in 16 countries by an alliance of 5 Dutch-based organizations, 4 global key population networks (including MSMGF), and more than 100 local partner organizations.

For MSMGF, this new phase of *Bridging the Gaps* features a more integrated approach that better links two important facets of our work in the areas of HIV, sexual health, and human rights: our in-country technical support work with community-based organizations and our global advocacy and policy work.

In terms of technical assistance under *Bridging the Gaps*, MSMGF is supporting community-based HIV programs and local advocacy in Botswana, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

MSMGF undertook fact-finding missions to each of these countries to meet LGBT organizations, other representatives of civil society (human rights and service delivery organizations), relevant governmental institutions, and international funding organizations. In several of these countries, MSMGF participated in workshops led by the Bridging the Gaps Alliance and Aids Fonds to identify community priorities, which in turn will help shape the program

BRIDGING THE GAPS: PEMA Kenya and Youth Voices Count

Persons Marginalized and Aggrieved (PEMA) Kenya, an organization that advocates for the inclusion of sexual and gender minorities, championed a strategy for mobilizing healthcare professionals with technical assistance from MSMGF, culminating in a five-day training-of-trainers event leveraging the MSMGF-Johns Hopkins Curriculum for training providers. MSMGF-led training-of-trainers led to strengthened capacity at PEMA Kenya, which is now better positioned to develop and deliver trainings.

MSMGF partnered with Youth Voices Count, a regional youth advocacy network in the Asia-Pacific region, to develop and implement a regional training-of-trainers to support the sensitization of healthcare professionals. A total of 26 participants from Cambodia, Indonesia, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Vietnam attended the training. MSMGF also supported the participation of Bridging the Gaps partners from the Eastern Europe and Central Asia regions to encourage cross-regional exchange and learning among our partners.



over the next several years. In response to a rigorous set of context analyses and individualized needs assessments, MSMGF has assembled a program of work that combines technical assistance and grants to fund activities proposed and led by local community-based organizations. These grants support work in a range of areas, including training for healthcare providers, translation of tools for healthcare delivery, production of community outreach materials, creation of new community safe spaces for service delivery, and increased coverage for HIV and STI testing.

Through *Bridging the Gaps* and other technical assistance programs over this past year, MSMGF initiated funded partnerships with community-based organizations in each of the nine focus countries.

Promoting Equitable Access To Comprehensive And Holistic Hiv And Sexual Health Services

Scaling up high quality, safe, affordable and accessible HIV and sexual health services for gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men requires a broad range of strategies. MSMGF is actively engaged in a number of such initiatives, including the development and delivery of training for healthcare providers, the development and promotion of normative guidance, and building the capacity of community-based organizations to conduct participatory action research that identifies and addresses barriers to accessing services.

Mobilizing Healthcare Providers through E-Learning

MSMGF's new e-learning platform for health professionals titled [CPR](#) launched in 2016. CPR offers continuing education opportunities for healthcare providers, community-based service providers, and other health sector stakeholders to ensure that HIV and sexual health programs for men who have sex with men are aligned with global standards as endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO).



CPR was named after a life-saving technique useful in many emergencies. Used here as a metaphor, it signals the urgency with which we must act to revive the health system, as well as to take immediate measures to improve human rights worldwide. CPR is delivered in the form of free YouTube videos and downloadable e-books. It aims to become the most comprehensive training tool for health professionals serving gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men. In 2016, CPR received 1574 views.

The first series of CPR materials launched are based on the MSM Implementation Toolkit ([MSMIT](#)), a UN guidance document that was developed by a group of global agencies (including UNFPA, UNDP, WHO), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID and MSMGF.

Translating Normative Guidance Documents and Other Training Tools

In 2016, MSMGF created specific resources for the rollout and uptake of normative guidance. We translated and launched the MSM Implementation Toolkit

([MSMIT](#)), which is now available in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Russian. The MSMGF-Johns Hopkins University curriculum for training healthcare providers (titled *Promoting the Health of Men Who Have Sex With Men Worldwide, a Training Curriculum for Providers*) also became available in English, French and Spanish.

MSMGF also developed a new training curriculum around the MSMIT in 2016. This curriculum will assist advocates, health workers and others to more fully understand the MSMIT, and to train others to utilize its components to improve HIV-related advocacy and service delivery for gay men. It is intended as a capacity strengthening tool for CBOs interested in improving advocacy and programming at the local, national, regional or global levels by engaging CBO staff, advocates, health care professionals and public health stakeholders. After completing the training-of-trainers, participants will be able to:

- » Describe the evidence-base for the effective design and implementation of comprehensive HIV and STI programs tailored to the needs of men who have sex with men;
- » Use effective facilitation skills based on adult learning theories of participation and empowerment;
- » Develop training action plans to train advocates, CBO staff, health care professionals and public health stakeholders to conduct advocacy and/or improve HIV/STI services for MSM based on the MSMIT;
- » Support comprehensive MSM and HIV/STI program development and implementation; and
- » Develop additional Action Plans to address one or more needs using SMART objectives and MSMIT recommendations.



Action for Access! Identifying and Addressing Access Barriers through Community-Based Participatory Action Research

MSMGF launched a community-based participatory action research (CBPAR) project—called *Action for Access!*—focused on health and human rights issues faced by men who have sex with men.

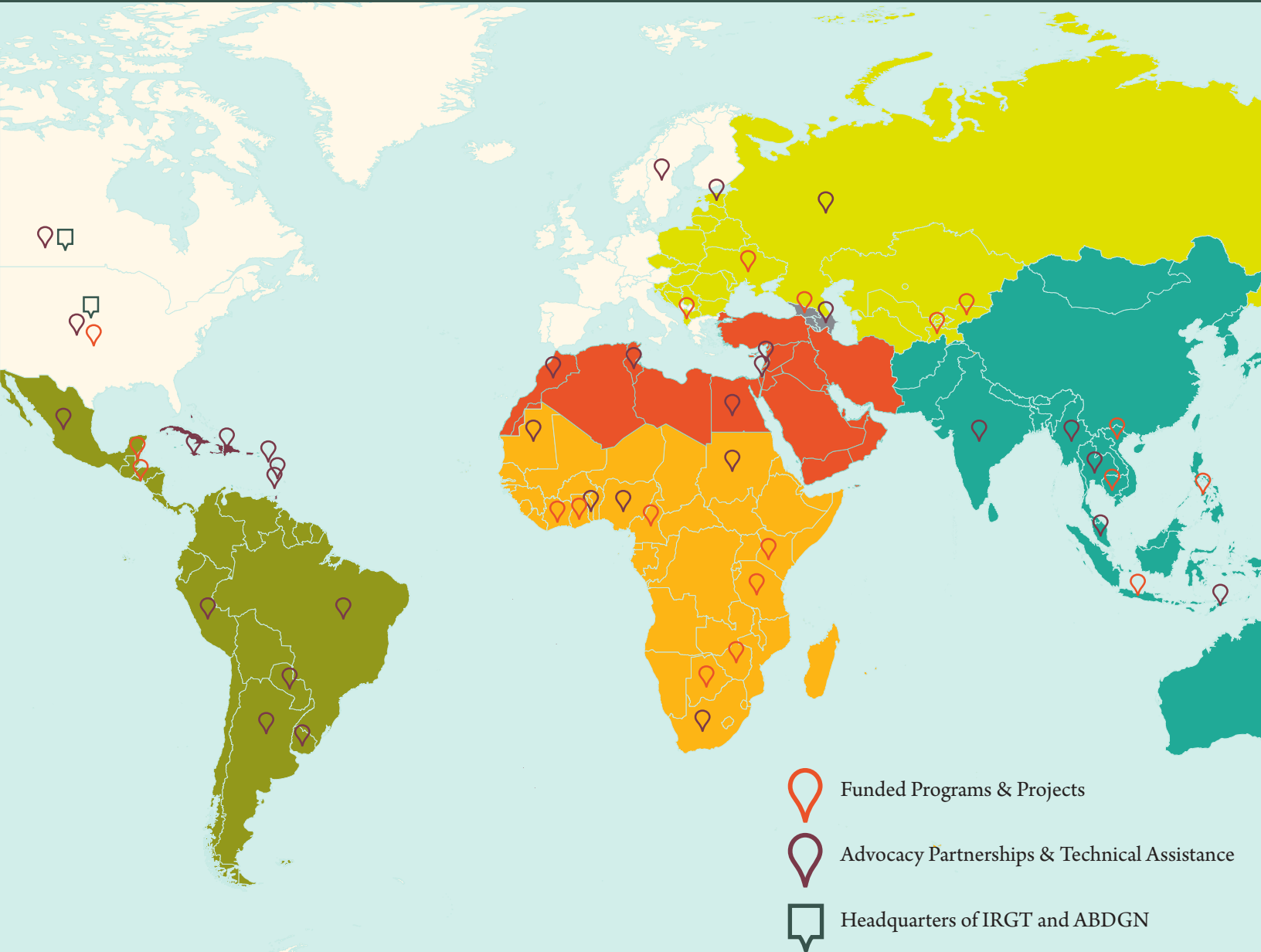
In its initial stage, *Action for Access!* will conduct CBPAR in three countries where men who have sex with men are heavily impacted by HIV and human rights violations. ISHTAR in Kenya, LEGABIBO in Botswana, and CARMAH in Vietnam were the first organizations involved in this project. By providing support to organizations as they build an evidence base to advance their advocacy work for the health

and rights of men who have sex with men, MSMGF will establish proof of concept for CBPAR as an approach to identifying and addressing access barriers.

This past year, *Action for Access!* focused on building research capacity across the three participating organizations as well as linking these organizations to one another to encourage peer-based information and experience exchange. Further, the project will provide funding to community-based organizations to conduct CBPAR. The findings from the study will provide leverage for the CBOs to advocate for the health and human rights needs of men who have sex with men in their respective countries.



MSMGF'S WORK AROUND THE WORLD



AMSHER
Sub Saharan Africa



APCOM
Asia and the Pacific Islands



ECOM
Eastern Europe / Central Asia



CVC
the Caribbean



M-Coalition
North Africa and the Middle East



Somosgay
Latin America



SCN
South Caucuses

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Every year, MSMGF participates in knowledge exchange on key research and advocacy developments in the field of HIV as it affects gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men. Below is a collection of some key publications led by MSMGF in 2016.

Community Action, Sexual Health And Human Rights: The Global Forum On MSM & HIV Strategic Plan 2016-2021

Our new Strategic Plan outlines how MSMGF proposes to position itself over the next five years within a HIV global landscape that is in the midst of dramatic changes. It is grounded in the understanding and insight gained through dozens of interviews, surveys, and a large-group two-day scenario planning exercise that asked participants to imagine the HIV and MSM movements 40 years from now. As such, although this Strategic Plan articulates the focus for MSMGF over the next five years, the strategic directions were developed with a view towards longer-term impact. For 2016-2021, the following three Strategic Direction will guide MSMGF's work:

- » Forging the Way: Nurturing and mobilizing leadership for community action in HIV, sexual health, and human rights
- » Breaking Barriers: Promoting equitable access to comprehensive and holistic HIV and sexual health services for gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men
- » Leading Together on Human Rights: Gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men working in broad-based coalitions towards social justice



Unfinished Business: HIV Among Gay And Bisexual Men And Other Men Who Have Sex With Men (Policy Brief And Fact Sheet)

MSMGF and UNAIDS convened the Global Advocacy Platform to Fast-Track HIV and Human Rights Responses among Gay and Bisexual Men and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men ([the Platform](#)) early in the year to watchdog the UN High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS. In 2016, the Platform issued a policy brief and fact sheet, calling for a bolder, more evidence-driven global response to HIV that isn't fearful of openly acknowledging gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men and their sexual health needs. Failure to do so threatens to undermine gains made in reaching global targets set by UNAIDS.



Results From MSMGF's Global Survey Of Men Who Have Sex With Men

MSMGF published three articles in peer-reviewed journals, reporting on findings from its Global Men's Health and Rights online survey. The three articles focused on: the impact of criminalizing homosexuality on access to prevention and care services; inequities in access to services for transgender men who have sex with men; and, barriers in the prevention and treatment continuum as a barrier to achieving global HIV targets.

Santos, G-M., Makofane, K., Arreola, S., Do, T., Ayala, G. (2016). Reductions in Access to HIV Prevention and Care Services are Associated with Arrest and Convictions in a Global Survey of Men who have Sex with Men. Sexually Transmitted Infections. 2017 Feb;93(1):62-64. doi: 10.1136/sextrans-2015-052386. Epub 2016 Mar 4.

Scheim, A., Santos, G-M., Arreola, S., Makofane, K., Do, T., Hebert, P., Thomann, P., & Ayala, G. (2016). Inequities in Access to HIV Prevention Services for Transgender Men: Results of a Global Survey of Men who have Sex with Men. Journal of the International AIDS Society, 19 (3Suppl 2). doi: 10.7448/IAS.19.3.20779

Ayala G and Santos G-M. (2016). Will the global HIV response fail gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men? Journal of the International AIDS Society, 19:21098

MSMGF Speaks Out On The Weak Political Declaration From The UN High Level Meeting To End AIDS

Between April and June, MSMGF issued the following statements regarding the UN High Level Meeting to End AIDS:

- » UNAIDS Sets Distressing Precedent with Weak Messaging Before High Level Meeting on HIV
- » Will the Global HIV Response Fail Gay Men and Other Men Who Have Sex With Men? Engaging with the United Nations High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS
- » Unfinished Business: Taking Bolder Action to Address HIV Among Gay and Bisexual Men and Other Men Who Have Sex With Men
- » Advocacy Next Steps for the United Nations High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS
- » United Nations HLM Political Declaration Zero Draft Released: Early Highlights and Important Next Steps
- » UN High-Level Meeting Zero Draft: 5 Critical Priorities for Key Populations in the Global HIV Response
- » Exclusion Kills! Gay Men and Sex Workers Worldwide Express Anger Over Attempts by Governments to Erase Key Populations from the UN Political Declaration on HIV & AIDS
- » URGENT Press Release: Civil Society Groups Demand a Coalition of Governments Speak Out and Fight for Game Changing Language in UN AIDS Declaration
- » A High-Level Failure for the United Nations on Key Populations: Gay Men, Transgender People and Sex Workers Outraged Over Failed Political Declaration From the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Ending AIDS
- » Small Wins Amidst A High-Level Failure: Several United Nations Member States Commit to Engage Key Populations During the United Nations High-Level Meeting to End AIDS
- » Moving on from a High-Level Failure: Advocacy Entry Points and Follow-Up to the United Nations High-Level Meeting to End AIDS Political Declaration

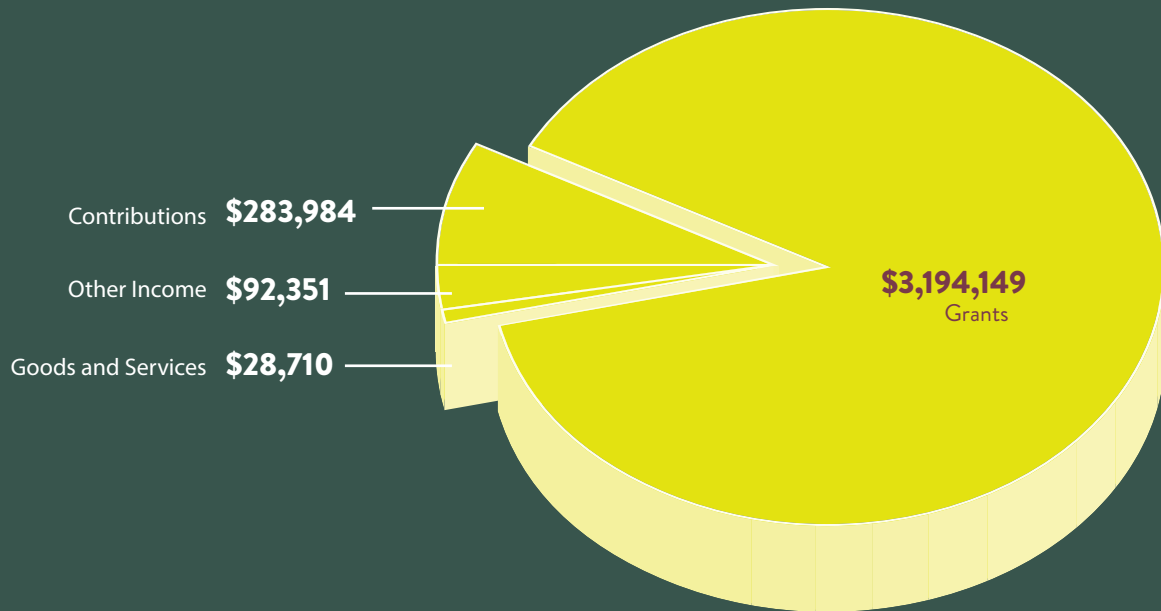
Please consult page 9 for more information on MSMGF's work related to the Political Declaration from the UN High Level Meeting to End AIDS.



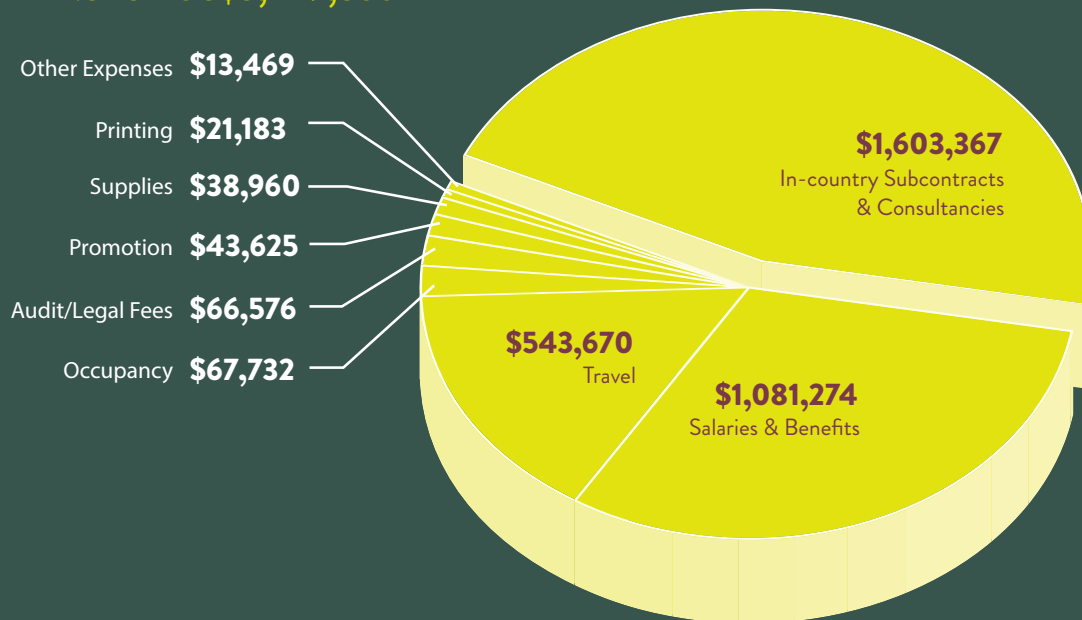
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MSM & HIV (MSMGF)
Year Ended June 30, 2016

REVENUE - US\$3,599,194



EXPENSES - US\$3,479,856



SUPPORT

Funders

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands
for Bridging The Gaps
Robert Carr Civil Society Network Fund
AIDS Project Los Angeles
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
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Levi Strauss Foundation
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Gilead
Pangaea Global AIDS Foundation
Anova Health Institute
International HIV/AIDS Alliance
American Jewish World Service
Musagetes
Victorian AIDS Council Gay Men's Health Center
Legacy Community Health

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*Carlos Alicea, Operations Associate
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 *Patrick Hazelton, Senior Policy Advisor

*In 2016, MSMGF said goodbye to Jack Mackenroth, Carlos Alicea, Micah Lubensky and Patrick Hazelton, who left MSMGF for new endeavors.



MSMGF IS GRATEFUL TO ALL OF ITS SUPPORTERS,
 BOARD AND STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND ITS
 COMMITTED TEAM OF STAFF.



**GLOBAL FORUM
ON MSM & HIV**
MSMGF.ORG

The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF) has worked since 2006 to encourage targeted, tailored, better-resourced, and rights-based sexual health services for gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) worldwide through its advocacy and technical support work. As a global network, MSMGF has successfully influenced HIV responses at the local level through shifts in global-level policies and has effectively utilized public health as an entry point for advancing the human rights of LGBT people. MSMGF is directly linked to 120 community-based organizations across 62 countries.

MSMGF

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2016 Annual Report
When Times Get Tough, We Get Tougher
April 2017

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