

Taking A Stand



2019
Annual Report



M•PACT
GLOBAL ACTION
FOR GAY MEN'S HEALTH & RIGHTS



Contents

A Message from our Executive Director	1
Who We Are	2
2019 in Numbers	3
MPact Around the World	4
Advocating for KP Funding	5
HIV as a Human Rights Challenge	6
Engaging Latinx Gay Communities in the US	8
Community Based Research	9
PrEP Demand Generation	11
Advocacy and Other Community Tactics	12
HIV2020	14
Anal About My Health	15
Equipping Communities with Tools for Advocacy	16
Bay Area Community Outreach	17
Key Publications	18
MPact in the News	19
Financials	20
Supporters	21



A Message from our Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Bringing MPact into the new decade means taking innovative approaches to our work. We have never been afraid to break the mold, to speak truth to power, and to spring into action when we see the needs of our community are not being met.

This last year, MPact took a stand. We held firm in our commitments to always put community first, to value the voices of our partners above all else, and to build spaces for civil society to convene and connect in spite an ever-shifting landscape.

2019 saw great advances across the world including the decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual behavior between adults in Botswana and Angola; a successful replenishment campaign resulting in \$14.02 billion for the Global Fund; the start-up of the long-awaited Key Population Investment Fund; and the renewed mandate for the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity at the UN Human Rights Council.

But there were also major setbacks. They included the loss of a potentially game-changing decriminalization lawsuit in Kenya; the introduction of a new law criminalizing same-sex behaviors in Gabon; a Political Declaration from the High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage which failed to adequately articulate the health needs and human rights of key populations; and the continuing shift away from funding that supports programs for HIV among key populations.

There is still much to be done. This coming year, we have an ambitious advocacy and community organizing agenda. We will keep advocates abreast of developments in our rapidly changing world. We remain steadfast in our focus on the sexual health and human rights of gay and bisexual men, and we will work with activists and key stakeholders to ensure our communities are leading the global response to HIV.

Sincerely,

George Ayala, PsyD
Executive Director

We held firm in our commitments to always put community first, to value the voices of our partners above all else, and to build spaces for civil society to convene and connect



Who We Are

MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights was founded in 2006 by an international group of activists who were concerned about the disproportionate HIV burden being shouldered by gay and bisexual men. We have since expanded our work to focus on the broader sexual health and human rights needs of all men who have sex with men.



VISION

MPact 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 men and bisexual men, including those living with HIV, while promoting health and human rights worldwide.



VALUES

In all of our work, MPact 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.

2019 by the Numbers

Advocacy and Program Outputs ▶



LGBT people reached with sexual health services

12,000



Healthcare professionals trained

700



Advocates trained

265



Regional networks supported

7

community-based organizations supported

29



New publications

7

Media Outputs ▶



New Facebook Likes

142

Total

8287



New Twitter followers

251

Total

8411



New Instagram followers

88

Total

886



Blog posts on mpactglobal.org

54



Page views on mpactglobal.org

65,016

of users

29,799



New videos

24

total views

19,630



Mentions in press

37



Email announcements

35

subscribers

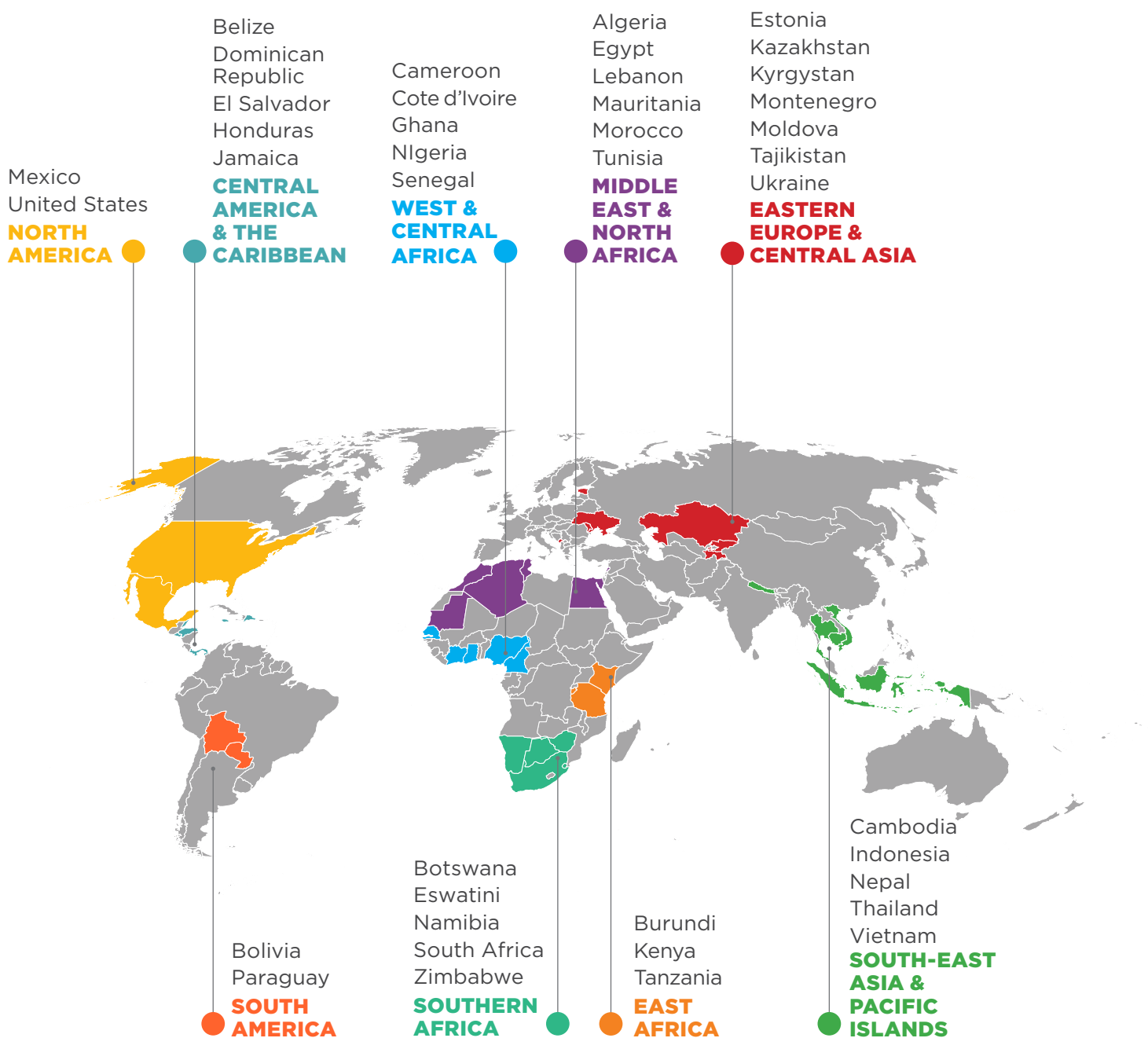
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MPact Around the World

In total, MPact is connected to **120** community based organizations across **62** countries

In 2019, we worked on projects with partners in:



Advocating for Key Population Funding

In order to ensure that funding is secured for the needs of our communities, MPact continually monitors international funding institutions including the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. This year, our advocacy ensured that these institution's programs focused on addressing and breaking down the structural barriers that key populations face all over the world.

PEPFAR

- Disseminated a series of community alerts and organized webinars to equip partners for advocacy ahead of the 2019 PEPFAR Country Operational Planning processes as a part of the PEPFAR Watch Coalition
- Supporting partners at Regional Planning Meetings in Burundi, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania and Zimbabwe
- Pressured PEPFAR to roll-out the Key Population Investment Fund (KPIF) and begin implementation via the US Center for Disease Control and US Agency for International Development (USAID)

MAJOR PEPFAR OUTCOMES

- Burundi committed to scaling up self-testing as a key strategy to reach men who have sex with men, funding a stigma index survey, and maintaining funding levels for gay men's programming
- Tanzania agreed to enable community-dispensed ART for key populations, multi month scripting, and scale-up of PrEP
- Through the support of KPIF, FHI360 selected MPact as the main Technical Assistance provider for grant recipients in Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zimbabwe through the new two-year Key-pop Empowerment and Leadership Program (KELP).

Global Fund

- [Created a toolkit for key populations](#) which was used by over one hundred community organizations to better understand Global Fund policies and procedures in collaboration with CLAC
- Supported a workshop in Istanbul about the use of the MSM Implementation Toolkit in Global Fund processes for the Francophone MENA region with our partners at M-Coalition
- Formulated [a message to the board of directors of the Global Fund](#) to ensure funding replenishment is going to support the needs of key populations
- Led consortium of advocates from 27 countries across seven regions to strengthen the capacity of gay and bisexual men and transgender networks to participate in Global Fund processes
- MPact Executive Director George Ayala appointed to the Developed Countries NGO Delegation of the Global Fund's Board of Directors

MAJOR GLOBAL FUND OUTCOMES

- Amid the Global Fund's \$14billionUSD replenishment, MPact secured commitment to continue support for the Community Rights and Gender Department (CRG)
- Increased engagement of well-informed gay men and other key populations in Country Dialogue processes



HIV as a Human Rights Challenge

DATE & LOCATION	EVENT	MPACT'S CONTRIBUTION
February 12-13 Geneva, Switzerland	UN Human Rights Council	- Co-led a delegation of activists with FSP to the Human Rights Council consultation on human rights and HIV - Called for human rights mechanisms to focus on HIV and criminalization, which was later referenced by summary report of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
April 29 New York, United States	UN civil society stakeholder meeting on Universal Health Coverage	- Coached and led a coalition of gay and bisexual advocates supported by WHO - Prepared a statement on behalf of global key populations and civil society, which was delivered by our Steering Committee Member and Director of M-Coalition, Elie Ballan
July 9 -18 New York, United States	High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development	- Conducted two trainings and created two parallel reports with activists in Indonesia and Tanzania contributing to the Voluntary National Reviews of Sustainable Development Implementation - Co-organized a side event titled "Empowered while Criminalized: Multi-stakeholder Strategies for Combatting Stigma, Discrimination, Violence, and Inequalities – Linking SDGs 3, 5, 10 and 16"
September 23 New York, United States	High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage	Launched the #UHCLastMileFirst campaign with PITCH which called on governments to explicitly mention key and vulnerable populations in their remarks at the High Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage at the UN General Assembly

KEY PARTNERS ▼

FREE
SPACE
PROCESS



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: INDONESIA



MPact conducted a training of activists from **The Indonesian Positive Women Network (IPPI)** and other key population groups in the country on the 2030 Agenda. MPact supported advocates to engage entry points at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and aided in the development a civil society parallel report. In addition, our team worked with partners in Indonesia throughout the year to:

- Raise the concerns of key populations in Indonesia to the United Nations Secretary General
- Advocate for improved human rights as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services in Indonesia
- Promote SRHR among young LGBT people in Indonesia



Engaging **Latinx Gay and Bisexual Men** in the United States

In Spanish, **Fíjate Bien** means “pay attention” and that is exactly what our latest program aims to do—to bring attention to rising incidence of HIV among Latinx gay and bisexual men in the United States. We are working directly with this population to break down barriers to HIV-related services.

Through this program, MPact has successfully established itself as a national player in United States advocacy efforts. Over the last year, the Fíjate Bien program engaged advocates in Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida, Washington D.C., and California as well as abroad and brought our experience at the global level to impact programs locally.



OUTPUTS

Led the launch of a [Call to Action Addressing the HIV Crisis Among Latinx Gay and Bisexual Men in the United States](#)

Developed and led a training of “**Alzando La Voz**”, an adapted version of MPact’s Speaking Out advocacy curriculum in Spanish

Led “**End The Epidemic**” planning meetings in coalition with 150 other organizations as part of a national epidemic prevention campaign

OUTCOMES

Endorsed by 75 national and global partners including the Latinx Gay and Bisexual Men HIV Prevention and Treatment Advocacy Coalition

Increased advocacy capacity of Bay Area Activists working for the health and rights of Latinx gay and bisexual men

Secured \$17million in additional funding for HIV, HCV and STD prevention efforts across California

TECHNICAL BRIEFS BY **FÍJATE BIEN**

[The US National AIDS Strategy Update: Implications for Latinx Gay and Bisexual Men](#)

[Attacks on Immigrant Communities and Proposed Changes to Public Charge Rules](#)

[HIV Planning Councils Implications for Latinx Gay and Bisexual Men](#)



Community Based Participatory Action Research

MPact's research initiatives aim to empower community organizations to lead participatory action research. The Action for Access! research team works to develop a base of evidence for the health service needs of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men.

Action for Access! team members from Kenya and Vietnam worked in collaboration with the new SHAG Consortium* to develop the fourth iteration of the **Global Men's Health and Rights Survey (GMHR)**. The results of the survey will help us to continue making the case for comprehensive, community-led, and tailored services for gay and bisexual men around the world.



*The Sustainable Health Advocacy for Gay men (SHAG) Consortium consists of MPact and our partners at Réseau Africagay Contre le Sida, the Eurasian Coalition on Male Health, GayLatino, and M-Coalition. Funded by the Robert Carr Fund, our consortium aims to support advocacy towards decriminalizing homosexuality and eliminating stigma, discrimination, and violence around the world.

The **#GMHR2019** survey was launched in 10 languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Indonesian, Kiswahili, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, and Vietnamese. To date, over 15,000 gay and bisexual men from around the world have taken the survey. Gay networking apps such as Grindr and Hornet helped broaden the global reach of MPact's survey.



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: KENYA



Ishtar MSM began in 1997 as a small group of men who have sex with men in Kenya who would convene to discuss issues around their sexual health and rights. Now over two decades later, they are a central resource hub who provide support to LGBTI people throughout the entire East African region. MPact worked with Ishtar last year to tell their story of change and growth under the Bridging the Gaps program and in doing so prove that community-led interventions on sexual health work. Watch the documentary and Behind The Scenes [here](#).



PrEP Demand Generation

MPact and the [International Treatment Prevention Coalition](#) began a new program focused on mobilizing demand for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in South East Asia, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa. During [two successful workshops in Cambodia and South Africa](#), forty participants from fifteen countries* were selected from an pool of nearly two hundred applicants to learn about PrEP and how to promote its use. The workshop was grounded in principles of community empowerment, peer exchange, and sex positivity.



At these workshops, participants developed and received feedback from their peers on new innovative ideas for community-led interventions for the roll-out or scale-up of PrEP programs in their regions. After a competitive process, ten of these community-led submissions were selected to receive funding support to begin implementation of their programs in 2020.

*Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, South Africa, Tanzania, Ukraine, Vietnam, Zimbabwe.



Advocacy and Other Community Tactics: ACT



The ACT program leverages the wisdom and expertise of activists in Africa and the Caribbean to develop and implement strategic initiatives to address barriers to HIV services at country level for gay and bisexual men. With support from the Elton John AIDS Foundation, MPact's efforts focused on building the capacity of our partners through technical assistance, peer-exchange, and advocacy strategy regarding three major areas:

Ensuring Safety & Security

Burundi, Cote D'Ivoire

Reducing Stigma & Discrimination in Healthcare Settings

Cameroon, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Dominican Republic

Addressing Policy & Legal Barriers

Jamaica, Burundi



Training media & journalists on LGBT issues in Cote D'Ivoire



Documenting human rights issues within health systems in Ghana



Informing community to know their rights in Jamaica



Creating networks to respond to security issues in Burundi

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: ZIMBABWE



Our partners at **Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ)** are advocating for the scale-up of HIV-related services for gay and bisexual men in their country. MPact has worked with advocates at GALZ to strengthen their skills to sensitize healthcare providers as well as to engage their country's Ministry of Health. As a result, the Zimbabwean Ministry of Health and Child Care has partnered with GALZ to develop and pilot their first-ever 'Key Populations Manual for Healthcare Providers' and launch a 'Minimum Service Package for Key Populations.' The Ministry committed to training staff working at forty-five locations across the country where LGBTI Zimbabweans will be able to seek and receive quality HIV-related services without fear of stigma and discrimination. The Ministry's manual draws substantially from the MPact-led curriculum for healthcare providers that was developed and piloted in Zimbabwe in 2014.





In close collaboration with our international partners at [The Global Network of Sex Work Projects](#), [The International Network of People who Use Drugs](#), [International Civil Society Support \(ICSS\)](#), and [The Global Network of People Living with HIV](#), MPact continued to focus on planning and preparing for the HIV2020 Conference.

The conference was meant to [#ReclaimTheResponse](#) and marked a global shift in the way international health sector convenings are led. We [took a stand](#) to protect civil society space and worked with local partners in Mexico to ensure a successful, community-led event.

HIV2020 garnered 254 public endorsements including statements of solidarity from [UNAIDS](#), the [International Planned Parenthood Federation](#) and leaders at the [World Health Organization](#).



#AnalAboutMyHealth

This year MPact teamed up with [Saint James Infirmary](#) and [Trish TV](#) to expand our [award nominated](#) campaign [#AnalAboutMyHealth](#) into a series of videos on sexual health and harm reduction.

The first five videos released in 2019 featured Bay Area drag performers sharing personal testimonials about their experiences with sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The goal of the series was to break down stigma about contracting, living with, and seeking treatment for STIs—and who better to help than drag queens!



World AIDS Day Drag Brunch and Fundraiser at Jolene's Bar in San Francisco

Stay tuned for a new set of videos on harm reduction issues including drug use, living with HIV, sex workers rights, and anal health to be released in 2020!



[Gonorrhea](#) featuring Mary Vice



[Chlamydia](#) featuring Dusty Darling



[HPV](#) featuring Jillian Gnarlring



[Scabies](#) featuring Lisa Frankenstein



[Syphilis](#) featuring Kochina Rude



Equipping Community with Tools for Advocacy

Building on the success of last year's [World Mental Health Day infographic](#), MPact began new campaign "The Activists Guide" which included 3 animated videos on [Self Care](#), [Digital Security](#), & [Physical Security](#). The series addresses important issues of stigma and discrimination and human rights in a palatable, concise, and sharable way for our partners and global communities.

The Activist's Guide series also extended to the creation of a new infographic on [Data Collection](#) in collaboration with our Research Team as a way to promote the [#GMHR2019](#). The guidelines lay out a simplified understanding of how comprehensive data can lead to effective advocacy programs.

THE ACTIVIST'S GUIDE TO DATA COLLECTION

Data can be collected and analyzed for the purpose of action. We provide evidence in order to:

ADVOCACY

AMPLIFY
COMMUNITY
VOICES

DOCUMENT BEST
APPROACHES

PROGRAMMING

POLICY

GUIDE DECISIONS
& MAKE IT
DIFFICULT TO
DENY A PROBLEM

SHOW FUNDERS
WHERE NEED IS
GREATEST

FUNDING

LEARN MORE AT
WWW.MPACTGLOBAL.ORG

Bay Area Community Outreach



Marched in the 2019 Oakland Pride Parade in order to draw attention to HIV2020 and our objection to the upcoming International AIDS Conference in the Bay Area



Received a \$10,000 gift from the Lazy Bear Fund and offered volunteer support and sexual health promotion at their various events



Informational happy hour event at Oasis in San Francisco in collaboration with MPact Board Member Sean Howell of Hornet & The LGBT Foundation



Participated in a panel discussion at the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center featuring The Council for Global Equality, the AIDS Legal Referral Panel and El/La Para Trans Latinas, featured on A Shot In The Arm Podcast & Facebook Live

Key Publications



What is a “Community-Led” Organization?

MPact contributed to this paper, released on World AIDS Day in collaboration with UNAIDS, which aims to solidify a definition of “community-led” organizations and takes the lead from global key population networks.



Using Voluntary National Reviews to Keep HIV on the Global Health & Development Agenda: A 2018 Review

MPact and Free Space Process produced this report to urge governments to integrate HIV and key populations into international reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals via the Voluntary National Reviews.



Partner Notification: A Community Viewpoint

This article in the Journal of the International AIDS Society offers a community viewpoint on partner notification services. MPact partnered with advocates from around world to highlight ways to guard against human rights violations when implementing partner notification.



Technical Briefs on SDGs 16 & 17



Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 16 for All: Linking HIV, Key Populations, and Human Rights



To Achieve Sustainable Development Goal 17, Invest in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria

MPact in the News

June 25

*Why We Need
Pride in the Face of
Worldwide Oppression,
Violence & HIV*

Opinion editorial
by George Ayala for
The Body.com



Why We Need Pride in the Face of Worldwide Oppression, Violence, and HIV



George Ayala
June 25, 2019

September 20

*New Survey Examines
HIV, Health, and
Human Rights of Gay
Men Worldwide*

QNotes



New survey examines HIV, health, and human rights of gay men worldwide

Beyond the Carolinas

LAMMY MILLER ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

August 6

*Advocates Unite to
Plan an Alternative
to AIDS2020*

September 20

*Support for
the HIV2020
Conference in
Mexico Continues to
Grow*

February 18

*AIDS 2020 vs
HIV 2020*

November 18

*George Ayala's
Global Impact*



Advocates Unite to Plan an Alternative to AIDS 2020

HIV2020: Community Reclaiming the Response will take place in Mexico City from July 5 to 7.

August 6, 2019 • By MPact

Support for HIV2020 in Mexico City Continues to Grow

Here's why MPact, a global gay men's health group, will not participate in AIDS 2020 in San Francisco.

September 20, 2019 • By Trenton Straube

AIDS 2020 vs. HIV 2020

San Francisco and Mexico City host competing conferences.

February 18, 2019 • By Trenton Straube

HIV2020 gained press coverage with 26 mentions in 2019.

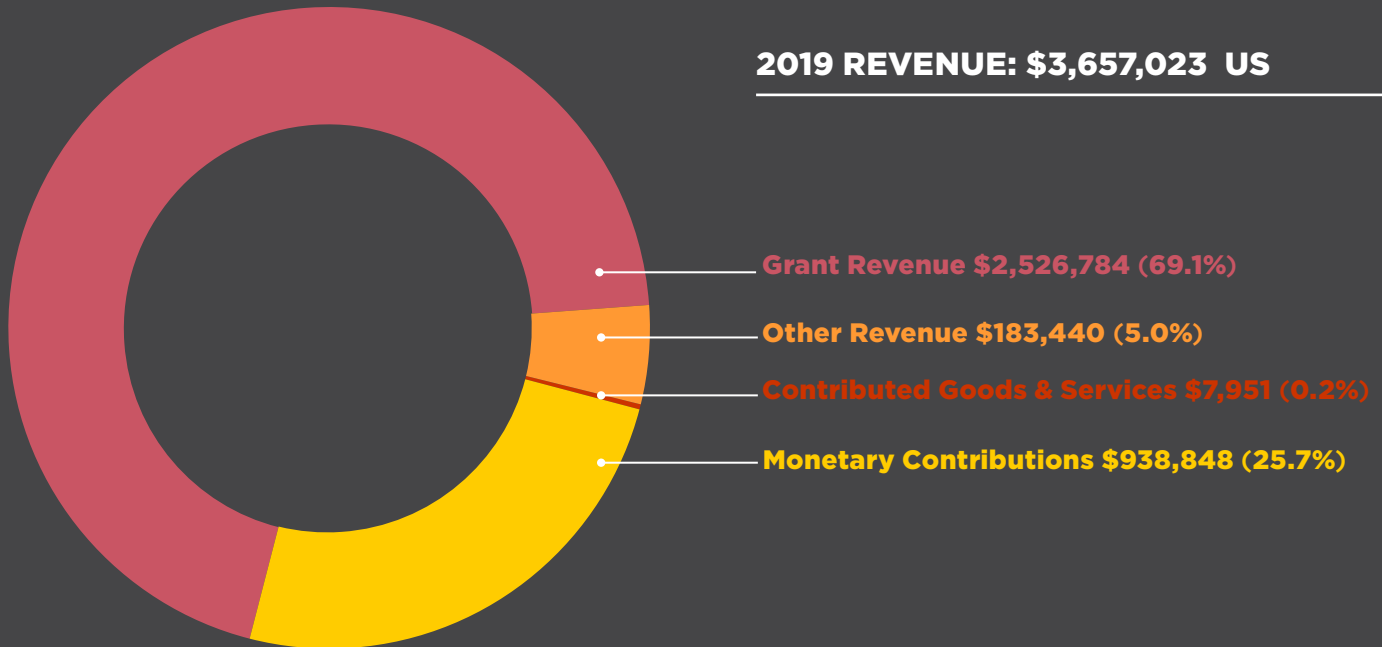
Global Impact

George Ayala advocates globally for men who have sex with men.

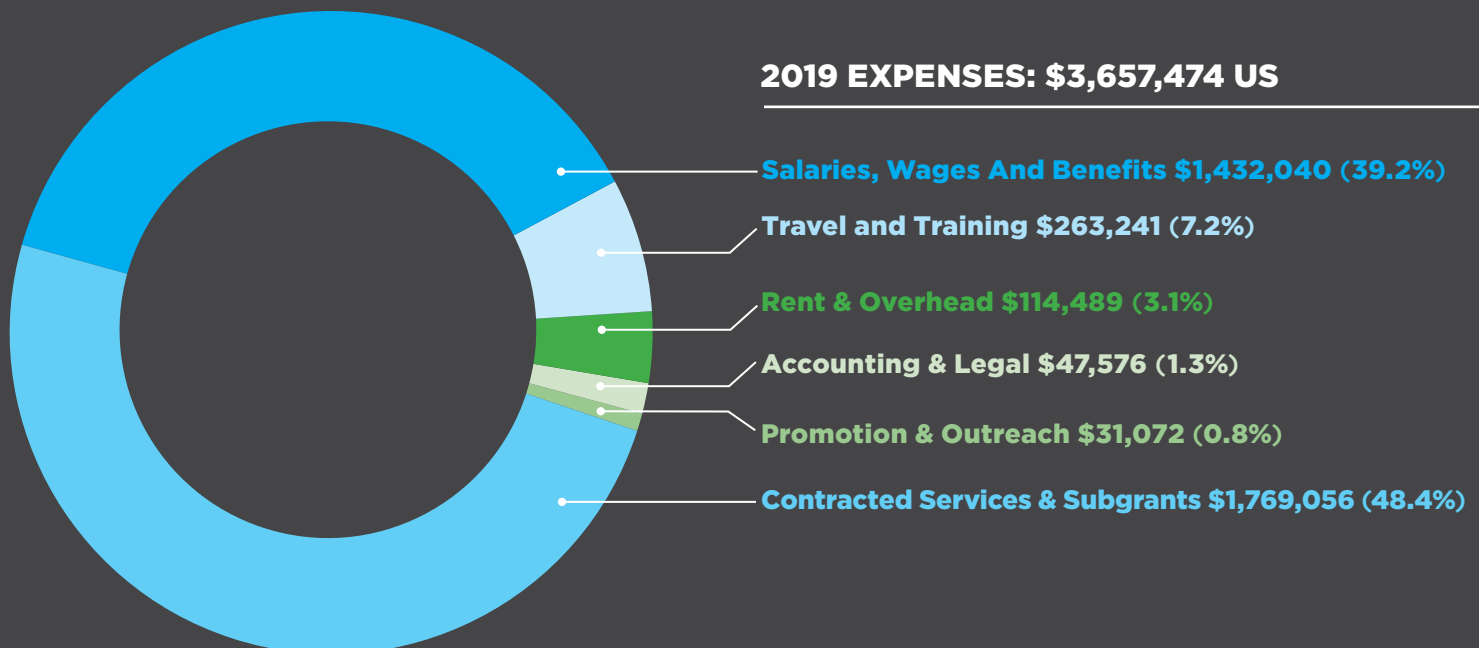
November 18, 2019 • By Alicia Green

Financial Statement

2019 REVENUE: \$3,657,023 US



2019 EXPENSES: \$3,657,474 US



Supporters

Thank you to all of our supporters, board and steering committee members, and our committed team of staff!

MAJOR FUNDERS

Aidsfonds
APLA Health
AVAC
Bridging The Gaps
Elton John AIDS Foundation

FHI360
Gilead
The Global Fund
ITPC
Lazy Bear Fund

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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PEPFAR
Robert Carr Fund
UNAIDS

USAID
VIIV Healthcare
World Health Organization

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FOR GAY MEN'S HEALTH & RIGHTS

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