

2017

ANNUAL REPORT

From Challenge to Solution
**STRENGTHENING
COMMUNITY VOICES**



GLOBAL FORUM
ON MSM & HIV
MSMGF.ORG

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If I had to characterize 2017 with a single word, it would be *pivot*.

Indeed, over the past few years, MSMGF has gradually and very deliberately initiated a strategic evolution of its work. We are pivoting outward from our work grounded in the nexus of HIV, health, and rights of men who have sex with men. Our pivot is based in the recognition that in order to address HIV successfully within communities of gay men and other men who have sex with men, there must be a collective move to understand HIV in the broader context of our sexual health.

Such a reframing of HIV requires an unwavering focus on the quality and coverage of community services and healthcare, as well as the human rights and funding environments in which these operate. MSMGF has therefore created curricula, training, program models, research initiatives, and advocacy agendas aimed at competently articulating and addressing the comprehensive and holistic HIV and sexual health needs of gay men and other men who have sex with men.

Our organizational pivot is leading us into national and international development spaces that can create the funding, policy, and legal conditions necessary for gay men and other men who have sex with men to live healthy and fulfilling sex lives. As part of our pivot, we are also expanding our coalition work to include the broader LGBT communities. Therefore, each of MSMGF's achievements this year has been underscored by the nurturing and building of networks and coalitions, which specifically help fortify our advocacy actions and more generally our movement-building objectives.

Deepening partnerships with networks of people living with HIV, youth, transgender people, sex workers, people who inject drugs, and rights activists in 2017 highlights the intersectional nature of MSMGF's work. These partnerships also compel us to keep striving for multi-faceted, inter-connected, and complementary approaches to our work, as evidenced in the multi-lingual offerings of curricula, the increased use of video for advocacy and educational purposes, and the expansion of our social media presence.

At its core, MSMGF is and will remain an advocacy organization. Even as we expand our technical assistance, community research, and communications, all our work is in the service of our advocacy mission. Everything we do is to ensure equitable access to HIV services for gay men and other men who have sex with men, while promoting their health and rights worldwide.

Lately, I find myself frequently returning to MSMGF's Strategic Plan – Community Action, Sexual Health, and Human Rights – and the published report upon which it is based – A Fundamental Shift: The Future of the MSM and HIV Movement. Both documents resonate strongly with me in their predictions of the future, while reminding me about the importance of focused and tactical action, especially now. Both documents lay the ground work for our three strategic directions, which have come to characterize MSMGF's pivot:

- » Leading Together on Human Rights by working in coalition toward social justice (structural and systemic);
- » Breaking Barriers to promote equitable access to comprehensive sexual health services (service coverage and quality); and
- » Forging the Way by nurturing and mobilizing leadership for action (community & grassroots advocates).

Our 2017 Annual Report is as much an expression of appreciation as it is a recap of recent achievements. As we have expanded our cadre of staff, consultants, and networks of advocates, we have also expanded our base of funders, without whose support MSMGF's achievements are not possible.

Thank you for another great year!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Ayala", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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 gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) worldwide. The silence at that time about the toll HIV was taking on gay and bisexual men and other 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 and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men directly affected by the HIV epidemic, and other experts in health, human rights, research, and policy work. What we share is our willingness to step forward and to act to address the lack of HIV responses targeted to gay and bisexual men and other 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 migrants; belong to racial/ethnic minority or indigenous communities; engage in sex work; use drugs; and/or identify as transgender.



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 men and other MSM, including gay men and MSM 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 2017

36,159 users visited msmgf.org for a total of **73,360** page-views

4,779 lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people reached with HIV-related information and services

928 advocates and healthcare professionals trained

666 new followers on Twitter (**9%** increase) and **875** uses of @msmgf

367 new followers on Facebook (**5%** increase from 2016)

263 new followers on Instagram (**59%** increase from 2016)

64 new blogs on msmgf.org

42 e-learning videos in English and French now available on the MSM Implementation Toolkit

41 email announcements sent to nearly **7,000** subscribers on mailing list

32 new subscribers on Youtube (**65%** increase from 2016)



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Holding Member States Accountable to their Commitments on HIV and Key Populations at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the mechanism UN Member States created to report on progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Of specific interest to MSMGF, SDG 3 aims to *ensure the health and well-being of all people at all ages*.

MSMGF was involved in several activities leading up to, during, and after the HLPF in July 2017, including:

- » Publishing an analysis of SDG 3, together with OutRight Action International and members of the Platform with a focus on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people. (See [Communications and Publications](#))
- » Advocating for inclusive language in the Ministerial Declaration. MSMGF and partners such as OutRight Action International and RFSL (Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Rights) advocated for strong inclusion of HIV and LGBTI populations in the Ministerial Declaration that emanated from the HLPF. Ultimately HIV was mentioned twice, and while key populations and LGBTI people were not named in the text, the concluding remarks by the President of ECOSOC (UN Economic and Social Council) mentioned ending discrimination against LGBTI people as a priority.

- » Coordinating activist activity. MSMGF produced an action alert to encourage in-country organizations led by gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men to engage in advocacy leading up to the HLPF. We also coordinated global activists throughout the HLPF events and supported the LGBTI Coalition at the HLPF, which was co-convened by OutRight Action International and RFSL.
- » Promoting accountability by providing monitoring tools. MSMGF published a blog and videos of thirty Member State representatives giving public statements at the 2016 High-Level Meeting to End AIDS that referenced key populations (e.g., gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men, sex workers, transgender women, and people who inject drugs). The blog and videos provide new tools for monitoring Member States' commitments to addressing HIV among key populations.
- » Facilitating community involvement in reporting. MSMGF provided support to activists in six countries (Botswana, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe) for civil society to work with countries to report on LGBTI health through voluntary national reviews (VNR) processes (part of the SDG accountability mechanisms). We intend to develop a strategy to promote the involvement of gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men and their organizations in annual Global AIDS Monitoring Report processes.
- » Identifying ways forward. MSMGF produced a paper detailing next steps for coordinated action on reaching global targets in the HIV epidemic. (See Communications and Publications)

Mobilizing International Human Rights Mechanisms to Protect LGBTI People

In November 2017, a group of experts released the Yogyakarta Principles plus 10 (YP+10), which included nine Additional Principles and 111 Additional State Obligations. The YP+10 is an interpretation of the application of international human rights law to the human rights of LGBTI people, and the additions significantly reflect inputs from MSMGF. As MSMGF states in its analysis, the YP+10 includes the needs and protections necessary for LGBTI people living with and affected by HIV, while still falling short of demanding the repeal of HIV criminalization laws and explicating the need for unfettered access to antiretroviral medications.

MSMGF partnered with the Stop AIDS Alliance to author an online reference tool (*Achieving HIV Targets through Human Rights Instruments*) for HIV activists interested in utilizing human rights instruments at the Human Rights Council and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. HIV and key population activists have yet to maximize several existing mechanisms and entry points at these UN entities, and this tool will be useful for community groups interested in exploring these opportunities.



Leveraging Global Mechanisms and Events to Defend LGBTI Human Rights

- » Independent Expert on SOGI. MSMGF authored a request to the newly appointed UN Independent Expert on Protection Against Violence and Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (IE SOGI), Costa Rican jurist Victor Madrigal-Borloz, outlining the ways that he should approach HIV-related human rights and their intersection with sexual orientation and gender identity. With inputs gathered from Consortium and Platform partners, MSMGF provided data and analysis regarding decriminalization and de-stigmatization of gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men and trans people in healthcare settings.
- » International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Under the guidance of ILGA-World, MSMGF participated in the drafting of recommendations regarding a new General Comment on the Right to Life that will be used in tandem with the ICCPR. MSMGF is exploring wider utilization of the ICCPR as a tool for addressing human rights violations, so it is important that LGBTI groups are advocating for access to anti-retroviral medications, anti-discrimination in healthcare settings, and other HIV-related human rights violations in these submissions.
- » Human Rights Council Social Forum. MSMGF attended the Human Rights Council Social Forum on human rights in the context of HIV. Our interventions reminded Member States about the uneven impact of criminal laws on key population communities.
- » LGBTI Inclusion Index. MSMGF participated in civil society consultations on the formation of indicators for the LGBTI Inclusion Index, lead by UNDP and World Bank. MSMGF offered inputs on how to strengthen indicators for three of the five dimensions: health, employment, and personal safety and security. The UNDP LGBTI Inclusion Index, created in 2015, can assist governments, civil society and other development partners in measuring LGBTI inclusion, in identifying data trends and gaps, and in providing evidence to help advance good policy. It is meant to address that fact that in most places, data and analysis specific to LGBTI people is drastically lacking, allowing the challenges faced by them to remain invisible.
- » UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB). MSMGF participated at the 40th and 41st UNAIDS PCB meetings. In our interventions, we emphasized the need to maintain civil society as an independent and key actor in the AIDS response and called for a clear engagement strategy for key populations across UNAIDS to increase accountability and improve results. We recommended that a systematic method for documenting stigma and discrimination be developed and endorsed by UNAIDS, in order to address discrimination in healthcare settings. In this era of shrinking spaces for civil society engagement, MSMGF, NGO Observers, and the NGO Delegation drove messages about the decreasing role and participation of civil society in building community capacities in rights-claiming, especially in the area of right to health.



Holding PEPFAR Accountable to Commitments for Key Populations

MSMGF continued its advocacy role as a key global community partner to the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to ensure that global health investments from the US Government are responsive to the unique HIV-related needs of gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men living around the world. Our efforts span a broad range of activities.

» Pushing for Funding Commitments for Key Populations.

We work with a broad global coalition of organizations (including Health GAP, AVAC, Médecins Sans Frontières, RESULTS, CHANGE, and amfAR), to advocate for increased funding and expanded programming for gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men and other key populations in PEPFAR-funded programs worldwide. MSMGF joined partner organizations in the United States and around the world in calling on Members of Congress to continue long-standing bipartisan support for a comprehensive, stigma-free domestic and global AIDS response.

» Building Skills Among Advocates. We worked closely with partners from Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zimbabwe to conduct advocacy during those countries' Country Operating Plans (COP) review. This included offering one skills building workshop in Africa in partnership with Health GAP and AVAC, where advocates developed advocacy strategies for proper inclusion of key populations priorities in their country operational plan. We produced a [blog](#) with partners that outlined key priorities identified and disseminated these priorities broadly to key stakeholders ahead of the COP reviews. Some advocacy outcomes included:

- increased program targets for gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men in Botswana, and
- an increased population size estimate in Nigeria, which was used to revise treatment targets.

» Including Key Populations in the 2017-2020 PEPFAR Strategy. MSMGF worked with global partners to provide input into the newly released 2017-2020 PEPFAR strategy. MSMGF is deeply worried by a troubling trend to deemphasize key populations disproportionately impacted by the epidemic, including gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers, and transgender people. We underlined the importance for PEPFAR to include key populations in shaping policy priorities, developing programmatic responses, and ensuring equitable distribution of targeted resources in the 50+ countries where PEPFAR is currently active.

» Issuing Community Alerts. MSMGF as part of the PEPFAR Watch Coalition disseminated [community alerts](#) in order to prepare activists for the new PEPFAR COP processes. The alert encourages civil society advocates and key population groups to remind PEPFAR teams of their responsibilities to key populations, and further recommended that civil society advocates be prepared to report to the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) and to their local, regional, and global civil society peers when and if PEPFAR teams fall short.



- » Documenting the Impact of the Mexico City Policy, also known as the Global Gag Rule. MSMGF designed and solicited a survey about the impact of the Global Gag Rule on funding flows and access to services. The results illuminate the detrimental effect that the Mexico City Policy is casting on key population access to services. We submitted our recommendations to the State Department and USAID for them to meet their commitment to reducing HIV among key populations, and endorse the need for an annual review of the Mexico City Policy in line with community recommendations.

Expanding Community Engagement in Global Fund Processes

MSMGF continued to work with its partners to promote meaningful community engagement in the work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, thus ensuring that the Global Fund is responsive to the unique HIV-related needs of gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men living around the world. Our efforts span a broad range of activities.

- » Providing Guidance on Community Engagement with Global Fund Processes. Together with the Community Leadership Action Cooperative (CLAC) partners, MSMGF published a review that synthesizes good practices and proposes a series of strategic actions to expand and enhance meaningful community engagement in all phases of Global Fund grants. In addition, MSMGF developed two community updates in partnership with ICASO (available in English, French, Russian and Spanish):

- *How Civil Society and Communities Can Engage in the Global Fund Grant-making Processes* provides advice to civil society and community groups on how to engage in grant-making activities once a funding request has been submitted.
- *How to advocate for community responses and systems strengthening interventions in Global Fund funding requests* provides tips to support civil society and community groups to design and include community systems strengthening interventions and community-based monitoring activities in funding requests during the 2017-2019 Global Fund funding cycle.

- » Expanding Community Engagement Through a New Global Fund Grant. Led by MSMGF, a consortium of regional and national partners has received a Global Fund grant under the CRG initiative. The grant aims to support the engagement of key population communities in Global Fund processes, including involvement in Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCMs), watchdogging national and regional implementation of Global Fund grants, and supporting the development and implementation of evidence-informed HIV-related programs. This grant enables MSMGF to expand its geographic and demographic coverage by adding three new African partners in Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, and Ghana, as well as maintaining support for current partners under Bridging the Gaps (see below) and for the seven regional networks from the Consortium of MSM and Transgender Networks. (see next page)



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.

The **Global Fund Community, Rights and Gender Advisory Group (CRG)** 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.

- » Provision of ongoing technical support to community partners in their advocacy for better inclusion of 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.
- » Strengthening collaboration with Global Key Population Networks on Global Fund. MSMGF joined other global key populations networks (NSWP, GNP+ and INPUD) for a meeting aimed at achieving in-depth understanding of the new Global Fund Strategy and the changes to the Global Fund operating model, structures, and process. Participants explored opportunities and risks for key population-led organizations to engage effectively with Global Fund processes at country level. Global networks identified key joint activities for the upcoming two and half years, including advocacy efforts.

Convening Activists and Networks to Coordinate Advocacy Action

The Consortium of MSM and Transgender Networks (the Consortium) and the Advocacy Platform to Fast Track the HIV and Human Rights Responses with Gay and Bisexual Men (the Platform) met this year to identify shared priorities for continued urgent action. The groups prioritized the following issues: funding, human rights violations,

and access to comprehensive sexual health services. In tandem with these efforts, the Platform created an ambitious plan to advocate for the inclusion of HIV and human rights issues for gay and bisexual men in the High Level Political Forum, the central platform for monitoring the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The Consortium and the Platform are committed to reinvigorating global discussions about next-generation HIV prevention and sexual health programming, and both groups worked throughout the year in different activities toward this goal.

Through the support of the Robert Carr Networks Fund (RCNF), in 2017 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 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.



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.

Foregrounding Youth Voices and Vision

In 2017, MSMGF proudly welcomed three new members to its Youth Reference Group (YRG) and Steering Committee: Glenroy Murray (Jamaica), Firmansyah Sarbini (Indonesia) and Najeeb Fokeerbux (Mauritius).

The YRG has convened an international planning committee formed by young gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men linked to regional networks that will take the lead on MSMGF's Pre-Meeting at AIDS2018. The Planning Committee also gathers representative from partners based in the Netherlands (GNP+, COC and ICSS).

Out With It: Community Solutions for the Sexual Health and Rights of Young Gay and Bisexual Men will be a day-long interactive youth-led event centered around generating and refining innovative, community-led solutions for the sexual health and rights of young gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men. This official AIDS 2018 pre-meeting will facilitate exchange and discussion among top youth activists, researchers, and community members for MSMGF's Global Challenge—a call for forward-thinking solutions on sexual health topics such as healthcare access, stigma and discrimination, LGBTI rights and more.

The YRG will also develop a new campaign and research initiative among young gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men around the world, thanks to a generous donation from the Lazy Bear Fund.



Advocating for Change: Speaking Out in East Africa

MSMGF and Ishtar MSM (Kenya) jointly hosted *Speaking Out*, a five-day advocacy training for 16 advocates from Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi, and Rwanda. Participants rolled up their sleeves to work, exchange, learn, envision, and create possibilities for changes through advocacy.

Advocating for change requires tools, strategies, targets, skills, but more importantly, it needs dedicated and motivated communities to speak out, organize, and work on the issues that are affecting them. The training allowed the group of advocates to discuss local issues but within a regional perspective; we talked about how local change in a community can also influence and inspire regional initiatives for change across countries. Participants had drafted their own advocacy strategies as actionable and realistic plans to implement at home.

Earlier this past year, MSMGF trained fifteen advocates in Tanzania, in partnership with local partner CHESA and Viiv, using the *Speaking Out* curriculum to build local advocacy capacity to address human rights violations and improve services and programming.



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.

Promoting Community Leadership in Combination Prevention

MSMGF published *Reconsidering Primary Prevention: New Steps Forward in the Global Response* in conjunction with global key population networks—Global Action for Trans Equality (GATE), Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW), International Network of People Who Use Drugs (INPUD), IRGT: A Global Network of Transgender Women and HIV, Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) and the Global Advocacy Platform to Fast Track the HIV and Human Rights Responses with Gay and Bisexual Men (The Platform). The paper emphasizes the necessity for a nuanced strategy that combines the efficacy of new biomedical interventions with the guidance and leadership of communities. Over 200 organizations signed the Call to Action that accompanied the publication. At the UNAIDS Global Prevention Coalition meeting, MSMGF and global key population partners gave remarks based on the paper that pointed to the lack of a comprehensive approach to prevention that will work for key populations.



Influencing the Global PrEP Conversation

MSMGF contributed to a global think-tank focused on HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) conducted by the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC). MSMGF used this meeting as an opportunity to advocate for the need to roll out PrEP as an integrated component of combination HIV prevention packages within a service delivery framework that is differentiated to cater to the varying levels of need among key populations. In addition, MSMGF promoted PrEP messaging and literacy, and the need to scale-up affordable and safe access.

The Global Platform to Fast Track the Human Rights and HIV Responses with Gay, Bisexual and Other Men Who Have Sex with Men works towards achieving UNAIDS 2020 and 2030 targets by advising UN agencies, the Global Fund, U.S. PEPFAR, bilateral donors, and international funders of the global HIV response. Convened by MSMGF and UNAIDS, the Platform, in partnership with grassroots advocates and their networks represented by the Consortium of MSM and Transgender Networks, takes an active role in elevating the sexual health and human rights concerns of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in the context of the global HIV response.

Linking Health and Human Rights for LGBTI Communities

Through Bridging the Gaps, MSMGF provides support to local partner organizations in several countries, focusing on the health and human rights of gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men.

- » **Spotlight on Vietnam: Supporting Discrimination-Free Health Services for gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men.**

GLink and Lighthouse are Vietnamese organizations led by gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men.



In partnership with MSMGF, they hosted a three-day training-of-trainers for eleven advocates in Ho Chi Minh City to impart methods, content, and facilitation skills when working with health care providers. Using the curriculum developed by MSMGF and Johns Hopkins and other key technical documents, they are leading a project to train and sensitize health care providers on addressing the health needs of gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men and on delivering services without stigma and discrimination. The project will generate a set of recommendations aimed at improving the quality of services in local clinics.

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 five Dutch-based organizations, four global key population networks (including MSMGF), and more than 100 local partner organizations.

» **Spotlight on Kyrgyzstan: Creating Safe Spaces and Advocating for Legislative Protection.**

MSMGF supported staff retreats and organizational development for two organizations in Kyrgyzstan: Labrys and Krygyz Indigo. As a result, Labrys was able to strengthen the community safe space that they operate for young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people in Bishkek. They conduct activities five days per week in the Community Training Center, including peer support groups for gay, bisexual and queer men, trans people, and lesbian, bisexual and queer women. Krygyz Indigo provided active leadership in the Coalition on Justice, helping to mobilize a diverse cross-section of civil society groups in support of the Anti-Discrimination Legislation efforts in Kyrgyzstan. A comprehensive media campaign resulted in a number of articles about the importance of non-discrimination for vulnerable groups.

» **Spotlight on Ukraine: Mapping LGBTI-friendly service providers.**

LGBT Association LIGA, based in Mykolaiv, held sensitization trainings for 24 healthcare providers in Mykolaiv and Kherson addressing topics such as the needs of LGBTI people, conducting risk assessments with patients and preventing HIV among LGBTI people. LIGA developed three online maps to LGBTI-friendly service providers in Kherson, Mikolaiv, and Odessa, which were also co-funded by the Peace Corps Ukraine.

» **Spotlight on Botswana, Kenya and Vietnam: Building Local Research Capacity.**

MSMGF conducted a training workshop on Action for Access!, MSMGF's capacity strengthening initiative focused on community-based participatory action research. Co-investigators from community-based organizations in Botswana, Kenya and Vietnam learned about the tools necessary to conduct qualitative research to better understand the barriers experienced by gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men and transgender women in access to services.



Encouraging Uptake of Evidence-Based and Community Endorsed Interventions

Working with other key population networks, MSMGF provided policy advice to the Global Fund regarding the implementation toolkits developed for key populations: MSMIT, IDUIT, SWIT and TRANSIT. The aim is greater coordination and collaboration by key players involved in the roll-out of the Implementation Toolkits, including LINKAGES, PEPFAR, the Global Fund and the key population networks.

The **MSM Implementation Toolkit (MSMIT)** is 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. It is one of several normative guidance documents developed for key populations, including SWIT for sex workers, IDUIT for persons who use drugs and TRANSIT for transgender populations.

Using a combination of training and technical assistance, MSMGF facilitated the uptake of MSMIT in ways that are culturally adapted to specific countries and regions. For example, MSMGF supported the translation of a newly developed training-of-trainers curriculum from Russian to English and from Russian to Ukrainian, as well as translation of MSMIT into Tajik. The full MSMIT is [now available](#) in English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian.

Africa: In partnership with local partner PEMA Kenya, MSMGF rolled out a multi-country training program targeting 16 Africa-based partners and advocates from Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, focused on MSMIT. MSMGF trainers used a specially designed curriculum that enabled participants to navigate the material easily and to deliver sessions drawing from a range of good practice approaches on facilitation, presentation, and group process. Furthermore, MSMGF provided small grant support to promote the roll-out and local uptake of the MSMIT.

South-East Asia: In partnership with local partner Lighthouse Social Enterprise, a Vietnamese community-based organization led by LGBTI advocates, MSMGF hosted a regional training on MSMIT for advocates from Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Vietnam. The participatory training allowed advocates to share their countries' contexts, gaps and opportunities for strengthening HIV services. After the five-day gathering, participants had an in-depth understanding of MSMIT, its content and key recommendations, and on how to access additional resources.



SPOTLIGHT ON VIETNAM:

Building MSMT into Global Fund Concept Note Development at Country-level

MSMGF, Lighthouse and the Vietnam Authority of HIV/AIDS Control (VAAC) co-facilitated a consultation, which hosted key gay and transgender advocates, stakeholders and decision makers involved in the Global Fund Concept Note development process. Prof. Nguyen Hoang Long, Director General of VAAC, Ministry of Health highlighted the fact that it was one of the very few occasions where he has met with men who have sex with men and transgender groups to discuss the state of HIV in these key populations. The consultation successfully met three key objectives, where participants i) discussed progress, challenges and opportunities related to Global Fund HIV programs for MSM in Vietnam; ii) illustrated the multiple components of a high-quality, comprehensive HIV-related service delivery program using the MSM Implementation Toolkit (MSMT); and iii) developed a clear, time-bound advocacy plan for including a list of programmatic recommendations in the next funding request to the Global Fund.

Strengthening Transgender Capacity Worldwide

In 2017, the IRGT: A Global Network of Trans Women and MSMGF launched *TEACH*, a capacity building program for trans-led organizations. We organized a training-of-trainers in Bangkok for Technical Advisors, using a curriculum developed by the IRGT and MSMGF. The selected Technical Advisors represent the following countries: Côte D'Ivoire, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, and Zimbabwe. See the Technical Advisors featured in MSMGF's *Activists in Focus* (see [Communications and Publications](#)). Technical Advisors who completed the training will deliver in-person regional trainings and virtual coaching sessions to trans leaders and community-based organizations engaged in transgender programming and service provision across the Asia-Pacific, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and Caribbean regions.

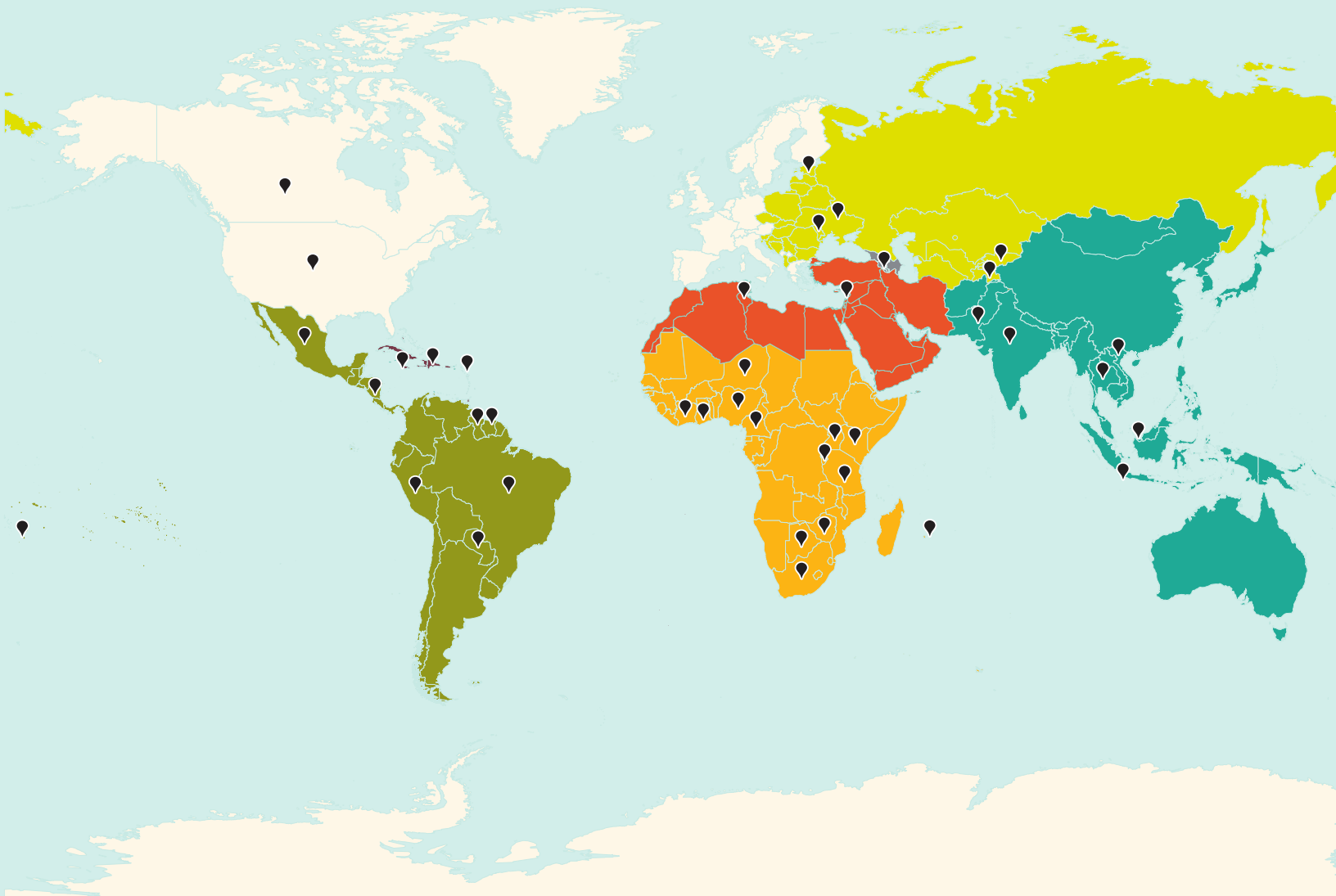


TEACH is an IRGT-MSMGF initiative designed to strengthen the capacity of trans-led organizations to apply more competitively for grant funding and build local organizational capacity to respond effectively to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. TEACH will assist regionally focused, professional groups of trans individuals who will serve as Technical Advisors.

IRGT: A Global Network of Trans Women and HIV works with trans organizations, communities, and advocates around the world. Its members are transgender advocates with extensive experience in different world regions, including Africa, Latin America, North America, South and Southeast Asia, and Europe. Members have a wide range of skills, knowledge, and experience, including HIV, human rights, high-level advocacy, strategic planning, and programming and service delivery for transgender communities.



MSMGF'S WORK AROUND THE WORLD



Countries Where MSMGF Left a Footprint in 2017

Armenia, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa, Surinam, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United States, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Over the past year, MSMGF has continued to develop a communications and outreach strategy to engage and excite a wide audience for action and support. In addition to our active social media presence (see below), we proudly reintroduced our bi-monthly newsletter, *Speak Out!*, a digest of MSMGF news and activism in the global fight to promote sexual health and rights.

As a means to amplify our voice and reach, we've been working in partnership with some of the leading organizations in the field. Successfully leveraging our collective networks has created a dynamic forum for exchange, as illustrated by the publications and multi-media communications platforms highlighted below.

Agenda 2030 for LGBTI Health and Well-Being

In collaboration with OutRight Action International and The Global Platform to Fast Track the Human Rights and HIV Responses with Gay and Bisexual Men, MSMGF released a critical report and associated factsheets ahead of the 2017 UN High Level Political Forum. The report argues for a global health and development approach that is inclusive of LGBTI people. It offers tangible and accessible recommendations on data and indicators governments can and should collect to monitor LGBTI health needs.

CPR: Delivering Education for Health Professionals Through E-learning

As a way to complement the MSMIT, MSMGF continued to develop new videos for educating health professionals through its online platform, CPR (Community Partnership Resources). This year, new videos and e-books were uploaded onto the CPR website, which now contains a total of 42 informational videos across these six principal



CPR (Community Partnership Resource) is the MSMGF e-learning platform for health professionals 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 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.

areas of focus. A subset of the videos are available in French.

- » Community Empowerment
- » Addressing Violence
- » Condom and Lubricant Programming
- » Healthcare Service Delivery
- » Using Information and Communication Technology
- » Program Management

Newsletter for Key Population Resources

MSMGF collaborated with FHI360 and LINKAGES to reinvigorate the CLAC Website (<http://www.clac.cab>) and to release the inaugural CLAC Newsletter. They are incontrovertible tools for anyone seeking resources for key populations, developed by global leaders such as AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA), GNP+, GATE, NSWP, INPUD, ITPC... and of course MSMGF.

Getting on the Fast Track: Advocacy Priorities for the Global HIV and Human Rights Responses with Gay & Bisexual Men

In 2015, UNAIDS introduced a set of targets to accelerate the global response to HIV. Although this has resulted in HIV incidence remaining flat or beginning to decrease in a few select cities, HIV remains unabated among gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men in many parts of the world. [This paper](#) carefully details next steps for coordinated action on reaching global targets in the HIV epidemic.



Video testimonials

As part of its [YouTube channel](#), MSMGF released several videos last year, including a compilation of video testimonials discussing *Next Steps in the Global Response to HIV* in time for World AIDS Day 2017, featuring Micheal Ighodaro, Graham Norton, Midnight Poonkasetwattana, David Furnish, Niluka Perera, and other advocates from around the world.

In the video *What is the link between HIV and Human rights?* we sit down with members of the Consortium of MSM and Transgender Networks to discuss the importance of bringing HIV into a human rights framework.



Gay men around the world continue to face barriers in accessing sexual health services. In the video *Global Perspectives on Sexual Health*, Johnny Tohme (USA), Niluka Perera (Sri Lanka), Bisi Alimi (Nigeria), Gautam Yadav (India) and Julian Kerbogossian (Lebanon) deliver a simple message: sexual health is a human right.



ACTIVISTS IN FOCUS

In 2017 MSMGF launched a new feature on its blog—*Activists in Focus*, shining a spotlight on LGBT activists from all corners of the globe, who describe in their own words how they are changing their communities and the world.

The first three activists featured below are Neish, Solange and Barbra. As TEACH Technical Advisors, they are working with MSMGF and IRGT to deliver high-quality trainings to trans-led organizations in their region. Karen and Elie lead regional networks that are part of the Consortium of MSM and Transgender Networks.

“Becoming a TEACH Technical Advisor is an opportunity to strengthen the capacity of trans-led organizations across the Latin America and Caribbean region so they are better able to sustain themselves, capitalize on funding opportunities and better meet the needs of the community.”

Neish McLean, HIV Coordinator and Project Manager, Equality for All Foundation Jamaica. Co-Founder, TransWave Jamaica—an organization that promotes transgender health and well-being.



“As a trans woman, I had to work hard to be comfortable with who I am. So many people helped me to reach that level of comfort. I believe now it is my time to give it back, to start organizations in my region, to strengthen their knowledge, and to help my fellow trans people be comfortable with whom they are.”

Solange A. Musanganya, Programs Director, Maison de la Culture des Diversités Humaines—a non-profit organization that uses culture, art and sports to address the homophobia and transphobia in West Africa.

"I am a queer African feminist, social justice worker and activist from Kenya. As a TEACH Technical Advisor, the opportunity to conduct capacity strengthening to trans organizations in Africa by trans Africans was one that I could not pass."

Barbra Muruga, Executive Director, East Africa Trans Health & Advocacy Network (EATHAN)—a network of intersex, trans* and gender non-conforming individuals and organizations in East Africa.



"The South Caucasus is not Eastern Europe. Among post-Soviet countries, there are deep cultural and social differences that continue to affect the HIV response. It is important for us to remain in close partnership with other regional and international organizations so we are able to raise the voice of our communities."

Karen Badalyan, Co-founder and Executive Director, South Caucasus Network on HIV/AIDS (SCN)—an innovative partnership that works to achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for MSM and trans-gender people.



"I found out I had HIV when I was 20 years old, and I was quite alone during that time. It was only when I realized that I needed to be open about my HIV status that I really started to grow. M-Coalition works on LGBT rights in a region where it is 100% criminalized. The HIV epidemic in the MENA region is concentrated among MSM, people who use drugs, and sex workers. Working in a coalition reminds me of the story of the twigs and the bundle of twigs: alone we can be broken, discouraged and weak, but together we are strong and our voice has more effect."

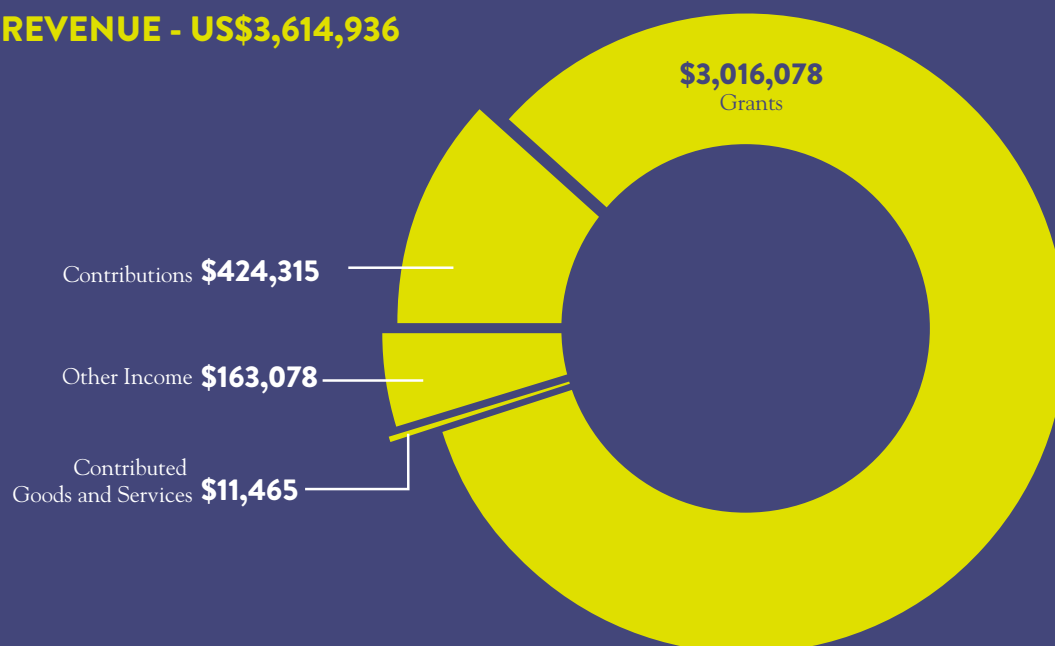
Elie Ballan, Director, M-Coalition—an organization based out of Lebanon that works on promoting sexual health and rights of gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men throughout the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) region.



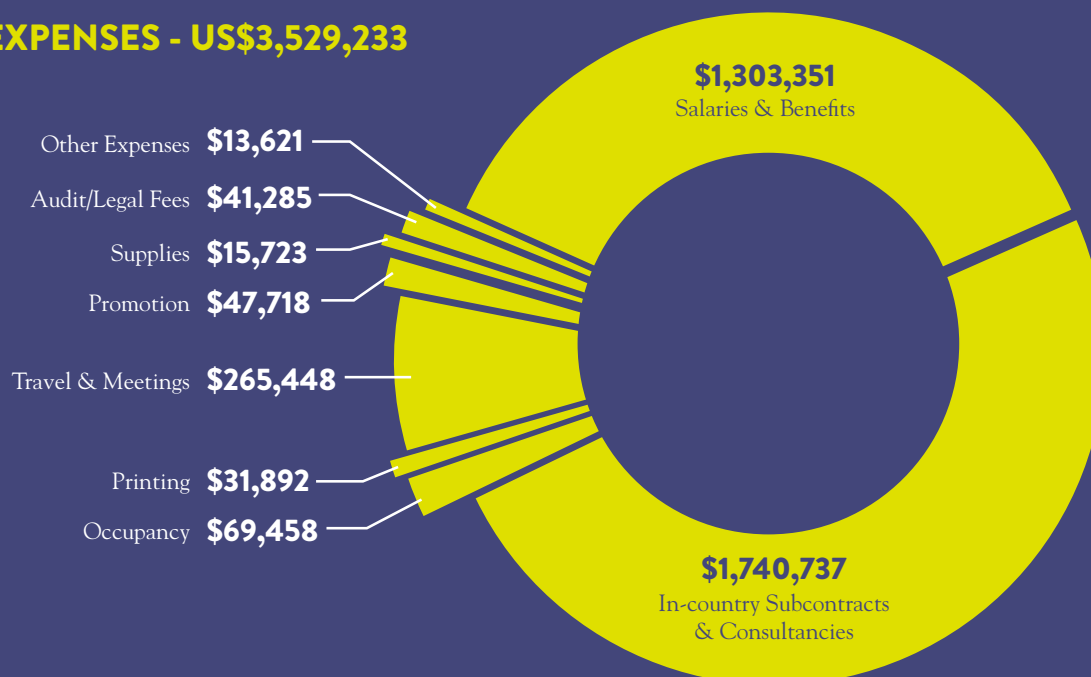
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below are data on MSMGF's revenue and expenses for the financial year ending in June 2017.

REVENUE - US\$3,614,936



EXPENSES - US\$3,529,233



SUPPORT

Funders and Donors

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

USAID-PEPFAR-LINKAGES
ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Programme
Levi Strauss Foundation
UNAIDS
World Health Organization
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Gautam Yadav, India

MSMSGF's Board Chair (Don Baxter) and Vice Chair (Othman Mellouk) also serve as Co-chairs of the Steering Committee.

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Johnasies McGraw, Operations & Board Coordinator
Johnny Tohme, Community Mobilization Manager
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Sherrie Hicks, Senior Accountant
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Zamora, Contracts & Grants Manager

*In 2017, MSMGF said goodbye to Nirmala Mathai, who left MSMGF for new endeavors. We wish her well in her new efforts.



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



GLOBAL FORUM
ON MSM & HIV
MSMGF.ORG

The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF) is an expanding network of advocates and other experts in sexual health, LGBT/human rights, research, and policy, working to ensure an effective response to HIV among gay men and other men who have sex with men. We are directly linked with more than 120 community-based organizations, across 62 countries.

MSMGF

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For more information, please contact us at contact@msmgf.org

2017 Annual Report

From Challenge to Solution: Strengthening Community Voices

February 2018

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