

FINDING
OUR PLACE
FINDING
OUR VOICE

ASIA & THE PACIFIC TRANSGENDER
ORGANIZATION MAPPING REPORT



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CONTENTS

6

· Organization
Background

8

· Foreword

12

· Acknowledgements

14

· Introduction

16

· Methodology

17

· Results
· Composition Of
Survey Respondents

23

· Thematic Areas Of Work
· Populations Served
· Regional Characteristics

24

· Links With Other
Organizations

26

· Involvement With
Global Fund

28

· Organizational
Priorities & Needs

31

· Key Observations,
Gaps & Challenges

32

· Appendix: Survey
Participants

33

· Glossary

ORGANIZATION BACKGROUND

The Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN) was launched in December 2009. It is the first regional network advocating for the legal recognition and rights of transgender people in Asia and the Pacific.

APTN's mission is to mobilize and advocate for the human rights of trans/transgender people in the region. APTN works in multiple areas, including: HIV and human rights; promotion of the wellbeing of transgender people; advocating for an enabling environment that is free of stigma and discrimination; and lobbying for legal gender recognition. In partnership with other groups and multilateral organizations, APTN publishes key reports and policy and technical briefs highlighting the issues of transgender people.

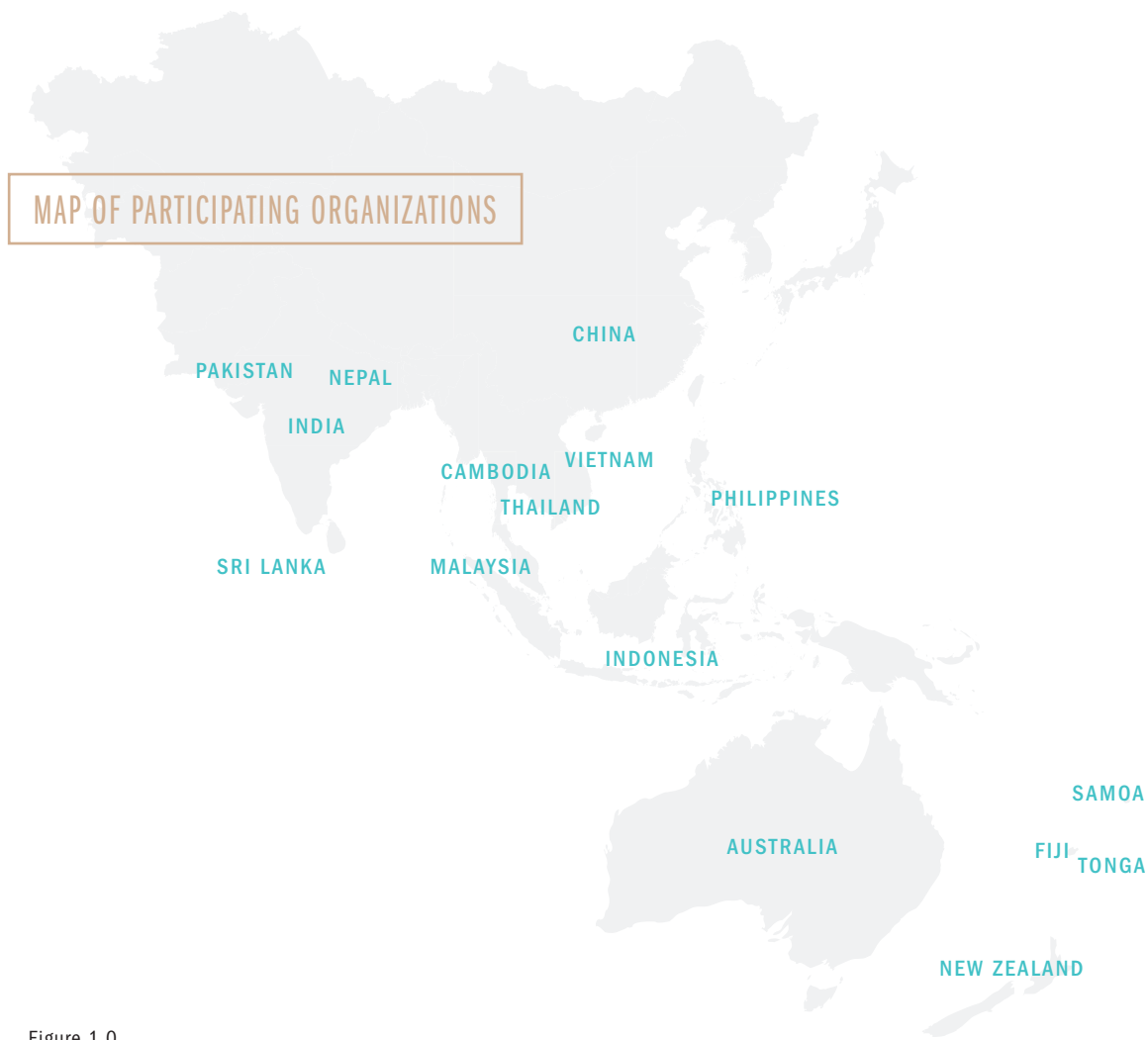


Figure 1.0





“THIS REPORT BY APTN IS JUST THE
BEGINNING: IT CREATES A SPACE FOR
THE VOICES OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE
TO BE HEARD.” -STEVE KRAUS



FOREWORD

Throughout Asia and the Pacific resources dedicated to transgender issues are extremely limited and very few are directly in the hands of transgender communities. The Asia Pacific Transgender Network mapping exercise is a crucial initiative. It contributes to progress in transgender welfare in Asia and the Pacific and to fostering stronger links across the region.

In this first attempt to map out transgender organizations, the report reflects the diverse range of amazing work being done with limited – or even no – funding. It shows the deep commitment and dedication of the transgender community across the region, whether in the area of HIV and health or in broader rights issues such as legal gender recognition, and legal protection from discrimination.

The report represents an opportunity for us as advocates to explore

how we can learn from each other to strengthen our own work. It is an opportunity for community members to link up with each other and strengthen engagement that enables us to make use of the synergy that exists between our respective organizations. Therefore, I strongly encourage more transgender organizations to step forward and participate in the future mapping exercise in order to better synergize our priorities and needs, and forge forward together to build a stronger transgender community response. We will work towards a strong transgender movement and create the enabling environment through our efforts. Together we can build stronger responses to transgender health and human rights issues.

ABHEENA AHER

Asia Pacific Transgender Network Chairperson

“I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE MORE TRANSGENDER ORGANIZATIONS TO STEP FORWARD AND PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE MAPPING EXERCISES.” -ABHEENA AHER



There have been few studies on transgender issues in Asia and the Pacific, and even fewer that assess specific activities of transgender-specific organizations. In public health discussions on HIV, the transgender community is recognized as a population disproportionately affected by AIDS, but it has long been placed under the umbrella of men who have sex with men (MSM).

However, the transgender community is much more diverse in sexual identity, behavior, and gender expression than this grouping with MSM implies. To collect information on transgender-specific organizations and to better understand other organizations (such as those representing MSM) which also work on issues of transgender people, APTN undertook a mapping initiative in the region.

The aim of the APTN mapping exercise is to create a database of groups and organizations, as well as local and national networks addressing transgender issues. The information in the APTN mapping exercise was self-reported by groups and organizations. Thus, only information completed in an online survey and subsequently verified by APTN has been included.

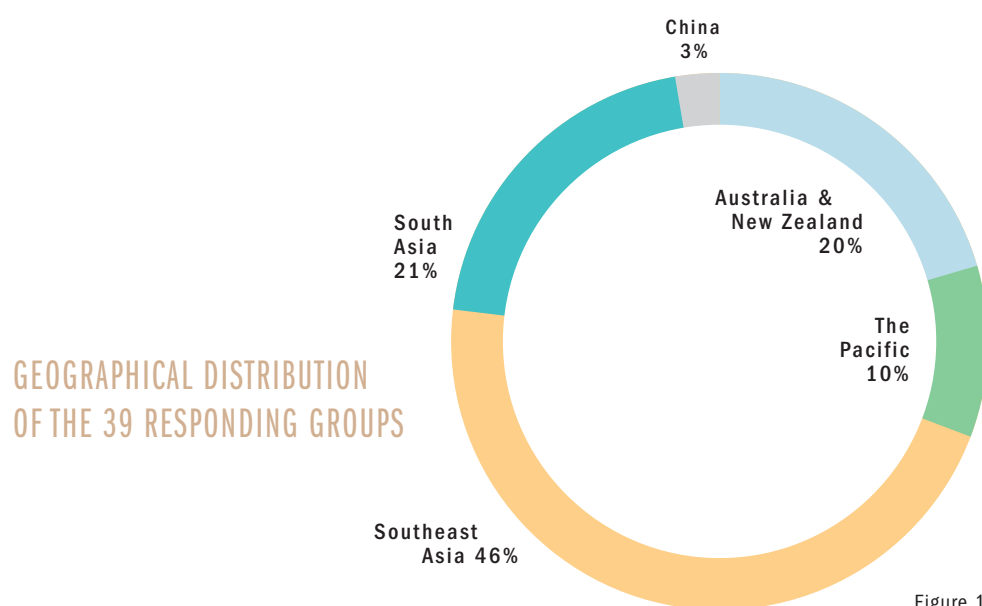
The intention is for the mapping exercise to serve as a resource for transgender organizations, allowing for south-to-south linkages, exchange of experiences and learning. In addition, the mapping enables APTN and development partners to better understand the needs of

transgender groups in the region and to strategically align priorities, creating a sustainable and strong transgender movement locally, regionally and internationally. The survey of transgender organizations is intended as a yearly publication, and APTN encourages other transgender groups to participate in the online survey in future.

In the current mapping, a total of 39 organizations self-reported information about their focus, organizational structure and size, and their priorities and needs. The online survey was completed over a period of one month in early 2015, and community-based organizations (CBOs), national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national networks, and support groups participated from a diverse geographical area (Figures 1.0 and 1.1). Eight are from Australia and New Zealand, four are from the Pacific, 18 are from South-East Asia, eight are from South Asia, and one is from China (see appendix for full list of organizations by country).



“THE MAPPING PROVIDES AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS OF TRANSGENDER GROUPS IN THE REGION, & TO STRATEGICALLY ALIGN ITS PRIORITIES IN CREATING A SUSTAINABLE & STRONG TRANSGENDER MOVEMENT LOCALLY, REGIONALLY & INTERNATIONALLY.”



After discussions with peers on what information would be helpful to better understand the landscape of transgender groups in the region, a short online survey form was chosen as the data collection method.

The survey also sought to identify the organizations' needs in terms of support that can be provided from a regional network and other development partners, including government and international agencies. The survey was designed so that it would not be too time-consuming to complete. Information collected was then verified through a follow-up Skype call or email by staff from APTN Secretariat. APTN recognizes that this data collection method has inherent limitations, as does using only English language. There was no incentive provided for those that completed the form.

APTN used Google forms to design the survey form, which included three sections covering organizational background, current focus and activities, and needs and priorities. There was an additional set of questions about engagement and support from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The online form was tested and then revised, based on feedback from four volunteer respondents who reviewed the questions for clarity and usefulness of the information. The online survey was launched on January 19 2015, and invitations to complete the survey were disseminated through a variety of channels including e-mail, APTN's Facebook page, mailing lists and in person-to-person outreach during regional workshops. In addition, APTN also requested that its country

partners reach out to other groups in order to reach a wider audience. The survey was online for nearly five weeks and closed on February 25 2015.

The survey form used the following definition of transgender:

Persons who identify themselves in a different gender than that assigned to them at birth. They may express their identity differently to that expected of the gender role assigned to them at birth. Trans / transgender persons often identify themselves in ways that are locally, socially, culturally, religiously, or spiritually defined.¹

The survey form used terms such as trans women and trans men to specify options with respect to the community being served. Trans women are birth-assigned males who identify and/or present as female, or as members of another broadly feminized gender (in those cultures in which it is accepted there are more than two genders). Trans men are birth-assigned females who identify and/or present as males, or as another broadly masculinized gender.

In addition, the survey form had a separate set of questions on HIV services and on engagement with Global Fund processes in the country, including knowledge of the national Global Fund country coordinating mechanism (CCM) and national strategic plans. Altogether 40 questions were asked, and estimated time for completion was 20 minutes.

¹ WHO (2012), Regional assessment of HIV, STI and other health needs of transgender people in Asia and the Pacific.

COMPOSITION OF THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Of the 39 responding organizations, 19 identified as transgender organizations, 10 as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) organizations, and 10 as men who have sex with men (MSM) organizations but also including transgender people. There were 22 CBOs, six NGOs, eight support groups and three national networks.

Only 26 organizations were registered, and two were seeking registration. The remaining 11 organizations were not registered. Over 50% of the organizations (21) were operating on annual budgets of less than \$50,000 as reported in 2013 financial statements, and five were working without any funding support. Nine organizations reported 2013 budgets of between \$50,000 and \$300,000 and one group reported a budget of above \$1 million. Three organizations did not provide any information on their 2013 budget (Figure 3.0).

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS' ANNUAL BUDGET (2013)

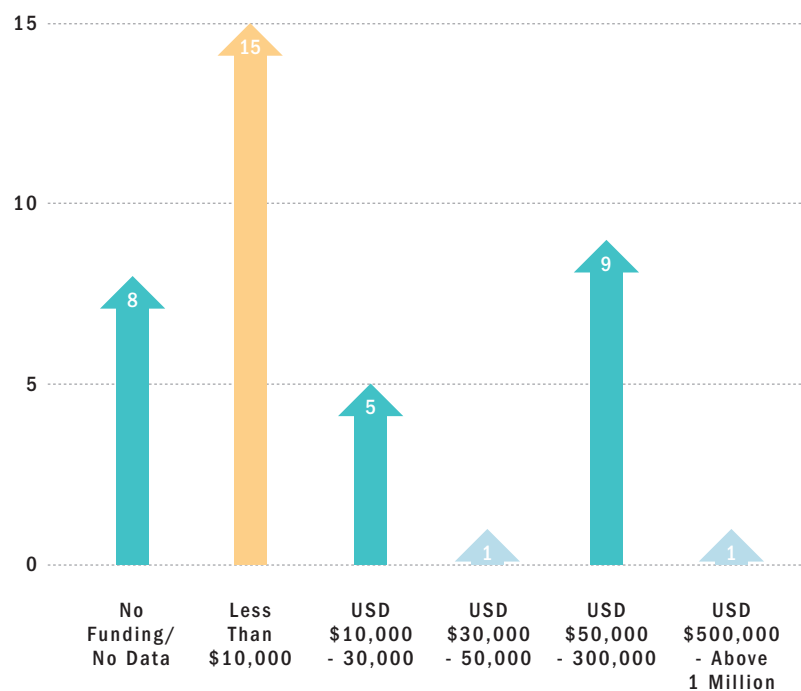


Figure 3.0

In terms of human resources, 21 organizations have no paid staff, relying solely on voluntarism and part-time consultants. Groups with a budget of above \$100,000 reported a greater number of paid staff. Groups in South Asia receiving funds from the Global Fund as sub-recipients or sub-sub-recipients also have more paid staff. The one transgender group with funds of above \$100,000 and high number of paid staff is from Thailand (Tables 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3).

STAFF COMPOSITION OF TRANSGENDER-ONLY ORGANIZATIONS (BY BUDGET LEVEL)

NAME OF GROUP/ ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	NUMBER(S) OF PAID STAFF	NUMBER(S) OF VOLUNTEER STAFF
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET BELOW USD \$10,000			
Transgender Victoria	Australia	0	10
Haus of Khameleon	Fiji	2	6
Transmen Ngehe	Indonesia	0	5
Agender New Zealand Inc	New Zealand	0	9
Trans Liberation Aotearoa	New Zealand	0	10
Society of Transsexual Women of the Philippines (STRAP)	Philippines	0	9
Pinoy FTM	Philippines	0	12
Transgender COLORS, Inc.	Philippines	0	15
Thai Transgender Alliance	Thailand	1	9
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET AROUND USD \$10,000 - \$30,000			
Sampoorna India	India	0	4
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET AROUND USD \$30,000 - \$50,000			
Zoe Belle Gender Centre	Australia	1	4
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET AROUND USD \$50,000 - \$100,000			
Bringing Adequate Values of Humanity (BRAVOH)	India	0	50 & Above
Sanggar Swara	Indonesia	8	15
ICS	Vietnam	7	100
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET AROUND USD \$100,000 - \$300,000			
SISTERS FOUNDATION	Thailand	15	33

Table 3.1



STAFF COMPOSITION OF MSM/TG ORGANIZATIONS (BY BUDGET LEVEL)

NAME OF GROUP/ ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	NUMBER(S) OF PAID STAFF	NUMBER(S) OF VOLUNTEER STAFF
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET BELOW USD \$10,000			
Rainbow Pride Foundation Limited	Fiji	0	5
myISEAN-Malaysia MSM & TG Network	Malaysia	1	0
New Zealand Falcons	New Zealand	1	5
Heart to Heart Lanka Organization	Sri Lanka	2	10
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET AROUND USD \$10,000 - \$30,000			
Voice of Community	Malaysia	0	8
Tonga Leitis Association	Tonga	0	10
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET AROUND USD \$50,000 - \$100,000			
India HIV/AIDS Alliance	India	80	0
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET AROUND USD \$100,000 - \$300,000			
Consultation Center of AIDS Aid and Health Service	China	4	100
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET ABOVE USD \$1,000,000			
Naz Male Health Alliance	Pakistan	100	120

Table 3.2

“THE TRANSGENDER MAPPING REPORT OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IS AN IMPORTANT SHOWCASE OF THE INCREDIBLE WORK THAT TRANSGENDER ORGANIZATIONS ARE UNDERTAKING WITH LIMITED RESOURCES.” -STEVE KRAUS





CLASSIC 3650

STAFF COMPOSITION OF LGBTQ ORGANIZATIONS (BY BUDGET LEVEL)

NAME OF GROUP/ ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	NUMBER(S) OF PAID STAFF	NUMBER(S) OF VOLUNTEER STAFF
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET BELOW USD \$10,000			
People Like Us Satu Hati	Indonesia	8	4
National Gender Minorities Organisation of Aotearoa	New Zealand	0	5
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET AROUND USD \$10,000 - \$30,000			
Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities Nepal	Nepal	12	0
Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment (iSEE)	Vietnam	15	10
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET AROUND USD \$50,000 - \$100,000			
Rainbow Community Kampuchea RoCK	Cambodia	5	2
Blue Diamond Society	Nepal	650	10
ORGANIZATIONS WITH BUDGET AROUND USD \$100,000 - \$300,000			
EQUAL GROUND	Sri Lanka	15	0

Table 3.3

PARTICIPANTS' THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK

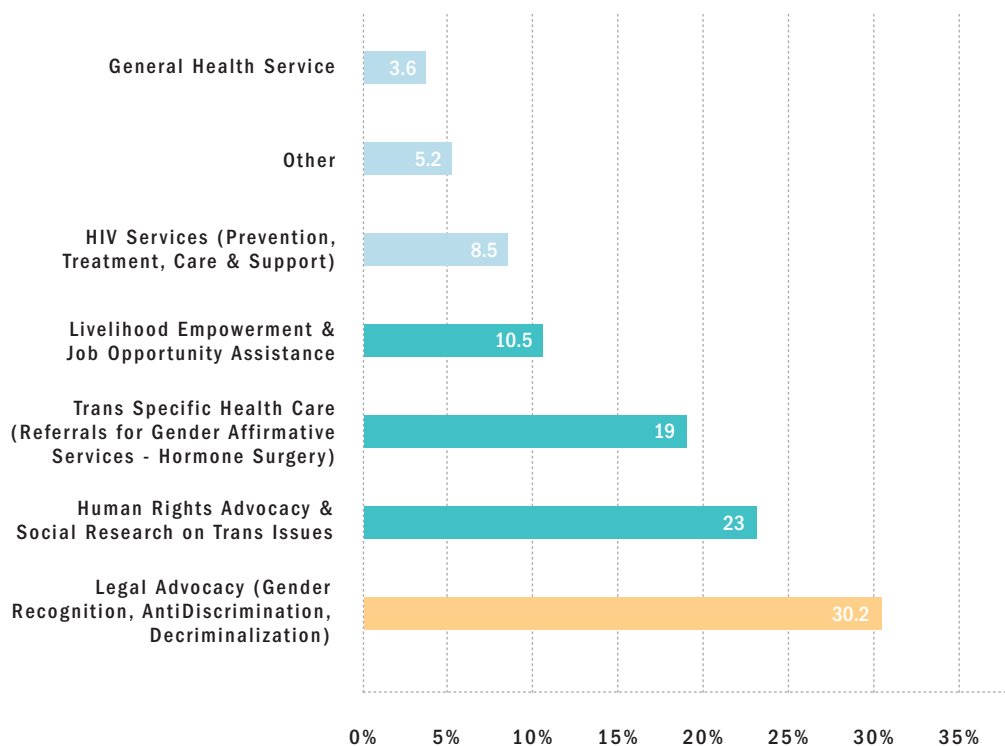


Figure 3.4

THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK

Most participants noted that they work on advocacy for gender recognition, ending stigma and discrimination and decriminalization. The second largest area of work is in human rights advocacy and social research on transgender issues, and the third is transgender-specific health care, including referrals for gender affirmative services on surgery and hormones. HIV was not reported by these groups as a priority thematic area, but those groups providing HIV services largely work in areas of counseling, referrals, and dissemination of information on HIV prevention, treatment and care.

POPULATION SERVED

All but two of the 10 MSM/TG organizations participating in this survey have received funding for the transgender population (the exceptions are the Consultation Center of ADIS Aid and Health Service (China) and the New Zealand Falcons, which is working on the participation of transgender men in competitive sport).

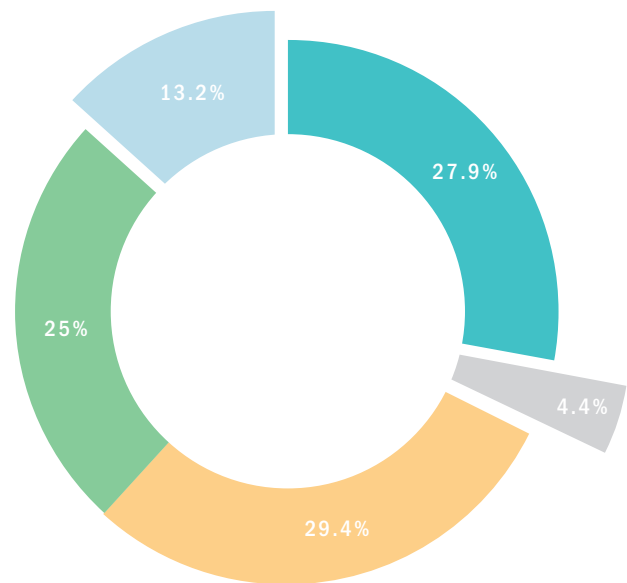
Respondents reported serving a wide range of transgender communities and age groups (Figure 3.5). Most groups work with transgender sex workers (both trans women and trans men), followed by young transgender people (aged 18-30) and transgender people living with HIV. Organizations working with people below the age of 18 years old covered issues such as information on transition, support for those facing discrimination in school, and human rights advocacy for youth. Other groups being served include transgender people who use drugs, transgender prisoners, unemployed and homeless transgender people, and elderly (55+ years) transgender people.

AGE GROUP SERVED BY SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

Legend

- Above Age 55
- Age 31 - 55
- Age 18 - 30
- Below Age 18
- All Of The Above

Figure 3.5



REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

In South-East Asia for the past decade, transgender women have been put under the umbrella of MSM because of risk of HIV. However, the vast majority of transgender groups in the region work on broader issues of transgender rights, including legal gender recognition. Many of them are transgender-led organizations, enabling them to reflect the

multi-dimensional nature of the problems faced by the transgender community. As such they recognize that work on HIV response also needs to be done beyond the health sector. Most of the organizations work on a voluntary basis due to lack of funding.

South Asian transgender groups have strengthened as a result of support for HIV through Global Fund processes. Countries such as India and Nepal not only receive support from Global Fund country grants and international donors, but also have greater involvement in the CCMs. Pakistan and Sri Lanka organizations working on transgender issues receive support but without any representation on the CCMs. Several MSM groups include transgender women as part of their work and receive financial support under the health and HIV umbrella.

Most of the organizations in New Zealand and Australia focus on legal gender recognition and human rights advocacy, whilst some also work on more advanced rights, such as participation in competitive sport. Most of the organizations work on voluntary basis due to lack of funding.

All respondent organizations from the Pacific have a focus on both HIV and health. They also work on human rights and legal gender recognition advocacy. Almost all organizations reported no funding to sustain their organization. Several have received funding from their government and some have no resources and rely on their own fund-raising.

LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

In terms of links with other groups, most groups reported interacting with other key affected population groups and national networks. Respondents also reported interacting with the government sector, as well as other transgender organizations. Less than 10% reported interaction with groups and networks of people living with HIV.

LINKAGES WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

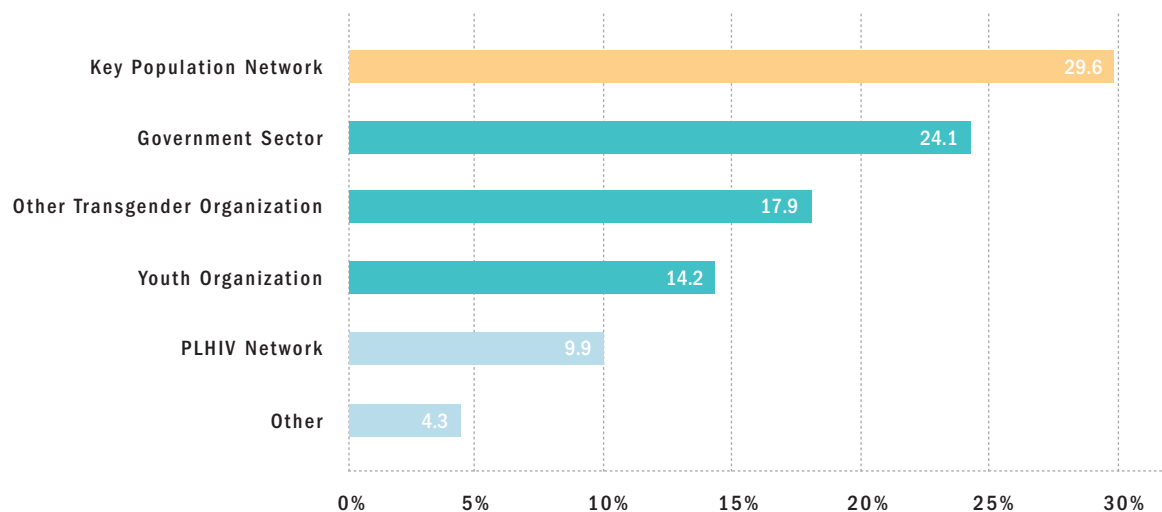


Figure 3.6



“IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY TO LINK UP WITH EACH OTHER THROUGH RESPECTIVE WORKS AND STRENGTHENING THE ENGAGEMENT THAT EVENTUALLY SYNERGIZES THE TRANS MOVEMENT.” -ABHEENA AHER

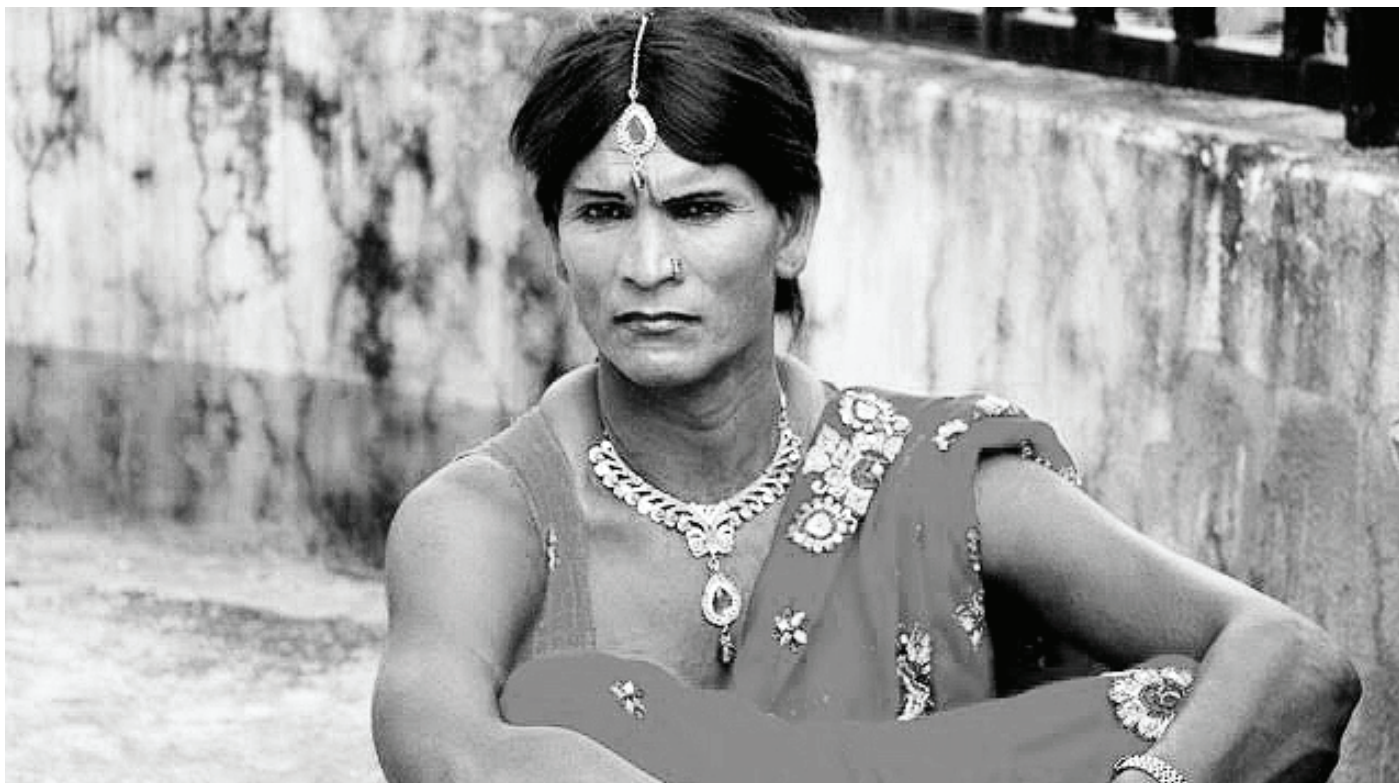
INVOLVEMENT WITH GLOBAL FUND

Survey participants were asked about their engagement with the Global Fund and its national processes. There is no association between transgender people serving on the board of their country's CCM and their organization receiving support from Global Fund.

GLOBAL FUND INVOLVEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING HIV SERVICES (FUNDING RECIPIENTS HIGHLIGHTED)

NAME OF GROUP/ ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	HIV/SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTION SERVICES OFFERED	GLOBAL FUND RECIPIENT	ENGAGED WITH CCM
CamASEAN Youth's Future	Cambodia	HIV Referral	No	No
Consultation Center of Aids Aid and Health Service	China	HIV Prevention and Treatment	Yes, as Contractual Organization	No
Haus of Khameleon	Fiji	HIV Prevention	No	Yes
Rainbow Pride Foundation LTD	Fiji	HIV Prevention	No	Yes
India HIV/AIDS Alliance	India	HIV Prevention and Treatment	Yes, SR	Yes
Sanggar Swara	Indonesia	HIV Prevention and Treatment	No	No
People Like Us Satu Hati	Indonesia	HIV Prevention	No	Yes
myISEAN-Malaysian MSM & TG Network	Malaysia	HIV Counselling	Yes, Contractual	Yes
Voice of Community	Malaysia	HIV Treatment	No	No
Blue Diamond Society	Nepal	HIV Prevention and Counselling	Yes, SR	Yes
Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities	Nepal	HIV Prevention and Treatment	Yes, SR	Yes
Naz Male Health Alliance	Pakistan	HIV Prevention	Yes, SR	No
Association of Transgender People in the Philippines (ATP)	Philippines	HIV Prevention	No	Yes
Transgender COLORS, Inc	Philippines	HIV Prevention and Treatment	Yes, as Contractual Organization	No
Samoa Faafafine Association Inc	Samoa	HIV Prevention	No	No
Heart to Heart Lanka Organization	Sri Lanka	HIV Prevention	Yes, as Contractual Organization	No
SISTERS FOUNDATION	Thailand	HIV Prevention and Treatment	No	Yes
Tonga Leitis Association	Tonga	HIV Prevention	No	No

Table 3.7



In South Asia, Project DIVA, a Global Fund Round 9 multi-country South Asia regional HIV programme, provides funds for work with transgender people. In South-East Asia, only Malaysia has a transgender organization member on the CCM committee and receives Global Fund financing. Other countries have a transgender organization member in the CCM but do not receive Global Fund financing. In the Pacific region, only Fiji has a transgender organization member on the CCM board but also did not receive financial support (Table 3.7). APTN acknowledges the needs to have more participants in future surveys to collect more data on CCM engagement in order to have comprehensive information.

“TODAY, HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES, PARTICULARLY STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION, INEQUALITY AND VIOLENCE TOWARDS KEY POPULATIONS, INCLUDING TRANSGENDER PEOPLE REMAIN AMONG THE MAIN BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE HIV RESPONSES.” -STEVE KRAUS

ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITIES & NEEDS

There is a trend for organizations with lower budgets to need more support in terms of institutional strengthening, such as management, governance, and resource mobilization. Capacity building in communication to support their advocacy work is another key area of need. Most organizations regardless of budget size prioritize building capacity to engage other stakeholders, especially the government and other transgender networks (Figure 3.8).

ORGANIZATIONS' PRIORITIES & NEEDS (BY BUDGET SIZE)

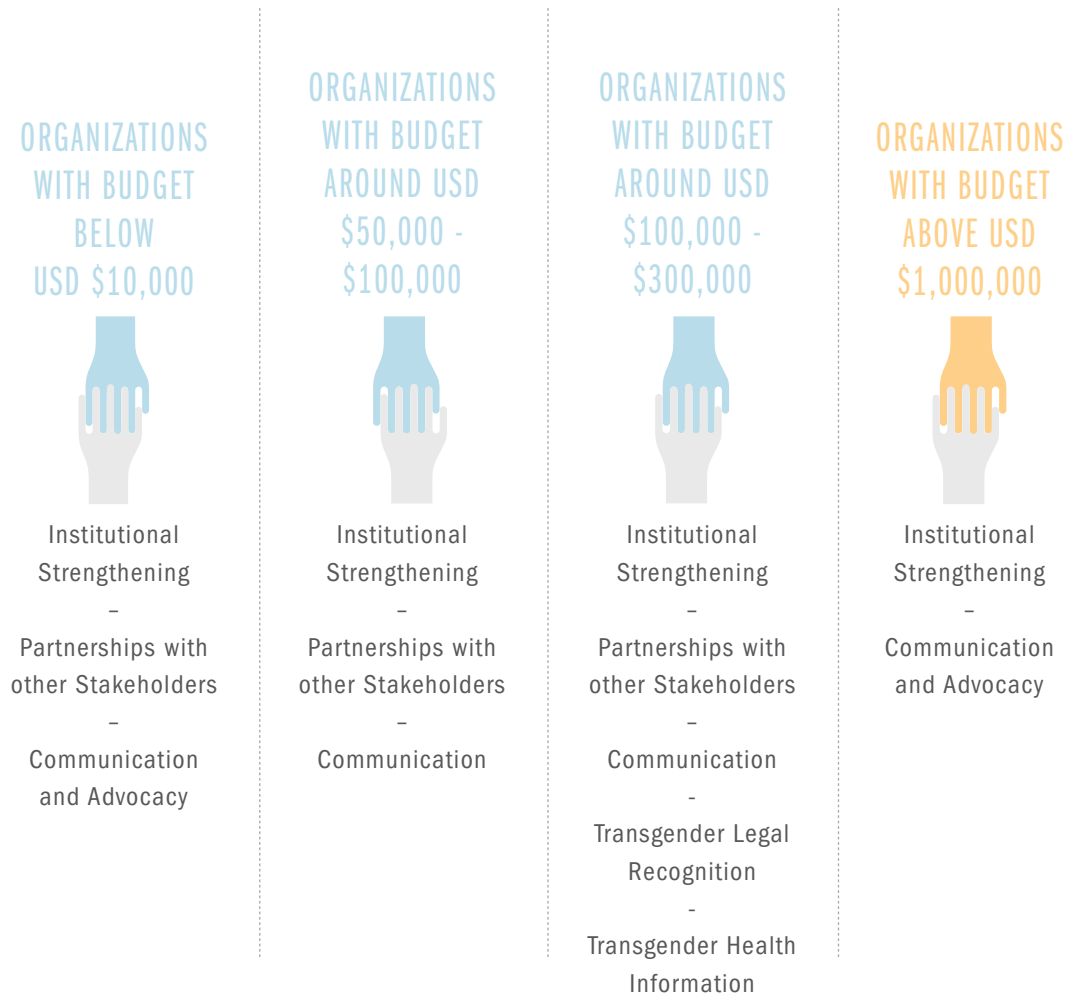


Figure 3.8



“WHILE SOME HAVE ALREADY STARTED THE WORK IN YOUTH TRANSGENDER ISSUES, THE AGE GROUPS BELOW 18 YEARS OLD ARE MOSTLY UNDERSERVED AND THE ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS ARE ALSO VERY LIMITED.”





Although most age groups are covered by participating organizations, the exception is those under the age of 18. Moreover, while there has been engagement with other key population networks and government agencies, more engagement with youth and other agencies dealing with youth issues is needed.

Organizations working only on human rights advocacy and legal gender recognition have no secure funding and work mostly on a voluntary basis. The sustainability of these organizations is weak due to lack of resources.

The priority needs for most organizations are organizational management, governance and resource mobilization, while organizations with more funding prioritize strengthening their advocacy and communication work.

While the transgender community recognizes that there is much work to do on the HIV response, there are also issues beyond HIV that must be dealt with.

Organizations in the Pacific have very limited funding from governments and external donors and need more support in order to promote their human rights and HIV prevention agendas.

In terms of Global Fund engagement, transgender organizations are better supported in countries where there is high involvement of the community in the Global Fund CCM.

Even though some countries have transgender people serving on the CCM board, many transgender organizations (especially in South-East Asia and in the Pacific) do not directly receive Global Fund financing. South Asia offers a good model for the involvement of transgender community in CCMs, and other regions can learn from their experiences.

APPENDIX: SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION NAME	TYPE OF ORGANIZATION	ANNUAL BUDGET 2013 (*GLOBAL FUND FINANCING)
AUSTRALIA	Transgender Victoria	Transgender	Less Than USD \$10,000
	Zoe Belle Gender Centre	Transgender	USD \$30,000 - \$50,000
CAMBODIA	CamASEAN Youth's Future	LGBT	No Data
	Cambodia LGBT Legal Support	LGBT	No Funding
	Rainbow Cambodia Advocate Team (Rainbow CAT)	LGBT	No Data
	Rainbow Community Kampuchea (RoCK)	LGBTQ	USD \$50,000 - \$100,000
CHINA	Consultation Center of AIDS Aid and Health Service	MSM/TG	*USD \$100,000 - \$300,000
FIJI	Haus of Kameleon	Transgender	Less Than USD \$10,000
	Rainbow Pride Foundation Limited	MSM/TG	Less Than USD \$10,000
INDIA	BRAVOH (BRinging Adequate Values Of Humanity)	Transgender	USD \$50,000 - \$100,000
	India HIV/AIDS Alliance	MSM/TG	*USD \$50,000 - \$100,000
	Sampoorna India	Transgender	USD \$10,000 - \$30,000
INDONESIA	People Like Us Satu Hati	LGBT	Less Than USD \$10,000
	Sanggar Swara	Transgender	*USD \$50,000 - \$100,000
	Transmen Ngehe	Transgender	Less Than USD \$10,000
MALAYSIA	Justice for Sisters	Transgender	No Data
	mylsean	MSM/TG	*Less Than USD \$10,000
	Voice of Community	MSM/TG	USD \$10,000 - \$30,000
NEPAL	Blue Diamond Society	LGBTI	*USD \$50,000 - \$100,000
	Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities Nepal	LGBT	*USD \$10,000 - \$30,000
NEW ZEALAND	Agender New Zealand Inc	Transgender	Less Than USD \$10,000
	GenderBridge Inc	Transgender	Less Than USD \$10,000
	National Gender Minorities Organization of Aotearoa	LGBT	Less Than USD \$10,000
	New Zealand Falcons	MSM/TG	Less Than USD \$10,000
	NZ Trans Guys	Transgender	No Funding
	Trans Liberation Aotearoa	Transgender	Less Than USD \$10,000
PAKISTAN	Naz Male Health Alliance	MSM/TG	*Above USD \$1,000,000

COUNTRY	ORGANIZATION NAME	TYPE OF ORGANIZATION	ANNUAL BUDGET 2013 (*GLOBAL FUND FINANCING)
PHILIPPINES	Association of Transgender People in the Philippines	Transgender	No Funding
	Pinoy FTM	Transgender	Less Than USD \$10,000
	Society of Transsexual Women of the Philippines (STRAP)	Transgender	Less Than USD \$10,000
	Transgender COLORS, Inc	Transgender	*Less Than USD \$10,000
SAMOA	Samoa Faafafine Association Inc	MSM/TG	No Funding
SRI LANKA	Equal Ground	LGBTIQ	USD \$100,000 - \$300,000
	Heart to Heart Lanka Organization	MSM/TG	*Less Than USD \$10,000
THAILAND	SISTERS Foundation	Transgender	USD \$100,000 - \$300,000
	Thai Transgender Alliance	Transgender	Less Than USD \$10,000
TONGA	Tonga Leitis Association	MSM/TG	USD \$10,000 - \$30,000
VIETNAM	ICS	Transgender	USD \$50,000 - \$100,000
	Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment (iSEE)	LGBT	USD \$10,000 - \$30,000

GLOSSARY

AIDS

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

APTN

Asia Pacific Transgender Network

CBO

Community-based Organization

CCM

Country Coordinating Mechanism

HIV

Human Immunodeficiency Virus

LGBT

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender

LGBTIQ

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer/Questioning

MSM

Men who have Sex with Men

NGO

Non-governmental Organization

SR

Sub-Recipient

STI

Sexually Transmitted Infection

TG

Transgender

USAID

United States Agency for International Development

-

All References to dollars are US Dollars.





