

The Asia Pacific
Transgender Network
Biennial Report
2017-2018



Building,
Advocating,
Creating



ASIA PACIFIC
TRANSGENDER
NETWORK



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*Names are listed in alphabetical
order by Last Name*

Written by **Marli Gutierrez-Patterson,**
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With thanks to the members of the
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Raine Cortes, Sansanee Kong-ou (Jan),
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About Us

We work to improve the lives of trans and gender diverse people throughout Asia and the Pacific.



We are APTN.

The Asia Pacific Transgender Network (APTN) is a trans-led organisation that engages with a range of partners across Asia and the Pacific to support, organise, and advocate for fundamental human rights including gender identity; access to justice and legal protections; and comprehensive gender-affirming healthcare and policies.

For a decade, APTN has grown to become a credible platform and voice for transgender people in Asia and the Pacific, working to ensure that their needs and rights are represented politically, socially, culturally and economically. The network serves as a platform for transgender people to advocate for access to health, legal gender recognition, legislative reform, social justice and human rights and to exchange information and strategies with each other.

APTN addresses transgender-specific issues including vulnerability to gender-based violence, stigma and discrimination, risks for HIV infection, and health issues stemming from almost complete lack of access to appropriate health and medical care.

In this region, the terms transgender and trans are used frequently as an umbrella term to describe people whose gender identity is different from their assigned sex at birth including those who have not sought medically gender-affirming health services.

Message From The Chairs Of The Regional Steering Committee

Over the past two years, APTN has been instrumental in facilitating discussions on access to healthcare, regional policies regarding gender recognition, and broadening engagement to protect trans people's rights, and free expression of gender identity.

With trans people leading the process at every step, we released one-of-its kind publications, including the Legal Gender Recognition Review and Denied Work, that provide critical documentation of the injustices and disparities that trans people in Asia and the Pacific experience due to unjust policies and discrimination. We look forward to the documents serving as tools for trans communities to use in advocacy, for health providers and governments to refer to when making policy decisions, and to advance social protections and the livelihood of trans people.

In September 2017, 19 countries were represented at the Barriers to Bridges Conference – the first regional conference focused on trans health in Asia! This historic in-country dialogue involved community members, health

providers, governments, and other stakeholders.

Ourselves, along with the APTN Advisory Committee and Thai Foundation Board members, and the staff would like to thank our supporters and trans-led organisations doing critical work on the ground. It's been an exciting and productive time and we look with optimism and enthusiasm towards our 10th anniversary next year and continued successes beyond.



Phylesha Brown-Acton

MNZM

*Co-chair, Regional
Steering Committee*



Mitch Yusof

*Co-chair, Regional
Steering Committee*





Message From The Executive Director

The past two years saw both progress and setbacks of trans rights in legal recognition and healthcare. The resilience and unwavering dedication of trans communities despite systematic oppression and regressive policies shows the power in our community and movements.

With the support and collaboration of national, regional, and global trans movements, we're humbled to receive a recognition award for promoting transgender health and rights in this region.

Since 2016, APTN has significantly expanded its programmatic focus and presence in the Pacific. A peer-led, community-driven research project is ongoing in Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Fiji. We are grateful for the insights and learnings gleaned from our communities in the Pacific. These findings will be presented in the coming year. In 2017, we embarked on a process to look critically at our work and its impact, developing our strategic plan which serves as a detailed road map for our organisation, declaring the impact we aim to make, and how we intend to do it.

What we've implemented in the past two years has equipped trans people with the tools, language and knowledge to engage in greater dialogue with policymakers, government

officials, and healthcare providers. We have responded to the quickly-changing political situations through our programmes. As we learn more about violence, murders and exclusion of trans people in society, our concerns grow. Many questions remain about the full implementation of laws and policies that will have a direct negative impact on the lives of trans people.

Every day, I see staff across the organisation doing their best - relentlessly responding to the ground realities and community needs. I take this opportunity to commend the team comprising of the staff, APTN's Advisory Committee, Thai Foundation Board, and Regional Steering Committee for their passion and commitment to furthering the shared vision of APTN.

As you read this report, I hope you will gain insight into the breadth and depth of our activities, and the accomplishments that trans groups, networks, and individuals have made. What we have achieved over the

past two years, and the work ahead, depends on your support and contributions - trans communities, our funders, technical partners, and dedicated allies that work alongside us. I am deeply humbled by the insights, passion, and dedication of the trans communities and am immensely grateful for the energy and support given to sustain us. Thank you for believing in the work we do and joining us in improving the lives of trans people around the world.

As we move into the future, we will face greater challenges. But I am certain that if we lift each other up, we will move ever closer to a society that upholds, respects, and protects trans and gender diverse people. Stand together. Stand strong.



Joe Wong
Executive Director

Our Vision & Mission

Our Vision

A society that upholds, respects and protects the diversity, safety, equality and dignity of trans and gender diverse people.

Our Mission

To support, organise, and advocate for comprehensive healthcare and the protection of legal, social, and human rights, and enhancement of the well-being and quality of life for trans and gender diverse people in Asia and the Pacific region.



“The establishment of APTN in 2009 was momentous as it was the first time that trans people throughout Asia and the Pacific came together to achieve the same goal: to ensure the rights of trans people.”

Together We Have Power

The establishment of APTN in 2009 was momentous as it was the first time that trans people throughout Asia and the Pacific came together to achieve the same goal: to ensure the rights of trans people.

The establishment of APTN gave power to individual organisations to work together to gain power. More important, the establishment of a network in our region helped us recognise we are not alone, and gave us emotional support. We now know that if something happens with our organisation there is someone that is working within our region and can support us.

APTN is also involved in networking and coordination, bringing trans people and organisations throughout the region together and helping us to get to know each other better. Before APTN, I didn't really know many people working in Asia and the Pacific, just a few activists. It coordinates bringing the trans people together and helps us know each other and share our problems, challenges, and what we're working on in our individual countries. Emotional strength, power and coordination is really meaningful and powerful. Though we are living in different countries, we are coordinating and talking to make a stronger regional trans movement, and that is amazing.

Manisha Dhakal
Blue Diamond Society
Co-Founding Member, APTN

A History Of Growth & Achievement

We grew to meet pressing needs.

APTN was launched in December 2009 when 15 trans women from 10 Asia and Pacific countries came together to champion their health, legal, and social rights. Because of the community's unique needs and high risks of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, the founding members moved to improve access to appropriate prevention, treatment, and care services for trans women. Two years later, a trans man joined the board and the mission expanded to include all trans and gender diverse individuals.

The original need to make a distinction between trans issues from those of MSM is now recognised by most. The mandate of the group has expanded to encompass the issues raised at the many outreach and engagement initiatives hosted and supported by APTN. Health issues are still prominent and are now joined by issues of recognition for gender identity, as well as safety and security for transgender people.

We strengthened our governance.

In 2015, we registered as a Thai Foundation, and through an open call for nominations, we selected and appointed the current Regional Steering Committee members.

We established community resources.

In our first four years, we published several key reports, policy, and technical briefs in partnership with other organisations. Those documents highlighted the issues transgender people face and recommended ways to promote and protect trans rights. However, funding remained a challenge for us.

That all changed in 2014 when, with the support of UNAIDS, we secured funds to set up a Secretariat. At the same time, we elected a new one-year interim board that made several critical decisions regarding the growth of APTN.





We increased our footprint and influence.

Since our inception, APTN has supported trans leaders from around the world to:

Bring their voices to various meetings and workshops

Engage with governments in the development of trans positive legislation and policy

Collaborate with development partners (such as UNAIDS, Global Fund, UNDP and others) to include trans issues in their funding priority areas

Advocate for trans rights at national, regional, and international meetings and conferences

Participate in research to establish baselines and areas of strategic priority

It's been an exciting and productive time, and we look with optimism and enthusiasm towards our 10th anniversary next year and continued success beyond.

“Because of the community’s unique needs and high risks of HIV and sexually transmitted infections, the founding members moved to improve access to appropriate prevention, treatment, and care services for trans women. Two years later, a trans man joined the board and the mission expanded to include all trans and gender diverse individuals.”

Timeline



UN Trans Advocacy Week

Co-organised the first ever UN Trans Advocacy Week at the 35th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Trans Men Camp

Brought together trans masculine people from Asia to a safe space for community empowerment and growth and create a cohort of leaders that will provide support for each other.

APR
2017

Regional Legal Gender Recognition Report

Released a regional review of existing laws, policies, and practices related to legal gender recognition for transgender people in nine countries to aid in advocacy and policy dialogues that significantly impact trans people's lives. The report now covers 9 countries.

JUN
2017

From Barriers To Bridges Conference

Organised and hosted the first-ever conference exclusively focused on trans health in the Asia and Pacific Region. Over 150 representatives from 19 different countries met to address the need to develop trans-sensitive community help and HIV services.

SEP
2017

OCT
2017





Change The Clap

Launched a public media campaign aiming to change attitudes towards transgender members of the community focusing on Pakistan. The campaign gained over 1 million views worldwide.

Transgender Day Of Remembrance (TDoR)

Coordinated a unified regional campaign for Transgender Day of Remembrance in 6 countries to commemorate those that have lost their lives due to transphobia.

DEC 2017

MAY 2018

NOV 2018

DEC 2018

Samoa Trans Health Blueprint Training

Implemented a workshop in Samoa to introduce the Asia Pacific Trans Health Blueprint to stakeholders and the Fa'afafine and Fa'atama community to plan, implement, and evaluate a national roll out of the Trans-Health Blueprint to the whole of Samoa.

KPRA Study

Rolled out the first-ever large-scale trans-community led research in the region to provide information on HIV and other healthcare for trans people in national settings, the barriers in accessing services, and the ways in which barriers can be removed through community empowerment.

Denied Work Report

Released the first-ever research project in the region that examines discrimination against trans people seeking employment.





We Build Capacity In Three Critical Ways

1 / Building our Regional
Network and Partner Capacity

2 / Advocating for Justice,
Rights, and Access

3 / Creating a Robust and
High-Profile Organisation



“The objective of the regional conference was to exchange knowledge, expertise, and experience with the aim of promoting initiatives and building greater unity and cohesion between communities throughout the region.”

Building Our Regional Network & Partner Capacity

We identify community partners throughout the region to develop and strengthen a network of like-minded organisations.

We work on behalf of our members to create programmes and tools to help build capacity at the community level, as well as facilitate community-to-community learning.

HIGHLIGHTS

[Guiding communities on improving healthcare through workshops](#)

With a grant from the Robert Carr Network Fund (RCNF), APTN hosted three-day workshops in five countries (Timor-Leste, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand) to discuss trans healthcare and the WHO International Classification of Disease (ICD) at the national level. Officially titled *Expanding The Circle: A multi-country workshop series on comprehensive trans healthcare*, over 100 trans and gender diverse people from within the region participated in the workshops. We also arranged for 25 healthcare providers attend a dialogue, providing communities the opportunity to engage with health providers and governments in dialogue surrounding trans health. At

the end of each workshop, each country developed an action plan to be supported by APTN for progression of depathologisation and improvement of provision and access to trans healthcare.

[Organising the first conference focused exclusively on trans issues in the Asia Pacific region](#)

In 2017, APTN organised a conference to address the need expressed by transgender communities to develop trans-sensitive community help and HIV services. Over 150 representatives from 19 different countries across Asia and the Pacific gathered in Bangkok to participate in *From Barriers to Bridges: Increasing access to HIV and other health services for trans people in Asia*, the first-ever conference specifically focused on trans health in Asia and the Pacific. The objective of the regional conference was to exchange knowledge, expertise, and experience with the aim of promoting initiatives and building greater unity and cohesion between communities throughout the region. It

resulted in development of country action plans advocating for more sensitive and inclusive health and HIV services and research. This was also supported by USAID, PEPFAR, FHI360, UNAIDS, UNDP, and the Thai Red Cross Research Centre.



[Supporting a community-based study on barriers to access health services for trans people \(Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, Vietnam\)](#)

By empowering the trans community to conduct their own research, rather than treating the community as mere objects of study, the Key Population Research and Advocacy (KPRA) Project shifted the narrative of knowledge production. This ground-breaking research project provided important information on HIV and other healthcare for transgender

and gender diverse people, the barriers to accessing services, and the ways in which those barriers can be removed through community engagement and empowerment.

In the preparatory phase of the project, APTN developed research methodology and research tools including research questionnaires and a guideline for focus group discussion (FGD). APTN conducted a regional training on KPRA research tools for the project's country partners, as well as national trainings in Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam. Further series of national trainings and workshops were conducted in-country during the implementation period.

Conducting Workshops and Assessments regarding Global Fund Grant Sustainability (Nepal, Vietnam)

With support from the Communities, Rights and Gender (CRG) Strategic Initiative, APTN co-implemented a Civil Society Transition and Sustainability Assessment of Trans Communities in the HIV response in Nepal and Vietnam with country partners. These workshops were conducted in May 2018 in partnership with the Blue Diamond Society (BDS) in Nepal, the Vietnam Transgender Network (VNTG), and Center for Community

Initiatives (SCDI) in Vietnam, and were attended by 16 trans community representatives in Nepal and 20 trans participants in Vietnam.

The workshops explored issues on financial transition and sustainability for Global Fund funding, programmes and processes. A transition and sustainability assessment was also conducted which can be used as an advocacy tool to inform The Global Fund on how best to mobilise domestic and other resources. Furthermore, with consultation with trans communities, a CRG Technical Assistance Request was also developed for the country partner focusing on capacity building for policy advocacy and better monitoring and evaluation; and a situational needs assessment to understand driving factors as to why trans communities are at greater risk for HIV and other health issues.

Putting Trans Well-being First in a Trans Masculine Camp

APTN is making trans well-being a priority, and we recognise that there are limited spaces focused on the mental health and well-being of trans people. In 2017, this camp brought together trans men and trans masculine-identifying people from Asia to a safe space for community empowerment and growth and create a cohort of leaders that will provide support for each other. The intensive three-day camp included group activities to encourage dialogue, as well as to identify important methods of self-care and community building that can be practised in their home countries. The camp also brought focus to the lives of activists and the need for stronger connections with other trans advocates throughout the region.

“With a grant from the Robert Carr Network Fund (RCNF), APTN hosted three-day workshops in five countries (Timor-Leste, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand) to discuss trans healthcare and the WHO International Classification of Disease (ICD) at the national level.”



My Life Goal

I had the privilege of attending APTN's 'Trans Man Camp' and to meet activists from across the Asia and Pacific region.

It came at a time when my identity was exposed at work and I had embarked very much alone on a mid-life transition. Just by luck, I came across APTN and The Sons Facebook page while searching the Web for local LGBT support groups. I went to the Trans Man Camp and came back ready to be open in my identity, and to inform my co-workers and acquaintances that my preferred pronoun is HE.

I am so much more confident now. As part of a growing support group, I let them know that we're not alone; there are resources and groups locally and regionally which offer support.

Today, I am working towards my life goal to become a UN representative in Human Rights.

Tommie
Safe Haven, Singapore







[Training Trainers to roll out the Trans-Health Blueprint \(Samoa\)](#)

Following the trans health blueprint training and consultation roll out in Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa in 2017, a separate Train the Trainers Trans Health Blueprint workshop was implemented in Samoa - designed to train Fa'afafine and Fa'atama to plan, implement, and evaluate a national roll out of the Trans Health Blueprint to the whole of Samoa. The Asia Pacific Trans Health Blueprint is an advocacy tool used by trans community advocates, health professionals, policymakers, and those who design or deliver services to or for trans and gender diverse people, and a primary focus was extending the knowledge in the publications to rural and isolated communities where trans and gender diverse people experience heightened disparities.

Over the years, APTN has hosted Blueprint trainings in over 20 countries, reaching over 500 people from the trans communities, healthcare providers, government/policy makers and national human rights institutions (NHRI).

“APTN had the special opportunity to coordinate a regional campaign for Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) 2018 in 6 countries to commemorate those that have lost their lives due to transphobia.”



[Leading delegates of a Vietnam Study Tour on Legal Gender Recognition Frameworks](#)

A Vietnamese delegation, composed of community members and members of the Ministry's Transgender Bill drafting committee, came to Bangkok to participate in discussions regarding legal gender recognition (LGR). APTN assisted in providing resources and guidance to Vietnamese organisations, policy makers, and health providers on best practices that align with the international human rights standards, and LGR models which do not pathologize trans identities. This was an important opportunity to engage country partners and policymakers in dialogue surrounding regional policies involving trans people.



[Coordinating a unified regional campaign for Transgender Day of Remembrance \(TDoR\) 2018 \(Fiji, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand\)](#)

APTN had the special opportunity to coordinate a regional campaign for Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) 2018 in 6 countries to commemorate those that have lost their lives due to transphobia. APTN partnered with community-led organisations in Fiji, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand to develop a unified and strategic message on TDoR through the use of a regional design campaign that is adapted to local contexts to support TDoR activities for trans communities in the six countries.

Expanding and diversifying our programmes in the Pacific

An important expansion of APTN's research and programming included the rollout of two studies in the Pacific. In Fiji, Samoa, and Papua New Guinea, a peer-led study works with the national trans organisations to conduct research exploring trans rights and anti-trans violence. Three-day trainings were held in each country, and included sessions on qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, identifying research participants, building research interview skills, and collecting, analysing, and reporting

on data. 30 community members were selected and trained to interview individuals on their experiences of being transgender or gender diverse and capture the specific experiences in each country's context.

Having a conversation with Humanitarian Advocates at the Pride in the Humanitarian System Consultation

In Spring 2018, APTN was a co-partner in the *Pride in the Humanitarian System* consultation which hosted 120 LGBTIQ+ activists and

humanitarian advocates from across Asia and the Pacific. The 4-day conference sought to address the humanitarian sector in the region to be more inclusive of the needs of LGBTIQ+ people during crises such as conflicts and natural disasters. APTN assisted in the development and release of creation of the *Pride in the Humanitarian System* video which included interviews with activists about humanitarian systems and what can be done to be more inclusive of LGBTIQ populations during these crises.



Advocating For Justice, Rights, & Access

We advocate for and advance the social, health, and human rights of trans and gender diverse people throughout the region.

We do this in multiple ways, including preparing reports and being present when policy and legislation is discussed and developed; and determining the best methods possible to create meaningful metrics that are inclusive and representative of the diversity of trans people throughout.

HIGHLIGHTS

[Lobbying for inclusion at national dialogues and international conferences](#)

In 2017, APTN was able to support more than 300 transgender people throughout the region to participate in three national dialogues and four international conferences. Through such action, we reached 1050 important decision makers on key issues affecting transgender people including gender affirming health care and lobbying for the right to gender affirming citizenship.

“The vast majority of transgender people across the Asia-Pacific region are unable to obtain any official identification documents that reflect their gender identity.”





No Longer Alone

We no longer feel alone in the fight.

SEED Malaysia collaborated with APTN on a critical report for transgender people in Malaysia: *Legal Gender Recognition in Malaysia - A Legal and Policy Review in the Context of Human Rights*. The report was released in December 2017 during the ILGA Asia Conference in Cambodia.

APTN has been committed to addressing the stigma and discrimination faced by transgender people through various initiatives with SEED, ensuring that the community is informed of their legal, social, and human rights. SEED Malaysia believes that, with the support of APTN, we will be able to see real change for transgender people here in Malaysia, in a country where being transgender is criminalised. We no longer feel as though we are alone in the fight; we know that we have the support of a regional transgender network.

Nisha Ayub
SEED, Malaysia





[Reclassification of trans within WHO's International Classification of Diseases-11 \(ICD-11\)](#)

APTN worked closely with global trans-led organisations to advocate for the reclassification of being transgender within the ICD-11. This past year, APTN released public statements on ICD-11 and hosted regional dialogues and workshops on the impact of the ICD. Thanks to the efforts of the trans movement, APTN and other like-minded organisations worked with WHO to push reclassify gender affirming healthcare, removing it from the ICD chapter on Mental and Behavioural Disorders. The proposal, to be voted on in 2019 by the World Health Assembly, is that gender affirming care will now be included in a chapter on sexual health.

[Releasing our Regional Legal Gender Recognition Report](#)

The vast majority of transgender people across the Asia-Pacific region are unable to obtain any official identification documents that reflect their gender identity. Lack of gender recognition fosters widespread social exclusion, stigma, discrimination, and violence when individuals are perceived to deviate from gender norms because their gender identity and/or expression does not coincide with their sex assigned at birth.

In 2018, APTN released a regional report that included a comprehensive review of existing laws, policies, and practices related to legal gender recognition for transgender people in nine countries in Asia: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand. These reports will aid in advocacy and policy dialogues that significantly impact trans people's lives.

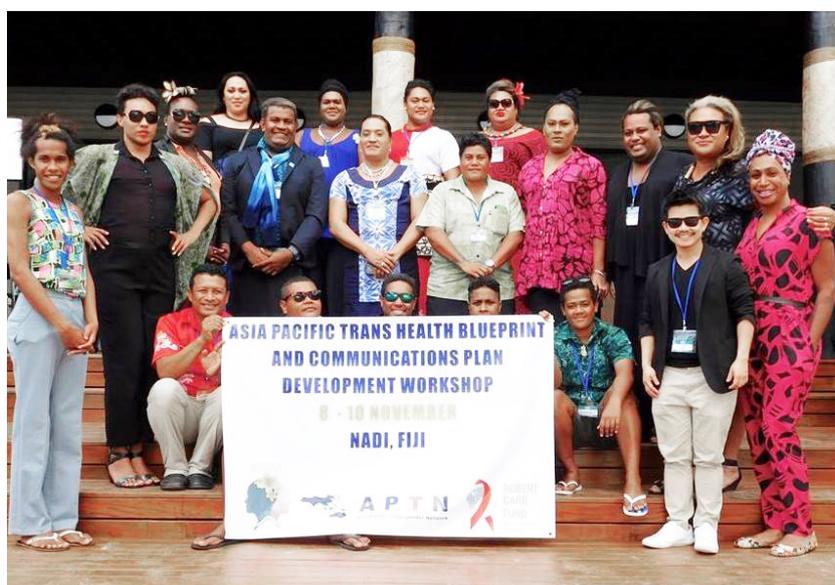
[Reviewing the Laws and Policies around Legal Gender Recognition \(LGR\) in Malaysia in the Context of Human Rights](#)

Due to limitations in the separation of state and religion, state-enacted Islamic law affects the lives of non-Muslim trans and gender diverse people as well, with all trans Malaysians regardless of religion being unable to access gender affirmation surgery and

obtain legal gender recognition. APTN, in partnership with SEED in Malaysia and UNDP, reviewed the policies in the context of human rights in Malaysia and released *Legal Gender Recognition in Malaysia: A Legal and Policy Review in the Context of Human Rights*.

[Assessing Legal Gender Recognition \(LGR\) in Fiji](#)

In partnership with the Fiji Human Rights Commission, APTN conducted the Community Roundtable Discussion on LGR in Fiji in September 2018, with the support of local partners. There were a total of 27 participants including 17 trans community representatives (trans women and trans men from 4 CBOs), 2 LGR consultants, 3 APTN staff, 2 stakeholders (PSGDN and US Embassy), and 3 from the media. A press briefing was also held during lunch time, with media representatives



coming from Fiji Times. The roundtable discussion was facilitated by the LGR Regional Consultant who developed the meeting agenda. During the meeting, there was a presentation on the current context of Fiji coming from community representatives, information on the LGR project, and what the consultants will be doing, how to link this project to other works in Fiji, and gathering of information sources and contacts needed for the review. Furthermore, the community participants shared on the issues faced by transgender people in Fiji, and were consulted on their feedback on the following: name change and gender on identity documents, choosing between male and female or third option, improving the collection and analysis of information or further advice on the LGR project, and identifying issues, opportunities, and challenges in linking to other works in Fiji.

[Auditing Job Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity in South-East Asia](#)

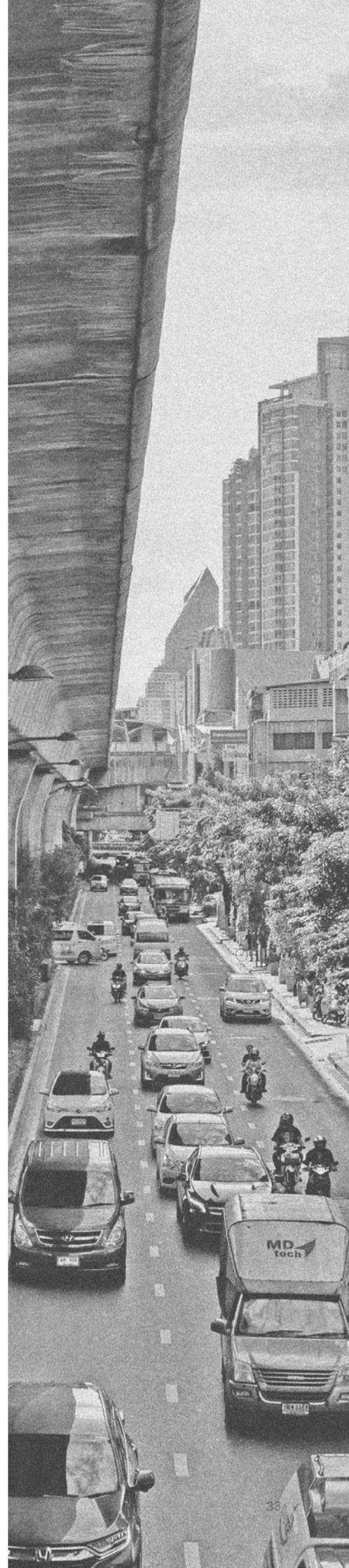
The *Denied Work: An Audit On Job Discrimination On The Basis Of Gender Identity In South-East Asia* Report, released in December 2018, looks at employment in four countries in South-East Asia: Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The first research project examining discrimination against trans people seeking employment

in the region on such a scale, *Denied Work* provides direct evidence of discrimination against trans people in job hiring practices in the region.

This historic project provides critical insight into the discrimination trans people face when seeking employment, and the findings from this data will be valuable when reviewing anti-discrimination policies.

Conducted in partnership with Curtin University, and supported by UNDP's Being LGBTI in Asia and the Pacific programme, this research is an example of how trans communities and researchers can work together, collaborating as equal partners in work that can inform advocacy, and potentially impact on public policy and enhance the lives of trans people.

“In 2018, APTN released a regional report that included a comprehensive review of existing laws, policies, and practices related to legal gender recognition for transgender people in nine countries in Asia. These reports will aid in advocacy and policy dialogues that significantly impact trans people's lives.”





Creating A Robust & High Profile Organisation

We prioritise building the capacity of our team, and the technical support required. We developed communications campaigns that raised awareness about transgender issues and heightened the profile of APTN, both with transgender people and the general public.

HIGHLIGHTS

[Transgender Advocacy Week at the UN Human Rights Council](#)

APTN co-organised the first ever UN Trans Advocacy Week at the 35th Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva in 2017 with regional and global organisations. 16 trans and gender diverse activists from 15 countries across all regions of the world produced and delivered two oral statements commenting on the latest reports of the Special Rapporteur on Health, the Independent Expert of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), and the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions. They found audience with Special Procedures and their staff, UNAIDS representatives, the Global Fund, UNHCR, and the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights. They also attended a meeting with the Equal Rights Coalition and civil society organisations.

In 2018, APTN supported three participants at the second UN Trans Advocacy Week, held during the 38th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. Alongside 23 trans and gender diverse human rights defenders from 19 countries, they participated in meetings with the Independent Expert and Special Rapporteurs, met with representatives from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as with various other UN agencies, missions, and donors. The participants also joined a consultation on legal recognition of gender identity and depathologisation convened by the UN Independent Expert on SOGIE.

[Changing Attitudes by Calling for People to #ChangeTheClap \(Pakistan\)](#)

APTN launched a public media campaign aiming to change attitudes towards transgender members of the community focusing on Pakistan. The clap used by *khawaja sira* is a historical

and powerful symbol for trans people but is widely taken out of context and mimicked by the public for ridicule. The campaign asks people to #ChangeTheClap from one of mockery to one of respect, appreciation, and inclusion. It demands a change in mindsets from the society, a change which welcomes the transgender community into the society and aims to provide equal opportunities. The campaign hoped to drive social change and positive dialogue about the stigma and discrimination faced by trans and gender diverse people.

The #ChangeTheClap campaign has garnered over 1 million views worldwide, and has been Shared and Liked over 35,000 times. The video also received more than 780 comments, and a majority of these comments commended the campaign and supported the need to change the thinking and behaviour in the society to respect and include trans and gender diverse people.



I Will Win

The biggest dream of any transgender person is to be identified for who they truly are.

So, it was the happiest day of my life when I got my National Identity Card with my preferred gender. It would not have been possible without APTN.

In fact, whenever I've reached out to APTN, they've always been there for me and the community. I remember taking part in an APTN meeting in 2014 and I've never forgotten how they welcomed me. I was so inspired that nothing can stop me now from continuing to fight for the rights of trans and gender diverse people.

Mani

Have Only Positive Expectations, Pakistan

Showcasing Our Research at the 2018 International AIDS Conference

APTN hosted three workshops at the 22nd International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam. Joining our programmes were experts and activists from the region representing Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, and Tonga. The sessions were attended by over 90 people and focused on key topics APTN has been working on, including legal gender recognition, healthcare access and delivery, well-being and community mobilisation. The main workshop led by APTN focused on the importance of recognition in the law and research to address health disparities and discussed existing laws and implementation in Asia and the Pacific, including depathologisation, legal gender recognition, and healthcare delivery.

Blazing the trail for recognition of trans communities in Asia and the Pacific

In November 2017, one of the founding members of APTN, Tini Slamah, received the Transgender Hero award at APCOM's Heroes event. In her speech, she said "my inspiration is the transgender community themselves and I think this award should go to transgender people on the field working for the community".

Gaining profile at national, regional, and international conferences

The APTN Secretariat and governing board has had many opportunities this year to represent APTN and highlight our work. Events and conferences are valuable opportunities to expand awareness of our mission and our organisation, and make valuable connections with potential partners, funders, activists, and key populations. APTN had the opportunity to share its work at the 2nd Pacific Human Rights Conference; 22nd Annual International AIDS Conference; ILGA Asia 2017; Gender and Sexual Diversity Conference 2017; Legal Gender Recognition Roundtables; Equal Rights Global Coalition Conference; and the United Nations Trans Advocacy Week among others.

Promoting Data-Driven Strategies at the ILGA Oceania Regional Conference 2018

APTN organised a session titled *Weaving Data into the Fabric of Trans People's Experiences, Health and Rights in the Pacific* at the ILGA Oceania Regional Conference, held in Apia, Samoa, in August 2018. The session highlighted the importance of doing research and developing evidence-based strategic information that can be used for advocating for health and rights programming for transgender people.



Self-Care Is Advocacy

COC perceives the holistic well-being of LGBTI activists as crucial to the sustainability of the movement and is always looking for ways to contribute.

In this light, I was very happy to support Project CARE, focusing on the well-being of LGBTI human rights defenders in South and South East Asia, and coordinated by APTN and CSBR.

At the closing regional meeting that I attended in November 2018, I witnessed the genuine commitment of APTN to the well-being of LGBTI activists, and the understanding that self-care is not a selfish act, but rather, a subversive and political act of self-preservation. I felt proud to be part of this powerful process.

Renate Hartman
COC Netherlands





Governance & Organisational Structure

Regional Steering Committee (RSC)

The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) provides strategic guidance and steers the vision of APTN. RSC members are representatives from countries that APTN works with and provide important insight into their country's trans and gender diverse communities.

Thai Foundation Board (TFB)

The Thai Foundation Board (TFB) oversees the fiscal and legal responsibilities of APTN, allowing the organisation to be legally registered in Thailand.

Advisory Committee (AC)

The Advisory Committee consists of people who are deeply involved in trans and gender diverse work. Its members contribute their expertise from different thematic areas such as health, religion, and HIV research, and offer important insight and guidance to APTN programmes.



Secretariat

The Secretariat carries out administrative duties and programme development, and is responsible for ensuring that the activities and daily functions align with APTN's mission. It supplies logistical support and delivers capacity building, technical assistance, trainings, and tools to APTN's country partners.



10 Year Anniversary

In 2020, the Asia and Pacific region marks a decade of standing up for trans rights. APTN is now charting 10 years of solidarity as a regional organisation. Through this time, we have experienced 10 years of growth, challenges, and innovation, 10 years of changing perception and changing minds, and 10 years of breaking barriers.



Over the past two years, APTN has been instrumental in facilitating discussions on access to healthcare and regional policies regarding gender recognition, and broadening engagement to protect trans people's rights and the free expression of their gender identity.

In this time, APTN has worked to build relationships with trans communities, organisations, governments, healthcare providers, and other key stakeholders throughout the region to support organisations and advocate for trans people's health, rights, and quality of life.

To recognise APTN's first decade as a movement, APTN is launching a series of events with the trans movement. The first event, our 10 Year Anniversary launch, titled *Honouring Our Legacy, Forging Our Future* will be held in collaboration with the New Zealand Embassy of Bangkok on the 4th of December.

In addition, over the course of the next year, APTN will be celebrating the members of the community who make our work possible, highlighting advocates and community groups working in their own neighbourhoods and making a strong global impact.

However, there is still much that needs to be done to ensure trans people can live in a safe and healthy place for everybody. In the past decade, we worked with the trans movements in making progress possible and we made it our mission to increase visibility, strengthen policy, and ensure greater protections for trans people throughout Asia and the Pacific.

For the next 10 years, we remain dedicated to our vision of progressing trans rights throughout the region, where there is still injustice and discrimination. Looking ahead, it remains critical that all trans and gender diverse communities continue to work together to continue building and nurturing a resilient, dedicated, engaged, and supportive movement.

We invite you to contact us at hello@weareaptn.org to learn more about our plans for 2020, or to volunteer with us. In addition, if you would like to make a financial contribution, please visit our online donation page at weareaptn.org/donate



Our Community Partners

Our In-country Implementation Partners:



Alliance India



Blue Diamond Society



Center for Supporting Community Development Initiatives



CODIVA



DiVA



GWL-INA



Haus of Khameleon



Have Only Positive Expectations



Hetura NCD LGBT



iSee



Lakanbini



My Girls Club



Pioneer FTM



Samabhabona



Sampoorna



Sathi
Foundation



SEED



Justice for SISTERS



Transgender SG



Thai TGA



SISTERS



Tonga Leitis
Association



Tweet Foundation



MSM & TG

Other Partners:



ANPUD



APCOM



APN+



APNSW



FHI 360



GATE



ILGA ASIA



ILGA World



IPPF



Linkages Thailand



Tangerine Community Centre



TGEU



Thai Red Cross
AIDS Research



UNAIDS



UNDP



USAID



Youth Lead

Our Funders:



COC Netherlands



Global Equality Fund (GEF)



The Global Fund



Open Society Foundations



Robert Carr Fund



UNDP



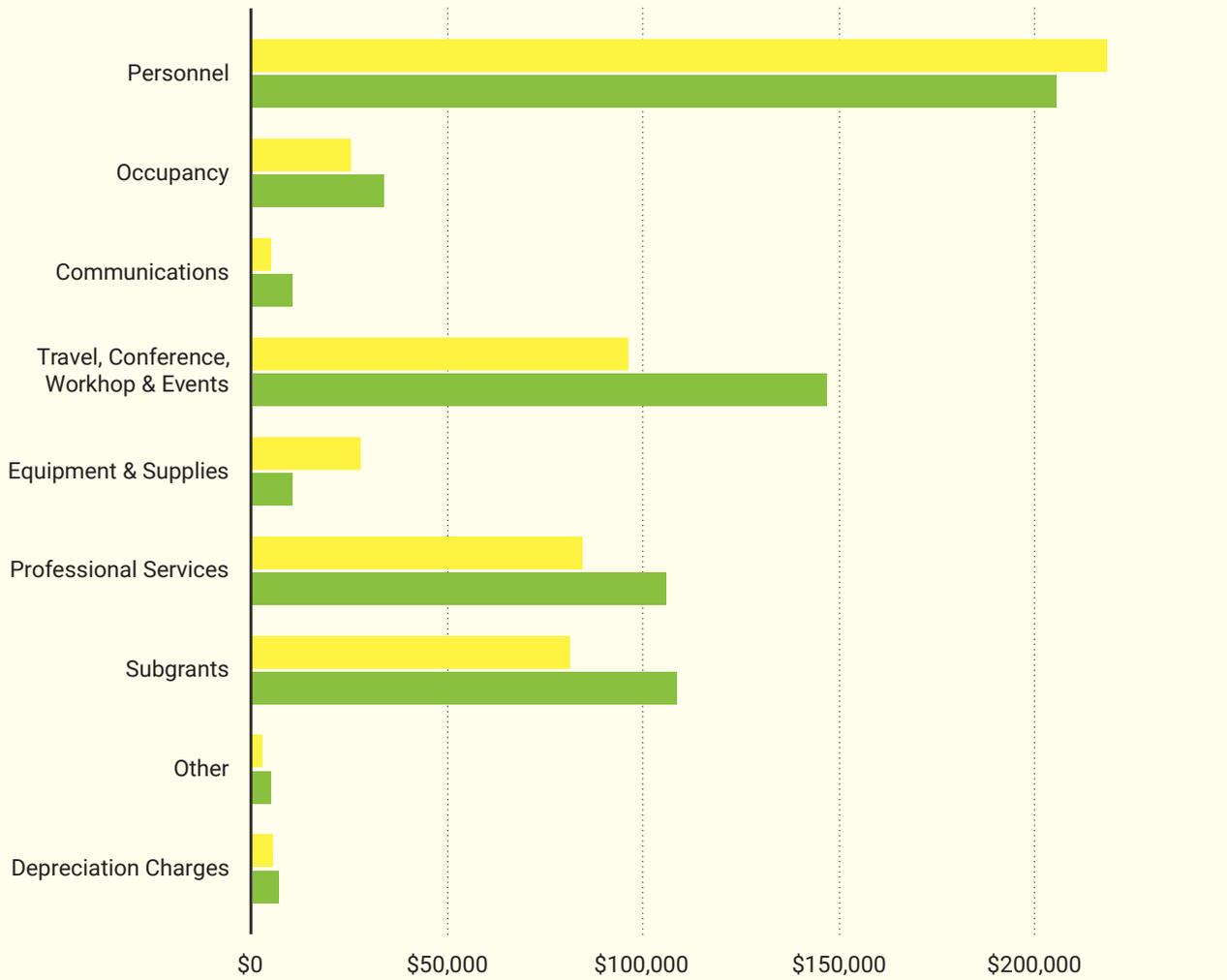
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund

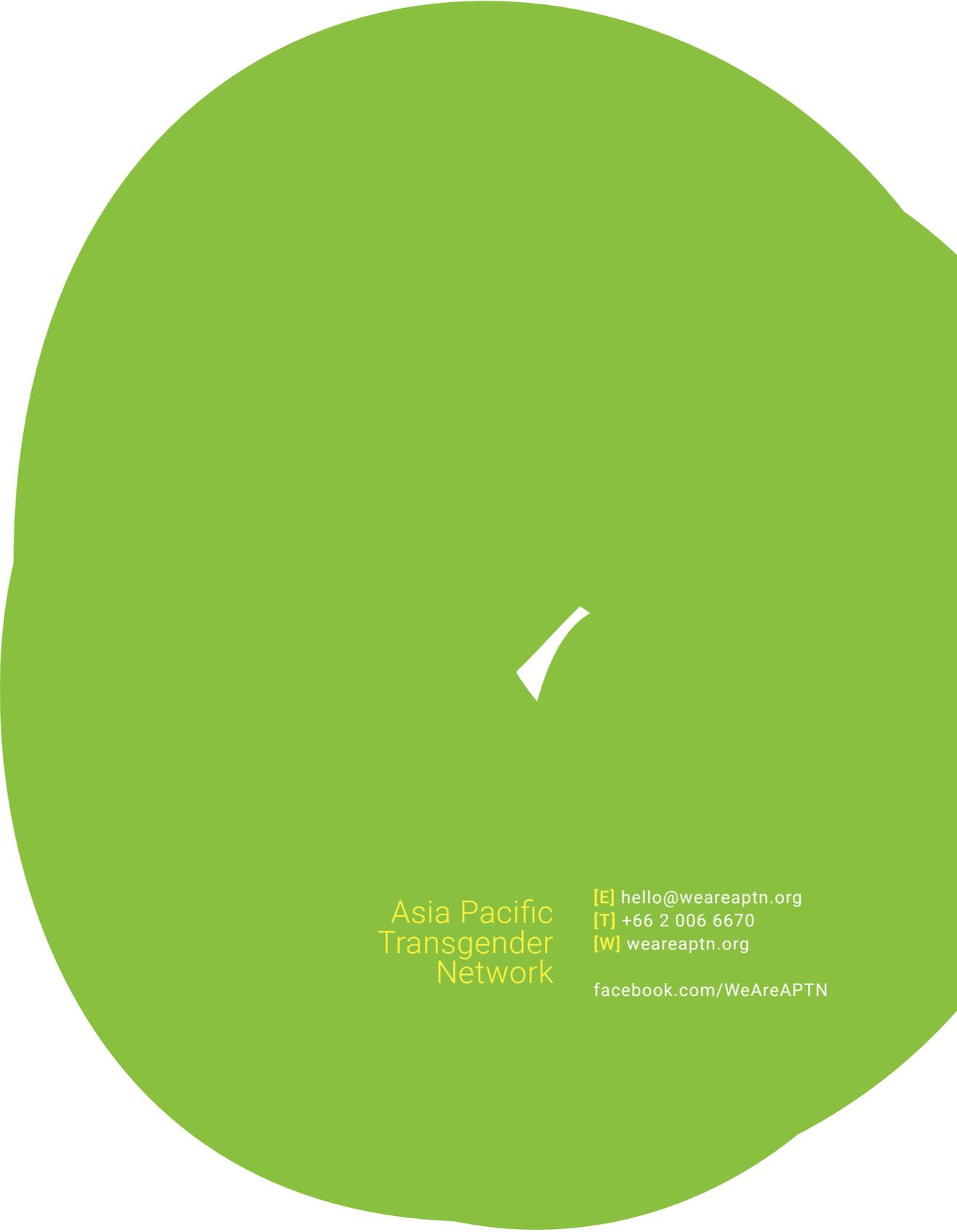
Audit Report

APTN ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT	2017	2018
Personnel	\$218,777	\$205,593
Occupancy	\$25,067	\$33,873
Communications	\$4,960	\$10,225
Travel, Conference, Workshop & Events	\$95,883	\$146,718
Equipment & Supplies	\$27,943	\$10,158
Professional Services	\$84,477	\$105,944
Subgrants	\$81,115	\$108,545
Other	\$2,886	\$4,768
Depreciation Charges	\$5,523	\$6,705
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$546,630	\$632,528

APTN ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2017-2018

2017 2018





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Transgender
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