




INTERNATIONAL
TRANS FUND
Resourcing Trans Movements Worldwide

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



The International Trans Fund's work is motivated by imagining a world where all trans people are safe, free and can live with dignity and respect. Where we celebrate and uplift our community's unstoppable creativity, joy, defiance and innovation to make change. Where trans movements are resourced, resilient and robust, working intersectionally to promote liberation and transform inequalities.

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The ITF is hosted at the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, a feminist grantmaker with 40+ years of experience in LGBTQI grantmaking with a focus on LBQ-, trans- and intersex-led groups.



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Message from the Co-Chairs

**Dear trans communities, movements, activists,
Dear philanthropic partners,
Dear friends,**

We are one year closer to the liberation of trans people worldwide, and we are on this journey together. The last year proved that, even when the daily oppressions and attacks against our siblings, trans women of color, sex workers, immigrants and many others, are paired with a global pandemic and a wave of disregard for our needs and livelihoods, trans groups and organizations are fighting for better lives with unbelievable grit, grace and devotion. We at the ITF are honored and humbled to be a part of this movement, and we strive to bolster and contribute to the hard work of frontline activists in the best way we can.

It is the very beginning of our journey together. In this last year the ITF awarded its fourth grantmaking cycle, bringing US\$2.677 million to 105 trans-led groups in 66 countries across the globe. We organized support and webinars for hundreds of our grantee partners and applicants, advocated for more resources to be made available and mobilized funds for trans movements. And this was just the overture. Our *Strategic Plan* for 2021–2025, developed in 2019 and 2020, will guide our way to becoming an effective and sustainable long-term mechanism for resourcing trans-led groups, and a recognized partner for philanthropic engagement. Apart from this extensive planning, much of our efforts were focused on institutionalizing the ITF, including developing policies and methods of operations that uphold our values, and edging our way toward incorporation as a fully independent entity.

Thanks to the support of our own funders, we are steadily growing our capacity, striving to issue more grants to more groups across more countries and communities, because the sorrow and hardships of trans communities are still too often overlooked and inadequately addressed. This is only possible due to the hard work and dedication of our staff team.

Thanks are due to our Grant Making Panel (GMP). Each year it spends weeks of intense and diligent labor reviewing hundreds of grant applications. The ITF strongly believes trans people should be at

the center of decision-making on trans resources, and none of our work would be possible if it wasn't for the engagement of trans activists in reading, assessing and discussing proposals. Across these past four cycles of grantmaking, especially in the last year, we have seen the growing interest and need for ITF funding, expressed in the growing number of applications. We are grateful for the GMP's trust, and its readiness to work with us as applicants and grantee partners. And we recognize that we are still able to award too little funds—we strive to mobilize more, and to increase our own capacity to assess and award grants.

It is immensely hard to grasp the true beauty, bravery and resilience of our trans movements. As you flip through this Annual Report, you will see to a fuller extent the growth we were fortunate enough to experience as the ITF, and the impact fostered through our grantee partners. When reading about all these endeavors—which range from creating political advocacy processes and accessible systems for legal, medical and social transitioning, to strengthening trans leadership, empowering communities, and challenging ever-present violence and rampant divisions fueled by governments—one thing becomes clear:

**Trans movements worldwide
are defiant, robust, audacious,
generous and caring.**

As the Steering Committee of the International Trans Fund, we feel deeply privileged to be able to offer our support and be part of this work, and we vow to keep rising to the challenge. Together, we will shape a world that welcomes trans people.

Chaber & Alejandra Collette Spinetti Núñez
Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee

ITF Co-Chairs



Chaber

**Alejandra
Collette
Spinetti
Nunez**



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Message from the Director

Dear friends,

Supporting global trans movements and uplifting trans leadership is what we do. Our grantee partners are embedded in their communities and are working on the frontlines to advance human rights, increase safety and promote the liberation of trans people worldwide.

This work is being done in incredibly challenging and hostile contexts and often with very limited resources: Trans activists have always been on the frontlines of political and social transformation and continue to lead in the battle against the rising tide of anti-gender ideology and TERFism, in our shared struggles for racial justice and against white supremacy and in the continued resistance to right-wing authoritarian rule and shrinking civil society spaces.

The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply affected all of us in fundamental and immeasurable ways. In particular, the pandemic has had a devastating impact on trans communities. Many trans people depend on the informal economy for their survival, and quarantines are having a direct and unmitigated impact, which is generally not addressed by government stimulus and relief packages based on formal employment systems. Furthermore, under-resourced healthcare systems have become even more overburdened as a result of the pandemic and trans people are even less likely to be able to access gender affirming healthcare. Certain governments have used the pandemic as a way to push through anti-trans legislation or implement measures that are oppressive to trans communities. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have been on the rise in many countries and trans people have been targeted. This pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities and trans-led groups are fighting for their rights, health and well-being on all fronts.

In order to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on our grantee partners, the ITF conducted a survey in April 2020. We found that the majority of our grantee partners were engaged in direct support and mutual aid within their communities—they were providing food, medical necessities and emergency housing to trans people. What they told us was that they urgently required additional resources to meet the critical needs of their communities. In response to this call to action, the ITF provided unrestricted grants of US\$1,000 to

eligible grantee partners to provide support and relief. We continue to work alongside our grantee partners and have met with groups to discuss how they can adjust their work to meet emerging needs, and we are committed to being flexible in relation to changes in work plans, budgets and reporting deadlines.

We are very proud to share insight into our third cycle grantee partners who are doing incredible work that is bold, creative, necessary and lifesaving.

What is most striking as you read this report is that despite these incredible challenges, trans-led groups are leading political and cultural transformation in their communities and they are supporting each other to flourish and thrive.

The need for funds dramatically outweighs the amount of money flowing to global trans movements and this lack of funding is the harsh reality for trans communities. We are working to change that through our grantmaking and philanthropic advocacy. Please join us!

Broden Giambrone
Director



Greetings from the ITF's Current Staff¹

“ The ITF is like that light at the end of a dark path, where hope and safety is a possibility, also that stream that flows to replenish trans communities. **We see a world where all trans persons can live in dignity and respect.**

Mukasa, Senior Program Officer

”



“ I truly appreciate the opportunity to work at the ITF, learning and being inspired by our grantee partners and the people working at our staff, Grant Making Panel and Steering Committee. It is amazing to realize how **trans leadership at all organizational levels, usually an unattainable dream for our communities, makes a critical difference in how grants are designed, distributed and managed.**

Viviane Vergueiro Simakawa, Program Officer

”



“ As trans people, we are no strangers to arguing that we exist, that our communities can thrive, that life is better for all when we have access to dignity, support and justice. At the ITF, all of that is a given. We have 50+ trans-led grantees, a robust Steering Committee and Grant Making Panel of trans activists, and a dedicated staff of **trans people all around the world-proving that trans people and our movements are here to exist and thrive.**

Anesu Nyatanga, Program Associate

”



¹ Staff members at the publication of this Annual Report.



Background: Who We Are and What We Do

Background: Who We Are and What We Do

The creation of the ITF in 2016 was the culmination of the vision and persistence of a transnational group of trans activists and funders who wanted to create a participatory mechanism to ensure the flow of resources to trans movements.² The *State of Trans Organizing* report found that more than half (56%) of trans groups that responded to the survey had annual budgets of less than US\$10,000 and three-quarters (75%) had annual budgets of less than US\$50,000. While we know funding for trans rights is growing, it is not growing quickly enough to meet the needs and visions of trans communities.

The ITF is the only global participatory grantmaker that is exclusively dedicated to supporting trans-led groups to secure rights and improve the lived realities of trans people.

Over our first four grant cycles, we have allocated US\$2.677 million to 105 grantee partners in 66 countries. Our commitment to participatory grantmaking places accountability, transparency and participation at the center of everything we do. We strive to embody the ethos of “nothing about us without us” in all aspects of our work, which means that trans people are in leadership and decision-making roles across the ITF.

² This Annual Report incorporates excerpts from the ITF's 2019 Community Update, its *Strategic Plan (2021–2025)*, reports to funders, notes and other internal ITF documents, and interim and final reports of the third cycle grantee partners.



Steering Committee meeting in
San José (Costa Rica) (2020)



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In 2019, we published our *Community Update*, informing key stakeholders about our achievements since conception. This first Annual Report follows up on that report, and focuses on the ITF's fiscal year of 2019–2020, primarily covering the period between July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

The aims of this Annual Report are to:

- Continue being accountable and transparent in all of our work.
- Share key data and trends of our funding over the first four funding cycles.
- Highlight the work of the third cycle grantee partners.
- Provide information on the ITF's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and showcase the work of grantee partners during this crisis.

Asociación
Silueta X (Ecuador)



Our Vision

The ITF envisions a network of robust, resilient and well-resourced trans organizations and movements working inclusively and intersectionally to increase safety and liberation for trans people worldwide.

Our Mission

The mission of the ITF is to mobilize and facilitate sustainable resources for strong, trans-led movements and collective action, and to address and eliminate funding gaps impacting trans groups across the globe.



Steering Committee meeting in
San José (Costa Rica) (2020)

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Our Purpose

- To develop and sustain a mechanism to support trans-led groups of different sizes working on a range of issues at the international, regional, country and local levels, with emphasis on smaller groups with limited resources.
- To educate our peers in the philanthropic community on trans issues and influence other funders and strategic allies in trans-related commitments and strategies.
- To increase and enhance access to resources to support trans movements by increasing financial resources dedicated to trans-led organizations and groups; providing access to non-financial resources for trans organizations, such as skills building, organizational strengthening, leadership development and activist support; and improving advocacy in philanthropy to increase access to new donors.



UTOPIA (USA)

Our Structure

Three entities work together to govern and execute the ITF's work:

Steering Committee (SC) ▶▶▶▶

The ITF is governed by a 12- to 14-member Steering Committee composed of trans activists and funders from around the world. Defined by the leadership and engagement of grassroots trans activists, the Steering Committee provides critical support and guidance to the organization and oversees decisions related to strategy, governance and finance.



Steering Committee meeting in San José
(Costa Rica) (2020)

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Grant Making Panel (GMP) ▶▶▶▶

The Grant Making Panel, a group of 15 trans activists from around the world, reviews all eligible applications to the ITF and comes together once each year to discuss the top applications and select grantee partners. That decision is then ratified by the Steering Committee.



Virtual GMP meeting (2020)

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Secretariat >>>>

The day-to-day work of the ITF is conducted by its Secretariat, consisting of the Director, two Program Officers and a Program Associate.³ All four staff members work full-time and remotely from different countries: Brazil, Canada, Uganda and United States.



Steering Committee meeting
in San José (Costa Rica) (2020)



Steering Committee meeting in
Buenos Aires (Argentina) (2019)

³ As of August 2021, at the time of the publication of this report.

Steering Committee
meeting in San José
(Costa Rica) (2020)



Strategic Goals

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Strategic Goals

The ITF has four strategic goals that drive and shape the work that we do.

GOAL 1: Grantmaking

Increase and expand the ITF's direct grantmaking to trans-led organizations with limited resources that are engaged in movement building activities.

Over the first four grant cycles, we increased and expanded:



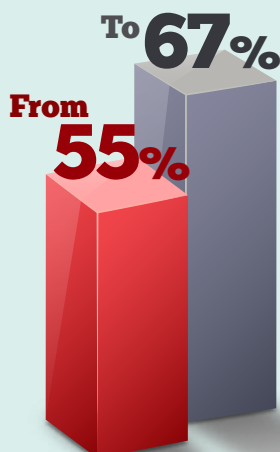
Annual
grantmaking



Number of grantee
partners per cycle



Number of countries with
at least one funded group



Rate of
trans-led Global
South grantee
partners

Percentage
of eligible
applications
increased by

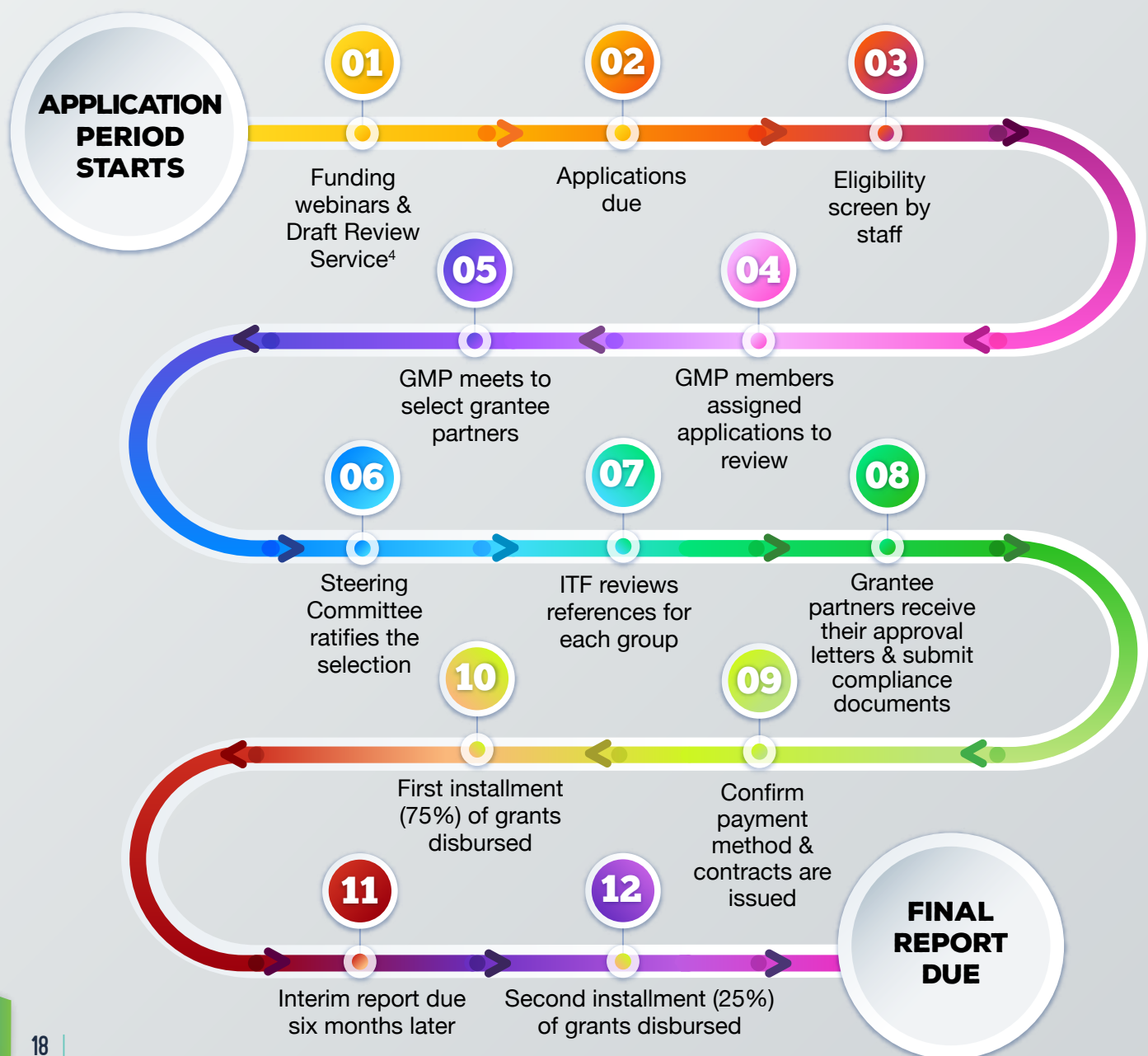
46%

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Over four grant cycles, the ITF has allocated US\$2.677 million to 105 grantee partners in 66 countries.

»» Detailed information about the ITF's third grant cycle is available on page 36.

The ITF's grantmaking cycle:



⁴ You can find more info about our webinars and Draft Review Service under "Capacity Building."

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Overview by Grant Cycle

	First cycle (2017–2018)	Second cycle (2018–2019)	Third cycle (2019–2020)	Fourth cycle (2020–2021)
No. of total applications	256	384	331	337
Eligible applications	177	300	281	258
Funded applications	29	33	38	52
No. of countries	23	25	32	40
No. of regional networks	1	4	2	1
Total amount of grants	US\$500,000	US\$640,000	US\$707,000	US\$830,000

Grantee Partner Access to Funding in Previous Year by Grant Cycle

	No or limited funding (US\$10,000 and under) in the previous year	Budget of US\$10,001– US\$50,000 in the previous year	Budget of US\$50,001 or more in the previous year
First cycle grantee partners (N=29)	55% (N=16)	31% (N=9)	14% (N=4)
Second cycle grantee partners (N=33)	36% (N=12)	46% (N=15)	18% (N=6)
Third cycle grantee partners (N=38)	26% (N=10)	55% (N=21)	18% (N=7)
Fourth cycle grantee partners (N=52)	38% (N=20)	37% (N=19)	25% (N=13)

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Summary of Reporting Period


The third grant cycle⁵ started on August 1, 2019, and grantee partners submitted their interim report in February 2020 and were close to finishing their projects by June 30, 2020, with their final reports due in August 2020. Many groups required extensions as a result of the devastating effect of COVID-19.

We received applications for the fourth grant cycle between September and December 2019. The GMP selected the applications from February onwards, and made the final decisions in June 2020.

Grantee Partner Support and Accompaniment

Each year the Program Officers hold introductory meetings with grantee partners to present an overview of the ITF, offer support, outline expectations and share reporting templates. If a meeting is not possible, we maintain regular communication via email.

One of the ITF's purposes is to increase resources and enhance access to resources to support trans movements. During this reporting period, the Program Officer made four referrals for grantee partners to access additional financial resources from funders. Two trans activists were also referred to emergency response funds for assistance pertaining to safety and security issues.

A photograph of a man with glasses and a beard, wearing a dark shirt, speaking into a microphone. He is gesturing with his right hand. In the background, there is a whiteboard with handwritten notes in red and black ink. The image is partially framed by colorful geometric shapes on the left and bottom right.

Steering Committee
meeting in San José
(Costa Rica) (2020)

⁵ The second grant cycle ended on July 31, 2019 and grantee partners submitted their final reports in August. More information about the second cycle grantee partners can be found in the ITF's 2019 [Community Update](#).

**Steering Committee
meeting in Buenos
Aires (Argentina) (2019)**



ITF Meetings

The ITF's commitment to participatory grantmaking means we actively engage our Steering Committee and Grant Making Panel in leadership and decision-making.

- **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee provides critical support, guidance and oversight to the organization, including setting the strategy and developing policy. During the reporting period, the Steering Committee conducted:

In-person meetings:

- September 10–14, 2019, in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- February 24–28, 2020, in San José, Costa Rica

Online meetings:

- December 2019
- April 2020
- June 2020



**Steering Committee
meeting in Buenos
Aires (Argentina) (2019)**

**Steering Committee
meeting in San José
(Costa Rica)**



**Steering Committee meeting in
San José (Costa Rica) (2020)**



**Steering Committee
meeting in Buenos
Aires (Argentina) (2019)**



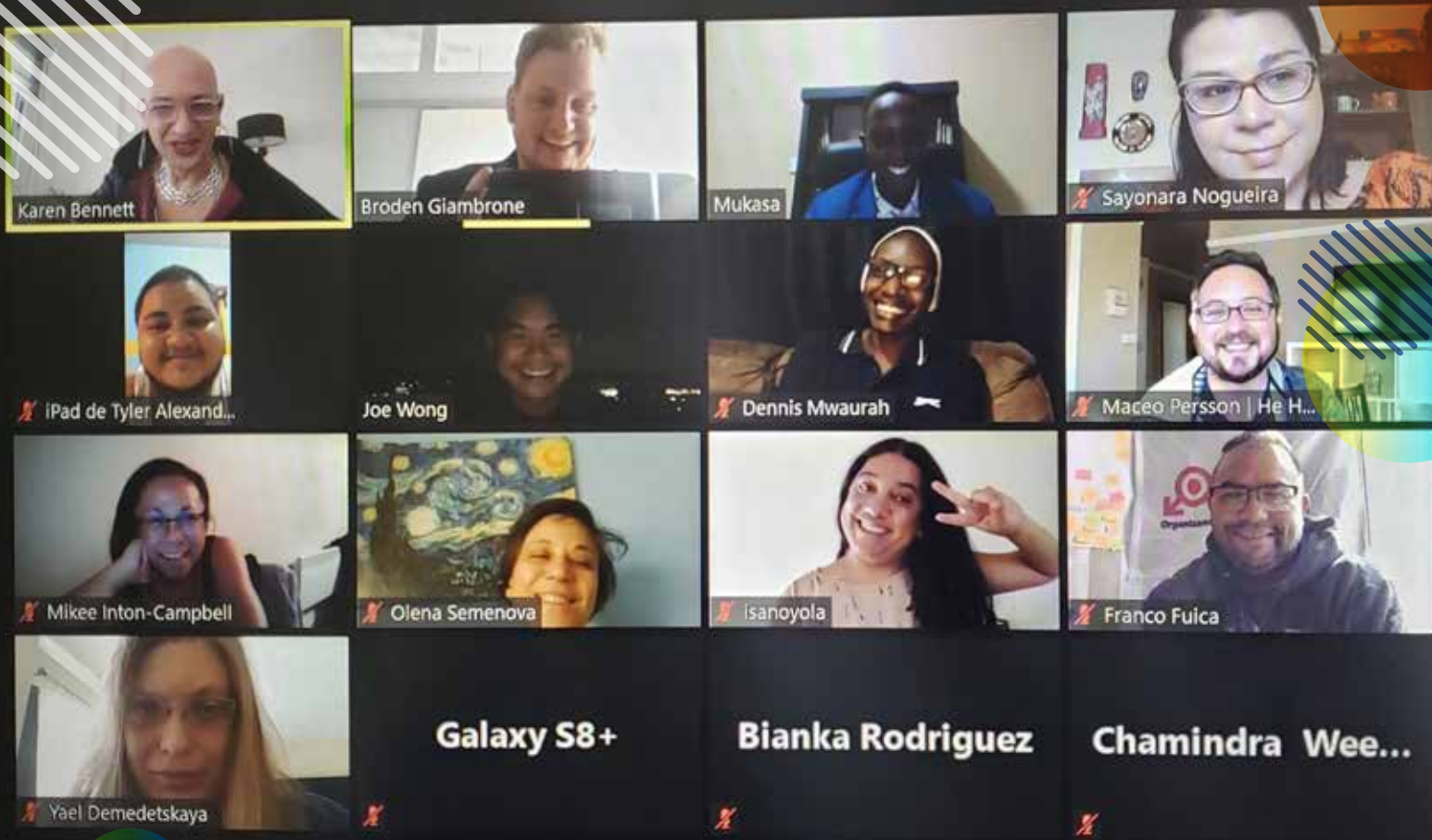
**Steering Committee
meeting in San José
(Costa Rica) (2020)**

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- **Grant Making Panel**

- The Grant Making Panel (GMP) reviews all eligible applications to the ITF and selects our grantee partners.
- The virtual selection meetings were held in May and June 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to shift the way that the selection of grantee partners took place in 2020. The 15 GMP members lived in nine different time zones and had varying levels of internet access and connectivity, which made it impossible to hold long virtual meetings. The GMP meeting was moved to a virtual space and was conducted across several online platforms over the course of 25 days in May and June 2020. We held two webinars for the GMP in May to outline the review process and introduce the Loomio platform, where GMP members could extensively comment on the applications.



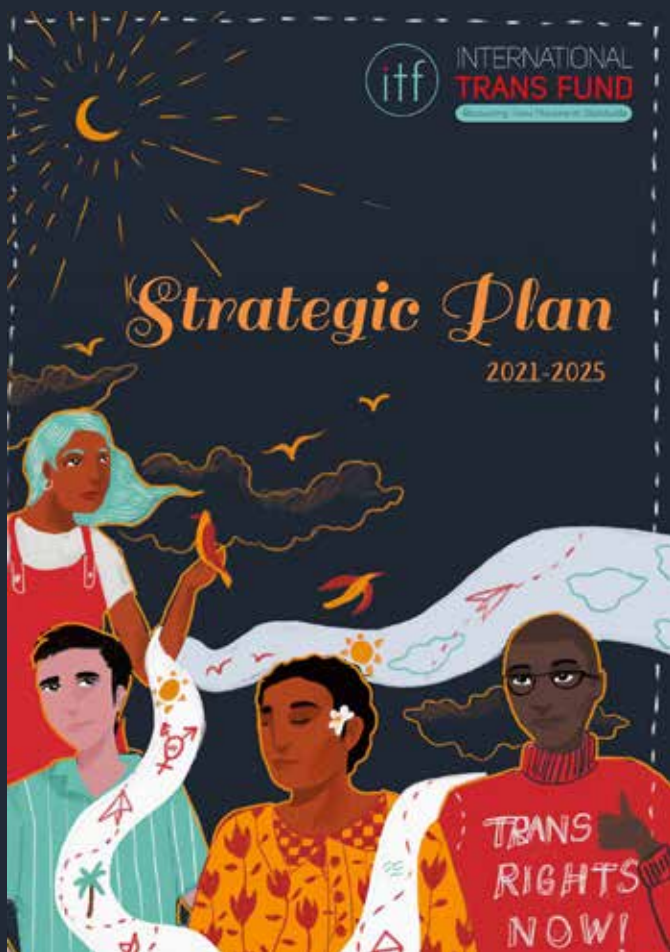
Virtual GMP meeting (2020)

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The ITF's Strategic Plan (2021–2025)

The ITF's first *Strategic Plan* was the culmination of an in-depth and engaged process of co-creation. In 2019, we contracted a group of consultants to support us in the preparation of our *Strategic Plan*. The team ran a survey and held consultations with the ITF's key stakeholders. The documents were then synthesized by another consultant, who led multiple sessions on strategic priority setting at the Steering Committee meeting in February 2020 in order to refine and focus the draft *Strategic Plan*.

Read the ITF's *Strategic Plan* (2021–2025) [here](#).⁶



Communications and Messaging

In December 2019, we worked with the communications firm Wonder: Strategies for Good to support the development of branding, messaging and storytelling plans to ensure we are being strategic and effective with our communications work. This work also dovetailed with the final strategic planning process to ensure consistency.

Policy Developments

We engaged a consultant to support the development of the staff handbook and internal HR policies. The consultant conducted research on best practices among similar organizations, specifically other grantmaking bodies and advocacy organizations that operate remotely and internationally.

Conflict of Interest Policy

We revised the organization's Conflict of Interest policy in December 2019 to take meaningful steps to address and remedy real and perceived conflicts of interest in our work. As a result of this policy, SC and GMP members and their family members cannot be significantly involved in any group that is applying for funding from the ITF. This was a significant shift in our approach to date, as we had historically accepted applications and funded groups that

⁶ The *Strategic Plan* was published in March 2021, outside the timeframe covered in this report.

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included SC or GMP members. The decision to change this approach was the culmination of an SC Working Group's efforts to address the practical challenges of navigating conflict of interest in a close-knit movement, including a perception of unfair and unbalanced funding. In this process, we acknowledged that notions of conflicts of interest are rooted in a corporate and bureaucratic definition of conflict of interest by predominantly rich, white, cis men to consolidate and increase their own wealth. Furthermore, we recognized that trans activists operating in the Global South are more likely to be impacted by this policy and have conflicts of interest due to patterns of funding available globally, while Global North organizations have been funded at a greater level and are therefore less likely to qualify for ITF funding. However, perceived conflicts of interest threaten the integrity and fairness of our grantmaking. As a result, this policy was enacted with immediate effect, and will be reviewed after two years to assess how it impacts participation in the ITF's processes, structures and grantmaking. All members of the SC and GMP must sign the Conflict of Interest Policy and a declaration of affiliation each year.

Confidentiality Policy

We revised our Confidentiality Policy, which ensures that sensitive and private information is protected during and after participation in the SC and GMP. Each member of the SC and GMP must sign this policy each year.

The ITF's Following

We use e-newsletters to share information with interested parties and host two lists, one in English and one in Spanish. By the end of April 2020, **the ITF was followed by:**

833 PEOPLE ON ITS
ENGLISH MAILING LIST

328 PEOPLE ON ITS
SPANISH MAILING LIST

12,916 PEOPLE ON
FACEBOOK 

646 PEOPLE ON
TWITTER 



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GOAL 3: Capacity Building

Increase the capacity of grantee partners to secure additional funds and effectively respond to the needs of their communities.

Webinars

In addition to direct grantmaking, we engage in capacity building for our grantee partners and trans-led organizations. To encourage competitive applications, particularly from underrepresented groups and regions, staff delivered funding webinars and provided individualized support around the ITF's eligibility criteria, funding priorities, grantmaking process and how to write a competitive application.

DURING THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR...

...THE THIRD
GRANT
CYCLE, WE
DELIVERED:

12
Webinars

3
Languages

144
Participants

36
Countries
represented

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...THE FOURTH
GRANT
CYCLE, WE
DELIVERED:

12
Webinars

6
Languages

131
Participants

46
Countries
represented

After our fourth grant cycle funding webinars, we asked participants to evaluate their experience.

Key Findings:

- 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the content was presented in a **clear, informative and engaging** manner.
- 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the webinar helped their organization have a **better understanding of the criteria** and what makes a strong application to the ITF.
- 100% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they would **recommend** this funding webinar **to other trans-led groups** who want to apply for an ITF grant.
- 88% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed that this funding webinar helped their organization write a **better/stronger application to the ITF for funding**.

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Draft Review Service

In *The State of Trans Organizing* report, 79% of respondents expressed the need for support with fundraising and grantwriting. To respond to this need, we rolled out the Draft Review Service in 2019, which—in the third grant cycle—provided targeted one-on-one support to 18 identified groups in the development of their applications to the ITF. This included:

- Five groups from the Pacific
- Four groups from Eastern and Southern Africa
- Three groups from Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Three groups from South Asia
- Two groups from the Middle East and North Africa
- One group from Latin American and the Caribbean

As part of this process, we developed a resource for groups participating in the project that was available in English and Spanish and provided exercises and guidance to applicants to help prepare their applications.

While the program centers on developing an application for the ITF, the intent is to support groups to develop grantwriting skills that will be transferable to other funding opportunities.

We evaluated the pilot program via a survey, which received overwhelmingly positive responses, but unfortunately was answered by only 30% of the participants.

Key Findings:

- 100% of participants said the Draft Review Service helped their organization have **a better understanding of the criteria** and what makes a strong application to the ITF.
- 100% of participants said they would **recommend** the Draft Review Service **to other trans-led groups** who want to apply for an ITF grant.
- 100% of participants said they strongly agreed or agreed that the content was presented in a **clear, informative and engaging** manner.
- 83% of participants said that participating in the Draft Review Service helped their organization **write a better/stronger application** to the ITF for funding.
- 83% of participants said that participating in the Draft Review Service helped their organization gain **general skills on writing grant applications**.
- 83% of participants said the presenter was **knowledgeable and responded** appropriately to questions.

Trans Pre-Conference at Changing Faces, Changing Spaces (CFCS)

The ITF partnered with the East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative (UHA-EASHRI) to hold a Trans Pre-Conference as part of Changing Faces, Changing Spaces (CFCS) VII in 2019.⁷ The Trans Pre-Conference brought together 35 participants from more than 15 countries in Africa, representing diverse trans sexual and gender minority groups.

The objective was to facilitate the participation of trans activists to engage in discussions on how to strengthen trans movement building in Africa. The result was the creation of a Pan-African Task Force, comprised of five trans activists who work toward creating a strengthened trans movement in Africa, strategize on solutions to the challenges facing trans groups, and work to advance the priorities of the region.

⁷ The CFCS event took place a few days before the start of the period covered in this report, but was included here as its follow-up activities took place during the reporting period.

Trans Pre-Conference panel (Kenya)



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Trans Pre-Conference
participants (Kenya)

The Trans Pre-Conference identified five recommendations for funders:

- Support the development and sustainability of trans networks across Africa.
- Increase core funding/general support for trans-led organizations across Africa, including underrepresented areas like francophone West Africa and North Africa.
- Support the development and sustainability of the Pan-African Task Force.
- Engage with grassroots trans organizations to better understand the needs and priorities of groups and support innovative responses.
- Provide capacity-building support in addition to financial resources.

»»»» Read our detailed Trans Pre-Conference Report [here](#).





Trans Pre-Conference
participants (Kenya)



Trans Pre-Conference
funder panel (Kenya)

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GOAL 4: Philanthropic Advocacy

Catalyze more and better funding for global trans movements through philanthropic advocacy and be acknowledged as the leading expert in international trans funding.

We have engaged in philanthropic advocacy to increase funding for trans groups since our creation. The staff and Steering Committee members have participated in a wide range of donor convenings and individual meetings with foundations, governments and multilateral donors. The staff has also advocated for increased support for trans groups while speaking at donor conferences and on funder panels at civil society events.

Moderated by Matthew Hart, Director of Global Philanthropy Project

GPP
Global Philanthropy Project

AMERICAN
OVERSIGHT
SERVICES

GATE

Astraea

Wiktor Dynarski



Program Officer,
Open Society
Foundations

Co-Chair, GPP
Trans* and Intersex
Funding Working
Group

Cleopatra Kambugu



Director of
Programs, UHAI-
EASHRI

Co-Chair, GPP
Trans* and Intersex
Funding Working
Group

Broden Giambrone



Director of
International Trans
Fund

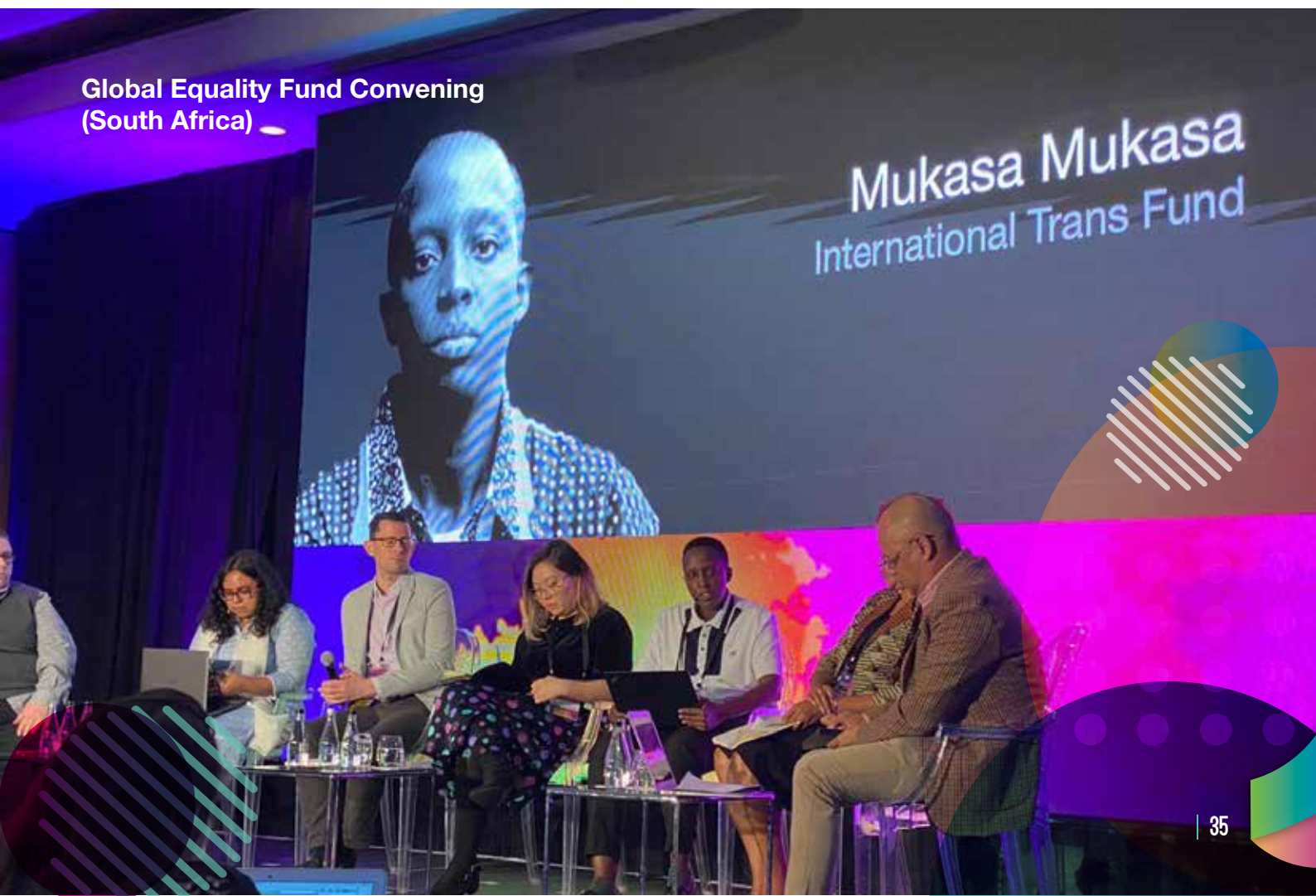
Co-Chair, GPP
Trans* and Intersex
Funding Working
Group

GPP Webinar (Online)

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- In August 2019, the ITF became a formal member of the **Global Philanthropy Project** and the Director was Co-Chair of the **Trans and Intersex Working Group**.
- In October 2019, the Director participated in the webinar launch of the “**Funder Briefing: The State of Trans Funding**” and “Funder Briefing: The State of Intersex Funding.” Following this webinar, we met with the Global Fund for Women to discuss trans inclusion in its work and grantmaking.
- The Program Officer attended the Global Equality Fund (GEF) meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa, and took part in the “**From Global to Local**” closing panel. This meeting was also an opportunity for philanthropic advocacy and consisted of networking and meeting with funders, including bilateral and multilateral donors.
- The Director and Project Officer met with the **Dignity for All Consortium**, made up of eight leading human rights and LGBTI organizations, to discuss and to share the emergency response needs of trans communities and the impact of COVID-19 on ITF’s grantee partners.
- In June 2020, we worked with the Trans and Intersex Working Group of the Global Philanthropy Project to co-host a webinar for funders on “**Supporting Global Trans Communities During COVID-19.**”

Global Equality Fund Convening
(South Africa)



Colectivo Trans del Uruguay
(CTU) (Uruguay)



In Focus: The ITF's Third Grant Cycle

OTRANS Argentina
(Argentina)



In Focus: The ITF's Third Grant Cycle

The ITF funded 38⁸ organizations and disbursed US\$707,000 in the third grant cycle. We funded groups in 32 countries, 14 of which were countries where we had not previously granted funds.

Each year, we receive a high volume of applications from across the globe. We screen each one and determine eligibility based on our criteria. In the third grant cycle, we received **331** applications, of which **281** were eligible.

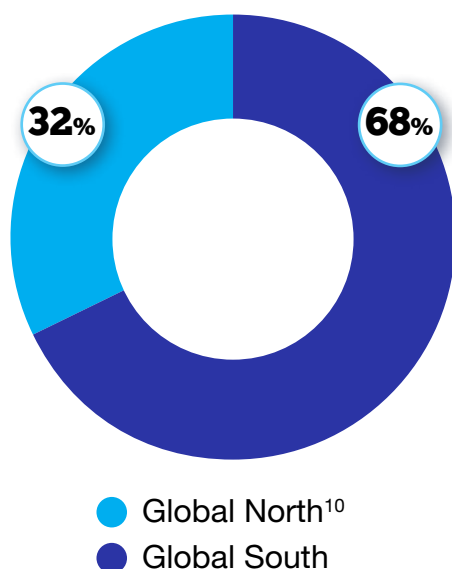
⁸ Two of the 38 grants were cancelled during this cycle due to issues with the fiscal host. However, these groups did conduct work during this period so they are included in this data. One grantee deferred their project to the following year due to delays in implementation.

⁹ As part of the US\$707,000, the ITF provided US\$32,000 in top-up grants to third cycle grantee partners to support them in their response to COVID-19. Thirty-two grantee partners received US\$1,000 and used it to buy food and medical supplies, and cover emergency housing and other needs.

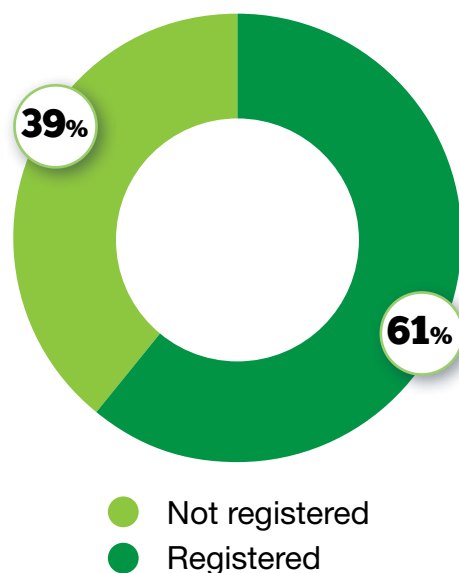
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Grantee Partner Profiles

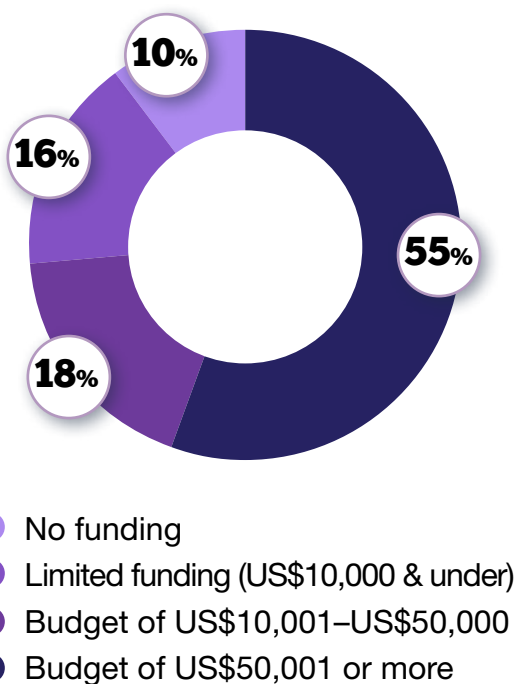
Global South vs. Global North



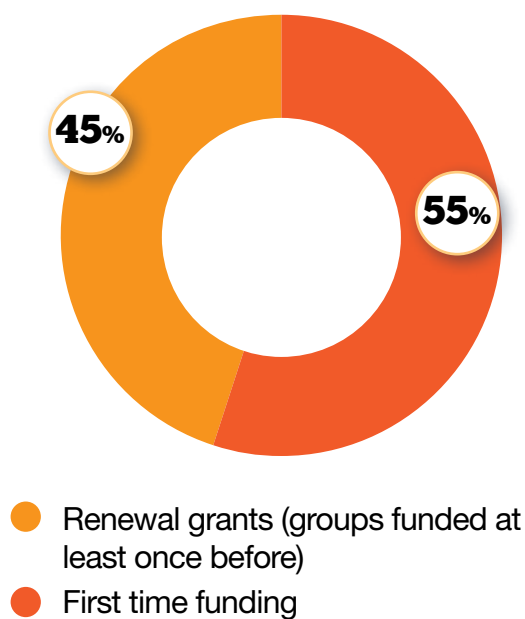
Registration Status of Group



Access to Institutional Funding
(in the previous year)



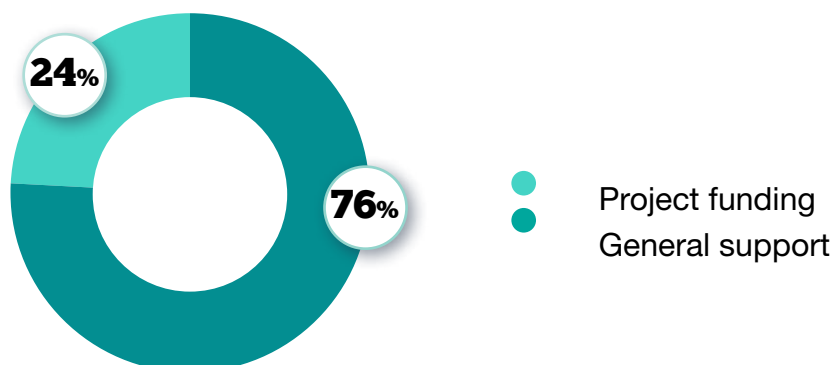
ITF Funding History



¹⁰ For the purposes of this Annual Report, we included Argentina, Barbados, Botswana, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nepal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga, Uganda, Uruguay, Vietnam, and the regional organization in the Middle East and North Africa under the Global South umbrella. Canada, France, Greece, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, Sweden, USA and the regional organization in the Balkans region are included as part of the Global North.

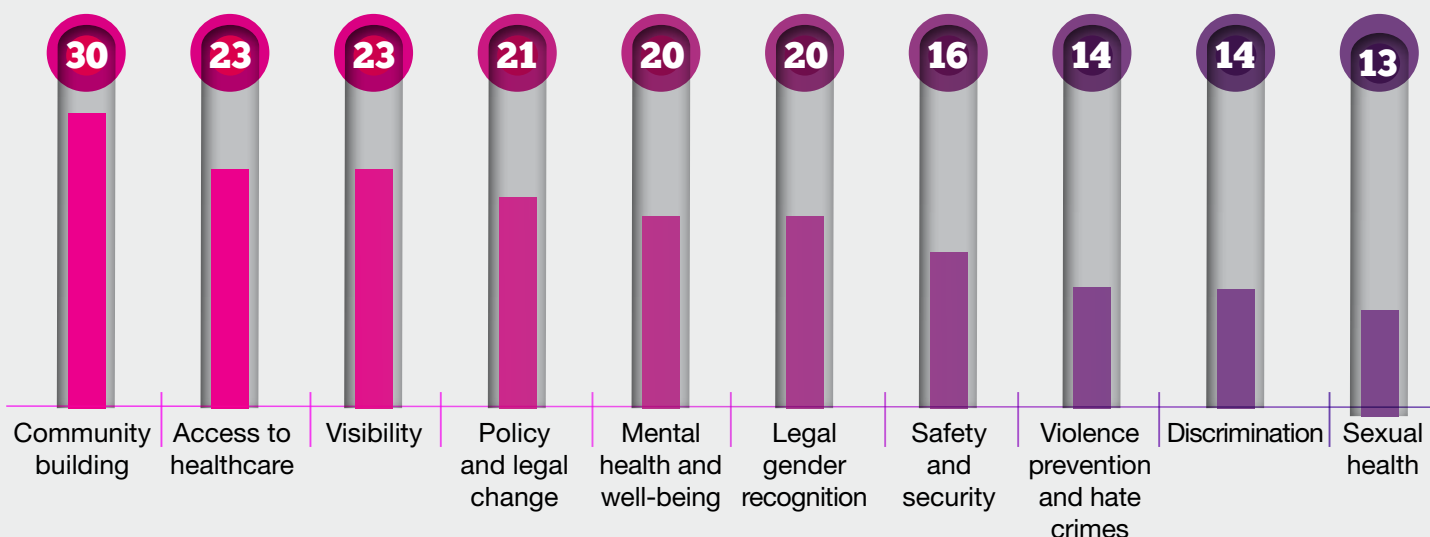
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Project Funding vs. General Support



Key Thematic Areas (top 10)

Number of grantee partners working in each thematic area:



Funding by Region

Region	# of Grantee Partners	Total Funding	% of Overall Funding
Africa and West Asia	9	US\$156,000	22%
East, South, Southeast Asia and the Pacific	8	US\$157,000	22%
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	6	US\$118,500	17%
Latin America and the Caribbean	8	US\$158,000	22%
USA, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Canada	7	US\$117,500	17%
Total	38	US\$707,000	100%

Leitis in Waiting
(Tonga)

Meet the Grantee Partners

Africa and West Asia

- African Women for Sexual Health and Gender Justice (AWOSHe) (Botswana)
- FrancisTrans (Botswana)
- Jinsiangu (Kenya)
- Trans Wellness Project (South Africa)
- Trans Youth Initiative Uganda (Uganda)
- Transgender Equality Uganda (Uganda)
- TRANSAT (MENA region)
- TransSwati (Eswatini)
- UNITY (Togo)



East, South, Southeast Asia and the Pacific >>>>

- Anonymous (East Asia)
- Anonymous (South Asia)
- Leitis in Waiting Pacific Equality Campaign (Tonga/Hawai'i)
- Pertubuhan Pembangunan Kebajikan dan Persekitaran Positif Malaysia (SEED) (Malaysia)
- Sudur Paschim Samaj (SPS) (Nepal)
- Transgender Resource Center (TGR) (Hong Kong)
- Transgender SG (Singapore)
- T4T - Trans for Transformation (Vietnam)



Eastern Europe and Central Asia >>>>

- Anonymous (Central Asia)
- Institute Transfeminist Initiative TransAkcija (Slovenia)
- LightT (Central Asia)
- Transvanilla Transgender Association (Hungary)
- Trans Mreza Balkan (TMB) (Balkan region)
- T-Revers (Russia)



Latin America and the Caribbean >>>>

- Asociación Generación de Hombres Trans de El Salvador (El Salvador)
- Asociación Silueta X (Ecuador)
- Butterfly Trans Barbados (Barbados)
- Colectivo de Hombres Trans Trans-Formación de Guatemala (Guatemala)
- Colectivo Trans del Uruguay (Uruguay)
- OTRANS Argentina (Argentina)
- TransWave Jamaica (Jamaica)
- ULTRA - União Libertária de Pessoas Trans e Travestis (Brazil)



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USA, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Canada >>>>

- Espace Santé Trans (France)
- Greek Transgender Support Association (Greece)
- RARICANow (Canada)
- Queerston Media (Sweden)
- Trans(forming) (United States)
- Transgender Assistance Program of Virginia - TAP VA (United States)
- UTOPIA (United Territories of Pacific Islanders' Alliance) (United States)



Impact: The work of grantee partners¹¹

The grantee partners engage in diverse tactics for change across many thematic areas, working inclusively and intersectionally to increase safety and liberation for trans people worldwide. For instance, grantee partners have:

Queerston
(Sweden)



¹¹ These descriptions of the grantee partners' work and quotes were compiled by the ITF on the basis of each grantee partner's final report, and are included here with the approval and consent of the grantee partners. Grantee partners that did not answer the ITF's request in March 2021, during the compilation of this report, were not included.



Colectivo Trans del Uruguay (CTU)
(Uruguay)

●●● Built resilient trans communities

COLECTIVO TRANS DEL URUGUAY (CTU) was founded in 2017 by a small group of dedicated trans activists. The ITF gave CTU core grant support, which allowed them to organize three national meetings and expand membership from 20 to 100 and still growing. CTU now consists of a wide range of trans activists across gender identities and ages and brings together the movement's pioneering activists with trans youth as young as four years old. CTU has individuals coordinating different areas of work that focus on people deprived of liberty, teenagers, families, sex workers, migrants, legal procedures, trans feminine and trans masculine people. From the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, CTU has organized the Public Cooking Pot (#ollapopulartrans)—a public cooking project by trans and LGB people for those in precarious situations—delivered food packages, organized clothes donations and supported trans people deprived of liberty.

"The trans movement in Uruguay was dismembered and divided. The funding has helped us to strengthen the trans movement thanks to achieving national meetings, facing the health crisis and making visible the work we do."

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Colectivo Trans del Uruguay (CTU) (Uruguay)

TRANS MREZA BALKAN (TMB) continued to support trans activism across the **BALKAN region**. TMB's staff held sessions on community organizing at the first regional training for trans activists in the Western Balkans, where five trans activists from Montenegro, four from Serbia, two from Albania, and one from North Macedonia participated. TMB *gathered* information from trans people on the impact of the pandemic on their lives. TMB also worked on organizing its "Digital Transposium" online to host performances, workshops, panels and other events in the fall of 2020.



Trans Mreza
Balkan (TMB)
(Balkan Region)





UNITY (Togo)

The ITF grant helped **UNITY** start building a national trans movement in **TOGO**. UNITY held eight monthly talks during the funding period, bringing a total of 131 trans women together, and a three-day workshop on personal development and building a national trans movement. UNITY is now working on establishing two new local branches in Aneho and Kara. It also held workshops to educate partner organizations on trans issues.

RUSSIA-based **T-REVERS**, whose main goal is to mobilize the trans community in the region, managed to involve eight new volunteers in its work, including parents of trans children. After having Transgender Europe (TGEU) and a Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) resources translated from English, it also increased the availability of information on trans issues in Russian. T-Revers worked with 16 health professionals to improve care and provided them with information materials in Russian.

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●●● Met with and educated medical professionals and other key stakeholders

A newly registered trans organization, **BUTTERFLY TRANS BARBADOS** held a two-day workshop for mental health professionals on trans issues and was then invited by University of West Indies (Cave Hill campus) to hold a comprehensive course on the topic. A psychiatric hospital also invited the organization to conduct training for its staff.

TRANSAT, the first and only regional network of trans activists in the **MENA region**, released over 20 articles on trans issues on its website in Arabic and English. Responding to the detrimental impact of colonialism and historical discrimination that the Amazigh community in North Africa has been facing, TRANSAT prioritized translating the website into Amazig this year.

"We posted an article about BBC Arabic's use of transphobic language, which was shared widely and noticed by BBC. They removed the offensive terms and committed to use better language."

●●● Advocated for changes in law, policy and practice

SUDUR PASCHIM SAMAJ worked in **NEPAL** to promote economic freedom.

"We helped the Social Development Ministry organize a meeting with sexual and gender minorities in Sudur Paschim Province. The key guest was the Minister, who told us he never thought so many LGBTI people lived in the province and realized the Ministry needed to better support us. Consequently, the Ministry launched an income generation program for trans people, initially involving 40 people."



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The **HONG KONG**-based **TRANSGENDER RESOURCE CENTER** (TGR) worked to increase the visibility of current trans issues in Chinese. TGR did this by releasing 14 *videos* on trans issues; participating in an interview on Australia's SBS Chinese channel; and engaging with district councils, universities, companies and NGOs. TGR also held online peer support groups and two in-person convenings.

"On the legal support side, we received two cases of trans individuals who were rejected from using changing facilities of their preferred gender. With the general support grant, we are able to screen the cases, refer them to the appropriate legal professionals, assist our clients in meetings and paperwork, and follow up closely. At the end, we managed to get a law firm to issue a demand letter and successfully resolve the matter. The individuals can now use the facilities of their preferred gender in the premises."

TRANSSWATI, based in **ESWATINI**, was able to hire new staff and rent an office space, which significantly boosted the safety, capacity and visibility of the organization. TransSwati also increased its cooperation with other NGOs, participated in advocacy events and held a monthly support group that brought together 10 to 15 trans people each time.

"The grant strengthened our working relationship with (key stakeholders), and we were able to sensitize mayors about trans issues and the existence of trans persons. Through the grant, we were able to meet the Deputy Prime Minister's office and discuss challenges faced by trans people and those will be deliberated in parliament to see if there would be any amendments in policies that could create an enabling environment for trans diverse people too."



**Institute Transfeminist
Initiative TransAkcija
(Slovenia)**

●●● Shaped the discourse on trans people

Thanks to the ITF's core grant, **INSTITUTE TRANSFEMINIST INITIATIVE TRANSAKCIJA** hired a third staff member, held its sixth annual conference *TransMisija VI*, launched the first research on trans persons in **SLOVENIA** (*Everyday Life of Trans Persons in Slovenia*), published the first Slovene Trans 101 manual *Between Blue and Pink*, co-organized the first ever *intersex-specific events* in the country, held support services, workshops and events for the community, and continued its advocacy for human rights-based legal gender recognition and trans healthcare procedures.

"We are finally seeing some changes in how trans persons are being seen, talked about, not only in the media but also with the general public, and students for example. We are witnessing more attempts at people being interested in how to respect and be inclusive of trans persons, and we are content to see that more and more people know about us and our work, which is crucial for the success of our work in the long term."



Greek Transgender Support Association (Greece)

THE GREEK TRANSGENDER SUPPORT ASSOCIATION (GTSA) implemented a number of projects using its ITF core grant, including *“Together We Can”* for community empowerment and tackling racism and transphobia; *“Help At Home”* to support trans people during the COVID-19 pandemic and *“Support Sex Workers”* to generate societal support for sex workers. GTSA continued its indispensable advocacy and training work throughout the year, increasing state capacity on trans issues and highlighting the specific situation of trans people during the pandemic.



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OTRANS ARGENTINA set up the *Sudaka TLGBI* news agency, staffed with travesti and trans social communicators from different parts of Argentina and joined by a number of volunteers. The Buenos Aires Ministry of Public Communication has since asked Sudaka to set up a radio broadcast program.

"Receiving the funds meant a structural change for our organization and the trans community in general—we produced communication tools that allow us to democratize our discourses and demand public policies from the State that are in favor of our community (...) We believe it is necessary that we, trans, travesti and non-binary people, occupy spaces of empowerment in communication that were historically denied to us, and also that have the tools and expertise to be able to hold discussions with our own voices and not through third parties."



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●●● Contributed to the body of research on trans people's experiences

JINSIANGU developed the first ever *HIV/AIDS Programming Guidelines for the Transgender Population in KENYA*; launched its *National Transgender Discrimination Survey (NTDS)*; conducted 12 outreach campaigns across Kenya's rural and marginalized areas, reaching over 850 intersex, trans and gender non-conforming (ITGNC) persons, county officials, chiefs and religious leaders; and trained 40 healthcare providers and 80 police officers.

TRANSGENDER SG conducted the first nationwide survey of the trans community in **SINGAPORE**, gathering 242 responses. The grant allowed them to outsource some of its workload, including the resulting report *Challenges Facing Singapore's Transgender Community*, a Chinese translation of its *website*, and an in-process Tamil translation. Using the survey data, Transgender SG worked on the first ever trans-focused *shadow report* on Singapore for the country's Universal Periodic Review and presented it before Permanent Missions to the United Nations. The group also co-held workshops and co-launched a peer support initiative that connects young trans people with older trans adults, and is currently helping to set up a study support scheme for trans students who have fallen out of the national school system.

●●● Provided emergency housing

Thanks to its ITF grant, **TRANSGENDER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF VIRGINIA (TAP VA) (USA)** managed to meet the increasing demand for housing support in the community, and provided emergency housing to over 250 trans people and clothing items to 120. TAP VA also hosted 12 events throughout the year, more than double what it had planned for in the grant application. These included educational workshops, "Ask a Trans Person" talks, phone bank actions for legislative change, and a Trans Day of Remembrance (TDoR) event that brought together 200 people.

"TAP VA Trans Clothes Closet is a free, confidential shopping experience for all trans-identified individuals, located in Portsmouth, Virginia, where we have assisted 120 trans folx to find free, gently used, gender affirming clothing. People can take as much as they like."

Transgender Assistance
Program of Virginia (TAP VA)
(USA)




Trans Youth
Initiative-Uganda
(Uganda)



●●● Facilitated trans people's access to gender affirming healthcare and other healthcare services

TRANS YOUTH INITIATIVE UGANDA (TYI) produced a documentary on the real life experiences of rural trans and gender diverse youth in western Uganda, which it is now using to advocate for access to quality and inclusive healthcare for trans people. TYI opened a drop-in center, which provides gender affirming, sexual and reproductive healthcare services. TYI also provided training for 25 rural trans and gender diverse women, including sex workers and youth, on human rights, documenting violations and advocating for themselves.

PERTUBUHAN PEMBANGUNAN KEBAJIKAN DAN PERSEKITARAN POSITIF MALAYSIA (SEED) held workshops bringing together healthcare providers and trans clients, which enabled it to compile Practical Guidelines for Trans-Specific Primary Health Care in Malaysia. SEED secured the first ever invitation for a trans woman to speak at the Muslim Women International Conference.



Pertubuhan Pembangunan
Kebajikan dan Persekitaran Positif
Malaysia (SEED) (Malaysia)



**Pertubuhan Pembangunan
Kebajikan dan Persekitaran
Positif (SEED) (Malaysia)**

COLECTIVO DE HOMBRES TRANS TRANS-FORMACIÓN, an unregistered group led by trans men in **GUATEMALA**, continued its monthly Trans-Formación health clinic and provided 46 consultations to trans people. The collective's doctor has held 60 appointments on the phone since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The collective also reached 32 trans men through community spaces, and discussed sexual and reproductive health issues of concern to them. The collective continued its advocacy work and submitted two reports to the United Nations (see [here](#) and [here](#)).



**Colectivo de Hombres Trans
Trans-Formación (Guatemala)**



Transvanilla Transgender Association (Hungary)

- Provided indispensable mental health support to trans communities

TRANSVANILLA TRANSGENDER ASSOCIATION, based in **HUNGARY**, worked tirelessly to stop the parliament from adopting the ban on legal gender recognition in Hungary, briefing national and international stakeholders and gathering 30,000 signatures online. During this difficult time, Transvanilla also provided psychosocial support and legal advice in 182 cases, consultation with legal experts in 63 cases and peer-to-peer counseling in 145 cases. The monthly support groups reached 162 trans people.



Trans Wellness Project
(South Africa)

TRANS WELLNESS PROJECT

(TWP), the only trans-focused and trans-led organization focusing on the rural areas of **SOUTH AFRICA**, used its grant for institutional growth and to support the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. TWP was able to purchase a phone and cover year-long internet access, making it possible to start a helpline during the pandemic. TWP also transported service users from remote areas to health clinics, to ensure they can access antiretroviral therapy (ARV), PrEP and gender affirming healthcare.



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●●● Pushed for the release of incarcerated BPoC trans people and the abolishment of prisons

In coalition with other groups, **US-based TRANS(FORMING)** and its members joined and continued protests against anti-Black murder, violence and police brutality. Many of the protesters were arrested, pushed, and tear gassed. Trans(forming) continued to fight for the closure of an Atlanta prison, and support people currently incarcerated, including 20 individuals (trans men, gender non-conforming, intersex or questioning people) through engaging with wardens and other staff. Particularly due to the pandemic unfolding and prisons being overpopulated, Trans(forming) petitioned for their early release, either directly home or to a transition center. Trans(forming) also supported nine people who have transitioned out of prison with temporary housing and life skills support.

"We have been fighting and protesting, sometimes via car caravans to keep safe distance, against the system using the pandemic to continue to jail, lock down and lock out our folks. We joined Rothersk in bailing out folks and demanding that both Atlanta jails release people being locked up. We enjoyed a victory after a car caravan to the jail, protesting even louder, because now we had our horns to blow, and forced the district attorney to release 300 prisoners and consider another 200."

●●● Brought together, empowered and supported trans sex workers

An **ANONYMOUS GRANTEE PARTNER IN EAST ASIA**, where sex work is criminalized, organized bi-monthly meetings and sexual health participatory training workshops for 56 trans sex workers. The grantee partner provided an internship opportunity to one participant and hopes that others will also engage in more activist work. The grantee partner intervened in the case of a sex worker who was detained, successfully cooperated with the police and helped convince the court to ease the prison sentence. Although sex work remains illegal, the grantee partner is hopeful that this case will be a useful precedent.

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An **ANONYMOUS GRANTEE PARTNER IN SOUTH ASIA** held weekly trans labor and sex worker union meetings, bringing together up to 40 people each time, provided biweekly art therapy sessions for groups of 10, plus workshops, community and art events; provided shelter for 40 trans people during the grant period; and collected personal testimonies from trans people on their lives.

●●● Halted deportations of trans migrants

RARICANow, supporting LGBTQI+ refugees and people of color in **CANADA**, held a multitude of community building events and managed to increase its membership. It continued to support LGBTQI+ refugees by providing ten people with legal aid and campaigning to halt deportations. RARICANow held Stonewall Black Trans Lives Matter marches in two cities, calling for increased efforts to defund the police.



RARICANow
(Canada)





RARICANow
(Canada)




The Reason of Hope

Organization for All LGBTQ+ Refugees and Newcomers in Canada.

 raricanow@gmail.com

 raricanow

 RARICANow!

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●●● Provided practical skills to secure employment

Responding to the high rate of unemployment among trans people in **CENTRAL ASIA**, **LIGHT** used its funding to conduct three vocational training courses. It trained 15 trans people in clothes design and sewing, 18 people in makeup art and six people in computer programming in clothes design. By the end of the project, six people decided to open their own salons, and several others worked alongside designers and stylists.

"With the help of the grant, we managed to show the community that we are working on challenges and trying to build sustainable social and economic support for the trans community. Due to the grant, we were able to explore the trans community's interest in new jobs and new opportunities and they could gain new skills and experiences."

The Grantee Partners also shared that...



●●● ...their ITF grants gave them freedom, stability and agency.

"This grant has given us the freedom to speak up on our needs especially to the government officials and other external parties as we were not dependent on their funds. It allowed us to focus on advocacy and other important projects instead of prioritizing fundraising. It also increased the movement's visibility among the community and stakeholders, as we were able to hold more meetings and organize more projects."

Pertubuhan Pembangunan Kebajikan dan Persekitaran Positif Malaysia (SEED)

●●● ...their ITF grants helped them grow as organizations.

"The ITF's support provided us with a level of financial stability that we previously did not have, enabling us to be employed year-round as well as for our team to meet in person. Prior to having ITF funding, we did not have sufficient funds to cover salaries for the whole year, and we relied on family support or unemployment benefits for several months at a time (...) It also enabled us to pay for some of the work which our community previously did as volunteers and reach more people by providing materials in multiple languages (...) In short, the ITF gave us the security and a push to not only survive and keep going with our work, but to grow into the organization that we always wanted to be: one that deeply values the hard work and knowledge of our communities—something that is all too often taken for granted or expected to be provided for free by people with more power and resources."

Trans Mreza Balkan (Balkan region)

"This grant made a lot of structural changes in-house, because we could finalize a number of policies and procedures. We now have a committed board of directors, clear duties and responsibilities for them and the executive director, and a clear plan for the organization (...) This grant also put us in a position to be more trustworthy with other funders, because for the first time in the history of TWP, we can have audited financial reports."

Trans Wellness Project (South Africa)

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"We hardly ever met before we had office space because we could not accommodate the community. It has grown us as staff and somehow being looked down upon has reduced."

TransSwati (Eswatini)



...being funded and supported by trans people made them feel visible and cared for.

"We feel seen, represented, visible, connected and cared for. Forever thankful to the ITF and Astraea for making it possible for us to continue doing this amazing life-changing work. Even when you are far away, you have never ceased to hold space for our trans community. Special thanks to Broden and Mukasa for your regular check-ins during the pandemic. It meant so much."

RaricaNow

"The ITF's support has helped us be consistent and grow in our work. Our outreach and ability to mobilize and include a diverse group of trans individuals across an intersectional spectrum, has grown in this cycle. We are able to do immediate crisis intervention without worrying about resources and capacity, we are able to provide shelter and consistent care to those in need. All of this would have been impossible without this grant. The ITF being trans-led makes us feel secure and understood, and we feel it is so important to have funders who are authentically invested in the context."

Anonymous grantee partner in South Asia

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●●● ...their ITF grants helped them secure future grants.

The ITF's core grant support allowed **TRANSWAVE JAMAICA** the sustainability it needed to get work done in a safe and secure environment. TransWave was able to rent its own office space, open a bank account for the first time, hire a new part-time staff member, and cover the travel and participation of staff and members in a number of training events. The grant increased TransWave's overall capacity, and it has since secured a grant from UNAIDS and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to develop Jamaica's first ever trans health strategy.



TransWave
Jamaica (Jamaica)



TransWave
Jamaica
(Jamaica)





RaricaNow

Responding to the **COVID-19** Pandemic

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on trans communities as a result of serious illness, increased anxiety and stress, and food insecurity and shortages. Many trans people depend on the informal economy for survival, and government stimulus and relief packages based on formal employment systems don't meet their needs. Furthermore, under-resourced healthcare systems have become even more overburdened, making trans people even less likely to have access to gender affirming healthcare. Plus, some governments have used the situation to push through anti-trans legislation (Hungary, United States) and implement measures that are oppressive to trans communities (Panama, Peru). Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have been on the rise in many countries and trans people are often targeted.

We have engaged in multiple activities in response to COVID-19, including:

- Offering **support to grantee partners**, meeting with groups to discuss how they can adjust their work and being **flexible in adjustments of work plans and budgets**.
- Reviewing the budget to ensure grantee partners are supported during the pandemic, facilitating the provision of **top-up funds** of US\$1,000 to grantee partners.
- Meeting with key trans leaders to identify opportunities to develop a **collective international trans response** to the COVID-19 pandemic and share current plans.
- Developing a **list of rapid response and emergency funders** for trans communities.
- Joining the **Dignity for All Consortium** and meeting to discuss the emergency response needs of trans communities and the impact of COVID-19 on ITF's grantee partners. The consortium consists of eight leading human rights and LGBTI organizations that provide emergency assistance, advocacy funding and security support to human rights defenders and civil society organizations.
- Hosting a webinar for funders titled "**Supporting Global Trans Communities During COVID-19**" with the Trans and Intersex Working Group of the Global Philanthropy Project on June 15, 2020. This webinar provided an opportunity for funders to better understand the reality and impact of COVID-19 on trans movements, identify opportunities and next steps to build collective power to increase resources for trans communities during COVID-19, and strategize about effective responses in the short-, medium- and long-term.

The ITF's COVID-19 Survey

In order to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on our grantee partners, we developed a short survey in April 2020 that went to all current grantee partners. The response rate was high (79%/N=30).

Key Findings:

- 97% of grantee partners said it was very or somewhat accurate that they were extremely worried about COVID-19.
- 93% of grantee partners said it was very or somewhat accurate that it was difficult for them to conduct work on their ITF grant.

We asked how we could support the grantee partners:

- 73% said by providing emergency funding.
- 63% said by extending the final reporting deadline by a month or two.
- 37% said by supporting grant proposal adjustments.
- 23% said by providing or facilitating emergency training on safety and security.

The results suggested that most of ITF's grantee partners were engaged in direct support and mutual aid and urgently required additional resources to meet the critical needs of their communities. In response to this, we supported grantee partners to adjust their budgets and work plans to meet the emerging needs and referred grantee partners to emergency funds.

Relief Funds to Grantee Partners in the Third Cycle

The ITF distributed an **additional US\$32,000** to grantee partners to address the negative impact of COVID-19.



East, South, Southeast Asia and the Pacific

- An **ANONYMOUS GRANTEE PARTNER IN EAST ASIA** distributed over 5,000 condoms and 520 face masks to 122 trans sex workers during the pandemic, and provided over 250 consultations on psychological issues, domestic violence, financing, and HIV and STI via social media to trans sex workers every day.
- An **ANONYMOUS GRANTEE PARTNER IN SOUTH ASIA** provided emergency assistance to 250 trans persons and migrant trans workers who were stranded in the country. On a monthly basis, the grantee partner reached almost 900 people in need of food, personal protective equipment, financial aid, mental health support and shelter. The grantee partner's relief work was co-funded by the ITF.

"We feel that perhaps one of the biggest successes of this grant period was that despite having so many limitations in terms of resource and staff capacity, our team came together and were able to provide emergency assistance to almost 900 people. Some staff members donated their time and salaries to the community. On an internal level, we showed resilience and resolve in this time of great uncertainty. We were moved by the impact this work had on the community. Several new trans folks came in contact with our work and now want to be actively involved with us. We feel this time of great distress has somehow helped build trust and a greater sense of unity among us."

- **SEED in MALAYSIA** provided essentials to 2,070 families, prepared 5,720 packets of freshly cooked food, paid for housing for nine families, delivered supplies to the elderly, and provided HIV, HCV/HCB and STI testing.
- **TRANSGENDER SG in SINGAPORE** donated approximately US\$1,500 (SGD\$2,000) to the local T Project, a homeless shelter for trans people, which covered food vouchers for 20 trans women.
- **SUDUR PASCHIM SAMAJ in NEPAL** conducted five mental health workshops online, reaching 60 trans people, and gathered information on the impact of the pandemic on the community through an online survey that reached 100 respondents.

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Eastern Europe and Central Asia

- **TRANSVANILLA** created a COVID-19 fund that supported 80 trans and gender non-conforming persons and their families in **HUNGARY**, providing emergency kits, hygienic products, food and helping to meet other needs based on individual requests.
- **T-REVERS** provided professional legal and psychological assistance to trans people in **RUSSIA**, and distributed over 50 packages including food, basic necessities and medicine.
- A **GRANTEE PARTNER** in **CENTRAL ASIA** provided medical supplies to 27 trans people and food packages to nine.
- **LIGHT** in **CENTRAL ASIA** distributed grocery packages, hygiene items, protective equipment and medicine to 40 trans people.
- **TRANSAKCIJA** in **SLOVENIA** provided psychosocial support online (counseling and support groups), published the *Queerantime zine* and created an *LGBTI memory game*, showing the resilience and humor of the community.
- **TRANS MREZA BALKAN** launched a survey to learn about the impact of the pandemic on the lives of trans people in the **BALKANS**.



Trans Mreza
Balkan
(Balkans)

Latin America and the Caribbean

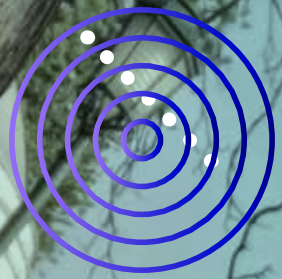
- **ASOCIACIÓN SILUETA X** provided emergency housing to three trans people, and food and ancestral medicine, including medicinal herbs, infusions, sprays and other natural elements, to many others. They also delivered baskets with perishable food to trans people in the city of Guayaquil, Quito, and rural areas in **ECUADOR** that ended up in a precarious state due to the pandemic.
- **COLECTIVO DE HOMBRES TRANS TRANS-FORMACIÓN** provided humanitarian aid to 18 trans men and 60 medical consultations on the phone in **GUATEMALA**.
- **COLECTIVO TRANS DEL URUGUAY (CTU)** organized a public trans “cooking pot,” making regular meals for 180 people, provided aid packages for trans people all over the country; and purchased a TV to keep trans people who are deprived of their liberty informed. It also helped with food and clothing.
- **TRANSWAVE JAMAICA** assisted 250 community members who reached out for care packages and provided financial support for housing and utilities to four people.
- **BUTTERFLY TRANS BARBADOS** provided relief packages to the community and emergency housing to two trans sex workers who were attacked and evicted during lockdown.

"The additional funds to help provide essential items to the community for the unforeseen pandemic was truly a blessing, especially when other local organizations made no efforts to contribute to trans persons' needs."

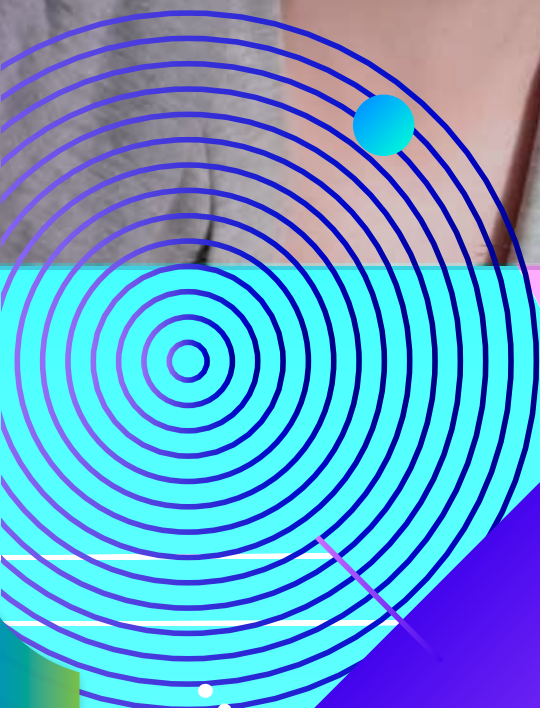
USA, Europe, Australia, New Zealand and Canada

- **US-based TRANS(FORMING)** did food and clothing runs for members who couldn't get out and provided rides to appointments.
- **THE GREEK TRANSGENDER SUPPORT ASSOCIATION** delivered food packages and cooked food for those most in need, including trans and LGBTI migrants, elderly, people with disabilities and homeless persons.

Steering Committee meeting in
San José (Costa Rica) (2020)



The ITF Team



The ITF Team

The ITF is composed of three interconnected and mutually dependent bodies that work closely together to achieve our strategic goals. The staff, Steering Committee and the Grant Making Panel are made up of trans activists and donors (trans and cis).

Across the three bodies, we are composed of:

- 94% trans people
- 52% trans feminine / 39% trans masculine / 9% non-binary
- 66% from the Global South and 34% from the Global North

The following section refers to staff, Steering Committee and Grant Making Panel members who were with the ITF during the period that this Annual Report covers.

Staff

Broden Giambrone, Director
(2017–present)

Mukasa, Senior Program Officer
(2017–present)

Jay-Rene Kouassiaman, Program Associate
(March 2018–July 2020)

Vaito'a Toelupe, Capacity Building Officer
(April 2019–February 2020)

Steering Committee



***ABHINA AHER**
(2016–2019)



YMANIA BROWN
(2017–2021)



ALEX RODRIGO CASTILLO
(2019–present)

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CHABER
(2017–present)



ZHAN CHIAM
(2017–2021)



***MASEN DAVIS**
(2016–2019)



WIKTOR DYNARSKI
(2019–2020)



***JULIA EHRT**
(2016–2019)



REBECCA FOX
(2017–present)



CHAN GREY
(2017–present)



NATASHA JIMENEZ
(2019–present)



JABU PEREIRA
(2019–present)

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***HAPPY MWENDE KINYILI**
(2016–2019)



SARA R. PHILLIPS
(2020–present)



BARBRA WANGARE LEONE
(2017–present)



***AMARANTA GÓMEZ
REGALADO**
(2016–2020)



**VIVIANE VERGUEIRO
SIMAKAWA**
(2020–2020)



**ALEJANDRA COLETTE
SPINETTI**
(2017–present)

***Members of the ITF's Interim Steering Committee**

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We asked Steering Committee members who were active during this reporting period what they were most proud of about being on the Steering Committee.

This is what they told us:

"I'm proud that the ITF exists and is thriving. The vision of having a trans-led participatory fund was just a dream not that long ago. Thanks to the hard work of trans activists and donors around the globe (including the staff, the Grant Making Panel and the Steering Committee), we finally have a fund of our own."

Masen Davis

"I joined the ITF in 2017 and I am most proud of the capacity-building streams ITF has embarked on. Since then we have added to our team an additional Program Officer. We have invested heavily in our Steering Committee capacity as governors through training and support. We have increased our capacity to give more to trans communities on the frontlines and on the ground by increasing the total value of grants we give out at each grant cycle, and every year our grantee partners keep us in shock and awe at the work they do and have been doing before ITF, and with ITF's support."

Ymania Brown

"I have enjoyed and taken pride in all the moments I was associated with the ITF work, which helped me to evolve and contribute from my experiences. The ITF is just not a fund, it is a huge advocacy statement that is creating massive transformation across the regions and countries, celebrating and contributing to trans lives."

Abhina Aher

Colectivo de
Hombres Trans
Trans-Formación
(Guatemala)



"The fact that we now have an actual re-granting mechanism in which trans people are able to decide what kind of work deserves funding, and that those decisions are made collectively in a spirit of solidarity, transparency and accountability, is absolutely revolutionary. I am very proud that I was able to contribute to this important time in trans and philanthropic history. As someone who moved from grassroots activism to private and institutionalized philanthropy, it was fantastic to be in a space with other trans people of enormous and incredible expertise, and to be seen as a peer in a philanthropic space, which is something that trans people struggle with in this sector a lot."

Wiktor Dynarski

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"Every time we meet in person, we get such a huge volume of work done—from asking ourselves difficult questions, to discussing issues that come to us from the Grant Making Panel, to shaping our first Strategic Plan. And no one ever complains, and we show up on time every morning, stay focused and work hard! I've never been in a group like that before and I'm very proud that as a Steering Committee from all over the world, we've managed to be respectful and punctual and fun-loving together. I think it's because we know how groundbreaking the fund is, and for each of us there is something very personal that motivates us to bring our best selves to it. I think we all also feel very lucky to be chosen to join the Steering Committee—I certainly do."

Zhan Chiam

Steering Committee
meeting in San José
(Costa Rica) (2020)





Transgender Equality
Uganda (Uganda)

**"How we have carefully and thoughtfully built all of this.
How we work to support trans groups worldwide and meet
them where they are at."**

Rebecca Fox

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Grant Making Panel



MAX APPENROTH
(2017–2019)



Yael DEMEDETSKAYA
(2019–present)



FRANCO FUICA
(2019–present)



CLAUDIA VÁSQUEZ HARO
(2017–2019)



MIKEE INTON
(2019–present)



BEYONCE KARUNGI
(2017–2019)



NEISH MCLEAN
(2019–2019)



DEON MEJRI
(2019–present)



ISA NOYOLA
(2019–present)

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KARISHMA RICHARDS
(2017-2019)



ALEX RODRIGO CASTILLO
(2017-2019)



DIANE RODRIGUEZ
(2019-2019)



VAITO'A TOELUPE
(2019-2019)



CARTER HONORÉE WOLF
(2017-2019)



JOE WONG
(2017-present)



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We asked Grant Making Panel members who were active during this reporting period what they learned and what their involvement in the ITF meant to them.

This is what they told us:

"The thing I appreciate most about the ITF is that it is run only by trans people, and that makes our entire process so unique from other funders. Being in a space that only has other trans individuals was freeing. (My work on the GMP) allows me to more concretely imagine a global community of trans people—that we're all connected in one way or another, despite geographic locations or cultural contexts. And especially in this pandemic, where there has been a growing sense of isolation because we're all physically cut off from each other, I appreciate that through the grantmaking process, I can still feel connected to my trans siblings around the world. It's also very meaningful to me to be able to see the growth of organizations. I've been with the grantmaking panel for a few cycles now, and I love seeing how many of the groups we've funded in the past are able to grow and expand their advocacy work. (...It's) amazing to hear and read about all the work that's been done (and is being done) around the world for trans people, by trans people. It feels very empowering and makes me feel hopeful for the future."

Mikee Inton-Campbell

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"It was a great challenge, because we had to provide grants to so few movements in the trans world with so many different needs. I wish there were a lot more funding, so that we could support more communities. On a personal level, it provided great satisfaction, knowing that even in a small part, it contributed to improving the quality of lives of my peers quite a bit."

Alex Castillo

"The most important thing I learned is that it is not easy to grant support to our trans populations. Choosing among hundreds of proposals when all are good and their context is in need, is very difficult. Getting to the heart of the situation and determining who needs it the most is terrible but necessary, especially when support is always available for the LGB acronym and not for the 'T'."

Diane Rodriguez

"Each organization, each country follows its own unique path. It is very important to communicate and cooperate with each other, but the success of each individual project is a combination of many factors: their leaders, environment, culture of the country or region and many others. You can't take a successful project and clone it all over the place."

Yael Demedetskaya

"Decision-making was a challenge and sometimes required us to make modifications as we went along. (It was) collective learning, nurtured by the journey and experience of each of us on the GMP."

Claudia Vásquez Haro



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Steering Committee and Grant Making Panel Surveys

We contracted a consultant to conduct two evaluation surveys with members of the SC and the GMP in February 2020 and October 2020.¹³ The surveys aimed to assess the level of the members':

- 1) Engagement in philanthropy
- 2) Philanthropic leadership skills
- 3) Understanding of philanthropy and grantmaking processes
- 4) Ability to use these skills and awareness to help trans-led organizations access more funding

The aim of having two surveys was to assess the extent of changes in participants' self-assessment during their participation with the ITF.

Key Findings:

- 100% of Steering Committee and 100% of Grant Making Panel members were **actively engaged in philanthropy**.
- 36% of Steering Committee members and 67% of Grant Making Panel members **increased their capacity in this area**.
- 27% of Steering Committee and 93% of Grant Making Panel members **increased their overall philanthropic leadership skills**.
- 18% of Steering Committee and 80% of Grant Making Panel members **increased their overall understanding of philanthropy and grantmaking processes**.
- 36% of Steering Committee and 100% of Grant Making Panel members **increased their ability to use these new skills and awareness to help trans-led organizations access more funding**.

The results also suggested that there was greater room for growth for members from the GMP, which aligns with our recruitment strategy. GMP members are selected for their grassroots experience as trans activists and are generally at an earlier point in their career. In contrast, SC members are more likely to hold higher positions and have increased philanthropic experience. In addition, the intensive GMP review process may also create higher levels of engagement.

¹³ The first survey was answered by all 13 SC and all 15 GMP members. The second survey was completed by 12 SC members, with one member having resigned since February 2020 and all GMP members.



Colectivo Trans del
Uruguay (CTU)
(Uruguay)

**Messages from the
Steering Committee
& Grant
Making Panel**

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Messages from the Steering Committee & Grant Making Panel

... to trans movements and activists

"Dream big! Our time has finally come."

Zhan Chiam (Steering Committee)

"Our work, our community and our stories are the fruit that sprung from seeds planted before us. We are rooted in the work of those who paved the way for us and now our leaves are turned up to the sun, light shining on us. We labor for each other and for a brighter future for those who are yet to come. I encourage our movement and the activists who lead the way to **continue to water the soil, but make space, too, to breathe fresh air."**

Neish McLean (Grant Making Panel)

"Trans movements and activists that make them up have been targets of marginalization and discrimination for a long time, but through our resilience and resistance we have shown our strength, and we have always shown that **despite obstacles we can get ahead even with the few elements or tools that we have."**

Natasha Jimenez (Steering Committee)



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"Never give up! We are a fierce and strong community! Even if your funding applications get rejected, keep going!"

Max Appenroth (Grant Making Panel)

"Nothing about us, without us! We are committed to ensuring that trans movements and organizing are supported and led by the community. As the deliverers of the change we hope to see, the community should always be the primary beneficiary of the ITF."

Chan Grey (Steering Committee)

●●● ... to funders

"FUND TRANS GROUPS! A lot of our groups don't have much experience or capacity. But it doesn't mean that we don't know how to do our work. Support trans groups. Support us to grow. Support us to make differences in our communities. Don't give us one-off funds. Give us multi-year grants. Walk with us. Don't use red tape to make it difficult for us to access your funding. Your support is invaluable to us. Fund us."

Barbra Wangare (Steering Committee)

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"Trans people's lives and human rights are threatened around the world, and are being intensely targeted by authoritarian governments under the cover of COVID emergency actions. Yet at our greatest moment of need, some funders are pulling away from LGBTI funding. Please educate your colleagues and peers on the importance of trans rights and dedicate funds to trans organizations and funds like the ITF."

Masen Davis (Steering Committee)

"Get to know the realities in different countries to achieve equitable funding that truly reaches those who need it."

Alejandra Collette Spinetti Núñez (Steering Committee)

"Thank you for the money! I hope you understand that these grants and funds are really impactful and that it enables advocacy work to happen in many contexts in which it would otherwise be unable to function without funding. I also appreciate that every year, our disbursement budget gets bigger and bigger, and so we are able to fund more groups—thank you for expanding your support to the ITF. Please continue to support us so that we can also continue to support trans organizations around the world."

Mikee Inton-Campbell (Grant Making Panel)



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"Do not see trans people as simply receivers of your funding. See our community for who we are—experts in organizing, budgeting, human rights, organizational development, strategy and work planning. And understand that many of those skills come from years of experience in navigating a hostile world that throws hurdles every which way, including often the inability to receive formal training or study in formal education settings. But the latter doesn't mean that we cannot be seen as experts, and not only in our or other movements but also in the vast and growing field that is philanthropy. See us. We're here."


Wiktor Dynarski (Steering Committee)

"My plea to funders is, please, increase your funding capacity to grassroots participatory grantmaking bodies such as ITF. Your much-needed donations to ITF save lives (...) Your visibility in your support means others can also take your lead and throw ITF some much-needed support. Do not waver. Do not leave us. Do not stop supporting ITF. We, together, you and ITF are changing the world for trans organizations and communities through your support."

Ymania Brown (Steering Committee)



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"As Lohana Berkins said, 'When a travesti has access to the university, it is her life that changes; but many travestis in the university change the life of the entire society.' But to get to this, it is necessary to go through several preliminary steps, which are often slow, (and) require total support and sustainability not just from the organizations, but (...) from funders. It is necessary to think about supporting for many years because the struggle against discrimination, against hatred, cissexism, patriarchy, machismo is a very slow fight and requires ongoing support. The security we provide them (generates changes) to improve the quality of life of (...) future generations of trans people and that is the objective; to leave discrimination behind as a bad memory."

Franco Fuica (Grant Making Panel)

"Join us!"

Rebecca Fox (Steering Committee)



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●●● ... to the ITF

"To the ITF staff in general: thank you, thank you, thank you! You're some of the hardest working people I know. The work you have is gargantuan, but you do it happily and patiently, so thank you so much. I also know that it's so difficult to coordinate things remotely—working across a dozen different time zones, so I wanted to also thank you for making these efforts. Thank you also for being patient with deadlines! And to Broden and Mukasa, specifically, who have been with the ITF since I joined the Grant Making Panel several years ago, I miss you both!"

Mikee Inton-Campbell (Grant Making Panel)

"Keep up the great work you are all doing. Never ever forget you all are beacons of hope for our trans communities so stay in light. I may have moved on from ITF, but you're always in my thoughts and prayers. Life outside of and since I left ITF has been like trying to steer a rudderless boat into a harbor, with no meaning, no direction and no troops to marshal. It's what generals miss the most after being at war and helping change the course of history with small victories, which become one big sweeping tide. In my culture, we say in Samoan, 'ITF, o lau pule lea!' It means 'ITF, the power is yours!' Go change the world!"

Ymania Brown (Steering Committee)

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"Thank you for being a driving force behind the resourcing of the global trans movement. Your belief, commitment and support of a diverse array of trans groups is a breath of fresh air for so many. I've witnessed the impact of these resources on trans groups across the world. Your impact is felt across regions, in communities and in the lives of trans folks."

Neish McLean (Grant Making Panel)



Leitis in waiting (Tonga)



Financial Statement

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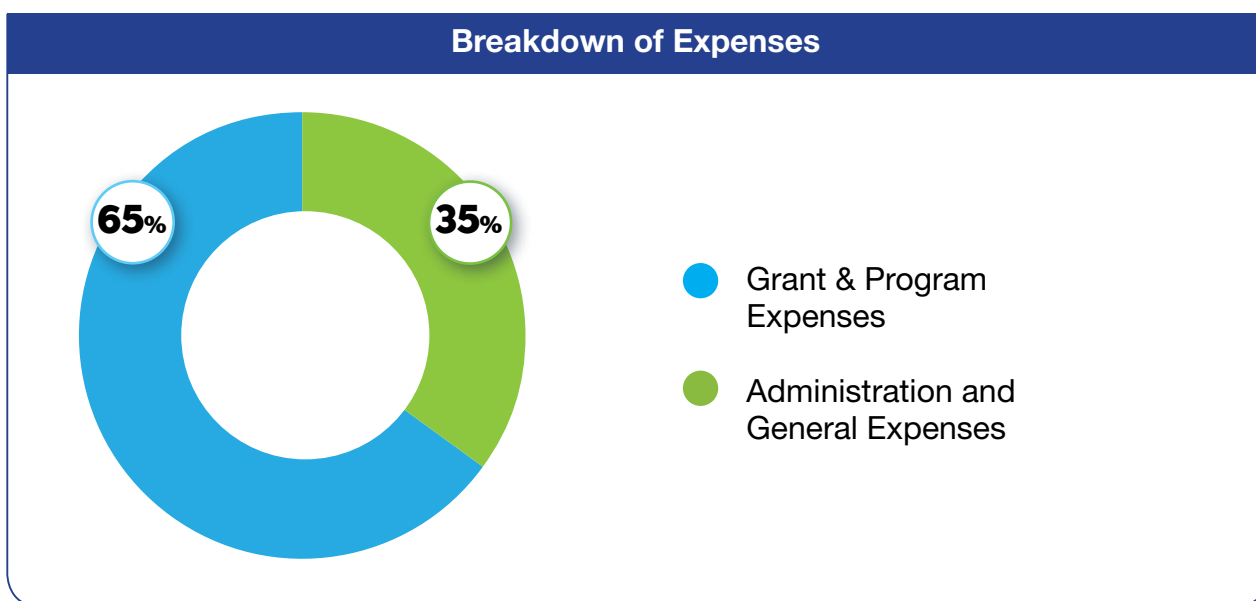
Financial Statement

The ITF has experienced considerable financial growth since our inception. In 2017, our expenditure was just US\$234,000 which expanded to US\$1,585,492 in 2020. We have successfully leveraged over US\$8,500,000 to resource global trans movements during this time, including multi-year grants that will be used to support the work outlined in our *Strategic Plan*.

The ITF has been fiscally sponsored by the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice since 2017. Astraea provides a range of fiscal, administrative and programmatic services and support, for which the ITF pays an administrative fee of 15%. The ITF's financials are included in Astraea's audited accounts as a *Statement of Activities of Affiliate Project*. The figures provided below are from Astraea's audited accounts.

Overview

65% of our expenses were allocated to grantmaking and program expenses and 35% went to administrative and general expenses.



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The ITF's grantmaking and program expenses include direct grantmaking as well as the indirect costs associated with participatory grantmaking, including capacity building initiatives, hosting in-person meetings, honorarium for Steering Committee and Grant Making Panel members and translation and interpretation costs associated with working in English, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish. The program expenses also include the ITF's fundraising and philanthropic advocacy.

The administrative and general expenses include the ITF's direct costs, such as salaries, staff development expenses, bank fees, capital assets and relevant translation and interpretation costs, as well as the fiscal host administrative fee.

Statement of Operations

Support & Revenue

Grants and Contributions	\$1,585,492
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Expenses

Program Services

- Grantmaking*	\$704,998
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- Core programs	\$319,786
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Supporting Services

- General administrative costs and salaries	\$349,050
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- Fiscal host administration fee	\$211,658
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Total Expenses	\$1,585,492
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* In the Annual Report, the ITF reports on grants totalling \$707,000. This difference relates to two grants of \$1,000 which were allocated to grantee partners for COVID-19 support. Due to the timing of disbursement, these grants will be reported on in the next fiscal year.



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ITF's Funders

The ITF is deeply appreciative of the support we have received from our new and long-term funders. Without these financial resources, the ITF would not be able to resource global trans movements. During the reporting period, the ITF was supported by:

- **American Jewish World Service**
- **Arcus Foundation**
- **GiveOut**
- **Global Equality Fund/U.S. State Department**
- **Ford Foundation**
- **Foundation for a Just Society**
- **Open Society Foundations**
- **Wellspring Philanthropic Fund**

We would also like to acknowledge the generous donation from an anonymous donor.



INTERNATIONAL
TRANS FUND

Resourcing Trans Movements Worldwide