

SUPPORT

LGBTI

YOUTH



Elevate Children Funders Group

At this very moment, in every place in the world, **children** and **youth** who are **lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender expansive and non-conforming**, and **intersex** are growing up in families, communities, and countries that do not yet know how to talk to them about sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, or, in many cases, even more fundamental concepts like sexuality and gender.

UNDERSTAND

What are the lived realities of LGBTI children in settings around the world?

SUPPORT

What kinds of programs are agencies from the child rights and LGBTI rights universes running to support LGBTI children and youth?

FUND

How is funding reaching programs for LGBTI youth?

ACT

What possibilities exist for programmers and funders from the LGBTI rights and children's rights worlds to come together?



UNDERSTAND



A New Vocabulary

These components of one's identity are already intrinsically intersectional. They all challenge the gender binary in different ways.

SO GIESC



Sexual orientation:

- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Heterosexual



Gender identity and expression

- Trans
- Gender expansive
- Non-conforming
- Cisgender

Sex characteristics

- Intersex
- Dyadic or Endosex



UNDERSTAND

What are the lived realities of LGBTI youth around the world?

Where we have solid data, LGBTI children fare worse on any indicator that we would seek to measure —health, mental health, educational attainment —than their non-LGBTI peers.

By SOGIESC category:

Sexual Orientation

Gender identity and expression

Sex characteristics

A combination

Assigned a sex at birth

Stigma, discrimination, bullying

Lack of access to appropriate physical and mental healthcare

Forced surgeries

Family abandonment and potential homelessness

Lack of access to appropriate information about puberty

Child maltreatment and heightened risk of sexual violence

Emergence of restrictive gender roles

Conversion therapy

Heightened risk of HIV and STI transmission

Social pressure to marry and/or have children in heterosexual partnership



CHILD



TEENAGER



YOUNG ADULT

SUPPORT



What initiatives exist
already to support
LGBTI youth?



In schools

- Gay-straight alliances
- Safe space activities
- Youth groups
- Comprehensive sex education



In health centres

- Comprehensive sex education
- Health advocate mentor programs
- Health in schools initiatives



In community centres

- Often serve as drop-in centers for homeless youth
- Connections to other services

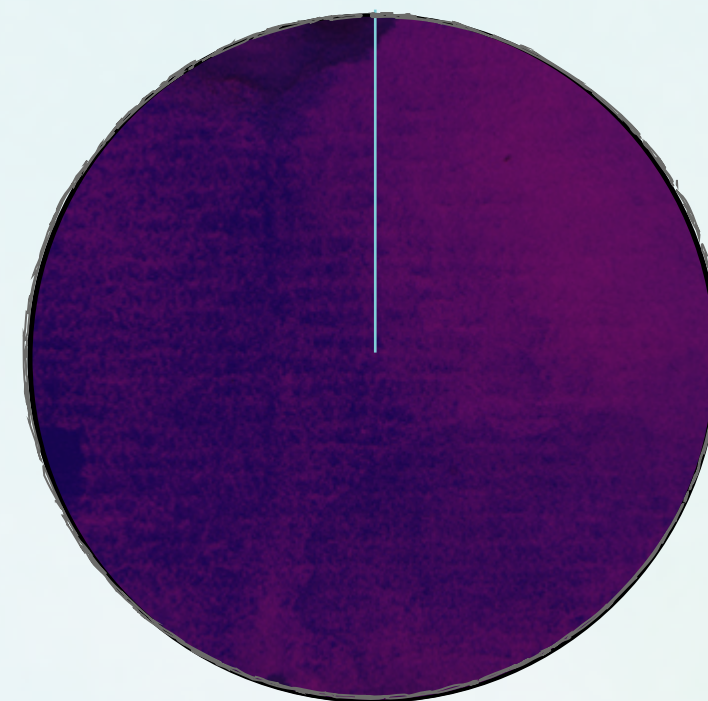


FUNDING



The **funding** for LGBTI children and youth is woefully **insufficient**.

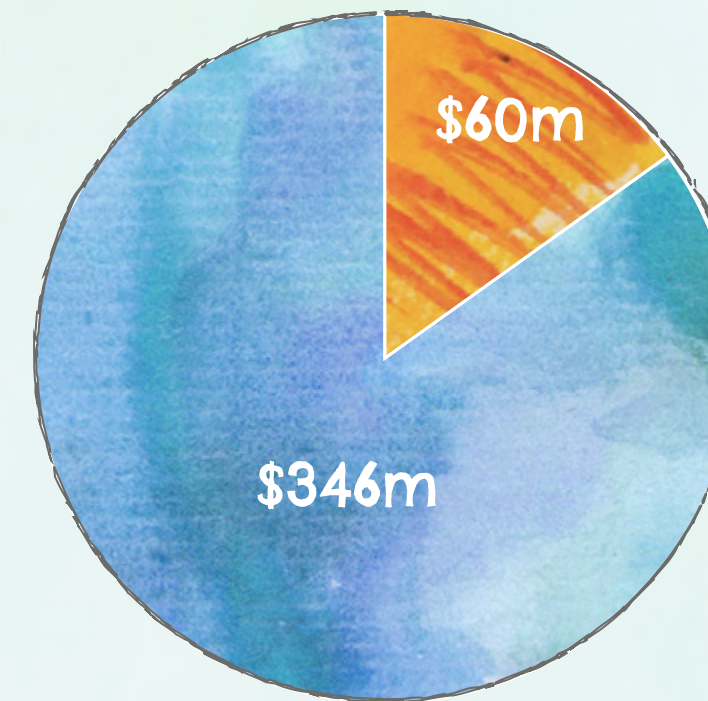
The amount available for programming for LGBTI children and youth is very small compared to the overall funding available for LGBTI issues, which is small in comparison to overall human rights issues.



17c PER \$100

2015-16

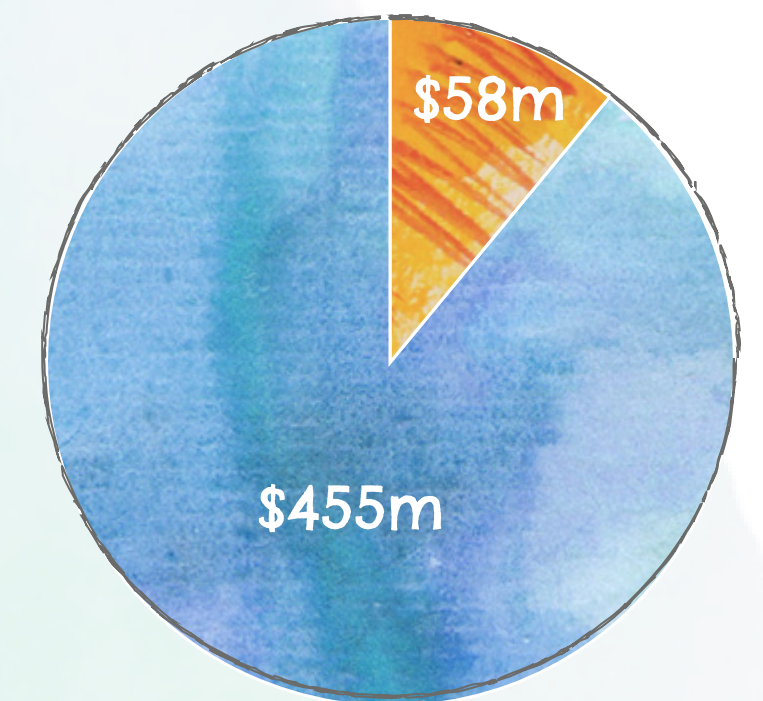
Proportion of North American and European foundation funding allocated to LGBTI communities



15%

2013-14

Percentage of total funding for LGBTI issues designated for children and youth



11%

2015-16

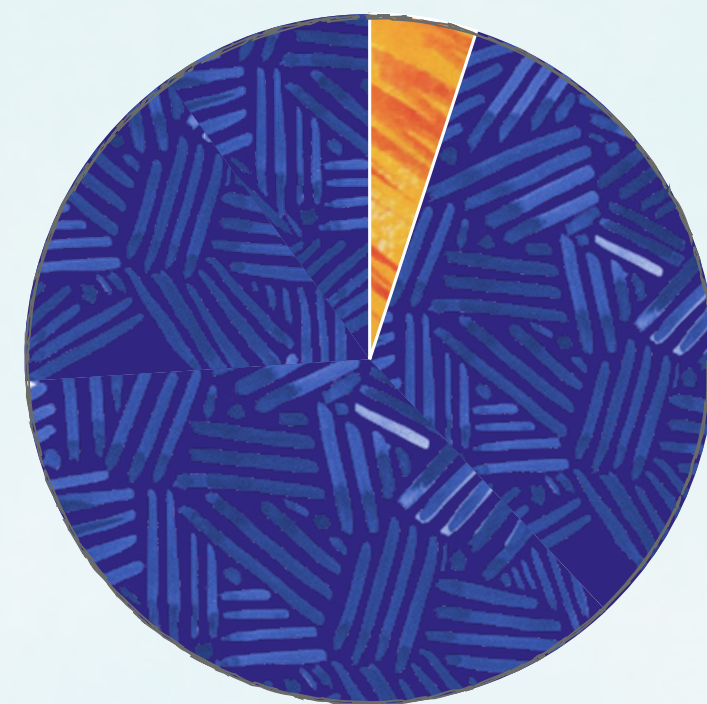


FUNDING



The funds that do exist **aren't** necessarily **reaching LGBTI children and their families...**

This focus on communal and social approaches is a defensible approach, but it does beg the question of whether and how services and supports are directly reaching the families, children, and youth who need them. Are the efforts to strengthen community investments and social systems translating into changes in the lives of children and youth?



<1%
to services or
supports that reach
children directly

5%
to family
strengthening
efforts

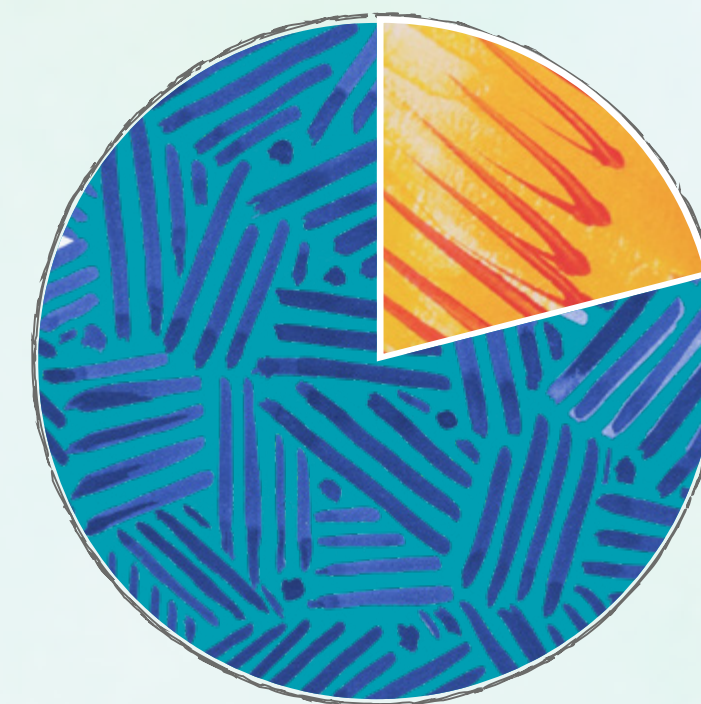
95%
to community
and societal-level
supports

2013-16

Global funding for LGBTI children and youth disaggregated by level

.. and most of it is **only available in the USA.**

There is a tremendous imbalance between investment in LGBTI children and youth in the United States and those in the rest of the world.

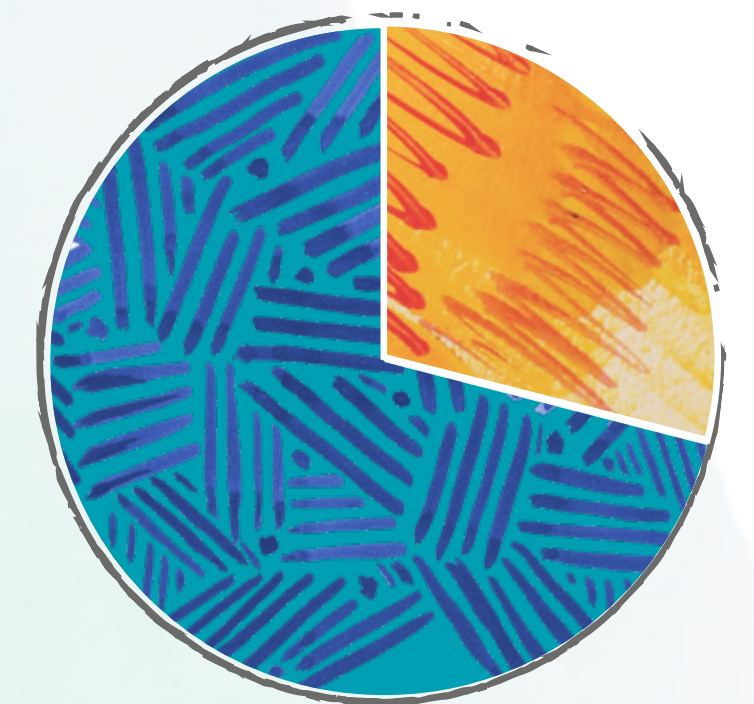


21%
Rest of the
world

79%
United
States

2013-14

Amount of LGBTI funding allocated to the rest of world compared to the USA



29%
Rest of the
world

71%
United
States

2015-16





Adults must be **courageous**. Unlearn what we have learned about sexuality, gender, and sex characteristics.

We must leave behind whatever myths we might have swallowed over the years and focus on the human rights of children who are growing up differently from most.

They need us.

Adopt a sophisticated, complex **gender lens**.

Such a lens gets us quite far along the path of creating programs that are helping LGBTI children by challenging the gender binary, challenging sexism, and challenging heteronormativity.

A holistic "**systems approach**" is especially vital to support LGBTI children and youth.

LGBTI children and youth are present across family, community, and social systems. Support must include direct service provision to children and families, as well as engagement with larger systems impacting children and youth such as educational, legal, and advocacy structures.

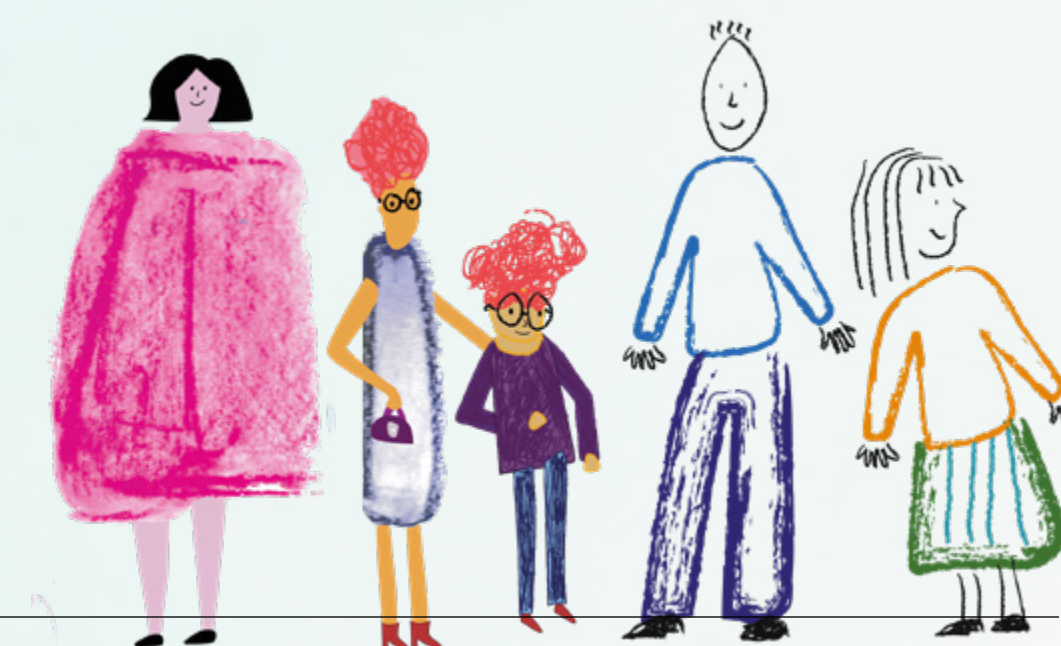
Learn more about the situation of LGBTI children around the world, and learn more about funding

Simply understanding how sexuality, gender, identity formation, and family and community relationships differ for children in a variety of contexts will help to fill a tremendous evidence gap. Ensure this understanding is not only applied to high-income countries.

To **support** children is to support **LGBTI children**, too.

How can we use that reality to grow the pie for the total amount of global funding for LGBTI communities, instead of just drawing more and more from the limited existing resources earmarked for this group?

You may be wondering, "How can I fund in this space?" Know that if you are funding LGBTI communities or funding work with children/youth, you are already funding work that impacts LGBTI children and youth. Learn more about how your grantees are and are not taking SOGIESC considerations into account.



SUPPORT

LGBTI

YOUTH



Learn more:



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