

VIBRANT YET UNDER-RESOURCED:

LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND QUEER (LBQ) GROUPS AND MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA

INTRODUCTION

This regional brief, one in a series of four¹, supplements data presented in the report *Vibrant Yet Under-Resourced: The State Of Lesbian, Bisexual, And Queer Movements*, published in June 2020.

total 378 LBQ groups that participated in the survey, 89 were located in Africa, representing LBQ-led organizations located in 23 countries (out of a total of 58 countries in the region).

This data is drawn from respondents in Africa to a global survey of activists. Of the

KEY FINDINGS

An actively growing movement

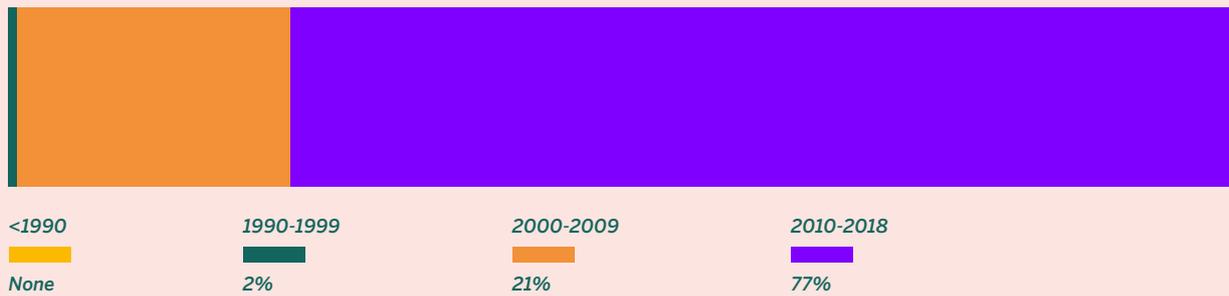
The global survey found that LBQ-led groups are organizing worldwide and that LBQ movements are growing rapidly, with a large majority of groups having been founded since 2000. Figure 1 (see page 2) confirms this finding for Africa, where virtually all LBQ organizations (98%) in the region have been established since 2000 (and with a significant majority of 77% established since 2010), showing that the LBQ movement in Africa is young and has grown considerably since 2010.

Registration status

The very high incidence of recently established LBQ groups in Africa suggests a wave of new activism, and it is interesting to note that these groups are also overwhelmingly registered (more so than in the sample as a whole): 70% reported that they were registered, followed by 20% that were in the process of registering (compared with 60% registered and 9% in the process in the total sample).

1 – The four briefs present data from LBQ groups in: 1) Africa, 2) Asia and the Pacific, 3) Europe and Central Asia, and 4) Latin America and the Caribbean. There is no brief for the Middle East/Western Asia as the number of responses was too small to analyze.

Figure 1. Year LBQ groups were established

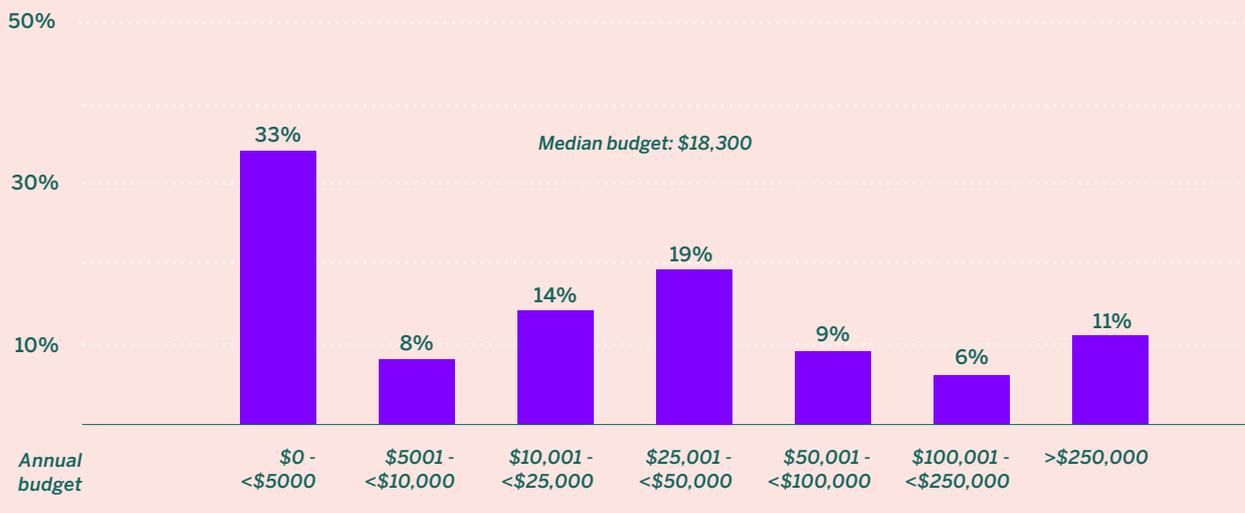


Access to resourcing

The respondents from Africa that provided information about their annual budget (n=64²) illustrated the overall research finding that LBQ organizations globally are under-resourced and working with very small budgets. Figure 2 shows that **nearly three-quarters of groups are operating with annual budgets of \$50,000 or less** (and one-third have budgets under \$5,000). **The median budget of LBQ groups in Africa was \$18,300.**

Consistent with small budgets, groups in Africa reported limited access to external funding³. In Africa, the **median annual external funding reported was \$7,215**. Additionally, of 56 groups that provided information about the quality of funding they receive, two-thirds (66%) reported never having received multi-year funding.

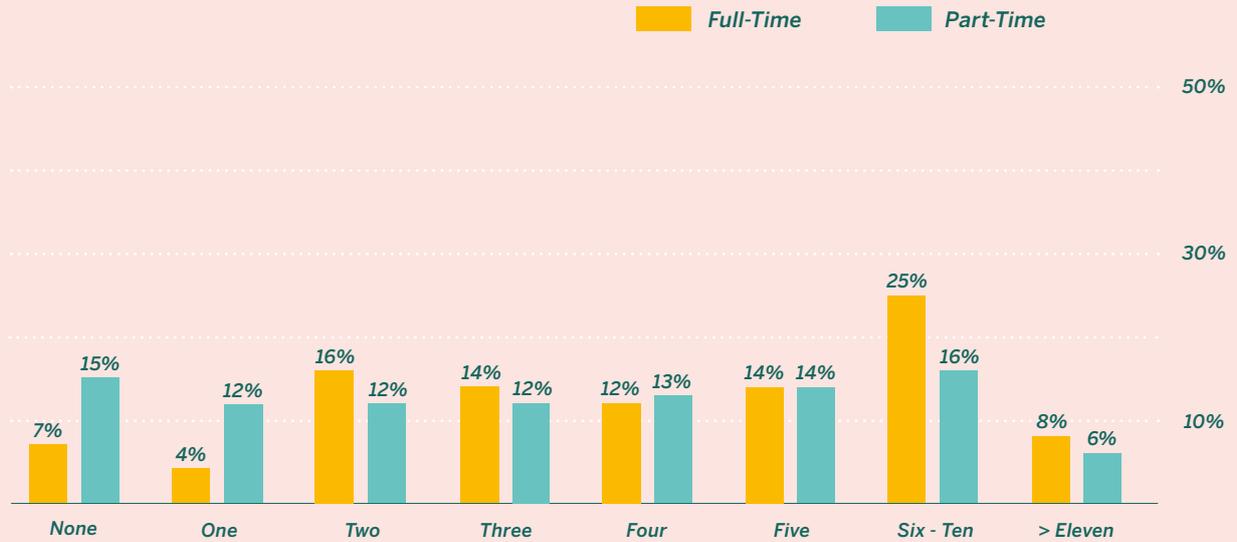
Figure 2. Annual budget sizes of LBQ groups



2 – Note: not all respondents answered every question in the survey. In cases where many respondents did not answer a question, we have noted the number of responses to the question.

3 – External funding was defined in the survey as government and foundation funding (e.g., grants), and excluded membership fees, community fundraisers, events, and individual contributions from founders or their family members.

Figure 3. Number of full-time staff / part-time staff



Staffing

Despite limited access to resourcing, groups in Africa reported having more staff than the total global sample. As Figure 3 shows, very few groups in Africa report having no full-time staff; the majority reported having at least a few staff members, both full- and part-time (n=76 for full-time staff and n=68 for part-time staff questions).

As in other regions, volunteers⁴ made an important contribution to sustaining the work of LBQ organizations in Africa. As Figure 4 shows, a large majority of groups were supported by volunteers (workers who do not receive a salary, but may receive a stipend). These data on volunteers suggest that LBQ groups may be well-anchored in their communities or have a vibrant base of committed constituents.

Figure 4. Number of volunteers



4 – The survey defined a volunteer as working 10 or more hours per week on a regular basis.

Activist strategies

African LBQ organizations reported using a variety of strategies in their activist work to secure change in their communities. As Figure 5 shows, virtually all groups use movement building, advocacy and capacity building, and three-quarters use the other strategies asked about in the survey, with cultural change work being the only exception.⁵

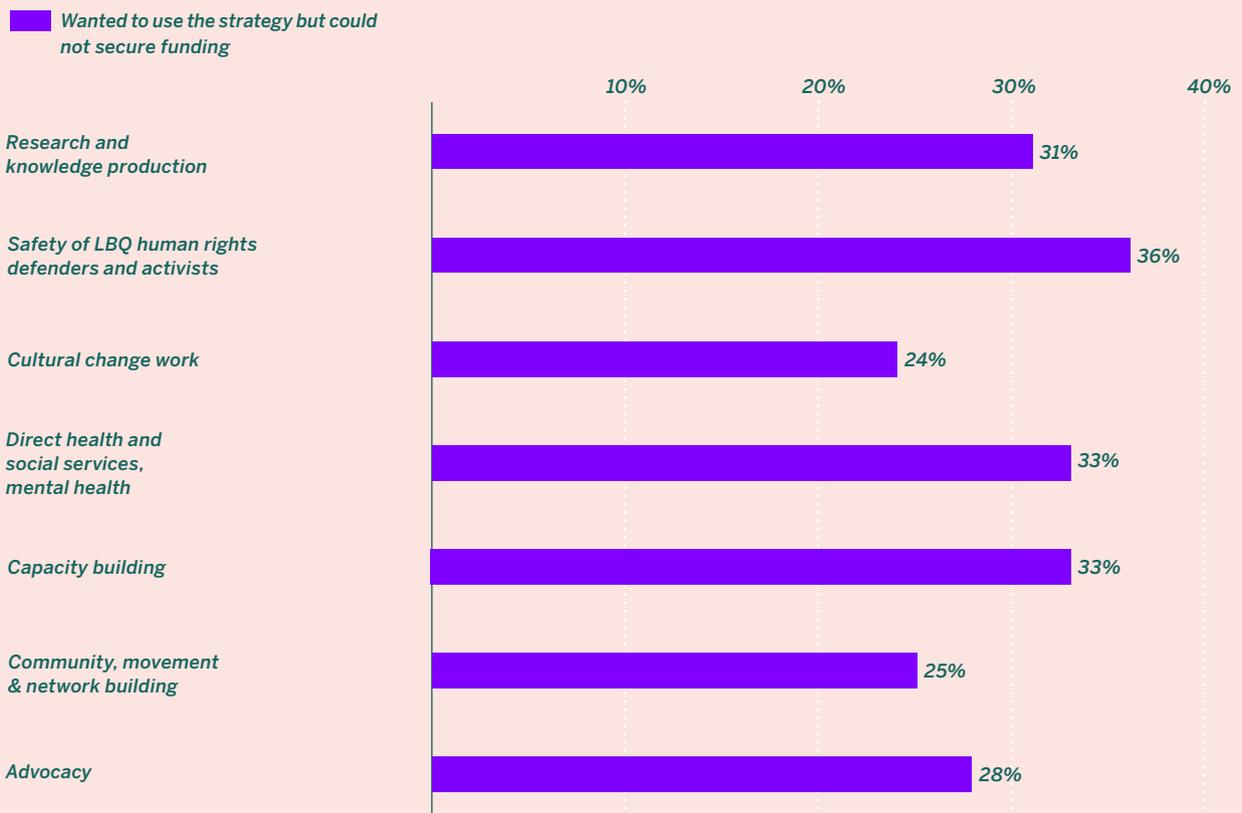
Resourcing challenges

Many LBQ organizations are not able to secure funding for all of the strategies they would like to implement. Figure 6 shows the responses of groups in Africa for each of the strategies they said they would have liked to implement but for which they were unable to secure resources.

Figure 5. Strategies used by LBQ groups



Figure 6. Organizing strategies that LBQ groups could not secure funding for



5 – Many respondents did not provide answers to all of the questions regarding the strategies that they used. The data presented here are based on the responses provided, between 19 to 44 responses, depending on the strategy in question.

CONCLUSIONS

The data from Africa are consistent with the conclusions of the *Vibrant Yet Under-Resourced* report. The data show that most of the LBQ-led organizations in the region have been established recently, with more than three-quarters founded since 2010.

LBQ groups report an acute lack of resourcing. Though African LBQ groups report more full- and part-time staff members than groups from other regions, nearly three-quarters are still

operating with annual budgets of less than \$50,000, and most groups also rely on volunteer labor.

Despite the very limited resourcing they are able to access, LBQ groups are engaging in advocacy, community and movement building and other strategies in order to advocate for justice for their constituencies. The data suggests that more robust resourcing would support them to do so much more.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO DONORS⁶

- Increase funding for LBQ communities and direct it to LBQ-led groups**, especially under-funded groups based outside of North America.
- Make funding more accessible to LBQ groups.** Simplify application requirements and partner with public foundations and women's funds that have the capacity to support small and/or unregistered groups.
- Improve the quality of funding for LBQ groups.** Provide flexible, unrestricted and multi-year funding that allows LBQ groups to pursue their own agendas and to do long-term strategic work. [Groups in Africa reported having very limited access to multi-year funding.](#)
- Direct funding to regions where LBQ groups' access is especially limited:** the Middle East/Southwest Asia, Europe and Central Asia, and Asia and the Pacific.
- Invest in research and knowledge production, and in service provision**, two priorities of LBQ groups that are particularly under-funded. Knowledge building bolsters advocacy and movement-building, and direct services are critical for the well-being and sustainability of LBQ activists and movements.
- Increase non-financial support to LBQ groups and ensure it meets their needs.** Make dedicated efforts to invest in the organizational capacity building of LBQ groups and to connect them with new donors.
- For donors without LBQ-specific portfolios, ensure that funding intended for LBQ communities reaches them** by developing specific and measurable strategies.
- Seek to "de-silo" funding to support LBQ groups' intersectional work.** Donors focused on women's rights, SRHR, HIV and AIDS, youth, sex workers, and other issues and constituencies can consider how LBQ groups fit into their portfolios.

6 – The full report discusses all eight recommendations in greater detail.

Read the full report *Vibrant Yet Under-Resourced* at www.fundlbq.org.



P.O. Box 15686
1001 ND Amsterdam
The Netherlands

+31 (0)20 515 87 00
info@mamacash.org
mamacash.org



ASTRAEA LESBIAN FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE

116 East 16th Street, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10003
United States

+1 212-529-8021
info@astraeafoundation.org
astraeafoundation.org