



THRIVE Consortium

Midpoint Update

Jan 2025 - Jul 2026

***How trans-led, cross-regional collaboration
and flexible core funding are strengthening
the global human rights movement.***



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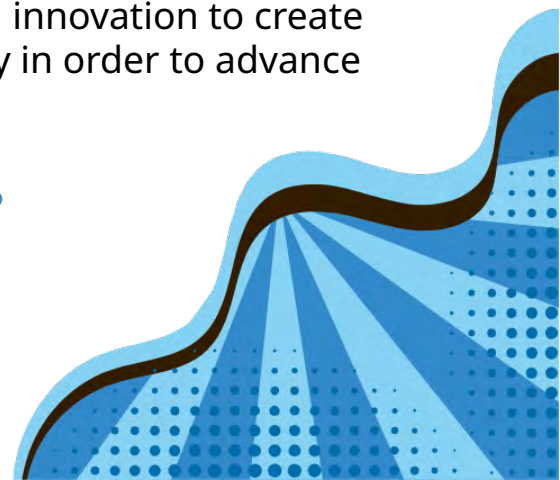
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About GATE

GATE works to advance global justice for trans and gender diverse communities. Our vision is a future where trans and gender diverse communities live freely, safely, and with dignity. We are community-led and community-centered, working with integrity and innovation to create opportunities for shared learning and resource equity in order to advance global solidarity across borders and movements.

Find out more about GATE by visiting www.gate.ngo



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A stronger consortium for more challenging times

The **THRIVE Consortium** is a global coalition of trans-led organizations working together to advance the rights, health and well-being of trans and gender diverse people. Led by GATE, the Consortium connects global advocacy efforts with regional leadership throughout East Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe.

THRIVE was established in 2022, supported by flexible core funding from the Robert Carr Fund (RCF). This funding has played a crucial role in the Consortium's evolution and expansion, allowing members to enhance their organizations while also creating a collective framework for collaboration across different regions. However, the work of the THRIVE Consortium goes beyond the scope of the project grant, developing connections, expanding knowledge, providing mutual support and facilitating joint advocacy, thus establishing a sustainable platform for collaboration between trans-led organizations across the world.

In 2025, THRIVE entered a new phase with a significant expansion: the [Eurasian Key Populations Coalition](#) (EKPC) and [RedLacTrans](#) joined [EATHAN](#), [TGEU](#), [UCTrans](#) and GATE, expanding THRIVE's reach to five trans-led regional networks. This expansion has enhanced the Consortium's geographical scope, regional expertise, and its capacity to align community needs with decision-making processes.

This growth happened during a crucial period. In 2025, trans-led organizations across all regions experienced drastic funding cuts for human rights and HIV programs, in a general context of diminishing civic space, coordinated assaults on gender rights and increasing uncertainty regarding global health institutions. Regional networks are now required to address an increasing number of emergencies, provide support to more organizations, and engage in increasingly complex advocacy efforts, all while working with limited resources and facing reduced institutional stability.

At the midpoint of this 2025-2027 phase, the THRIVE Consortium's impactful work leads to two clear insights:

 **1. Trans-led, cross-regional consortium models prove effective when they blend shared power with flexible core funding.**

 **2. Together, members of the THRIVE Consortium achieve outcomes that no individual initiative could replicate alone.**

Since January 2025, members of THRIVE have actively maintained crucial regional infrastructure, addressed urgent funding and protection issues, produced relevant evidence, enhanced community leadership, increased access to decision-making opportunities and shaped both regional and international HIV and human rights initiatives.

These achievements are enabled by flexible core support, which allows each member to retain the personnel, systems, connections and adaptability necessary to fulfill their mission while also engaging in a collective global effort.

Results at a glance

 **1 Global and 5 regional trans-led networks** collaborating across regions and contexts.

USD \$695,268 regranting by GATE in 2025, alongside **99 tailored technical assistance** assignments delivered across 43 countries. In the first half of 2026 alone, GATE delivered 93 additional technical assistance and 10 capacity-building assignments. 

 **203 organizations connected through GATE's new [membership structure](#)**, creating a wider platform for solidarity, resourcing and learning.

16 East African organizations surveyed in 2025 on the consequences of the funding crisis, with 87% describing the cuts as severe, leading to the launch in 2026 of an unprecedented [trans-led emergency fund](#) for LGBTIQ+ human rights activists and organizations in East Africa. 

 **32 trans advocates equipped** through the 2025 and 2026 editions of [UN Trans Advocacy Week](#) to engage the Human Rights Council, contributing to the **renewal of the Independent Expert on SOGI mandate**, bringing trans priorities on civic space into UN debates and convening the **most well-attended side event** in its ten-year history (**18 Member States**).

Trans-led priorities amplified and centered within the 2026 UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS governance, Global Fund processes, the Organization of American States, and the Inter-American human rights system. 

 **Around 70% community representation** secured among speakers in the UNAIDS 58th Programme Coordinating Board Thematic Segment on Harm Reduction.

Trans-led organizations from 13 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean coordinated ahead of the **2026 OAS General Assembly**, strengthening collective advocacy and community participation. 

 **Approximately 100,000 people were reached** and sensitized on trans-specific health, HIV, and human rights issues in 2026 alone.

A regional social-protection roadmap was developed and disseminated to address the exclusion of trans people in Barbados, Guyana and Jamaica. 

Why the model works

Cross-regional collaboration is often promoted as a response to fragmented movements and scarce resources. However, many current models continue to depend on centralized methods that lead to disparities. Too often, a single organization dictates the use of funding and determines the level of visibility, while local partners are often relegated to implementation or consultative roles.

THRIVE provides a unique structure that relies on three core principles:

-  **Community leadership:** All members are trans-led organizations. Communities therefore shape priorities, budgets and advocacy positions rather than being consulted after decisions have already been made for them.
-  **Shared global infrastructure without erasing regional expertise:** The Consortium combines shared governance with regional autonomy. Members align around common goals while retaining the freedom to respond to their own political contexts, constituencies and advocacy opportunities.
-  **Flexible core funding:** A key component of this model is the provision of flexible core funding to all members. This funding not only supports visible initiatives but also supports key operating efforts, such as staff, financial management, communication, governance, institutional knowledge and the cultivation of trusted relationships, all of which are crucial for achieving meaningful results.

Because RCF funding strengthens the organization as a whole, this report uses a contribution approach. Achievements are included when core support sustained staff time, systems or flexibility that helped produce them, even when other funders also contributed.

THRIVE

achievements

and

impact

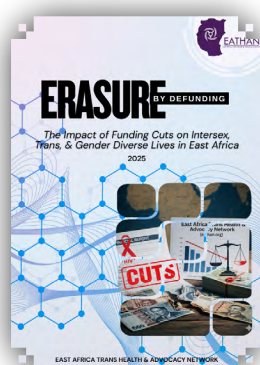


East Africa Trans Health and Advocacy Network (EATHAN)

Documenting and responding to the funding crisis

EATHAN is an East Africa regional network comprised of 32 trans and gender diverse member organizations based in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The organization was founded in 2016 to advocate for the improvement of the health and human rights of trans and gender diverse persons in the region, utilizing informed research and documentation, advocacy, and access to legal justice to push for change.

In 2025, EATHAN's [Erasure by Defunding report](#) revealed the impact of funding cuts on 16 organizations serving trans, gender diverse and intersex communities in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Among the responding organizations:



- 87% described funding cuts as severe.
- All reported major disruptions to essential programs.
- 87% reported deteriorating service quality.
- 73% experienced staffing impacts.
- 43% had depended on withdrawn funding for between 81% and 100% of their budgets.

The report demonstrated that defunding trans-led organizations directly weakens HIV prevention, hormone access, mental health support, safe housing and other essential services.

Following on from this report, EATHAN took action, supporting supported member organizations in Kenya and Rwanda with relocation, rent, medication, legal support and safety measures. It also assisted trans refugee organizing and strengthened psychosocial referral pathways across five countries. In 2025, EATHAN established an **emergency-response mechanism offering grants of up to USD \$1,000 to organizations** in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. In 2026, building upon these successes, EATHAN took a step further and **launched an [unprecedented trans-led emergency fund](#) for LGBTQI+ human rights activists and organizations.**

Core funding was essential for the organization's institutional strengthening as it also supported staff counseling, the development of internal policies, the provision of the regional resource hub and organizational continuity. The result was immediate as, in one year alone, four new members joined the network, bringing its total membership to just under 40 organizations.



EURASIAN KEY POPULATIONS COALITION

Eurasian Key Populations Coalition (EKPC)

Building regional advocacy capacity through leadership development and information sharing

In 2025, [EKPC](#) joined the THRIVE Consortium. EKPC is the only officially registered trans-led regional organization in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, coordinating a collaborative network of national and regional organizations. Together, they work to improve health, inclusion, and social well-being for trans and gender diverse individuals in the region by addressing gender inequalities and human rights violations that increase vulnerability to HIV.

Through initiatives like the [Eurasian Gender Academy](#), EKPC enhances leadership within the community, promoting gender-sensitive HIV programming and facilitating involvement in Global Fund activities. Over the course of a few months, the organization provided training for advocates to improve their understanding of Grant Cycle 8, to engage effectively with Country Coordinating Mechanisms, and to identify gaps in access to PrEP and healthcare services.

As part of its '[Pedal to Gender](#)' initiative, EKPC also trained healthcare providers in Armenia on medical ethics, confidentiality, informed consent, non-discrimination and evidence-based trans healthcare. As a result, participating clinics improved internal capacities and expanded access to quality laboratory and medical services for trans and gender diverse communities.

In 2026, its [Big Podcast](#) and related communications reached approximately 100,000 people with information on HIV, sexual health, harm reduction, violence, human rights and global funding processes. EKPC translated information on the 2026 HIV High-Level Meeting into Russian, produced multilingual testing materials and developed a harm-reduction roadmap. Hence, EKPC's work is key to reducing language and information barriers, empowering communities to enter policy processes that would otherwise remain highly inaccessible.

United Caribbean Trans Network (UCTrans)



Advocating beyond siloes by connecting climate justice, legal identity and health drivers

UCTrans is the first Caribbean initiative advocating on behalf of the Caribbean trans and gender diverse community, providing support in leadership, governance and strategic guidance to the local movements across the region, including Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Cuba, Suriname, Dominican Republic, and Haiti.

UCTrans has broadened regional advocacy by showing that HIV and health outcomes cannot be separated from legal identity, housing, disaster response and access to gender-affirming care. Its work connects three priorities: administrative pathways to legal gender recognition, the integration of gender-affirming care into national health systems, and the inclusion of trans communities in climate and disaster-response systems. The organization's most recent advocacy efforts highlighted the link between climate change and disruptions in HIV treatment, hormone therapy and other vital healthcare services.

In 2024, UCTrans conducted a [comprehensive study on the impact of the climate crisis on trans communities' access to rights and health](#). The study demonstrates that **59% of trans and gender diverse respondents faced interruptions in their hormone or HIV-related care during climate emergencies**. During 2025 and 2026, this data was used to advocate for inclusive relief efforts, secure housing, and emergency assistance for the trans and gender diverse community. For example, in Jamaica, UCTrans was instrumental in providing support by organizing emergency financial aid and securing temporary accommodation for trans and gender diverse individuals who encountered discrimination in traditional government shelters.



Additionally, UCTrans and its members played a key role in developing a [Transgender Inclusive Social Protection Roadmap](#) to promote trans-inclusive social protection and poverty reduction, in partnership with UNDP. This roadmap was directly informed by community consultations and specifically addresses the needs of Barbados, Guyana, and Jamaica. **It offers policymakers specific suggestions to enhance access to social security, housing support and unemployment aid**, which are critical areas where trans and gender diverse individuals frequently face exclusion due to discrimination or insufficient legal recognition.

In late 2026, UCTrans has planned a first-of-its-kind regional trans-led strategic convening, [Transcendence](#). From 7-10 October 2026, **UCTrans will bring together 50 community leaders, healthcare professionals, policymakers and collaborators to develop a unified regional healthcare strategy**. Ultimately, these efforts aim to improve trans and gender diverse health equity and well-being.

Red Latinoamericana y del Caribe de Personas Trans (RedLacTrans)

Converting evidence into regional advocacy

In 2025, the THRIVE Consortium welcomed a second new member, [**RedLacTrans**](#), the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Transgender People. RedLacTrans was founded in 2004 and has an extensive network across Latin America and the Caribbean of 23 member organizations. REDLACTRANS aims to guarantee all rights for trans people in the region by documenting and addressing violence, advocating for legal protections, strengthening organizational sustainability, and reducing HIV incidence through prevention and healthcare access. RedLacTrans brings deep community connections throughout the 19 countries it covers, a solid track record in documenting regional human rights violations, and strong links to the regional human rights system.

Since joining the THRIVE Consortium, RedLacTrans has developed a [2026-2028 subregional political advocacy plan for Central America and Mexico](#) and a [regional sustainability plan](#) addressing poverty, employment, education, alliances and funding.



These strategy documents were informed by valuable data collected over the 10 years prior to joining the THRIVE Consortium (2015-2025) through [CeDoSTALC](#), RedLacTrans' community-led regional documentation system, registering more than 6,300 cases of violence and human rights violations against trans people across the region.

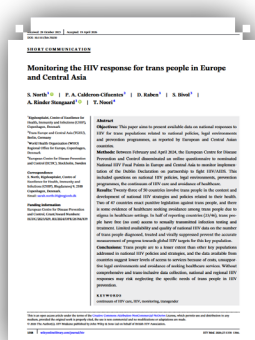
RedLacTrans also developed a [Comprehensive Guide for the Prevention of and Response to Digital Violence against Trans People in the Region](#) through a collaborative process that included input from trans activists based in Panama, Costa Rica, Peru, Mexico, Honduras and Chile.

These documents have been critical tools for RedLacTrans to **advance evidence-based advocacy during key events at both the global and regional levels** in 2025 and 2026. During the 2026 High-Level Meeting on HIV and AIDS, RedLacTrans ensured Latin American and Caribbean trans priorities were considered, and at the 2026 Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly, they coordinated the member organization participation across 13 countries. They also provide leadership in the wider OAS LGBTTTIQ+ and sex workers coalition, bringing together 57 activists from 26 countries to engage senior OAS and IACHR representatives and work to secure more permanent civil society access to their communities.

Building a European and Central Asian trans-specific HIV portfolio with institutional reach

TGEU is a trans-led regional organization working in Europe and Central Asia, comprising a membership of 166 organizations and 258 individuals across 47 countries in the region. It was founded to strengthen the rights and well-being of trans people, representing their diverse needs within human rights mechanisms and building their capacity and skills to meet the needs of their communities.

Since 2025, TGEU has developed an **extensive regional portfolio on HIV that integrates research, advocacy for policy change, community involvement, harm reduction efforts and transformations within health systems**. Serving as NGO Delegate for Europe on the [UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board \(PCB\) NGO Delegation](#), the organization contributes directly to global HIV governance. Key achievements included leading the development of the [NGO Report](#) on community-led, integrated HIV services and participating in the [58th UNAIDS PCB meeting](#), where TGEU played a key role in shaping negotiations on the future of UNAIDS, long-acting antiretrovirals, community-led monitoring and harm reduction, contributing to the adoption of key decision points. This included highlighting the specific needs of trans and gender diverse communities in the consultation process that informed the UNAIDS Global AIDS Strategy 2026-2031. As a focal point for the PCB thematic segment on harm reduction, TGEU also helped design the process, support community speakers and ensure that approximately 70% of participants represented affected communities. This included engaging directly in drafting negotiations, advocating for stronger commitments on meaningful participation, affordability and the protection of community leadership throughout the transition of the Joint Programme.



TGEU has also **influenced discussions within European policy**, focusing on aspects such as integrated healthcare, legal recognition of gender, community-led monitoring, and fair access to HIV-related technologies. As part of TGEU's research efforts, their HIV Research and Advocacy Officer co-authored [peer-reviewed research with WHO Europe, European Center for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\) and the Center of Excellence for Health, Immunity and Infections \(CHIP\)](#) on the exclusion of trans and gender diverse people from national HIV monitoring systems.

In Central Asia, TGEU responded to disruptions in health services caused by funding cuts by supporting specialized training for Central Asian healthcare professionals. In collaboration with the [Tangerine Clinic](#), seven doctors from diverse disciplines were brought to Bangkok for intensive training that connected HIV care with endocrinology, mental health, sexual and reproductive health and trauma-informed practice. The program aimed to strengthen local capacity to provide trans-competent referrals and services.

Global Action for Trans Equality - GATE

Backing global policy influence with powerful movement infrastructure

GATE works to advance global justice for trans and gender diverse communities. Community-led and community-centered, since 2025, GATE has operated within a global membership structure, creating opportunities for shared learning and resource equity in order to advance global solidarity across borders and movements. Currently, there are 203 organizational members from every region of the world.

With the launch of GATE's membership structure in 2025, a members-only App was launched to enhance interconnectivity across regions, as well as provide end-to-end encrypted messaging in a closed network to protect our members' identities. The membership structure provides [grants](#) for a range of projects and core support, as well as customized support in the form of technical assistance and capacity-building assignments.

In the first year of membership, **GATE provided 99 technical assistance assignments across 43 countries and regranting USD \$695,268 to trans and gender diverse-led organizations.** In 2026, GATE is scaling its Membership Technical Assistance and Capacity Building program. In the first half of 2026 alone, GATE delivered 93 technical assistance and 10 comprehensive capacity-building assignments. This support **helped organizations respond to abrupt funding withdrawals, improve internal systems and strengthen advocacy.**

GATE also expanded trans leadership within multilateral human rights and health processes. Thirty-two trans advocates participated in UN Trans Advocacy Week in [2025](#) and [2026](#), with other globally-focused interventions including submitting evidence to UN bodies, supporting community-led human rights reporting and engaging with the Global Fund, UNAIDS, WHO and other global health institutions.

This institutional capacity proved vital during the [2026 UN High-Level Meeting \(HLM\) on HIV and AIDS](#). GATE played a pivotal role as [co-chair of the Multi-Stakeholder Task Force](#) that focused on fostering civil society and community involvement. GATE contributed to the **development of advocacy strategies, articulated civil society's priorities, and integrated trans-led demands into the Political Declaration process.** During the official Multi-Stakeholder Hearing, GATE facilitated discussions on providing equitable and stigma-free services and presented a case for community leadership, accountability and inclusive governance. Beyond powerful representation, these efforts significantly empowered trans and gender diverse communities to engage in the HLM process as organized, effective political entities with common advocacy goals.

From Political Commitments to Real Action:

GATE's Engagement at the
2026 UN High-Level Meeting
on HIV and AIDS and
The Road to 2031



The High Level Meeting itself provided an important opportunity to translate this engagement into [direct political influence](#).

GATE played a crucial role by **presenting formal contributions that ensured the visibility of trans and gender diverse communities in the international HIV response** and shaped official conversations about fair access to HIV innovations and community leadership. Additionally, GATE facilitated the thematic panel on community leadership during the HLM. Despite the extremely difficult international geopolitical context, the final Political Declaration clearly acknowledged key populations, reaffirmed targets for community leadership, and committed Member States to raising USD 21.9 billion annually for HIV initiatives in low- and middle-income countries by 2030.

GATE's leadership in the process played a crucial role in ensuring this continued international commitment to a human rights-based and community-centered HIV response. GATE, in collaboration with [Global Black Gay Men Connect](#), also organized the "From Commitments to Action" side event. This gathering united community networks, government representatives, funders and global health stakeholders to evaluate the outcomes and shape priorities for future action. This dialogue across movements was instrumental in transforming the political messages from the HLM into a collective agenda focused on evidence, advocacy and accountability as we move toward 2031.

What the results demonstrate

Core funding ensures ongoing stability

Core support helped maintain the irreplaceable organizations, systems and people behind the tangible results described in this report. Such support allows organizations to retain their expertise, engage in lengthy policy discussions, coordinate with their members and respond swiftly to emergencies.

Strong regional infrastructure is key to a strong global influence

Members operated at different yet complementary levels: local strategies based on evidence inform regional approaches; regional networks empower national organizations; and global advocacy open avenues for trans-led priorities in international policymaking.

Cross-regional solidarity and growth are the best ways to prevent fragmentation

Incorporating two new members amid a massive funding crisis did not weaken the Consortium; quite the opposite. THRIVE was strengthened through support from existing regional bodies rather than by establishing duplicate structures. EKPC contributed through multilingual communications, health care awareness and engagement with the Global Fund. Meanwhile, RedLacTrans brought in well-established documentation, regional advocacy efforts and access to Inter-American institutions.

In times where our movements are pushed towards isolation and competition, the THRIVE model fosters radical solidarity.

Flexible funding is key to adaptation and crisis preparedness

Many significant 2025-2026 outcomes were a response to unforeseen developments, including the funding crisis, urgent protection needs, the future of UNAIDS, the HLM negotiations and new opportunities to influence regional health and social protection policies. This flexible funding empowered members to take action as unforeseen changes in the landscape arose, in a way that funding restrictions would not have allowed.



Conclusions: The road to December 2027

For the second half of the project funding cycle, the THRIVE Consortium will continue to strengthen what has proved successful so far and to continue to innovate where new solutions are called for.

This will include:

- Maintaining essential personnel and regional infrastructure
- Enhancing collective efforts in monitoring and documenting evidence
- Transforming community-gathered evidence gathered into a coordinated advocacy
- Safeguarding the community's role in UNAIDS, the Global Fund and key regional initiatives
- Continue supporting rapid responses to political challenges, interruptions in services and organizational crises
- Utilizing key regional and global advocacy spaces as opportunities to raise awareness on the Consortium's findings, foster collaboration and advocacy efforts across different regions, and raise THRIVE's profile as a viable alternative to conventional, extractive partnership approaches (e.g., AIDS 2026).
- Conducting resource mobilization and diversification efforts, including exploring ways to broaden the Consortium's membership and regional influence.

The midpoint evidence is clear: trans-led organizations achieve tangible health, policy, protection and movement results when they are trusted with flexible resources and connected through equitable regional and global infrastructure.

Investing in trans-led, cross-regional consortium models is an effective HIV and human rights intervention strategy because it builds the collective power, resilience and coordination required for sustainable impact.



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