



# **The 2011 Annual Report**

**of the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF)**

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## NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



For those working for the health and human rights of gay men and other men who have sex with men, 2011 was a remarkable year of firsts. It was also a year of tremendous growth for the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF).

The World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with the MSMGF, developed and launched its first-ever guidelines for the prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among men who have sex with men and transgender people. Targeting health ministries and HIV service organizations at the country level, the guidelines fill critical gaps in knowledge and health system capacity, providing the evidence-base necessary for the delivery of appropriate prevention and treatment services to our communities.

Strong advances were also made in public health policy research, as the World Bank partnered with Johns Hopkins University to issue a groundbreaking report on the global epidemics of HIV among men who have sex with men in low and middle-income countries, presenting new epidemiologic models demonstrating the positive impact of targeted services for men who have sex with men on a country's overall epidemic.

After persistent lobbying by the MSMGF and other stakeholders, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) issued its first-ever Technical Guidance on Combination HIV Prevention for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM). Directed at field teams implementing PEPFAR-funded programs around the world, the guidance outlines a 6-point comprehensive package of combination HIV prevention services and calls for the promotion of laws, regulations and policies that improve the availability, accessibility and effectiveness of HIV prevention programs for MSM.

The year also saw a number of important scientific breakthroughs, not least of which was the HPTN 052 trial that showed for the first time the potential of antiretroviral treatment to prevent transmission of HIV between serodiscordant couples. In addition, the *Lancet* released the results of a compelling cost modeling exercise, which highlights the importance of a fully-resourced investment strategy and emphasizes evidence-based interventions for men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, sex workers and transgender people as an essential part of the HIV response. Notably, the model builds in funding support for "critical enablers" that mitigate the impact of stigma and punitive legal environments. This new Strategic Investment Framework would avert an estimated 12.2 million new infections and 7.4 million deaths over a nine year period.

In June, the United Nations General Assembly met in New York and agreed upon a new Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS. In the lead up to the meeting, the MSMGF developed a coalition statement with other global, constituency-based organizations that enumerated a list of priority issues to be reflected in the final outcome document. When finalized, the *2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS* specifically named men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs and sex workers (but regrettably, not transgender people) as key populations whose elevated risk of HIV is not adequately addressed in many national HIV prevention strategies, and goes on to prioritize evidence-based, HIV-related services targeted to our communities – another first. The Declaration also recognized the role that laws play in ensuring effective HIV-responses.

2011 ended with the Global Fund's cancellation of its Round 11 funding due to an estimated USD 2.5 billion shortfall following the failure of donor governments to honor their funding commitments. It is abundantly clear that in this time of fiscal retraction and unacceptably high treatment costs, political apathy and reductions in HIV funding represent two of the biggest threats to realizing the health and rights of all people.

Over the past year, the MSMGF worked to enhance our advocacy for expanded coverage of HIV-related programs, increased investment in effective health and rights-based interventions, better research focused on the concerns of our communities, and increased realization of the human rights of gay men and other men who have sex with men worldwide. Throughout 2011, the MSMGF worked with you to bring these principles and

goals to life through our extensive advocacy, monitoring, and community-building efforts. We lobbied strategically in our role as civil society delegate to the UNAIDS Program Coordinating Board, and we worked tirelessly at global gatherings in Addis Ababa, Amsterdam, Beijing, Busan, Geneva, London, New York City, Sao Paulo, and Washington D.C. to ensure the front-line experiences of gay men and other men who have sex with men were represented in key policy discussions.

We added nearly 3,000 new articles on the health and human rights of men who have sex with men to our website, [www.msmgf.org](http://www.msmgf.org), which received over 43,000 unduplicated visitors and nearly 250,000 page views in 2011. We also expanded our online membership by more than 40%, adding 800 new members representing over 110 different countries around the world. We developed strategic reference groups with young men who have sex with men and with transgender advocates; we released numerous policy papers and position statements on issues ranging from global financing to HIV prevention science; we launched in-country dynamic advocacy training efforts with activists in Central America, North Africa, and Southeast Asia as part of our Speaking Out initiative; and we welcomed four new members from Russia, Lebanon, Paraguay and Thailand to our Steering Committee, expanding the MSMGF's base of perspectives and experience.

In the summer of 2011, after a six-month process that involved consultations with stakeholders across a wide range of regions, disciplines and expertise, we released our *2012-2016 Strategic Plan*. This document will serve as the blueprint for our work in the coming years, asserting the importance of diverse advocates working in coalition to ensure an effective response to HIV among gay men and other men who have sex with men.

Sadly, we also had to say goodbye last year to one of the field's greatest champions for social justice and human rights with the passing of our beloved Dr. Robert Carr. A former Co-Chair and co-founder of the MSMGF, Robert was a visionary and long-term proponent of coalition-building as a core pillar of our work. Robert's absence remains especially painful given the agile mind, deep experience and fierce passion that he brought to our efforts on a daily basis. Robert was a life-force whose legacy we honor moving forward as we redouble our efforts for and with gay men and other men who have sex with men worldwide in 2012.

On behalf of our staff, Steering Committee, global members, volunteers and donors, let me thank you for an amazing 2011. We look forward to your partnership in the months and years ahead.

Warmly,

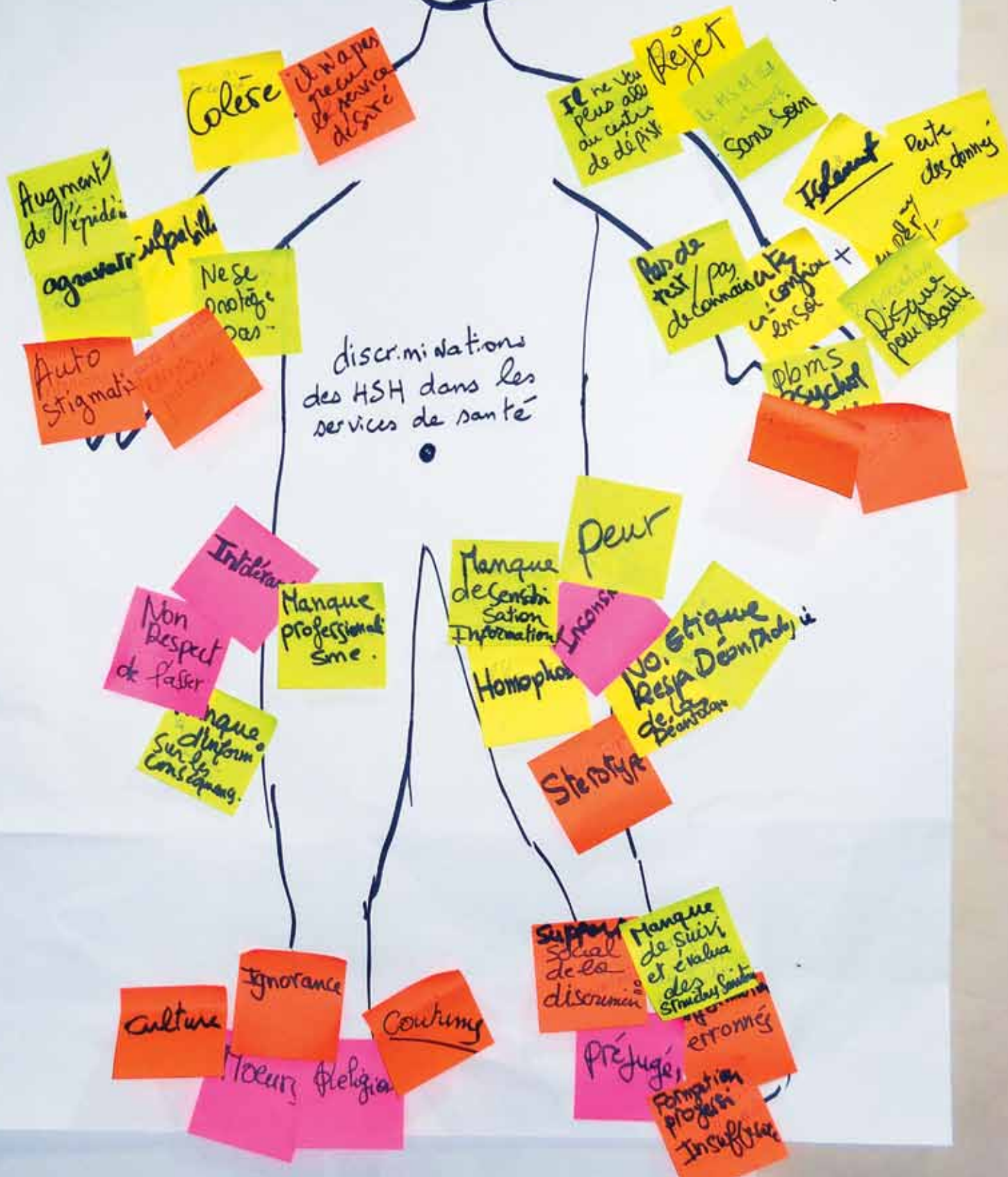


George Ayala,

Executive Director, MSMGF

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**Speaking Out**, drawing from issue mapping activity, Marrakech, Morocco, October, 2011.





# FOUNDING, MISSION, GOALS AND STRATEGY

## Founding

Established at the 2006 International AIDS Conference, the Global Forum on MSM and HIV (MSMGF) is the only global HIV and AIDS advocacy network specifically devoted to the needs of men who have sex with men (MSM). The MSMGF is governed by a collegially appointed, 20-member Steering Committee of internationally recognized advocates and HIV and AIDS professionals representing every major region of the world. The composition of the MSMGF Steering Committee is a reflection of its commitment to uphold a global perspective on MSM and HIV issues, with delegates from Australia, Cameroon, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, India, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Paraguay, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Zimbabwe actively involved.

## Mission

To advocate for equitable access to effective HIV prevention, care, treatment, and support services for gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM), including gay men and MSM living with HIV, while promoting their health and human rights worldwide.

## Goals

The work of the MSMGF is organized around five specific goals:

1. Expanded coverage of quality HIV-related services for gay men and other MSM.
2. Realized promotion and protection of human rights for gay men and other MSM.
3. Increased investment for effective health and rights-focused programs for gay men and other MSM.
4. Improved knowledge on MSM and HIV through the promotion of research, broad-based information exchange, and communications.
5. Engagement of MSM advocates around the world in efforts to promote health and rights, working with the global MSMGF network and other global, regional, sub-regional, and national networks.

## Who We Are

The MSMGF is a coalition of advocates working to ensure a response to HIV that is inclusive of and sensitive to the needs of gay men and other MSM. Our coalition includes a wide range of stakeholders, including HIV-positive and HIV-negative men directly affected by the HIV epidemic, and other health, human rights, research and policy experts. What we share is our willingness to speak out strategically and unapologetically about inequities with a particular concern for the health and human rights of gay men and other MSM who are: young, sex workers, drug users, transgender, from the global south, or who belong to racial/ethnic minority or indigenous groups.

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### Global Stakeholders Meeting

Activists, researchers, providers, donors and other stakeholders worked with the MSMGF Steering Committee Members and Secretariat Staff to develop the MSMGF's *2012-2016 Strategic Plan*, Amsterdam, Netherlands, March, 2011.

## SELECTED ACTIVITIES IN 2011

Throughout 2011, the MSMGF worked to address inadequate HIV funding and policy responses targeting MSM through a coordinated set of advocacy, information exchange, knowledge production, research, networking, and community systems strengthening activities. We carried out this work in partnership with activists and stakeholders around the world, using every available opportunity to elevate the front-line experiences of gay men and other MSM, especially those from the global south.

The following pages highlight some of our efforts over the past year.

### MSMGF 2012-2016 Strategic Plan

Over the first half of 2011, the MSMGF engaged in strategic planning consultations with key stakeholders across the global response to HIV among MSM. The process concluded with a two-day global stakeholders gathering in Amsterdam, bringing together grassroots advocates, service providers, researchers, regional MSM networks, multilaterals and major funders from more than 25 countries to discuss the shared goals of our global movement and the most effective strategies to achieve them.

The result of these conversations was a multi-sector collaborative strategy to promote the health and human rights of MSM around the world: the MSMGF's *2012 – 2016 Strategic Plan*. This document will serve as the blueprint for our work in the coming years. As always, we welcome your feedback, insights and recommendations for advancing this work together.





## Advocacy

Advocacy is critical to achieving the MSMGF's vision of universal access to comprehensive, high-quality HIV services for gay men and other men who have sex with men worldwide. The MSMGF works to elevate the needs, priorities, and voices of MSM activists around the world in policy and decision-making arenas that shape the global response to HIV, including the United Nations, U.S. Congress and multilateral agencies. Our strategies include policy research and analysis; providing updates on current research and issues to legislators and their staff; creating coalitions and joint advocacy efforts with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and networks of key affected groups; the development and dissemination of position papers and briefing notes; and monitoring global investments in HIV efforts targeting MSM. The MSMGF Secretariat draws upon the knowledge and expertise of a wide range of players, including our Steering Committee, MSMGF online constituents, researchers, consultants, and two newly-created reference groups on Young MSM and Transgender People. Highlights from our advocacy work in 2011 include the following.

### North American Delegate to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB)

The MSMGF is currently serving a term on the NGO Delegation to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board (PCB) from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012. Alongside the International Community of Women with HIV/AIDS (ICW), the MSMGF holds the position of North American NGO Delegate, working throughout the year to coordinate with advocates in the region and bringing their priorities forward at the PCB. In this position, the MSMGF delivers a strong advocacy presence on behalf of gay men and other MSM around the world, lending expertise and analysis to develop and advance evidence-based policy related to MSM and other key affected populations.

Major initiatives undertaken by the MSMGF this year at the PCB include generating principles for meaningful, respectful and sensitive engagement with civil society within the UN family and beyond; holding focus groups with gay men and transgender people to inform the development of the NGO delegation report on HIV and the Law; and supporting the participation of activists who provided powerful testimony about their experiences with criminal laws against HIV transmission, exposure and non-disclosure at the semiannual UNAIDS PCB Meeting. The MSMGF's work will last beyond our tenure on the NGO delegation, living on in UNAIDS decision-points and policy developments that strengthen rights-based approaches to address HIV among MSM more effectively.



**UNAIDS PCB Meeting**  
Robert Suttle and Nick Rhodes giving testimony on discriminatory HIV criminalization laws in the U.S., Geneva, Switzerland, December, 2011.

### UN High-Level Meeting and Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS

In 2001 and 2006, the United Nations General Assembly issued Political Declarations on AIDS, outlining Member States' commitments to the global HIV response. In June 2011, Member Nations assembled once again for a High-Level Meeting on AIDS to review progress on past commitments and to commit to a new Political Declaration. In the months leading up to this meeting, the MSMGF joined with the other global HIV constituency networks dedicated sex workers, drug users and transgender people to develop 10 policy priorities related to key affected populations to be included in the 2011 Political Declaration. The MSMGF utilized this document as a common advocacy platform for a range of activities including: organizing briefing calls with MSM advocacy constituencies; coordination of advocacy messages with other networks of HIV advocates; and face-to-face meetings with U.N. Country Missions in New York to impress upon them the need to prioritize key populations in the final declaration.



The MSMGF spent weeks in New York, providing real-time analysis of draft declarations and quick advocacy action as the document neared completion. While imperfect, the final 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS represents a significant step forward as the first Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS that explicitly mentions MSM. Other positive outcomes include language on the importance of tailoring prevention efforts to target key populations, creating enabling social and legal environments for accessing HIV services, reviewing laws and policies that may hinder access, and calling for improved surveillance and data collections systems.

### **Congressional Briefing on Capitol Hill**

On May 17 – the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO) – the MSMGF collaborated with the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus and U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee to deliver a panel presentation on rights-based HIV responses for MSM from the perspective of advocates and implementers from Sub-Saharan Africa. This briefing took place on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., targeting legislators and their health policy staff, with the goal of providing key stakeholders with direct, up-to-date information on the needs and priorities of MSM in the HIV response. Panelists included MSMGF Steering Committee Members Joel Nana (Cameroon/South Africa), Samuel Matsikure (Zimbabwe) and Paul Semugoma (Uganda). The briefing occurred shortly after the release of the U.S. Government's Technical Guidance Document on HIV Prevention for MSM, issued by the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, allowing for timely discussion of HIV programs for MSM in the most heavily impacted region in the world.

### **Specialist Submission to the Global Commission on HIV and the Law**

The Global Commission on HIV and the Law, launched in June 2010 by the United Nations Development Programme with support from the UNAIDS Secretariat, is charged with interrogating the relationship between legal responses, human rights and HIV. Drawing upon published research, personal testimony, and focus group discussions, the MSMGF developed a Specialist Submission to Global Commission detailing the ways in which legal barriers undermine public health responses to HIV among gay men and other MSM worldwide. The MSMGF also worked to optimize country- and region-specific submissions on MSM issues by promoting the Global Commission's regional dialogues on our multi-lingual web platform, encouraging MSMGF members to submit testimony and apply to participate. The Commission is expected to issue its final report in spring 2012, containing actionable, evidence-informed and human rights-based recommendations for effective HIV responses that protect and promote the human rights of people living with and most vulnerable to HIV.

### **PEPFAR's Technical Guidance on Combination HIV Prevention for MSM**

In May 2011, the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator released its first-ever *Technical Guidance on HIV Prevention for Men who have Sex with Men*, providing direction to country teams implementing HIV programs under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The release of the MSM Guidance was a culmination of years of advocacy work by the MSMGF and other partners calling for greater action to address HIV among MSM by PEPFAR. The MSM Guidance has enormous potential to contribute toward scale-up of MSM programs worldwide, defining a comprehensive package of services for MSM and articulating other critical program elements, including support for laws, regulations and policies that improve the availability, accessibility and effectiveness of HIV prevention programs for MSM. The MSMGF is working to promote the MSM Guidance to partners around the world, calling for fully funded support.

### **Top 10 in 2011: Key Global Policy Developments Concerning MSM & HIV**

This report features a snapshot summary of the top 10 key policy developments of 2011 that relate to the HIV response among gay men and other MSM worldwide. Ranked by the MSMGF, the list includes both successes and setbacks in the global effort to achieve universal access for all. Taking stock of these developments is essential for evolving our response to the HIV epidemic among MSM, strengthening community mobilization efforts on the ground, and sharpening our global advocacy efforts. The list also includes events that were not direct policy developments in and of themselves but carry significant policy implications.



## Information Exchange

Since its inception, the MSMGF has worked hard to ensure that advocates, service providers and others working for the health and human rights of MSM around the world have access to the latest information to enhance their work. In 2011, the MSMGF increased its communication efforts at every level, from expanding membership and use of social media, to making sure that key MSM issues received appropriate coverage in the press.

### Website

The MSMGF's website, [www.msmgf.org](http://www.msmgf.org), continues to be one of our most important tools for connecting our constituents with valuable information, opportunities and partners to advance their work with MSM. The site offers delivery of information in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish, featuring the latest news, research and reports on MSM from around the world. Over the course of 2011, nearly 3,000 new articles were added to the site, which received over 43,000 unduplicated visitors and nearly 250,000 page views (an increase of 125% over the previous year). The MSMGF also expanded online membership by more than 800 new members representing over 110 different countries, bringing the total number of members to 2,709.

### Social Media and Daily E-Blasts

The MSMGF's use of social media also continued to expand in 2011. The MSMGF's Facebook page surpassed 2,000 members in 2011, garnering a total of 146,825 post views, and the MSMGF's Twitter account sent out 1,541 tweets, building a base of more than 700 followers. Each of the thousands of new resources added to our website over the year was circulated throughout our global membership in our daily email digests, helping to keep our members connected to the global pulse of advocacy, innovation and coordinated mobilization.

### MSMGF Collaborative Blog

In 2011 the MSMGF announced the launch of the new MSMGF collaborative blog. The blog features reports written by MSMGF members from around the world, sharing information on new developments concerning the health and human rights of MSM in their region. In addition to reporting cogent information relevant to the work of MSMGF members, the blog also raises awareness within our global community about who our members are and the work they do. Each report opens with a short biography of the author, including a link to his or her profile in the MSMGF Social Network, making it easy for other members to get in touch with them for more information.



### Media Coverage

Throughout 2011, the MSMGF contributed to global discourse by crafting high-visibility press releases and public statements on policy developments, research advances, funding opportunities, and emerging hot-button issues. Over the year, the MSMGF was cited in over 130 articles in national and international media outlets. Major outlets included *Reuters*, *MSNBC*, *Yahoo! News*, *Notimex* (Mexico), *Mail & Guardian* (South Africa), *The Hindu* (India), *Daily Monitor* (Uganda), *Stabroek News* (Guyana), *El Colombiano* (Colombia), and *The Atlantic* (United States).

### Press Releases

- Global Coalition for MSM Health and Human Rights Announces Five-Year Strategy  
[November 16, 2011]
- New Report Shows Major AIDS Funders Fail to Track Investments for Gay Men and Transgender People  
[August 9, 2011]
- Global Survey of Men Who Have Sex with Men Shows Widespread Lack of Access to HIV Services, Little Knowledge of PrEP  
[July 12, 2011]

- MSMGF Welcomes First-Ever WHO Guidelines on HIV Prevention for Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender People  
[June 21, 2011]
- For First Time, UN Political Declaration on AIDS Addresses HIV among Men Who Have Sex with Men  
[June 10, 2011]
- At AIDS Summit, UN Must Focus on Key Populations and Human Rights to Meet Goal of Zero New Infections  
[June 8, 2011]
- Global Forum on MSM & HIV Encouraged by New PEPFAR Guidance on HIV Prevention for Men Who Have Sex With Men  
[May 19, 2011]
- New Report: World's Premier AIDS Event Neglects Populations Most at Risk for HIV  
[March 2, 2011]

### Public Statements

- Transgender Advocates and Global Forum on MSM & HIV Launch New Collaborative Effort  
[November 10, 2011]
- The MSMGF Calls on Malaysian Authorities to Lift Ban on Seksualiti Merdeka Festival  
[November 9, 2011]
- Op-ed: A Closer Look at Hillary Clinton's AIDS Strategy  
[November 9, 2011]
- MSMGF Urges UN Member States to Support Resolution on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity  
[June 15, 2011]
- What the United Nations Can Learn from Gay Activism  
[May 25, 2011]
- New Primer for Healthcare Providers Aims to Improve Clinical Care for Men Who Have Sex with Men  
[May 17, 2011]
- Remembering Robert Carr  
[May 10, 2011]
- New Analysis of HIV Proposals from Global Fund Rounds 8, 9 and 10 Shows Progress, Reveals Gaps  
[May 3, 2011]
- The Global Forum on MSM & HIV supports FDA review of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)  
[March 21, 2011]
- MSMGF Welcomes CDC's Interim PrEP Guidance for MSM in the United States  
[February 2, 2011]
- MSMGF Condemns Vicious Murder of David Kato  
[January 27, 2011]



## Knowledge Production

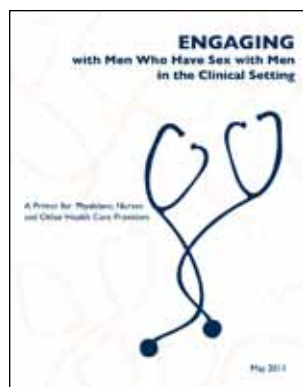
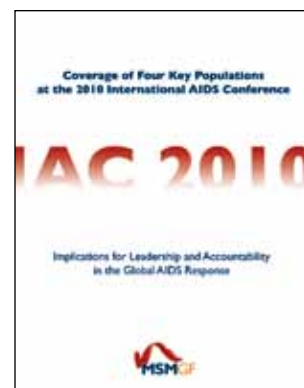
In addition to press releases and public statements, the MSMGF also works to advance global dialogue through longer, more in-depth publications. Spanning print, online and cross-media formats, these publications offer both new data and detailed analyses on pressing issues concerning MSM health and human rights. These documents are produced in consultation with community members, activists and global thought leaders, in an effort to create publications that reflect the voices of MSM around the world and the issues that concern them most. The documents are offered in multiple languages for use by advocates, implementers and policy makers.

### Policy Briefs

The MSMGF routinely generates policy briefs on core human rights and HIV issues relevant to MSM, aiming to provide activists and policy makers with valuable analysis that can be used for advocacy and policy development.

#### *Coverage of Four Key Populations at the 2010 International AIDS Conference: Implications for Leadership and Accountability in the Global AIDS Response*

An MSMGF-led analysis of abstracts and sessions from the 2010 International AIDS Conference (IAC) revealed that MSM, transgender people, sex workers and people who use drugs were grossly underrepresented across the conference program. Published in March 2011, the independent audit confirmed suspicions long-held by activist groups and called for a comprehensive review of IAC governing structures.



#### *Engaging with men who have sex with men in the clinical setting: a primer for physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers.*

Released on the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, this primer aims to improve the standard of clinical care for MSM by providing basic knowledge about homosexuality and MSM health needs, as well as offering a set of principles for effective engagement of MSM in a healthcare setting. This publication is available in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

#### *An Analysis of Major Donor Investments Targeting Men Who Have Sex With Men and Transgender People in Low- and Middle- Income Countries*

In 2011 the MSMGF was commissioned by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to conduct an analysis of global investments in HIV programming for MSM and transgender people. Released in August, the report indicates that most major bilateral, multilateral, private philanthropic and national government funders do not consistently track their investments targeting MSM and transgender people, and that where such investments can be documented, they are extremely low. In December the report gained further traction when its implications were discussed at the Funders Concerned About AIDS annual gathering in Washington, DC.



### HIV Drug Chart

In September 2011 the MSMGF launched an online HIV drug chart designed to provide updated basic medical information on HIV drugs for people living with

HIV. The only up-to-date drug chart available in seven languages, the resource addresses a severe gap in easily accessible HIV drug information in Portuguese, Chinese, Arabic and Russian, while continuing to ensure that information about the latest innovations is also available in English, French and Spanish.



### Webinars

Throughout 2011 the MSMGF continued its ongoing series of webinars aimed at keeping our constituents informed of emerging issues, opportunities and information. The MSMGF kicked off the 2011 series with *Surveying Access to HIV*

*Prevention Services: What MSM Are Telling Us*, which presented findings from our groundbreaking global MSM survey project. This was followed by *Treatment 2.0: What MSM Need to Know About Recent Changes*, produced in partnership with Pangaia Global AIDS Foundation; *The PEPFAR Technical Guidance on HIV Prevention for Men Who Have Sex with Men*, produced in partnership with amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research; and a webinar produced in both English and Spanish designed to help advocates better understand the Global Fund's new Equity Assessment Process. We also worked with International Rectal Microbicides Advocates (IRMA) to deliver a series of three webinars on rectal microbicides and lube access.

### **Technical Support on IPPF Report Cards on MSM and HIV Prevention**

The MSMGF also provided technical support to the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), collaborating with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to develop report cards for HIV prevention among MSM in Macedonia and Cambodia. Each Report Card summarizes the current situation of HIV prevention strategies and services for MSM and transgender people, aiming to support efforts to increase and improve the programmatic, policy and funding actions taken on HIV prevention.

## **Research**

The MSMGF believes that rigorous and inclusive research is the foundation of an effective response to HIV among MSM. The MSMGF works to augment the global body of knowledge on issues concerning MSM and HIV by drawing on its vast global network of MSM advocates and organizations to engage in targeted research addressing urgent issues affecting MSM health and rights. The MSMGF also promotes external research on MSM that adheres to the highest standards of ethics and community engagement.

### **Access to HIV Prevention Services and Knowledge and Attitudes about PrEP**

In 2011 we released the findings from our survey of more than 5,000 MSM around the world. The survey was the first of its kind to examine levels of access and knowledge regarding HIV services – including emerging prevention interventions like pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) – among MSM across all major world regions, revealing that the majority of MSM globally find it difficult or impossible to access HIV testing, HIV counseling, free condoms and free lubricant. The study also identified key variables that influenced access to HIV prevention services among MSM, indicating that the strongest predictor of compromised access to prevention services was the level of homophobia experienced by participants. The project was funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and developed in collaboration with Dr. Patrick Wilson, Assistant Professor at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.



### **Advocacy for HIV Prevention Science Technology**

The MSMGF issued a statement joining other HIV prevention advocates in calling for the principled review by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the HIV drug Truvada for its safety, efficacy and applicability in PrEP, a potential new addition to the global HIV prevention toolkit.

### **Translation Support to Expand the Reach of Research**

The MSMGF provided translation support for IRMA's Rectal Douching and Enema survey, allowing MSM speaking Chinese, French and Russian to participate in this important research. The MSMGF will help to disseminate the findings of the survey in 2012.

## **Networking**

As the only global HIV network dedicated to the health and human rights of MSM, the MSMGF plays a crucial role in connecting advocates, activists, researchers, health officials and other key stakeholders working with MSM around the world. In addition to supporting a global online network structure of nearly 3,000 stakeholders in over 130 countries, the MSMGF supports gatherings, working groups and other opportunities for interregional and cross-sector collaboration dedicated to furthering the movement for MSM health and rights.

### **MSMGF Youth Reference Group**

In 2010, the MSMGF established a Youth Reference Group to advise and help coordinate the work of the MSMGF on issues concerning Young MSM (YMSM). Comprised of YMSM advocates from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and the Caribbean, the group works to advocate and empower YMSM within the global HIV response through skills building, networking and meaningful participation in the regional and global decision-making processes that affect YMSM. Over the course of 2011, the Youth Reference Group finalized its Terms of Reference, elected Co-Chairs, and forged partnerships with numerous youth organizations and networks around the world, including the HIV Young Leaders Fund and Youth Force. The group spent the last quarter of 2011 laying the groundwork for exciting new initiatives in 2012, including the development of a global YMSM advocates network and a policy brief on HIV among YMSM.

### **MSMGF Transgender Reference Group**

In 2011, a group of transgender advocates from around the world partnered with the MSMGF to form a new collaborative reference group to address the health and human rights of transgender people worldwide. The MSMGF Transgender Reference Group will organize meaningful advocacy at the global level on behalf of transgender communities, provide the MSMGF with guidance on trans and gender variance issues, and identify opportunities for mutual cooperation and shared action across both populations. The group is Co-Chaired by JoAnne Keatley, Director of UCSF's Center of Excellence for Transgender Health and Mauro Cabral, Co-Director of Global Action for Trans\* Equality.

### **MSMGF at the Global Fund Partnership Forum**

The Global Fund Partnership Forum took place in late June 2011 in Sao Paulo, Brazil, gathering more than 300 participants from around the world to give input for the development of the Global Fund's 2012-2016 strategy. In preparation for the Partnership Forum, the MSMGF collaborated with B-Change (Philippines) to conduct a small online survey to better understand MSM and transgender involvement with and understanding of the Global Fund, including experiences and opinions of the Global Fund's strategy on sexual orientation and gender identity. At the Partnership Forum itself, the MSMGF organized a dinner and strategy session for MSM and allies on the evening before the event, presenting the results of the survey and coordinating with other MSM stakeholders and supporters to develop shared advocacy initiatives throughout the week of activities and deliberations.

### **Regional Network Support**

The MSMGF provides ongoing support to regional networks of MSM, transgender people, and other sexual minorities through our communications infrastructure, face-to-face mobilization efforts, and participation in regional gatherings. Two examples from 2011 include the MSMGF's participation in ASICAL's MSM Regional Consultation in Lima, Peru, and support for the African Men for Sexual Health and Rights (AMSHeR)'s work to produce an MSM pre-conference at the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa (ICASA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## **Community Systems Strengthening Activities**

The MSMGF supports essential programs and initiatives at the local and regional level by providing technical assistance and community systems strengthening for MSM advocates worldwide. These efforts expanded considerably in 2011, most significantly through our *Speaking Out* project.

### ***Speaking Out* Encourages Grassroots Advocacy**

In 2011 the MSMGF implemented the first workshops for *Speaking Out*, our international initiative to reduce stigma, discrimination and violence through grassroots advocacy. Supported by a consortium of funders, including ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Program, the Levi Strauss Foundation, UNAIDS and Hivos, the landmark project was launched to address the connection between homophobia and the spread of HIV.

The *Speaking Out* toolkit, designed to equip individuals and organizations with tools and techniques that enable them to become more effective advocates for MSM health and human rights, was translated into French, Spanish and Vietnamese and adapted to local conditions in collaboration with local grassroots partners in the North Africa, Central America and Southeast Asia. The French-language version was tailored to the North African context and



implemented in October through workshops with local advocates; the Spanish-language version was adapted in consultation with Honduran community-based organization Kukulcan, and a five-day training was then held in October with more than a dozen participants from Honduras and elsewhere in Central America; and the Vietnamese-language version was adapted by our community partner GLink, with workshops for nearly fifteen advocates taking place in Ho Chi Minh City, also in October. In

2012, each of these regional cohorts will build further capacity based on locally-specific needs, including via additional trainings and implementation of small-scale advocacy strategies developed as part of the *Speaking Out* workshops.



### Technical Assistance for MSM Initiative in Latin America

The MSMGF was invited to serve on a technical panel review for amfAR's MSM Initiative, reviewing a total of 18 proposals, providing technical feedback and offering recommendations for funding priorities. The project seeks to fund innovative HIV/AIDS-related community-based projects that increase access to HIV/AIDS services among MSM in Latin America.

## Looking Ahead to 2012

In 2012 key populations will continue to face diminishing resources for our work and increased pressure on our constituencies. But the MSMGF is committed to ensuring that the needs of MSM are prioritized and that our voices are heard, no matter what the challenges. We will continue to engage in advocacy, information exchange, knowledge production, research, networking and community systems strengthening over the coming year. Look for us to expand our *Speaking Out* grassroots initiatives, launch version 2.0 of our global health survey on the needs of MSM, and work closely with our advisory board to create bold new editions of *Sense*, the MSMGF's multilingual online publication for MSM living with HIV.

One of the centerpieces of our advocacy efforts will occur in July, 2012, when the MSMGF will hold our fifth Pre-Conference Event focused on MSM and HIV in conjunction with the 2012 International AIDS Conference (IAC) in Washington, D.C. The MSM Pre-Conference will provide a networking platform for up to 500 activists, researchers, public health officials, multi-lateral organizations, and global donors to exchange the most recent research, best practices, and advocacy strategies to advance the overall goal of universal access. To our knowledge this is the largest gathering of its kind for MSM and our allies. The MSMGF will organize skills building sessions focused on the changing research, programmatic, and policy landscapes in the AIDS sector. We hope you will join us.

# MSMGF FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## Year Ended June 30, 2011

### REVENUE

Grants	\$ 440,595
Contribution	1,208,217
Contributed Goods and Services	51,911

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**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$ 1,700,723**

### EXPENSES

Salaries and Wages	\$ 548,982
Professional and Contracted Services	259,186
Indirect Cost Charges	247,478
Staff Development and Travel	235,068
Taxes and Benefits	106,957
Occupancy	72,461
Promotion and Outreach	61,939
Materials, Equipment and Supplies	18,160
Printing and Duplication	16,590
Postage and Delivery	14,804
Communications	12,187

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**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$ 1,593,812**

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**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** **\$ 106,911**

## MAJOR FUNDERS OF THE MSMGF

Aids Fonds, the Netherlands  
 AIDS Project Los Angeles (APLA)  
 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
 The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria  
 Hivos  
 Levi Strauss Foundation  
 Open Society Institute (OSI)  
 Riehm Family Foundation  
 Roche Molecular Diagnostics  
 UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS  
 United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)  
 ViiV Healthcare's Positive Action Program

## MSMGF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Don Baxter** | Australia

**Aditya Bondyopadhyay** | India

**Simon Cazal** | Paraguay

**Gus Cairns** | United Kingdom

**Roman Dudnik** | Russia

**Carlos García de León** | Mexico

**Juan Jacobo Hernandez** | Mexico

**Shivananda Khan** | India

**Tudor Kovacs** | Romania

**Samuel Matsikure** | Zimbabwe

**John Maxwell** | Canada

**Othman Mellouk** | Morocco

**Eli Abu Merhi** | Lebanon

**Joel Nana** | South Africa

**Steave Nemande** | Cameroon

**Midnight Poonkasetwatana** | Thailand

**Leonardo Sánchez** | Dominican Republic

**Paul Semugoma** | Uganda

**Daniel A. Townsend** | Jamaica/Canada

**Zhen Li** | China



### Schorer High-level Stakeholders Meeting

MSMGF Steering Committee Members, Samuel Matsikure (Zimbabwe) and Midnight Poonkasetwatana (Thailand), Amsterdam, Netherlands, October, 2011.

## MSMGF SECRETARIAT STAFF

**George Ayala** | Executive Director

**Omar Baños** | Program Associate

**Jack Beck** | Communications Associate

**Lily May Catanes** | Operations Associate

**Pato Hebert** | Senior Education Associate

**Krista Lauer** | Senior Policy Advisor

**Goldie Negelev** | Communications Assistant

**Mohan Sundararaj** | Policy Associate

## MSMGF CONTACT INFORMATION

### MSMGF Executive Office

436 14th Street, Suite 1500  
Oakland, CA 94612  
U.S.A.

(+1) 510.271.1950

[www.msmgf.org](http://www.msmgf.org)



Front and Back Covers:

**Speaking Out Participants**, community and network strengthening activity, Copán, Honduras, October, 2011.



[www.MSMGF.org](http://www.MSMGF.org)

