



M·PACT

GLOBAL ACTION
FOR GAY MEN'S HEALTH & RIGHTS

Formerly known as MSMGF or
The Global Forum on MSM and HIV



IT IS TIME FOR A CHANGE IN THE FIGHT FOR GAY MEN'S HEALTH AND RIGHTS.

Since 2006, MPact has been expanding its network of experts, service providers, and activists in an effort to improve the lives of gay and bisexual men. Together with our partners, we are working to support and develop programs for health and rights around the world.

Over a decade later, the global landscape of activism has dramatically shifted and our work has gradually and deliberately evolved to match. Our organization has recognized that in order to successfully address communities of gay men and other men who have sex with men, there must be a collective shift to understand HIV in the broader context of sexual health and human rights.

Our vision is for a world where the health and rights of all men who have sex with men are actively recognised, realized and respected. At its core, MPact is and will remain an advocacy organization. Even as we expand beyond HIV, all our work is in the service of our mission to ensure equitable access to services for gay men and other men who have sex with men, while promoting their health and rights worldwide.

MPACT THE NUMBERS

72 countries still criminalize LGBT people

36.7 million people are living with HIV around the world

There are **1.9 million** new infections of HIV per year

Men who have sex with men are **24x** more likely to acquire HIV

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are on the rise among men who have sex with men. In many places, gay and bisexual men account for the majority of new STIs. We believe we can help change that by increasing support and funding for comprehensive sexual health services for this community including testing, prevention, treatment and support services.

THE STORY OF MPACT

MPact was originally founded as The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF) by an international group of activists who were concerned about the disproportionate HIV burden being shouldered by men who have sex with men. We have since changed our name to reflect our desire for greater impact within the broader sexual health and human rights agendas for all men who have sex with men.

Stigma, discrimination, and violence are leading barriers to the health of our communities, especially in countries that criminalize lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people. This has been historically true, however community-led services have remained under-valued and underfunded everywhere in the world. Additionally, space for the meaningful involvement of civil society is shrinking.

That's where we at MPact come in. Our innovative strategy for advocacy is based on our belief in the power of connection. We believe that our impact is greatest when we can connect grassroots activists to global funders, connect healthcare providers with the populations who need their services most, and connect members of our community from every corner of the world to each other.

We work to bring global attention to local concerns. MPact is directly linked to more than 120 community-based organizations in 62 countries around the world and thousands of activists online who are fighting for gay men's health and rights. Through policy monitoring, funding, and programmatic support, we can empower LGBT-led community groups in countries where being openly gay could very literally cost someone their life.



"Gay and bisexual men want to take control of their own sexual health. It is critical that we work directly with communities to impact global change."

*- Johnny Tohme, Community Mobilizations Manager
MPact Global Action, USA*



MPACT HEALTH

In regions where gay and bisexual men face stigma, discrimination, and even criminalization, organizations seeking to provide services to men who have sex with men are generally under-resourced and operate in isolation. By providing support to these organizations in the form of funding and technical assistance, our programs aim to make access to sexual healthcare a reality for gay and bisexual men everywhere.

Together with our community partners, we are working to:

- ✦ Mobilize grassroots communities of gay and bisexual men around their unique sexual health needs
- ✦ Create access to life-saving, high-quality sexual health interventions, including HIV/STI prevention and treatment services
- ✦ Sensitize and inform doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals on how to work with marginalized populations
- ✦ Build organizational, technical and advocacy capacity of grassroots organizations so they are able to grow and sustain over time

These are just a few examples of our programs around the world, all of which center around the role community can play in advancing the health of gay and bisexual men. We believe that community members are best equipped to address community problems. Our work aims to empower and enable community members to turn their challenges into solutions.

MPACT RIGHTS

In the global policy arena, gay and bisexual men are constantly excluded or overlooked. Governments are reluctant to talk about issues around sexuality and often implement top-down approaches to address HIV and other STIs, which have been proven to disproportionately affect specific key populations.

We work to amplify the voices of members of marginalized communities and mobilize advocates to work in coalition. By working together to pressure global policy makers, we are able to ensure that programs are targeted and address stigma, discrimination, and violence men who have sex face and other marginalized groups face when accessing sexual health services.

Through monitoring national and international policy, we:

- ✦ Advocate for increased and sustained funding for programs that address the unique needs of men who have sex with men at The Global Fund
- ✦ Build skills among country-based advocates to hold PEPFAR accountable to their commitments
- ✦ Raise awareness surrounding violence, discrimination, and criminalization related to sexual orientation and gender identity at the United Nations
- ✦ Ensure the use of inclusive language in advocacy agendas that aim to promote comprehensive sexual health

Our partnerships with global networks of people living with HIV, youth, transgender people, sex workers, and people who inject drugs are central to our multi-faceted and intersectional approach to advocacy. Together we work to create the funding, policy, and legal conditions necessary to support and empower our communities to take their sexual health into their own hands.



MPACT FUNDING

National and global sexual health interventions, including those intended to address HIV, are continually underfunded and undervalue community knowledge, innovation, and ingenuity. Comprehensive sexual health programs for gay and bisexual men that openly address sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity are exceedingly rare.

HIV and AIDS have increasingly fallen out of the public discourse, with new developments in bio-medical treatments taking the mainstage in conversations about the global epidemic. However, millions of people around the world are still without access to these and other basic HIV prevention services or anti-retroviral treatment because of structural barriers faced by gay and bisexual men including homophobia, stigma, discrimination, and violence.

We urgently need to support sexual health and rights interventions that are innovative and strategically led by gay and bisexual men. MPact works to create programs that weave together biomedical, behavioral, social, and structural interventions. This reframing of HIV requires unwavering focus on the quality and coverage of community services and healthcare, as well as constant monitoring of the human rights and funding environments in which programs operate.

“When we began working with MPact, we became a partner and family member. Our growth could not have been possible without the technical support, financial support and other opportunities that were provided by the MPact team”
- Samuel Matsikure
Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ)

MPACT GLOBAL CHANGE

MPact’s mission and work has become more challenging in recent years given the shift in the current global political climate. Many of the hard-won rights and freedoms for LGBTI people are being set back by a new wave of conservatism in every part of the world. Governments across the globe continue to criminalize homosexuality or sanction violence targeting LGBTQI people.

MPact is fighting harder than ever to expand our work by utilizing UN mechanisms to challenge human rights abuses and to keep sexual health and HIV on the policy agenda.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

The global attention paid to the sexual health and human rights of men who have sex with men is shrinking. This jeopardizes community-led solutions. That's why we need your support.

Your support will enable MPact to sustain the global sexual health and human rights movements it has ignited through funding community-based organizations, advocating with policy makers, and strengthening community capacity.

For more information on how you can support the work of MPact, please visit www.mpactglobal.org

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MPACT

The work of MPact is made possible by the support of our partners





M·PACT

GLOBAL ACTION
FOR GAY MEN'S HEALTH & RIGHTS

Find us online
www.mpactglobal.org

