



ANNUAL REPORT

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD:
MEETING THE MOMENT,
BUILDING THE FUTURE

NOON

Letter from the executive director	.....	I
Mpact by the numbers	.....	2
Advocacy Achievements	.....	3
Program Highlights	.....	4
Communications Highligts	.....	6
20 Years of Research	.....	8
Funding	.....	II
Partners	.....	12
Donors	.....	13
Moving Forward	.....	14
Why Invest in Mpact	.....	15

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Community,

2025 was a year of disruption.

Anti-LGBTQ sentiment, laws and policies rose exponentially. The shocking closure of USAID marked a dramatic shift in funding worldwide as more countries pulled back from LGBTQ and HIV issues.

When looking back at our connected history, I recognize that this is not new. In the 1980s, when governments refused to take action on HIV/AIDS, our communities did. We are here today because of their activism, advocacy and passion.

We will be here tomorrow because of ours.

Mpact Global is entering its 20th year of coordinating actions across borders, advocating for our human rights and access to healthcare systems, and strengthening grassroots organizations. I'm proud of the work that Mpact has accomplished in 20 years: over \$20 million USD distributed in 65 countries to gay-led organizations; producing over 70 research articles and two award-winning books; and building regional networks that do important advocacy and coordination work in challenging places.

As other organizations have gone quiet, we have been more forward in our messaging and more direct in our celebration of queer sex and sexuality. Celebrating is important. We can't be ashamed of what we like and what we do. We still have to find each other for community, resilience, and camaraderie.

Mpact is moving forward with our partners, allies, and you.

Join us for the future.

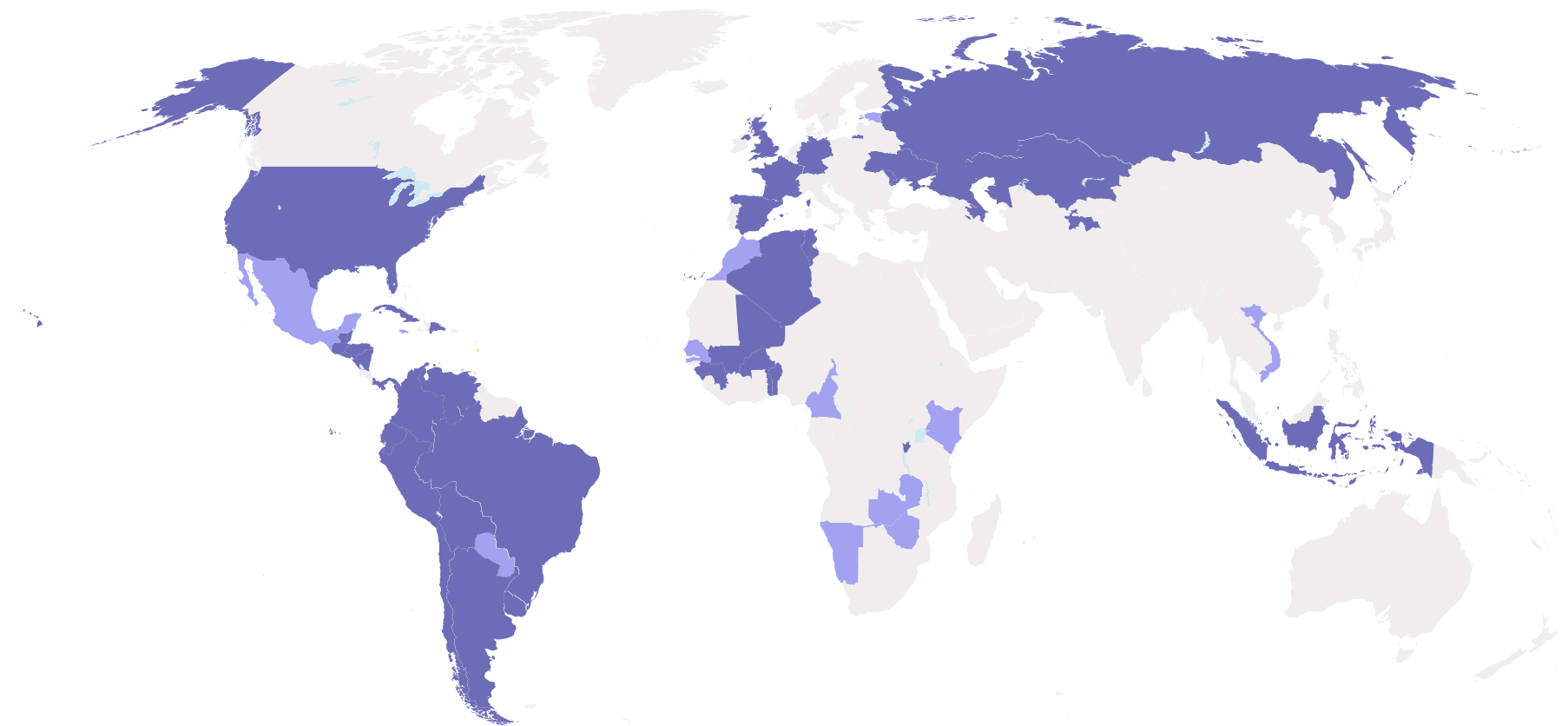
In solidarity,

Andy Spieldenner, PhD
Executive Director

MPACT BY THE NUMBERS

IN 20 YEARS:

- 65 COUNTRIES REACHED
- \$20M+ INVESTED IN LGBTQ-LED ORGANIZATIONS
- 70+ PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS
- 2 AWARD-WINNING BOOKS
- 8,000+ RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS
- 1M+ CAMPAIGN REACH
- 50+ INFLUENCER COLLABORATIONS
- 12 REGIONAL NETWORKS OF GAY, BI AND QUEER MEN SUPPORTED



ADVOCACY ACHIEVEMENTS

We stand up for gay, bi and queer men's human rights and right to healthcare because our communities deserve to be recognized and celebrated. Sometimes we are the only one in the room to represent gay, bi and queer men.

2025 was a hard year and still we managed to engage new partners. We were active with the United Nations joint program on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, and the World Health Organization (WHO), pushing the agenda for gay, bi and queer men and resisting the erasure of our lives in official documents and policies.

We supported our partners in combatting the criminalization of same sex sexual behavior. In Uganda, Senegal and Ghana, anti-LGBTQ movements are growing. Our partners are brilliantly coordinating with allies and the LGBTQ community to keep people safer. It is our job to raise the alarm on criminalization – the ways that it increases discrimination and sanctions violent homophobia in a society, how it negatively impacts our ability to access healthcare. In addition, the torture of conversion therapy continues, this time in Uganda.

We worked with philanthropy to bring to light gay, bi and queer men's struggles and the impact of reduced funding from governments. We presented at Funders Concerned About AIDS annual meeting with our partners from Ghana, Mozambique, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

IN 2025, MPACT ACHIEVED:

- Intervention at UNAIDS to demand resources for gay, bi and queer men in the HIV response, especially in light of attacks on funding for queer organizations
- Educating three sympathetic governments about the emergence and danger of conversion therapy in Uganda
- Convene 5 partners in East and West Africa to improve skills and gain information about working in countries that criminalize homosexuality in order to strategize with others as anti-LGBTQ policies and laws get passed in their countries

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We convene gay, bi and queer men together to celebrate our lives, our sex and our victories, even in the face of homophobia and HIV-related stigma. We build community because together the gay, bi and queer men build safer, more welcoming environments.

In 2025, we learned from past work and moved forward in a variety of ways.

We hosted the Besoton Sidoso Internacional (or International Kiss-In). Starting in 2023 in Mexico City, Mpact has worked in collaboration with queer people living with HIV in Mexico to create a very public kiss-in for World AIDS Day. These are local community members choosing to be out about their HIV-status and expressing their sexuality. The Besotones generate over 60 pieces of media from TV, radio, and print. The media coverage helped to highlight issues related to HIV-related stigma, homophobia and sexuality.

In 2025, the Besoton occurred on the US/Mexican border to focus on the struggle of migration in this current moment

Mpact also focused on queer people living with HIV on the US side, with a bilingual language one-day event centered on building community among queer people living with HIV on both sides of the border. This culminated in a celebration at a local gay bar hosted by noted (and openly HIV-positive) drag queen, La Alanina.

We also strategized on how best to support regional networks. These networks focus on regions, rather than countries. Sometimes regional work is how gay, bi and queer people can organize. In some countries, it is illegal to register an organization for gay, bi and queer people. This was vital in supporting partners in Kenya, Mozambique and Zimbabwe where gay, bi and queer men are excluded from critical funding mechanisms for health services.

Supporting a wide range of networks has been an integral part of Mpact's work. In 2025, we worked in collaboration with content creators on health promotion. In a time when people mistrust the news and get their health information from questionable media sources, Mpact recognized the value that content creators bring. Bringing them together, educating them on health issues and developing key health messages has produced high engagement content, podcasts and collaborations.

In order to address the LGBTQ rights emergency, Mpact funded 21 projects in 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. These ranged from digital security projects to educating LGBTQ people on their rights, including people who are migrants and/or living with HIV.

IN 2025, MPACT CONDUCTED:

SUPPORT NETWORKS IN
EAST AND WEST AFRICA,
EASTERN EUROPE AND
CENTRAL ASIA,
LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN,
AND SOUTHEAST ASIA TO
ADVOCATE FOR GAY, BI
AND QUEER PEOPLE AND
ADVANCE LEGAL
PROTECTIONS AND
HEALTHCARE ACCESS

3RD ANNUAL BESOTON
SIDOSO INTERNACIONAL
AT THE MEXICO/US BORDER
TO HIGHLIGHT QUEER
MIGRANTS LIVING
WITH HIV

COMMUNITY
CONVENINGS IN BRAZIL,
MEXICO AND IN
THE SOUTHERN REGION
OF THE US, CENTERED
ON BUILDING
COMMUNITY FOR
QUEER PEOPLE
LIVING WITH HIV

COMMUNICATION HIGHLIGHTS

We use communication to build community. Too many of us are isolated and we recognize the value of being visible online so gay, bi and queer men all over the world can find us. Communication is connection.

For Mpact, communication is more than sharing information—it is a strategy for improving health, strengthening communities, and advancing human rights. We recognize that the stories people hear, the media they consume, and the voices they trust all influence health decisions, community belonging, and public policy.

Around the world, gay, bisexual, and queer men are among the earliest adopters of new technologies and digital platforms. Increasingly, they also receive health information through social media, content creators, podcasts, and online communities. Mpact has embraced this reality by investing in communication as a core component of our advocacy and community engagement.

OUR COMMUNICATION STRATEGY IS BUILT ON THREE PRINCIPLES:

Community voices are the most trusted voices. Rather than relying solely on institutional messaging, Mpact works alongside content creators, community leaders, healthcare professionals, and people living with HIV to develop authentic and culturally relevant messages that resonate with diverse audiences.

Digital platforms create opportunity. Social media allows Mpact to reach communities that traditional public health campaigns often miss. Whether through short-form videos, podcasts, livestreams, or digital campaigns, we meet people where they are with evidence-based information presented in engaging and accessible ways.

Culture shapes health. Stigma, discrimination, and misinformation are not only policy issues—they are cultural issues. By celebrating queer lives, sexuality, and resilience, Mpact helps create environments where people feel seen, connected, and empowered to seek care and support one another.



In 2025, Mpact significantly expanded its communications work by collaborating with influencers, supporting community campaigns, and producing multilingual content that reached audiences across multiple regions. These partnerships generated high levels of engagement while amplifying messages about HIV prevention, treatment, mental health, migration, and LGBTQ rights.

Our communication efforts also strengthened advocacy. By elevating community voices and rapidly responding to emerging issues, Mpact helped ensure that attacks on LGBTQ rights, HIV funding, and community health remained visible to policymakers, funders, journalists, and the public.

As Mpact looks toward its third decade, communication and narrative will continue to be strategic priorities. We will deepen partnerships with content creators, expand digital organizing, invest in innovative storytelling, and ensure that communities most affected by HIV remain visible, heard, and empowered. We believe that communication does more than share information—it changes culture, builds community, and ultimately changes lives.

IN 2025, MPACT:

Increased our audience across platforms by 30%

Reached over a million people with a campaign highlighting the rights of queer people living with HIV

Expanded multilingual communications to better engage communities across regions and languages.

Developed over 50 pieces of content in collaboration with social media influencers with a combined reach of over 1 million users.

Supported community-led storytelling that challenged HIV stigma and celebrated queer resilience.

20 YEARS OF RESEARCH

For nearly two decades, Mpact Global has invested in research that begins with a simple principle: communities should not only participate in research—they should lead it. Our work is grounded in the belief that gay, bisexual, and queer men, particularly those living with HIV and those facing multiple forms of marginalization, are best positioned to identify the questions that matter and the solutions that can improve health and human rights.

This commitment has shaped a substantial body of research spanning community health, stigma and discrimination, meaningful involvement of people living with HIV (MIPA), and global health policy. Mpact has published more than 70 peer-reviewed articles and two award-winning books, *A Pill for Promiscuity* and *Breaking Barriers*, while ensuring that research findings are translated into advocacy, policy change, and community action.

Our early research focused on understanding the health needs of gay and bisexual men through community-led studies, including the Global Gay Men's Health Survey, which engaged more than 8,000 participants worldwide, and country-level assessments in Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Uganda. These projects demonstrated that community members are not simply research participants—they are essential partners in designing studies, interpreting findings, and sharing results.

Over time, our research expanded beyond HIV to examine the structural conditions that shape health, including racism, homophobia, criminalization, economic inequality, and access to care. This broader perspective recognizes that improving health requires addressing the systems that produce inequity.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

Mpact's community health research identifies unmet needs, documents health disparities, and develops innovative approaches to understanding populations that have historically been overlooked.

One landmark study introduced new methods for estimating the population size of gay and bisexual men through social media platforms, demonstrating that official estimates substantially undercount these communities in many countries. Accurate population estimates are essential because they directly influence funding, service planning, and political visibility. Building on this work, Mpact is currently collaborating with partners in Ghana, Senegal, Mozambique, and Indonesia to utilize the research as a tool to advocate for more resources for our communities.

STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

Our research has consistently demonstrated that homophobia, transphobia, and HIV stigma are not only human rights concerns—they are public health crises. By documenting how discrimination affects mental health, healthcare access, and community safety, Mpact has helped shift conversations from individual behavior to structural inequality.

This work continues through partnerships examining safety, security, and the impacts of discriminatory laws in Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, providing evidence that supports both national advocacy and international policy.

MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV

Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV (MIPA) is a cornerstone of Mpact's research philosophy. Rather than treating communities as advisors, our work demonstrates how people living with HIV should lead decision-making throughout the research process.

Recent collaborations with transgender, sex worker, and drug user networks have examined how emerging approaches such as program science can better center community leadership. As program science becomes more widely adopted, Mpact continues to advocate for research that shares power with the communities most affected by HIV.

RESEARCH THAT SHAPES POLICY

Research is most valuable when it informs action. Mpact's studies have influenced discussions within governments, multilateral agencies, and global health institutions by providing evidence on the barriers facing gay, bisexual, and queer men.

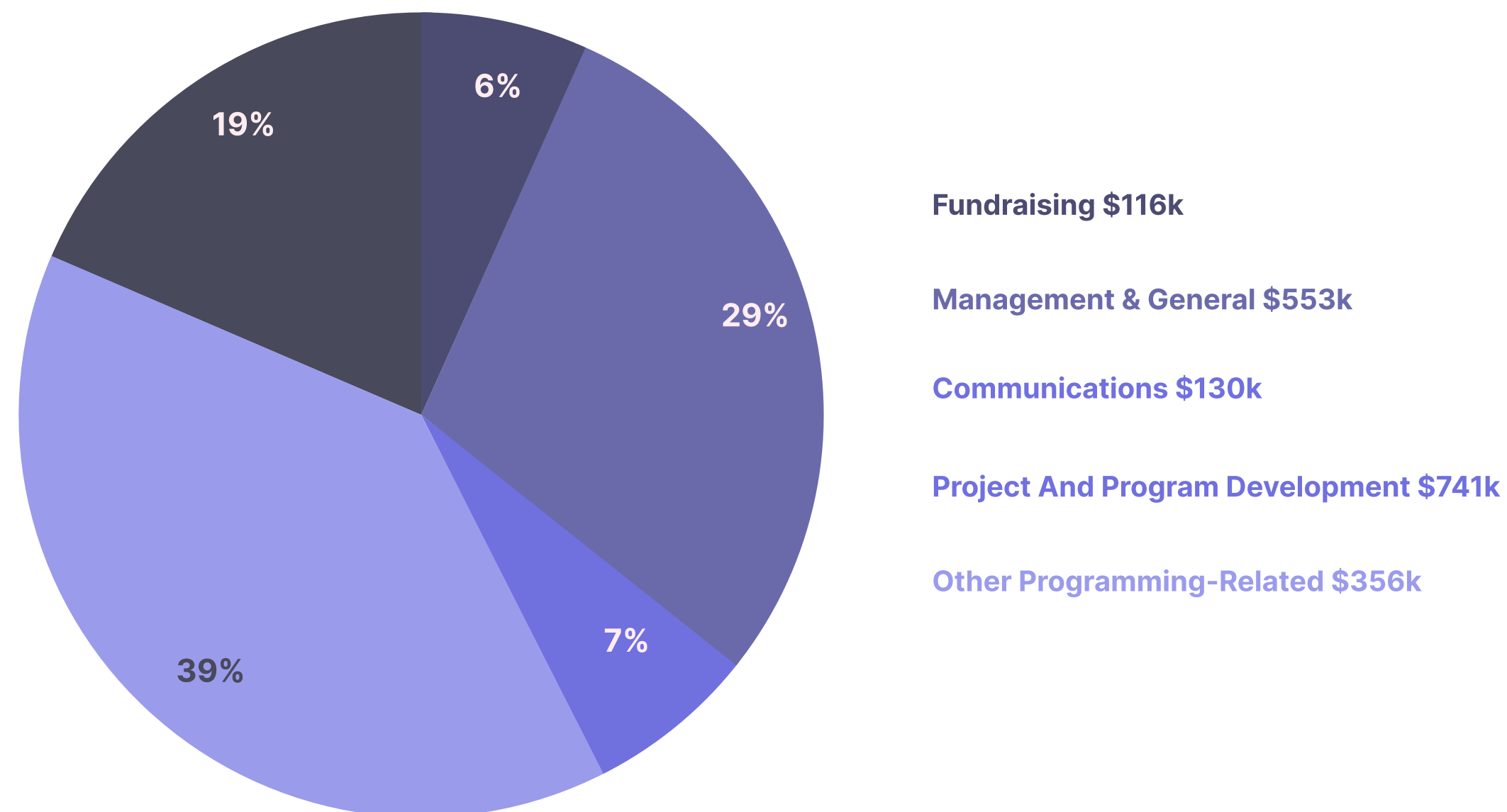
From documenting the consequences of provider discrimination and criminalization to advancing recommendations for more equitable HIV funding and inclusive health systems, our research continues to support policy change at local, national, regional, and global levels. As countries integrate HIV services into broader health systems, this evidence remains essential to ensuring that LGBTQ communities are not left behind.

LOOKING FORWARD

As Mpact enters its third decade, research will remain central to our mission. We will continue producing community-led evidence that informs advocacy, strengthens programs, and amplifies the voices of those most affected by HIV and health inequities. By combining rigorous research with grassroots leadership, Mpact is helping shape a future in which communities are not only the subjects of research—they are its authors, partners, and beneficiaries.

FUNDING

Every investment in Mpact is transformed into community leadership, advocacy, research, and communications that improve health and protect human rights. We prioritize efficient operations while ensuring that resources reach communities where they can have the greatest impact.



WE WORK WITH GROUPS ALL OVER THE WORLD. IN 2025, OUR PARTNERS INCLUDE:

AIDES Senegal

Canadian Coalition
to Reform HIV
Criminalization

Council for
Global Equality

Elton John Aids
Foundation

GALZ

APCOM

Counter
Narrative Project

ECOM

Funders Concerned
About AIDS

Global Advocates
for Trans Equality

Global Network of
People with AIDS

Global Network of
Sex Work Projects

IMARAA

Inspira Cambio

International
Network of People
who Use Drugs

Inti Muda
Indonesia

Ishtar

Lambda

Lighthouse

LGBT Rights Ghana
dba Mindpath Ghana
LBG

MENA Community

Synapsis+

SMUG

Transgender Law
Center



DONORS

Aids Healthcare
Foundation

Elton John AIDS
Foundation

Grindr

The Global Fund

UNAIDS

Bavarian Nordic

AIDSfonds

Robert Carr Fund

Gilead

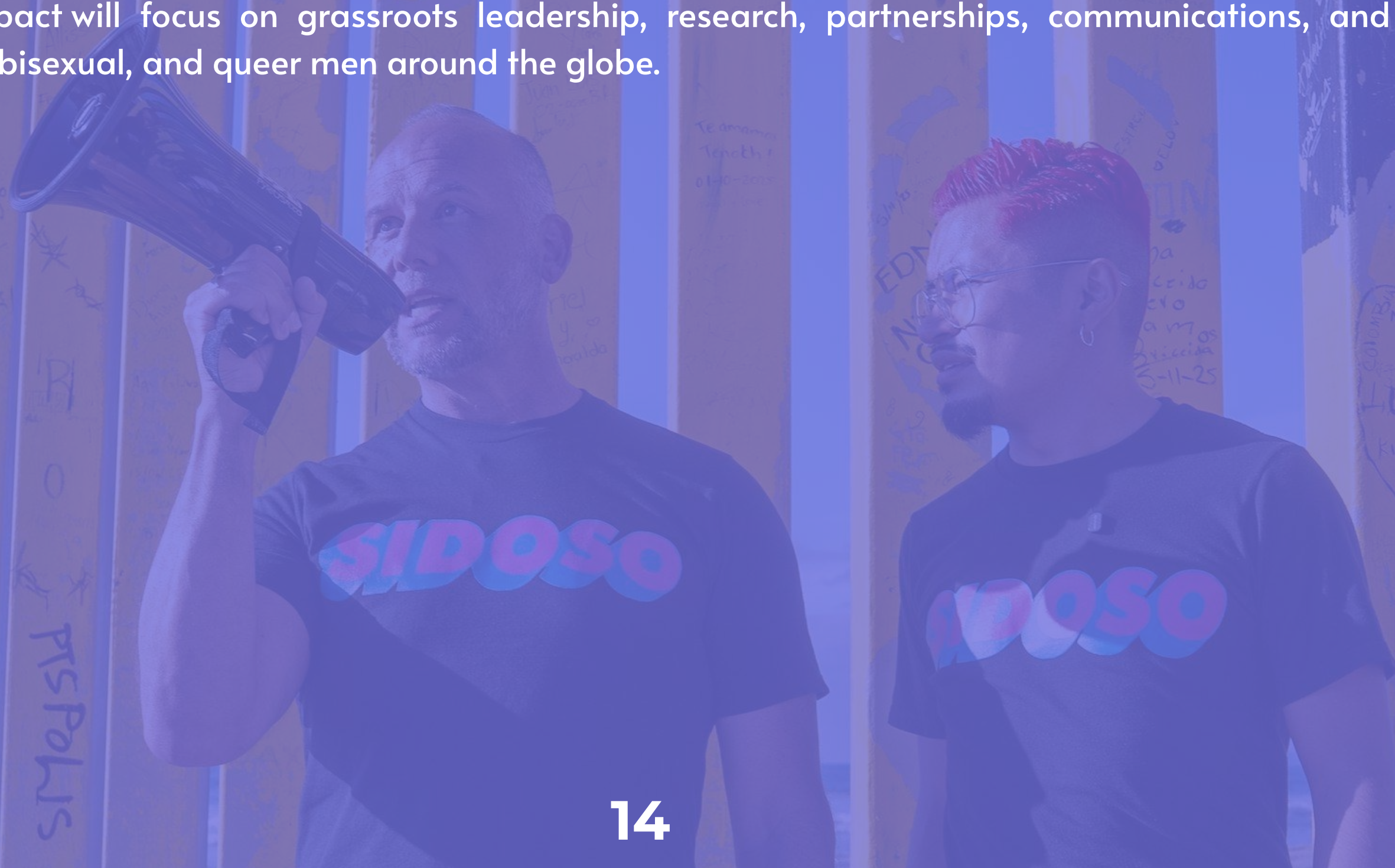
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MOVING FORWARD

2025 was a year of disruption. But our queer community has always been a disruptor against oppressive norms and structures. Mpact Global has fostered new partners in advocacy and resource mobilization.

Together we can meet these challenges and emerge stronger.

For the next decade, Mpact will focus on grassroots leadership, research, partnerships, communications, and health equity to improve the lives of gay, bisexual, and queer men around the globe.



WHY INVEST IN MPACT?

- **We understand what our queer community needs:** Trusted partnerships across more than 65 countries working to create change
- **Community Leadership:** Communities shape our research, advocacy, and programs.
- **Proven Impact:** Twenty years of influencing policy, strengthening organizations, and improving health.
- **Leveraging Every Dollar:** We amplify every investment through partnerships, evidence, and communications.



