ERASURE
BY DEFUNDING

The Impact of Funding Cuts on Intersex, Trans, & Gender Diverse Lives in East Africa

2025

EAST AFRICA TRANS HEALTH & ADVOCACY NETWORK

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Layout Design and Illustration: EATHAN communications Team

Suggested Citations

EATHAN (2025) Impact of Funding Cuts on Trans, Intersex, and Gender Diverse Initiatives in East Africa: A survey research by EATHAN.

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Cisgender: Persons whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Gender Diverse: Individuals whose gender identity or expression differs from societal norms associated with their assigned sex at birth.

Intersex: Individuals born with sex characteristics that do not fit typical definitions of male or female bodies.

Transgender (Trans): Persons whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth.

Gender Marker: The letter (e.g., "M," "F," "I") on official documents indicating a person's legally recognized gender.

Gender Recognition: Legal process by which a person's gender identity is officially recorded on identity documents.

Discrimination: Unfair treatment of individuals or groups based on characteristics such as gender identity, sexual orientation, race, or disability.

Social Stigma: Negative societal attitudes and beliefs that devalue or marginalize individuals based on identity traits.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Anti-Homosexuality Act (AHA): Ugandan law enacted in May 2023 imposing life imprisonment for same-sex relations and the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality."

Vulnerability Assessment: Systematic evaluation of the degree to which individuals or groups are at risk of harm due to legal, social, or economic factors.

Safe Housing: Temporarily secure residences for individuals fleeing violence or persecution, often provided by NGOs or community groups.

Psychosocial Support: Services aimed at helping individuals and communities heal from psychological stress and social challenges.

Drop-in Centre: A community-based facility offering walk-in services—such as counseling, peer support, or basic medical care —without prior appointment.

Service Quality: Measure of how effectively a program meets community needs—in this context, factors include availability of medication, counseling consistency, and staff responsiveness.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Legal Aid: Free or low-cost legal services provided to individuals who cannot afford private counsel.

Mutual Aid Network: Grassroots organizing model in which community members directly share resources, skills, or support without reliance on formal institutions.

Participatory Grantmaking: Funding model in which community stakeholders help set priorities, review applications, and decide how grant funds are distributed.

Human Rights Defender: Individuals or groups who act to promote or protect human rights without seeking monetary reward.

Advocacy: Activities aimed at influencing policies, laws, and public attitudes to achieve social justice and human rights.

ACRONYMS

AHA: Anti-Homosexuality Act

AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

EATHAN: East Africa Trans Health & Advocacy Network

HRW: Human Rights Watch

ITGD: Intersex, Trans and Gender Diverse

LGBT: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender

LGBTQIA+: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, etc.

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

OAI: OutRight Action International

UHAI-EASHRI: UHAI – East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative

USAID: United States Agency for International Development

WB: World Bank

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our deepest gratitude to the member organizations of the East Africa Trans Health & Advocacy Network (EATHAN) in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi. Your courage, resilience, and willingness to share your lived realities made this report both possible and powerful.

We are especially thankful to EATHAN's Board of Directors for actively supporting and advancing engagement on this research within their respective countries. We also acknowledge the vital contributions of our Executive Director, Director of Programs, and the EATHAN Secretariat, and consultants, whose strategic leadership, coordination, and documentation efforts made this work possible from conception to completion.

To the frontline activists and community leaders working under increasingly challenging conditions, we see you and honor your unwavering dedication. We are also grateful to all individuals who offered personal reflections and testimonies, your voices are the foundation of this report.
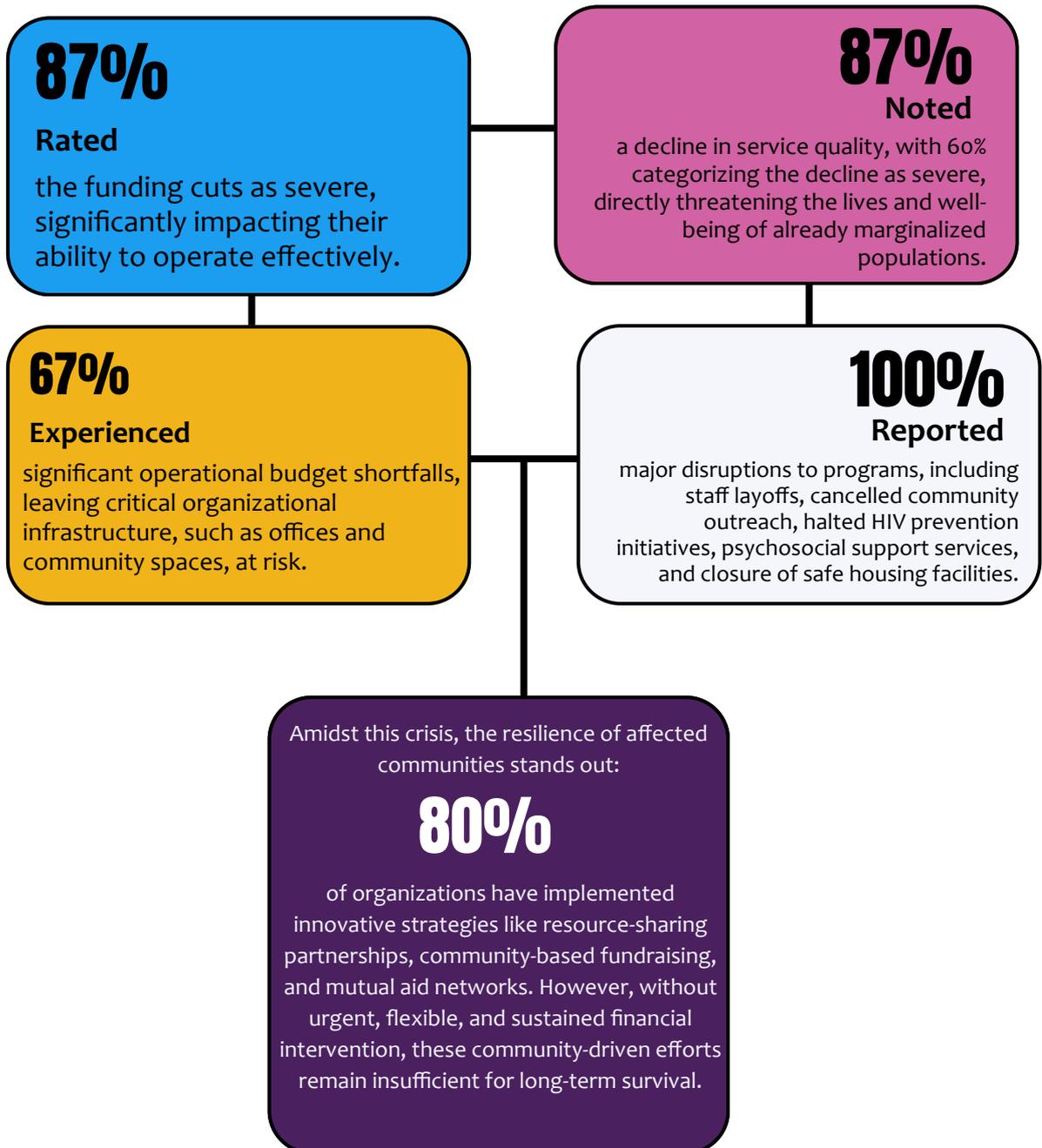
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report contains all substantive findings and data from the original assessment; it examines financial vulnerabilities, service reductions, staffing impacts, advocacy limitations, and coping strategies in turn. The report concludes with actionable recommendations for donors, policymakers, civil society allies, and community members to urgently address this funding crisis and ensure these initiatives not only survive but thrive.

Recent funding cuts have dealt a critical blow to organizations serving trans, intersex, and gender diverse communities across East Africa, threatening to unravel years of progress in health, safety, and human rights. These grassroots initiatives, often operating under immense pressure with minimal resources, now face unprecedented disruptions just as discrimination, stigma, and violence are escalating in the region.

An urgent survey conducted by EATHAN - East Africa Trans Health & Advocacy Network among 16 member organisations across Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi reveals alarming consequences:
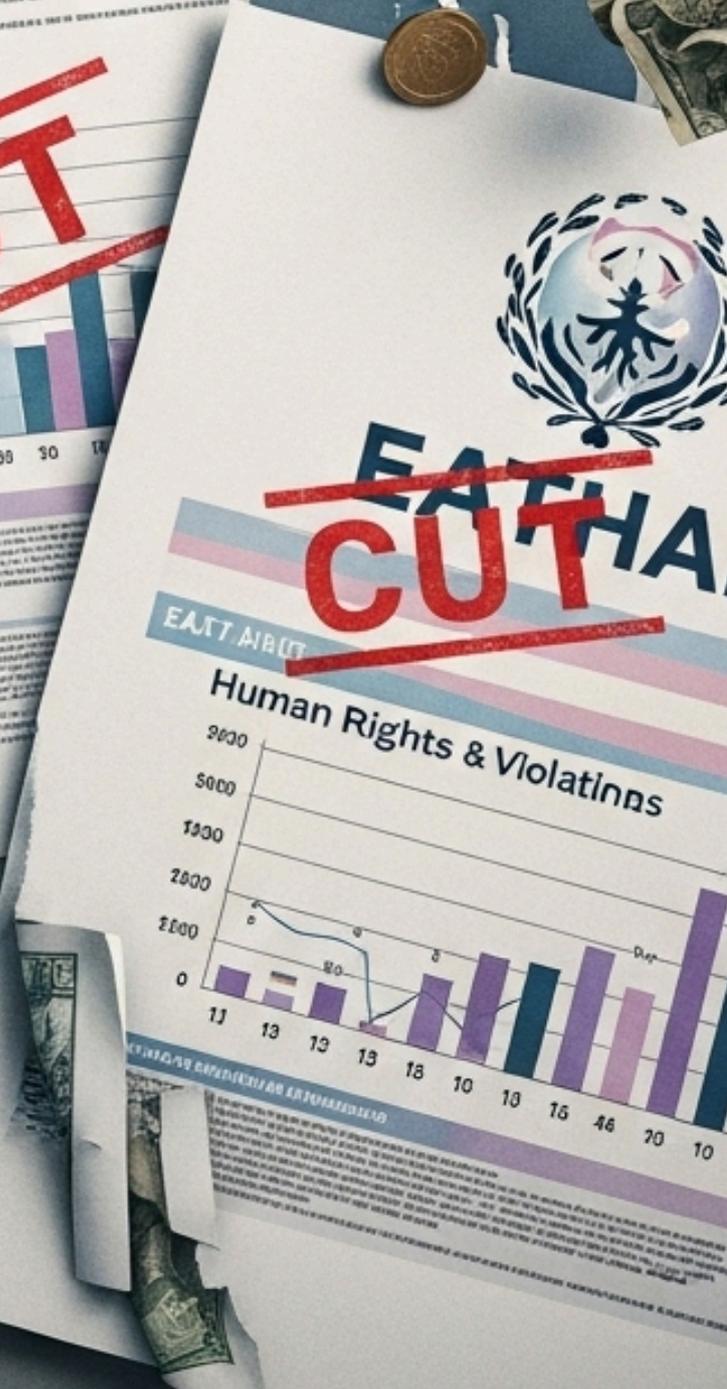
87%
Rated
the funding cuts as severe, significantly impacting their ability to operate effectively.

87%
Noted
a decline in service quality, with 60% categorizing the decline as severe, directly threatening the lives and well-being of already marginalized populations.

67%
Experienced
significant operational budget shortfalls, leaving critical organizational infrastructure, such as offices and community spaces, at risk.

100%
Reported
major disruptions to programs, including staff layoffs, cancelled community outreach, halted HIV prevention initiatives, psychosocial support services, and closure of safe housing facilities.

Amidst this crisis, the resilience of affected communities stands out:

80%

of organizations have implemented innovative strategies like resource-sharing partnerships, community-based fundraising, and mutual aid networks. However, without urgent, flexible, and sustained financial intervention, these community-driven efforts remain insufficient for long-term survival.

Figure 5: Key Survey Statistics – Funding Cuts Impact Overview

Category	Value
Impact Severity (Severe)	87
Impact Severity (High)	13
Program Changes (Implemented)	100
Community Engagement (Decreased)	87
Community Engagement (Increased)	13
Service quality (Significant Decline)	60
Service quality (Moderate Decline)	27
Advocacy (Significantly Limited)	47
Advocacy (Modetarely Limited)	20
Advocacy (Slightly Limited)	33
Staffing (Significant Impact)	73
Partnerships Suffered	47
Partnerships Not Suffered	53
Future Sustainability (Very Concerned)	87

INTRODUCTION

East Africa's intersex, trans and gender diverse (ITGD) communities are facing an increasingly hostile environment marked by punitive laws and pervasive stigma.

[1]In Uganda, the passage of the Anti-Homosexuality Act in May 2023 signalled an especially dire turn: the law imposes life imprisonment for consensual same-sex relations and even the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality".

Neighbouring countries have likewise tightened repression. [2]Burundi's President Évariste Ndayishimiye went so far as to publicly urge citizens in late 2023 to "lead homosexuals to a stadium and stone them", endorsing mob violence in a country where same-sex activity already carries a jail term.

In Tanzania, authorities have cracked down on healthcare access for LGBT persons. In one 2017 sweep, the government shuttered 40 HIV clinics accused of "catering to homosexuals"[3]. Such actions not only criminalize ITGD identities but also drive these communities away from essential services.

Even where overt anti-LGBT laws are less extreme, ITGD individuals lack legal recognition and protection.

[4]Rwanda, for example, has no provisions for legal gender recognition, leaving transgender and intersex people with no way to update official documents to reflect their identity.

Kenya stands out as a relative bright spot a landmark 2022 law made it the first African country to recognize intersex people as a third gender, even allowing an "I" gender marker on birth certificates[5]. This progressive step ensures intersex children in Kenya can access basic services with dignity. However, Kenya still criminalizes same-sex relations under colonial-era laws, and transgender Kenyans have no clear path to change their legal gender and experience significant delays in changing their names.

Across the region, anti-ITGD sentiment in society remains deep-seated, with conservative cultural and religious norms fuelling discrimination, harassment, and violence in daily life. These harsh legal and social conditions make life precarious for ITGD people in East Africa.

Community members routinely face violence, eviction, and denial of healthcare due to their gender identity. In Uganda, for instance, reports have emerged of LGBT individuals being turned away by hospitals or even reported to police when seeking treatment, as well as being fired from jobs and thrown out of rental housing in the wake of the 2023 law[6]. Fear of abuse and arrest forced many into hiding or exile by mid-2023, a spike in Ugandan LGBT refugees fleeing to Kenya was already noted[7].

Without safe access to clinics, hormones, or even informal support networks, transgender and intersex people struggle to obtain gender-affirming care. Drop-in centres and peer support groups have been a lifeline offering everything from HIV prevention and hormone therapy to psychosocial counselling, but these too depend on an increasingly fragile support system.

Essentially, ITGD communities survive through a patchwork of NGO programs and informal networks, almost entirely funded by international aid. Local government support is non-existent or openly hostile, and private domestic funding for ITGD welfare is virtually unheard of.

Alarmingly, this reliance on foreign aid comes at a time when donor funding is in retreat, just as attacks on ITGD people intensify. International donors and institutions have begun scaling back crucial funding streams, whether due to political backlash or broader budget shifts, and the impacts are cascading through vital services.

In Uganda, the enactment of the Anti-Homosexuality Act prompted some major backers to pull back: the World Bank announced it was suspending new funding to Uganda in protest[8]. More concretely, the US, which bank rolls over half of Uganda's HIV/AIDS response, froze portions of its health aid in 2023/24. As a result, key community clinics and drop-in centres have already closed, cutting off safe access to HIV treatment and support for vulnerable groups[9].

Local NGOs warn that an abrupt loss of funding is poised to "shut down" tailored services, leaving ITGD people "particularly exposed to gaps in healthcare, legal protection, and psychosocial support"[10].

Similar funding contractions are being felt across East Africa, as global aid priorities shift and conservative governments clamp down. Critical programs from hormone provision to mental health counselling and legal aid are being downsized or halted right when ITGD communities need them most.

In conclusion, ITGD individuals in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi find themselves in an extremely vulnerable position: targeted by harsher laws and social violence on one side and losing the lifelines of external support on the other. This convergence of rising anti-ITGD persecution and shrinking resources paints a stark picture of urgency. It is against this backdrop that a regional survey of ITGD organizations was conducted in May 2025 to assess the funding challenges and needs.

The following section of this report presents the survey findings, detailing how these front-line organizations are coping with the funding crisis and what it means for the future of ITGD advocacy and services in East Africa.

METHODOLOGY

PARTICIPANTS:

Sixteen organizations participated, five from Kenya, five from Uganda, three from Tanzania, two from Rwanda, and one from Burundi. All work directly with and for intersex, trans, or gender-diverse (ITGD) communities, providing health, advocacy, psychosocial, and support services.

DATA & METHOD

Respondents completed a mixed-methods survey (multiple choice and open-ended questions) covering:

- Budget reliance on external funding
- Program and service changes
- Staffing and volunteer impacts
- Advocacy and outreach disruptions
- Coping and adaptation strategies

ANALYSIS:

Quantitative responses were tabulated (see figures below). Thematic analysis of open-ended responses highlighted both common challenges and unique adaptations.

KEY FINDINGS

Severity and Scope of Impact

The survey results demonstrate a crisis of exceptional magnitude for trans, intersex, and gender diverse organisations across East Africa.

A striking 87% of all respondents described the impact of funding cuts as "severe."

In both Kenya and Tanzania, every organisation surveyed rated the impact at the maximum severity.

In Uganda, 4 out of 5 organizations did the same, with the remaining respondent still rating the impact as high.

Rwanda reflected a similar pattern, though with slightly more variation.

Figure 1: Severity Ratings by Country
(Most organizations report severe impact)
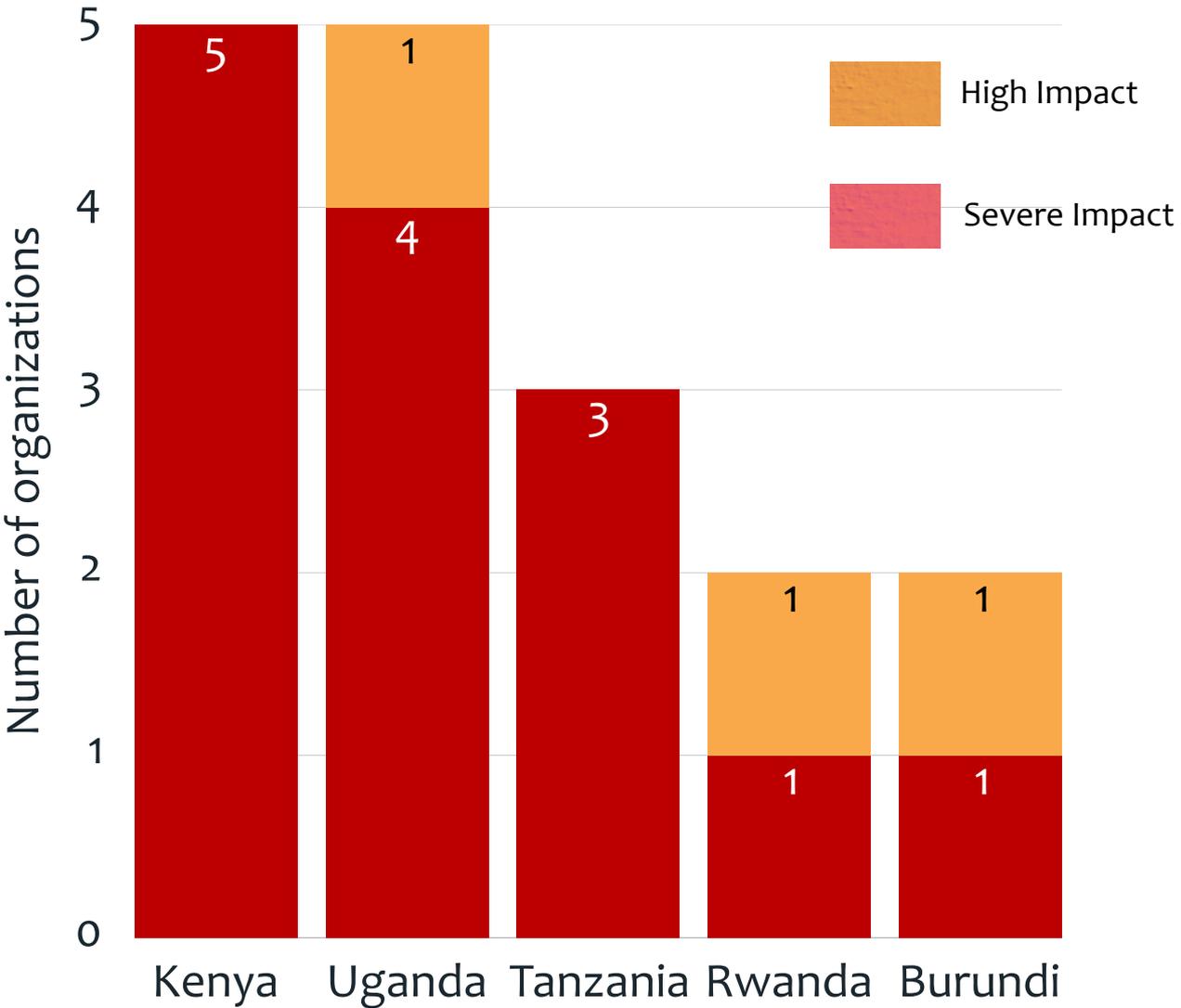
High impact: 13 of 15 (87%)respondents rated the cuts as "5 (severe impact)", and 2 rated "4". In Kenya and Tanzania all organizations (5/5 and 3/3) gave a 5/5; in Uganda 4 of 5 gave 5, 1 gave 4; in Rwanda, 1 gave 5 and 1 gave 4. Only one group (Rwanda) reported a moderate impact.

SERVICE AND PROGRAM DISRUPTIONS

Service disruptions are nearly universal. All organizations reported significant changes to their programs and services as a direct result of funding cuts.

These disruptions include:

- Staff layoffs
- Transitions to unpaid working hours
- Cancellation of community outreach events
- Reductions in program frequency
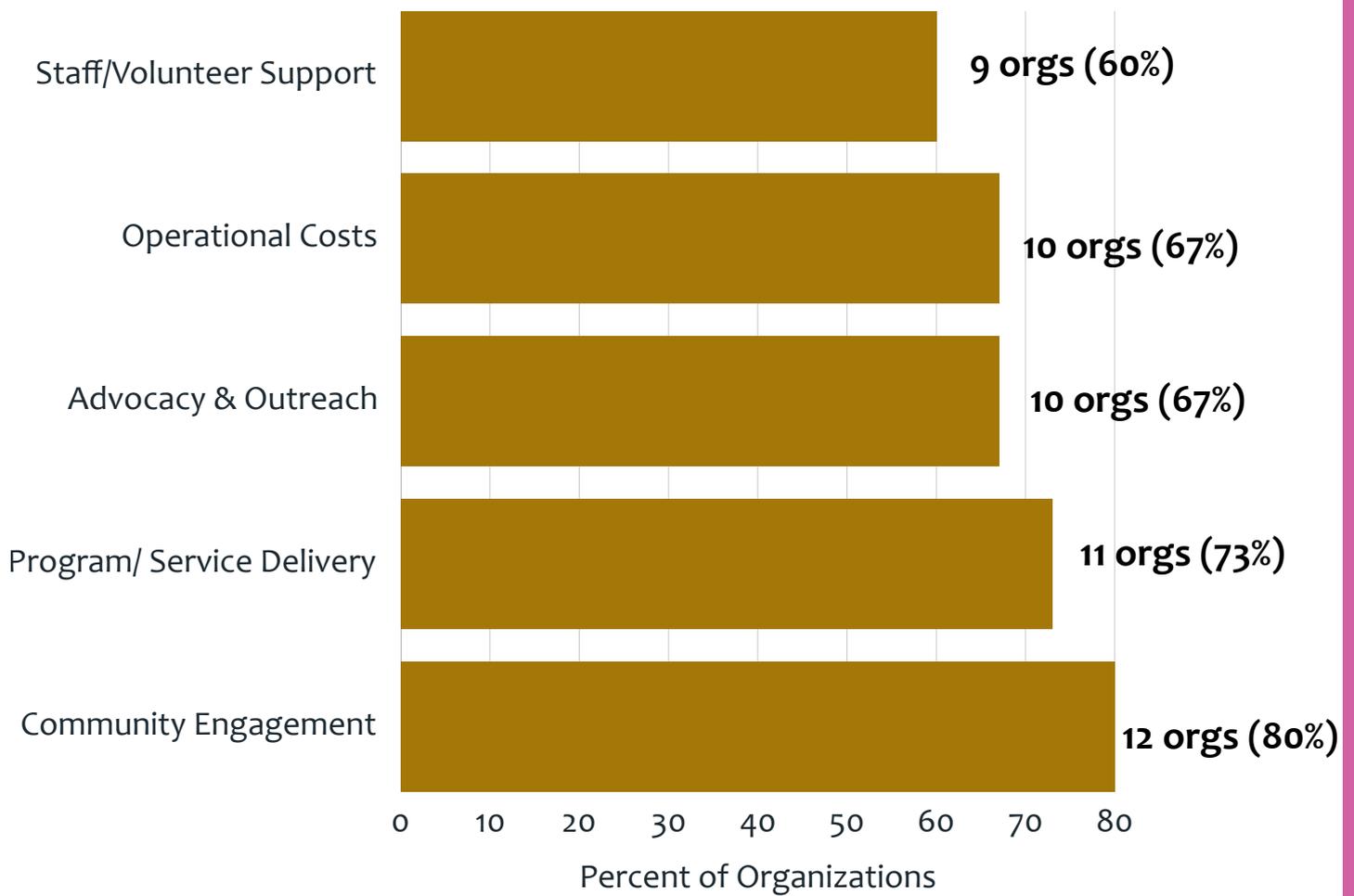- In some instances, the closure of safe housing and drop-in centres

60%

of respondents noted a significant decline in the quality of services provided

27%

while another 27% reported a moderate decline.

The deterioration is closely linked to shortages of medication, interruptions in counseling, and reductions in outreach or other support activities.

Figure 2: Areas Most Affected by Funding Cuts

Area	Value
Staff/Volunteer Support	9 orgs (60%)
Operational Costs	10 orgs (67%)
Advocacy & Outreach	10 orgs (67%)
Program/ Service Delivery	11 orgs (73%)
Community Engagement	12 orgs (80%)

Percent of Organizations

Respondents could select all that applied. The top-mentioned areas were: Community Engagement: 12 of 15 (80%) cited this, e.g. fewer public events or meetings. Program/Service Delivery: 11 (73%), e.g. health clinics, support groups curtailed. Advocacy & Outreach: 10 (67%) – policy or rights campaigns are being cut back. Operational Costs (office, utilities, rent): 10 (67%). Staff & Volunteer Support: 9 (60%), reflecting layoffs or reduced stipends.

FINANCIAL EXPOSURE

Financial exposure has reached a critical point. 43% of organizations reported that more than 80% of their operating budget depended on funding sources that have now been withdrawn or reduced.

Another 36% relied on these sources for 41–60% of their budgets. Overall, the data show that 4 out of every 5 organizations relied on at least half their budget from donor funding that has now been cut, leaving many with immediate crises such as unpaid rent, loss of office space, or the suspension of core projects.

Some respondents reported...

"Our office space is at risk of being closed down due to rent arrears."
(Uganda) 🇺🇬

*"Mpaka sasa tunajitaidi kutafuta wafadhili wapya ili waweze kutuwezesha kuendeleza kazi."
(Burundi) 🇧🇮

*Translation: "So far, we have been striving to find new donors to enable us to continue our work." (Burundi)

Figure 3: Budget Dependence on lost funding

Most organizations faced extreme financial risk when funds were cut
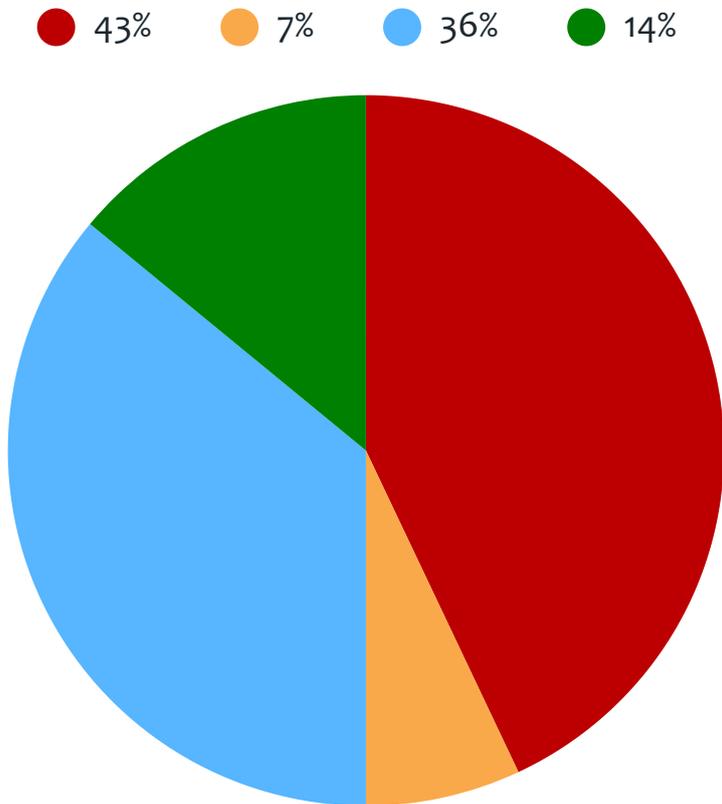
What each Color means

● 43%   ● 7%   ● 36%   ● 14%

- ● **81 - 100% of budget at risk:** Nearly all funding lost (43% of orgs) - Immediate crisis, most operations at risk

- ● **61 - 80% :** Majority lost (7%) - more than half the budget gone, severe cuts required

- ● **41 - 60% :** Significant loss (36%) - Nearly half of all funding lost, major program/service impact

- ● **21 - 40% :** Substantial but smaller loss (14%) at least one- fifth of budget lost, core activities disrupted

Budget at risk: 6 of 14 respondents (43%) reported that 81–100% of their program budget depended on the lost funding; 5 (36%) said 41–60%; only 1 (7%) said 61–80%, and 2 (14%) said 21–40%. In other words, ~80% relied on at least half their budget from the cut sources.

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Advocacy and community engagement have suffered substantial setbacks.

According to the data, 47% of organizations said their advocacy efforts are now "significantly limited" by the loss of funding. Activities such as travel, meetings with policymakers, and national forums have been largely halted.

Community participation has also declined sharply: 87% of organizations observed a marked decrease in engagement since the funding crisis began, attributing this to cancelled meetings, the inability to offer transport or refreshments, and general demoralization among members.

Only a small number of groups that pivoted to free or online support reported any increase in engagement.

Here's what the respondents said on the same:

"The majority of our members have started losing hope in our engagements as most of our activities have been suspended."
(Kenya)

"There is increased fear to advocate for our rights, worried about arrest for who we are."
(Uganda)

STAFFING AND VOLUNTEERS

Staffing and volunteer resources have been badly affected. 73% of organizations described the impact on staffing as "significant," with reports of layoffs, reduced stipends, and diminishing volunteer participation.
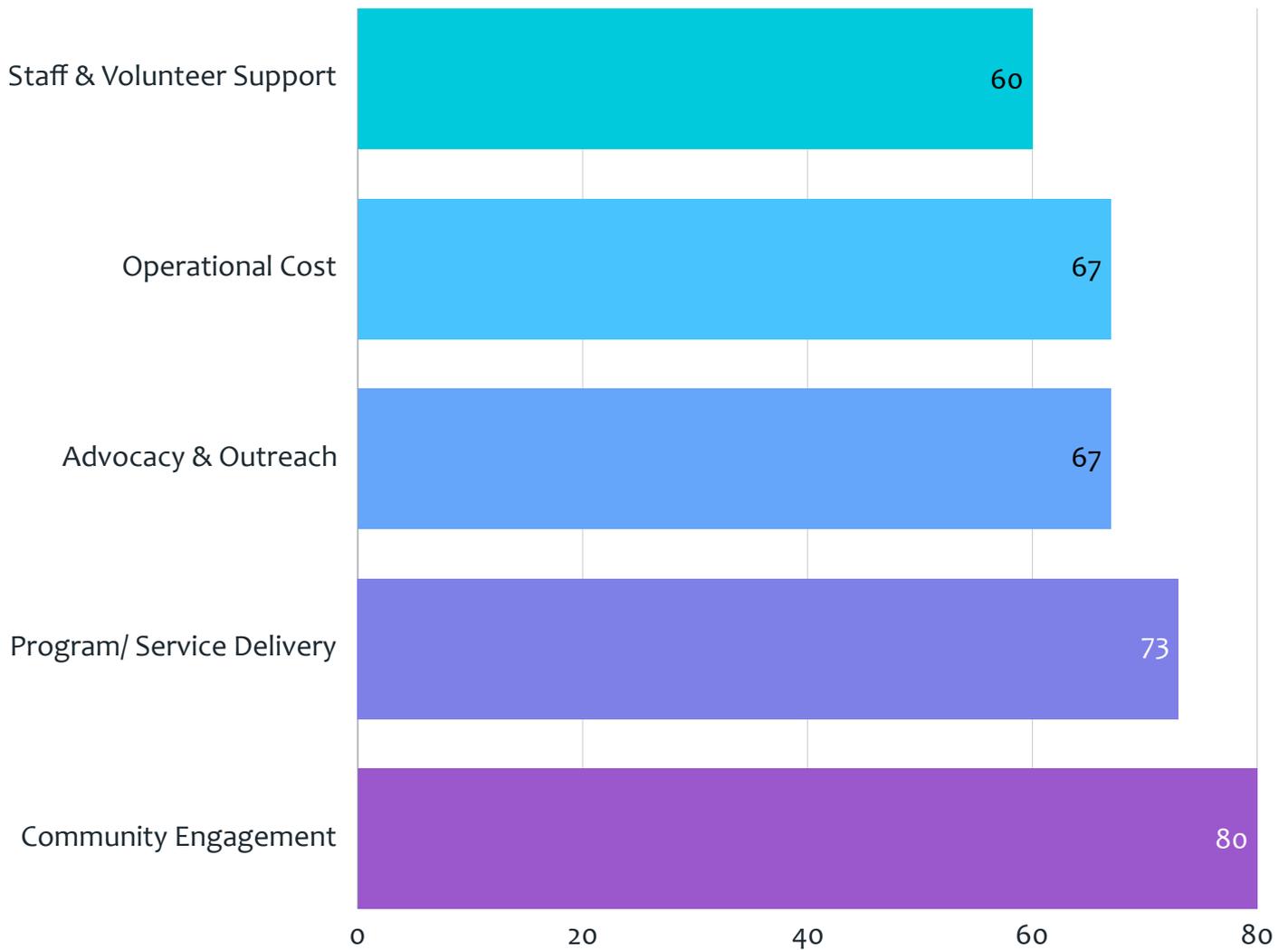
This reduction in resources has directly led to fewer staff available for outreach, and volunteers are less able to participate without travel support or stipends.

Morale is declining as a result, and several organizations noted the departure of key staff members who are unable to continue in unpaid or unstable roles.

"We had to lay off 2 staff members, resulting in a 20% reduction in our team."
(Kenya)

"We have had to cut salaries for staff members, and cut some services to our members, community outreach, and advocacy campaigns."
(Uganda)

Figure 4: Areas Most affected by Funding Cuts (Program & Service Disruptions)

Staff & Volunteer Support — 60
Operational Cost — 67
Advocacy & Outreach — 67
Program/ Service Delivery — 73
Community Engagement — 80

What colors mean:
1. Dark Blue - Most commonly affected (Community Engagement, direct services)
2. Light blue - Support, advocacy,operations(also highly impacted)

Key Quotes
"Due to funding cuts, we had to limit our outreach & even layoff 20% of our staff." (Kenya)
"Th changes are that programs have been cancelled or reduced." (Burundi, Swahili Response)

PARTNERSHIPS AND SUSTAINABILITY

The survey also revealed mixed effects on organizational partnerships. Nearly half of organizations said that collaboration and joint projects have been undermined, especially among smaller organizations that cannot absorb the costs of maintaining partnerships without external support.

Concerns over sustainability are almost universal. 87% of leaders surveyed expressed serious concerns about the long-term viability of their programs if funding gaps are not urgently addressed. There is a real and immediate fear that without intervention, vital safety nets and services could disappear entirely.

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC HIGHLIGHTS

Country-specific responses reflect these broader regional trends.

In Kenya, all surveyed groups reported severe impacts, including the halting of outreach programs, staff reductions, and clinic closures. Some have responded by creating resource-sharing and joint fundraising mechanisms.

Ugandan organizations, facing the end of support from major donors such as USAID, have attempted to launch local fundraising and income-generating projects, but these are far from sufficient.

In Tanzania, organizations described the additional challenge of an increasingly hostile legal environment, which has compounded the effects of funding withdrawal and led to suspended clinic operations.

Rwandan and Burundian organizations, already accustomed to operating with smaller donor pools, have still had to slow or halt key programs and now rely almost entirely on volunteers. One group in Burundi appealed urgently for support to avoid closure of their services for the trans community.

Despite the scale of these challenges, there are examples of adaptation. Some organizations have created mutual aid networks, launched local fundraising efforts, and forged new partnerships, but these efforts have not matched the scale of the funding shortfall. In the absence of urgent and flexible financial support, the future of trans, intersex, and gender diverse advocacy and service delivery in East Africa remains precarious.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this survey present a sobering picture of both the acute vulnerability and the extraordinary resilience of trans, intersex, and gender diverse organizations in East Africa. Funding cuts have not only exposed pre-existing financial fragility but have triggered cascading disruptions in service delivery, advocacy, and organizational capacity.

The magnitude of dependence on external funding, illustrated earlier in Figure 3, demonstrates why the loss of donor support led to immediate existential threats for most organizations.

The abrupt withdrawal of resources has forced organizations to make painful decisions in real time. Within weeks, many faced the prospect of shutting down offices, suspending core services, or laying off staff.

As reflected in Figure 2, every critical area of operation—community engagement, health programs, legal support, and psychosocial counseling—has been impacted. This contraction of services is especially damaging in contexts where state support is non-existent, and communities face increasing legal and social hostility.

Organizations are experiencing staff attrition and burnout at an unprecedented scale. Figure 4 provides a visual summary of the staffing impacts reported: 73% of organizations have experienced significant reductions in staff or volunteer engagement. As teams shrink, the ability to maintain even minimal service levels diminishes, resulting in further erosion of trust and effectiveness. The loss of experienced staff and volunteers not only disrupts immediate service delivery but also undermines organizational memory and leadership continuity, making recovery more challenging even if funding is restored in the future.

Advocacy and rights work have suffered equally. Nearly half of organizations (47%) noted that their advocacy efforts have been significantly curtailed. The loss of resources for policy engagement, community mobilization, and legal defense has created a vacuum in public discourse, which is increasingly being filled by anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric and regressive policy initiatives. This effect is not theoretical: the past year has seen new or intensified crackdowns, while opportunities for legal and policy progress have stalled. As organizations' capacity to respond diminishes, there is a heightened risk that the rights and protections of trans, intersex, and gender diverse people will be further eroded across the region.

Compounding the funding crisis is a pervasive sense of insecurity and uncertainty about sustainability. As shown in the data, 87% of leaders expressed deep concern about the long-term future of their organizations and services. The fear is not only about surviving the present moment but also about the capacity to rebuild and respond to future crises. The lack of stable, multi-year, or locally anchored funding continues to leave organizations exposed to sudden shocks, as well as to the whims of external donors and political trends.

Despite these daunting challenges, the survey also documents a remarkable degree of community resilience and innovation. Mutual aid networks, community-based fundraising, and resource-sharing arrangements have helped some organizations adapt in the short term.

These coping mechanisms are evident in the qualitative accounts and are summarized in Figure 5, which illustrates the range and frequency of community-driven adaptation strategies adopted since the onset of the funding crisis. However, while these efforts have provided temporary relief, they remain insufficient in scale and sustainability to fully compensate for the withdrawal of institutional support.

Finally, the country-level snapshots reveal that while specific contexts differ, the essential dynamic is consistent across East Africa: organizations are being forced to do more with less, just as the threats to their communities are increasing. Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi each display their own blend of legal, social, and economic pressures, yet all face the same dilemma of heightened need and shrinking support. This convergence of factors makes a compelling case for urgent intervention and a fundamental rethink of how trans, intersex, and gender diverse movements are resourced and sustained.
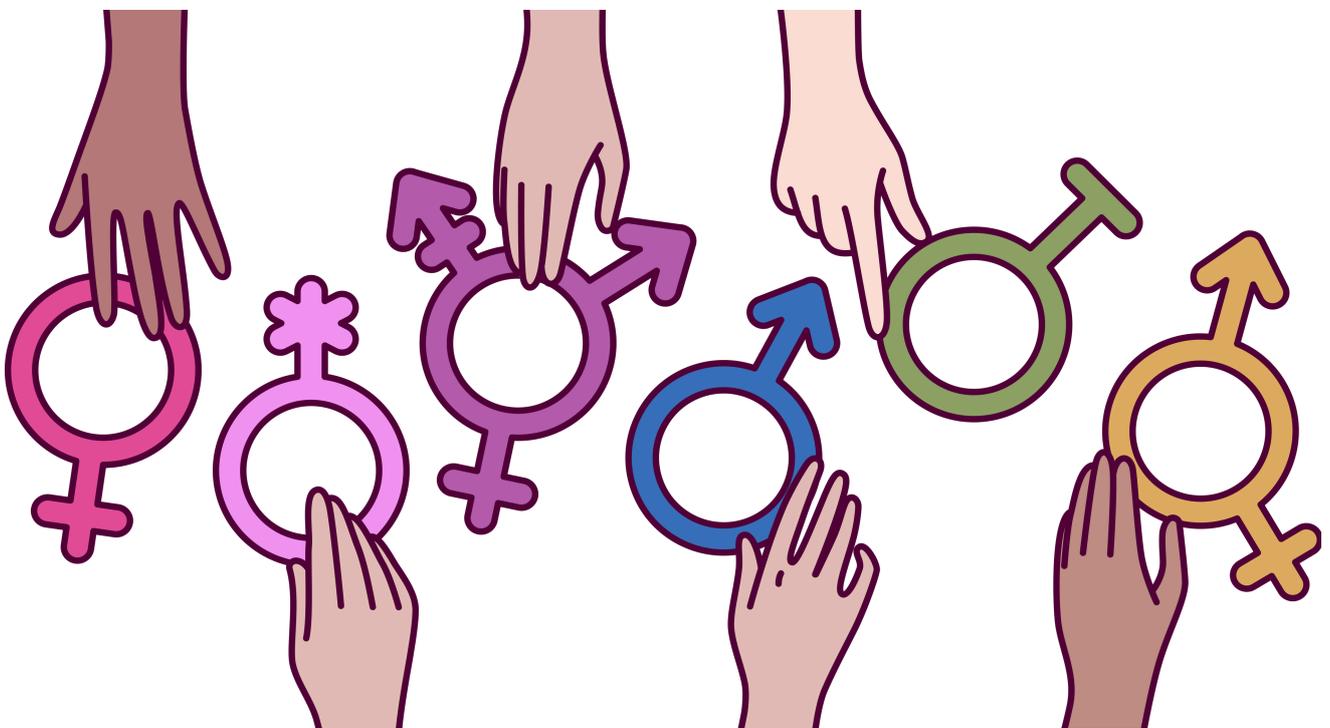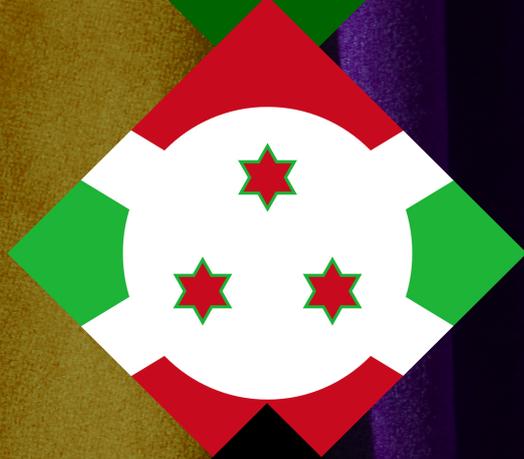
RECOMMENDATIONS

This section explores recommendations for donors, policy makers, and allies, drawing directly on the evidence and experiences documented here. Without decisive and targeted action, there is a genuine risk that years of progress in community building, health, and human rights could be irreparably lost.

This crisis is an opportunity to re-envision how our movements are funded and sustained. The goal must not only be to restore funding to previous levels, but to build a more resilient, community-centered foundation for the future. International donors, governments, and civil society all have a role to play. Below are actionable recommendations aimed at different stakeholders. These steps, if implemented, will help stabilize the situation in the short term and strengthen these initiatives for the long term:

1. Urgently Restore Funding and Fill Critical Gaps

International donors, philanthropic foundations, and bilateral partners should reinstate and expand financial support for trans, intersex, and gender diverse organizations in East Africa. Immediate, flexible emergency funding is essential to allow these organizations to reopen clinics, shelters, and critical services that have been closed or suspended as a result of the funding crisis. Rapid deployment of resources can prevent further loss of life and community infrastructure.

2. Shift to Flexible, Long-Term, Community-Led Funding

Donors should transition away from short-term, restrictive project funding and instead provide multi-year, core operating grants and support community-driven grantmaking models. This approach enables organizations to adapt to changing needs, sustain essential activities, and build long-term resilience. Participatory grantmaking—where community members have a direct say in funding decisions—should be prioritized to ensure resources align with lived realities.

3. Simplify Funding Processes and Support Organizational Capacity

Funding processes should be streamlined, with simpler application and reporting requirements, especially for grassroots and unregistered organizations. Donors should accept proposals and reports in local languages or provide support for translation, and invest in organizational development, including financial management, registration, and fundraising skills, to enable local organizations to become more self-sufficient and resilient over time.

4. Strengthen Partnerships and Broaden Inclusion in National Initiatives

Mainstream human rights organizations, women's groups, and health agencies should actively include trans, intersex, and gender diverse organizations in their projects and coalitions. Sharing resources, providing technical support, and collaborating on joint initiatives can help amplify impact and build a more inclusive civil society sector. National governments and multilateral agencies should ensure that ITGD communities are included in national development strategies and health programs.

5. Enhance Protection and Advocacy Space for Activists

The international community, including foreign embassies and multilateral organisations, should prioritise protection for human rights defenders and community leaders who face increased risks as a result of both rising hostility and reduced resources. Emergency relocation programs, security support, and legal assistance should be strengthened. Diplomatic and public pressure should continue to be applied to governments enacting or enforcing discriminatory laws.

6. Leverage Private Sector and Diaspora Solidarity

Corporations operating in Africa and diaspora communities abroad should be encouraged to support community funds, sponsor vital services, and partner with local organizations. Technology companies can help amplify donation campaigns and facilitate direct giving, while private businesses can contribute to safe spaces and livelihood projects as part of their corporate social responsibility.

7. Invest in Sustainable, Community–Led Solutions

Funders and partners should support innovative models such as mutual aid networks, social enterprises, and community-led pilot projects that foster economic empowerment and reduce long-term reliance on external aid. Seed funding for projects like communal farms, housing cooperatives, or trans-led businesses can create internal revenue streams and strengthen the social fabric of the community.

CONCLUSION

The impacts of the recent funding cuts have been devastating, but they are not irreversible.

With prompt action and a commitment to smarter, more inclusive funding approaches, donors and allies can help these critical initiatives recover and flourish.

The trans, intersex, and gender diverse activists of East Africa have shown incredible courage and capacity, continuing to support their communities even when resources vanish. They have kept hope alive through sheer will and solidarity. It is now up to the broader international community, including readers of this report, to match that determination with meaningful support.

The impacts of the recent funding cuts have been devastating, but they are not irreversible.

The recommendations above offer a roadmap. Implementing them will save lives, restore dignity, and uphold the fundamental human rights of some of the most marginalised people in East Africa. Equally important, it will affirm the principle that no community should be left behind in the pursuit of health, equity, and freedom.

The cost of inaction – in human and moral terms – far outweighs the investments needed to sustain these movements.

By acting swiftly and decisively, we can ensure that the promise of "Leave No One Behind" is not an empty slogan, but a reality that extends to trans, intersex, and gender diverse Africans, even in times of funding uncertainty. The resilience is there; the time to reinforce it with resources and solidarity is now.
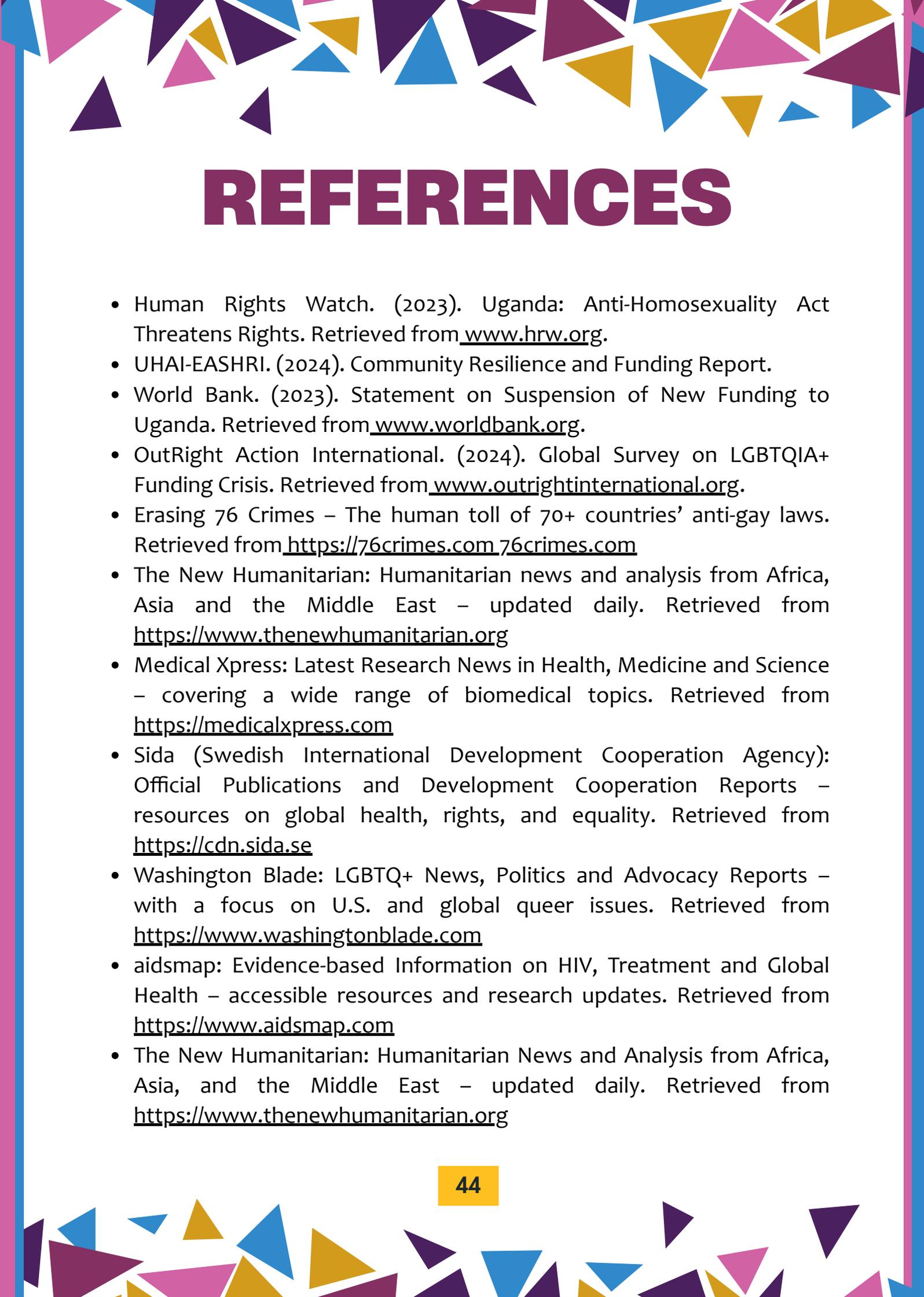
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EATHAN
East Africa Trans Health & Advocacy Network

Erasure by Defunding: The Impact of Funding Cuts on Intersex, Trans, & Gender Diverse Lives in East Africa report

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