

INTRODUCING THE BETTER PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF FUNDING, FROM RESPONSE TO LONG-TERM RESILIENCE

Better Preparedness is a **growing community** of funders working to ensure that human rights movements and civil society organizations receive the resources they need during **times of crisis** and in heavily restricted civic spaces.

It brings together **funders** from the **human rights, peace and security**, and **humanitarian sectors** with **social movements** to drive significant resources to those on the **frontlines**.

WHY BETTER PREPAREDNESS MATTERS

There is an **urgent need** for new ways to fund **civil society** and **human rights groups** as they face overlapping crises – from wars and authoritarianism to climate crisis and democratic backsliding. This urgency is growing with the **projected decline**¹ in funding for global human and foreign aid cuts, putting the **infrastructure** of civic space and human rights **at risk**.

Better Preparedness exists to change this trajectory.

By building infrastructure for coordination, improving **funding flows**, and **connecting** diverse sectors, the initiative is pioneering a **new way** to fund resilience and crisis response, so movements can survive today's crises and **thrive tomorrow**.

¹ hrfn.org/foreign-aid-cuts/

[HRFN.ORG/BETTER-PREPAREDNESS/](https://hrfn.org/better-preparedness/)



BETTER
PREPAREDNESS

Hosted by:



HRFN

Human Rights
Fundraising Network



PSFG

PEACE & SECURITY FUNDERS GROUP

OUR PATH TO RESILIENT FUNDING

Better Preparedness combines practical tools with a clear strategic pathway to transform how funders respond in times of crisis:

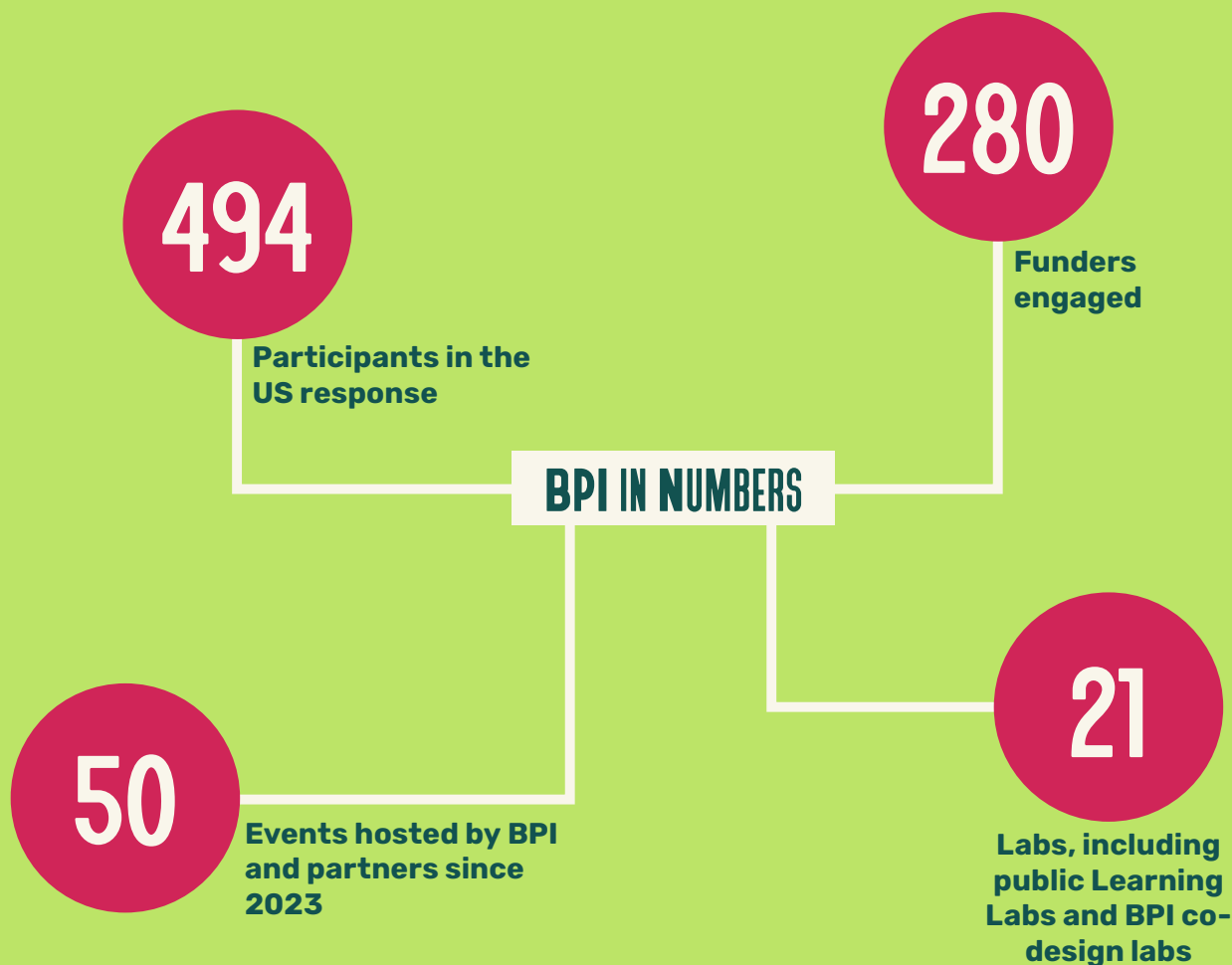
OUR STRATEGY

- 1 Radically improve** coordination around crises
- 2 Generate political will** among foundations to expand funding for human rights and civic space, and to back deeper coordination across the human rights, humanitarian, and peace & security sectors
- 3 Establish a multi-donor community** capable of acting at speed and across geographies to sustain long-term, coordinated crisis response

OUR CORE TOOLS

- Crisis Coordination Playbook:** step-by-step guidance for collective responses
- Rapid Coordination Start-Up Service:** facilitation and hands-on support
- Community of Practice:** 250+ funders codesigning strategies, reflecting, and learning together

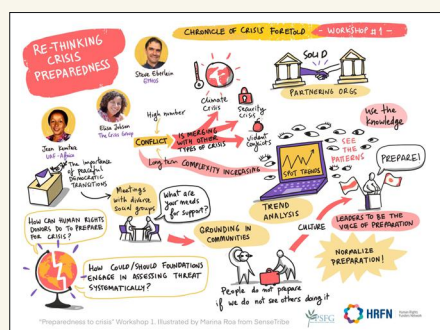
TURNING COORDINATION INTO IMPACT



FROM IDEA TO ACTION: THE BPI JOURNEY

Dec 2021–Mar 2022 Learning Journey

HRFN and PSFG convened 100+ funders to explore preparedness, response, and resilience in human rights crises.



May–July 2023 Discovery Phase

Research and co-design process results in Better Preparedness: Funding Resilience, producing a coordination blueprint and strategy.



November 2023 Learning Labs

300+ funders and experts tested practical solutions, covering early warning systems, legal barriers, decolonizing grantmaking, and AI in human rights.



December 2023- March 2024 Co-design Labs & BPI Community

BPI's three key pillars: Core Group, Guiding Group, and Civil Society Advisors became the BPI community and co-designed coordination tools and strategies for funders.

GUIDING GROUP AND SPONSORS

We are grateful to our Guiding Group of advisors who have provided feedback on direction, content, and blueprint components.



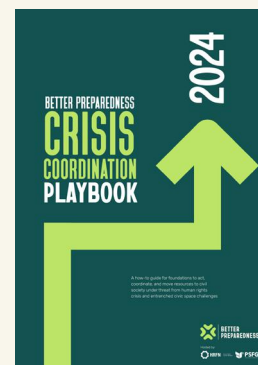
Sept 2024 Crisis Coordination Playbook Launch

The Playbook was formally launched, with 10+ organizations joining the Clinton Global Initiative and \$1M raised for first-of-its-kind crisis coordination infrastructure.



May 2024 Crisis Coordination Playbook

BPI tested and refined practical tools at HRFN's Festival and in Core Group retreats to ensure real-world applicability.



December 2024 - present 2025: BPI US Response

BPI mobilized funders to rapidly coordinate resources in response to global foreign assistance and attacks on foundation support for human rights.



September 2025 Clinton Global Initiative

BPI continues sharing impact and expertise at CGI, contributing to Human Rights and Humanitarian Action Working Groups.



BETTER PREPAREDNESS IS ALREADY PROVING WHAT COORDINATED ACTION CAN ACHIEVE WHEN FUNDERS UNITE IN MOMENTS OF CRISIS

● AFGHANISTAN

After the Taliban takeover and US withdrawal, donors struggled to coordinate support for Afghan civil society. While the Afghanistan Donors Group has facilitated information sharing since 2001, it struggled with little capacity to coordinate or act together. In 2025, the Better Preparedness Initiative introduced crisis tools that shifted the group from talk to strategy. Through co-design sessions, funders aligned on shared priorities, renewed their commitment, and built a framework for joint action. This process also strengthened advocacy within the funder ecosystem, bringing in new donors and resources. The result: funders are now better positioned to act collectively and support Afghan partners who continue to work under extremely difficult conditions.

● UNITED STATES

In early 2025, sudden government attacks and funding cuts threatened US civil society, creating urgent risks for human rights movements and funders alike. Through the Better Preparedness Initiative, more than 100 funders rapidly came together, growing from an initial core group of networks to a broad coordination platform. Over a two-month “sprint” phase, three working groups met nearly weekly, hosted webinars, shared risk analyses, mapped urgent needs, and co-designed responses — all while learning from global movements and experiences in countries like Guatemala, Poland, and South Korea. These convenings offered funders practical strategies to act quickly, avoid duplication, and strengthen resilience, while centering the perspectives of movement leaders and historically excluded communities. By connecting early warnings to coordinated action, BPI helped funders move faster, respond collectively, and lay the groundwork for longer-term collaboration to defend civic space in the US and beyond.

BE PART OF THE SHIFT

FUNDERS

Be part of a global group of funders rethinking how philanthropy responds to crisis by joining the Community of Practice.² As a member, you can:

- Stay informed on tools and activities
- Learn and exchange with peers in crisis contexts
- Help shape strategies and share your expertise
- Act together in real time using the Crisis Coordination Playbook³

CIVIL SOCIETY

Leverage the Playbook to push for more effective, responsive funding.

CURIOUS?

Join open spaces like Learning Labs to exchange ideas and test new strategies. For more information, contact bpinfo@hrfn.org

JOIN THE GROWING
COMMUNITY
OF OVER 250
FUNDERS

² hrfn.org/cop-form/

³ hrfn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/BetterPreparedness_Playbook_2024.pdf

HELP SHAPE A STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT FUTURE FOR PHILANTHROPY