

BETTER PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE



BETTER
PREPAREDNESS

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

Civil society and human rights movements face unprecedented, intersecting crises: authoritarianism, armed conflict, democratic backsliding, and foreign aid collapse. Meanwhile, philanthropic response remains fragmented, slow, and underprepared. HRFN's **research** warns of a projected decline in human rights funding, with aid cuts now threatening the very infrastructure of civic space.

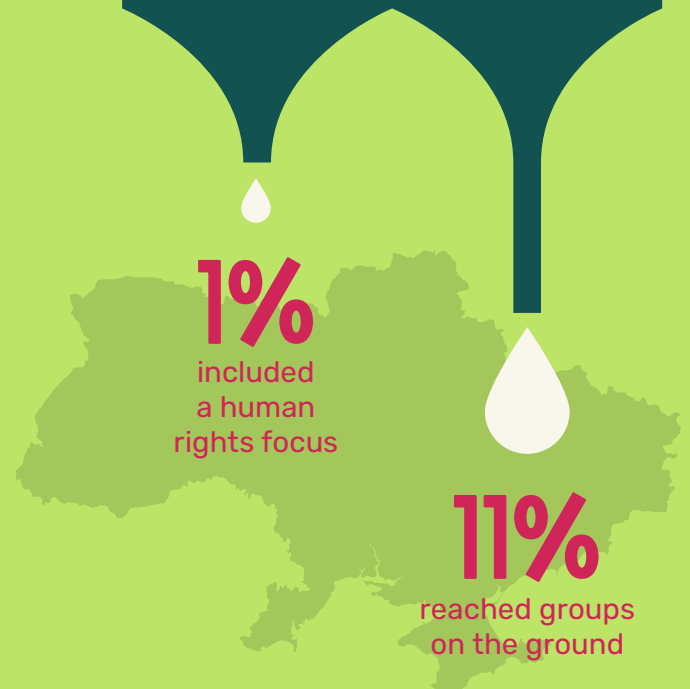
The Better Preparedness Initiative (BPI) exists to change this trajectory – pioneering a new way to fund resilience and crisis response, so movements can survive today's crises and thrive tomorrow.

BPI is a platform for funders to grow skills and experiment with new ways of working; to imagine together what might be possible if we prepared for inevitable crises and coordinated, better than ever before. In just two years, BPI has demonstrated that structured coordination can move funders from isolated reaction to aligned strategic action.

Spotlight Example: Ukraine

The problem is not a lack of philanthropic will. It is a lack of coordination infrastructure – and the cost is enormous.

HRFN's analysis of funding for Ukraine in the first year of the war shows that only 1% of philanthropic dollars included a human rights focus, and just 11% reached recipients in Ukraine directly.



Hosted by:



THE SHIFT WE SEEK

FROM

TO

Reaction



Preparedness

Fragmented Efforts



Collective Infrastructure

Crisis-to-Crisis Models



Long-Term Resilience

Short-Term Response



Systemic Preparedness

WHAT BPI DOES

BPI is a growing community of over 260 funders working across the human rights, peace and security, and humanitarian sectors. Hosted by the Human Rights Funders Network and Peace and Security Funders Group, it brings foundations together with social movements to ensure resources reach those on the frontlines before, during, and after crisis.

At the heart of BPI is the **Crisis Coordination Playbook** — a practical, field-tested framework that helps funders assess crises, map ecosystems, clarify roles, and align action quickly. It is the guide the sector has been missing.

BPI IN ACTION

BPI is a functioning coordination system, tested under pressure and growing fast.

260+
funders
engaged

130
foundations
represented

500
participants,
2025 US
response

50+
events
hosted

AFGHANISTAN, US, VENEZUELA

BPI has activated funders in moments of crisis, including: supporting an Afghanistan Donors Group through a protracted emergency, mobilizing 500 participants across 130 foundations in the US democracy crisis in 2025, and convening funders after the US intervention in Venezuela for rapid sense-making and coordination.

RECOGNIZED AT CGI

BPI was featured as a flagship Commitment Maker at the Clinton Global Initiative in 2024 and 2025 — bringing foundation leaders together around a shared pledge to deepen coordination and increase funding to human rights and civic space.

BPI also uses structured approach for rapid response activation: assess the moment, map the ecosystem, clarify roles, and create a pathway for aligned action. Crisis response becomes preparedness infrastructure.

BPI IN 2026 AND BEYOND: FROM PILOTING TO PERMANENT INFRASTRUCTURE

After two years of co-design and testing, BPI is consolidating and sharpening its focus. Rather than responding to context-specific crises one by one, BPI is building preparedness around the structural forces that drive them. This means deepening community infrastructure and cultivating cross-sector alliances among human rights, humanitarian, and peace and security funders and civic actors that can shift how the field collectively responds to the crises of the decade ahead.

Community as Infrastructure

BPI's 2026 community-building work is the backbone of rapid coordination response and preparedness for crisis. Clear onboarding pathways, a consolidated Guiding Group, in-person convenings, and time-bound crisis cohorts create the trust and standing relationships that allow funders to act together when a crisis hits.

Learning Labs: Preparedness in a New Global Landscape

A public Learning Labs Week will address the major forces reshaping civic space: foreign policy shifts, the growing influence of anti-democratic actors, the role of new technologies, and increasing legal and financial pressure on funders and grantees. Larger "community-wide" sessions will feed directly into smaller funder preparedness collaborative action, generating tangible outcomes like shared early warning analysis.

Building to 2027: The HRFN Festival, Johannesburg

BPI will lead the Democracy and Civic Space Crisis track at the HRFN's Funding Futures Festival in 2027. The BPI core community will shape this work throughout 2026, consolidating three years of coordination and Playbook practice, and transnational learnings into field-wide commitments for the years ahead.

OUR ROADMAP

2026

1

Build and consolidate the BPI community

2

Further demonstrate BPI as a credible, accessible, legitimate coordination hub

3

Pilot US-transnational learning and organizing

4

Strengthen the use of the Playbook

5

Embed testing, learning, and iteration

6

Strengthen BPI's governance and operational infrastructure

2030

By strengthening coordination and preparedness skills today, BPI is building the long-term infrastructure philanthropy will need to sustain movements, defend civic space, and respond collectively to the crises of the next decade.

THE IMPACT WE ARE WORKING TOWARD

Every crisis where philanthropy reacts slowly, duplicates effort, or fails to reach frontline movements has a direct human cost. BPI is building the infrastructure to change this at scale.



DOUBLE DIRECT FUNDING

through in-country grants and overall funding allocated for human-rights-focused initiatives.



increase in direct, in-country funding to human rights defenders, peacebuilders, and affected communities.



5-10%

increase in human-rights-focused funding.

These are achievable targets. They require sustained coordination across 5–10 major crises by 2030, building on the infrastructure BPI is putting in place.

BE PART OF THE SHIFT



JOIN THE GROWING BPI COMMUNITY OF 260+ FUNDERS.

Stay Informed

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

Actively Participate

Engage in shared reflection, skills-building, and cross-context exchange.

Coordinate and Lead

Join a cohort or crisis response. Contribute to shared analysis and coordination.

Support BPI Financially

Supporting shared coordination infrastructure and scaling preparedness practice globally requires \$1M over the next 3 years.

[HRFN.ORG/COP-FORM](https://hrfn.org/cop-form)

JOIN THE COMMUNITY

Learn More
hrfn.org/better-preparedness

Get in touch
bpinfo@hrfn.org