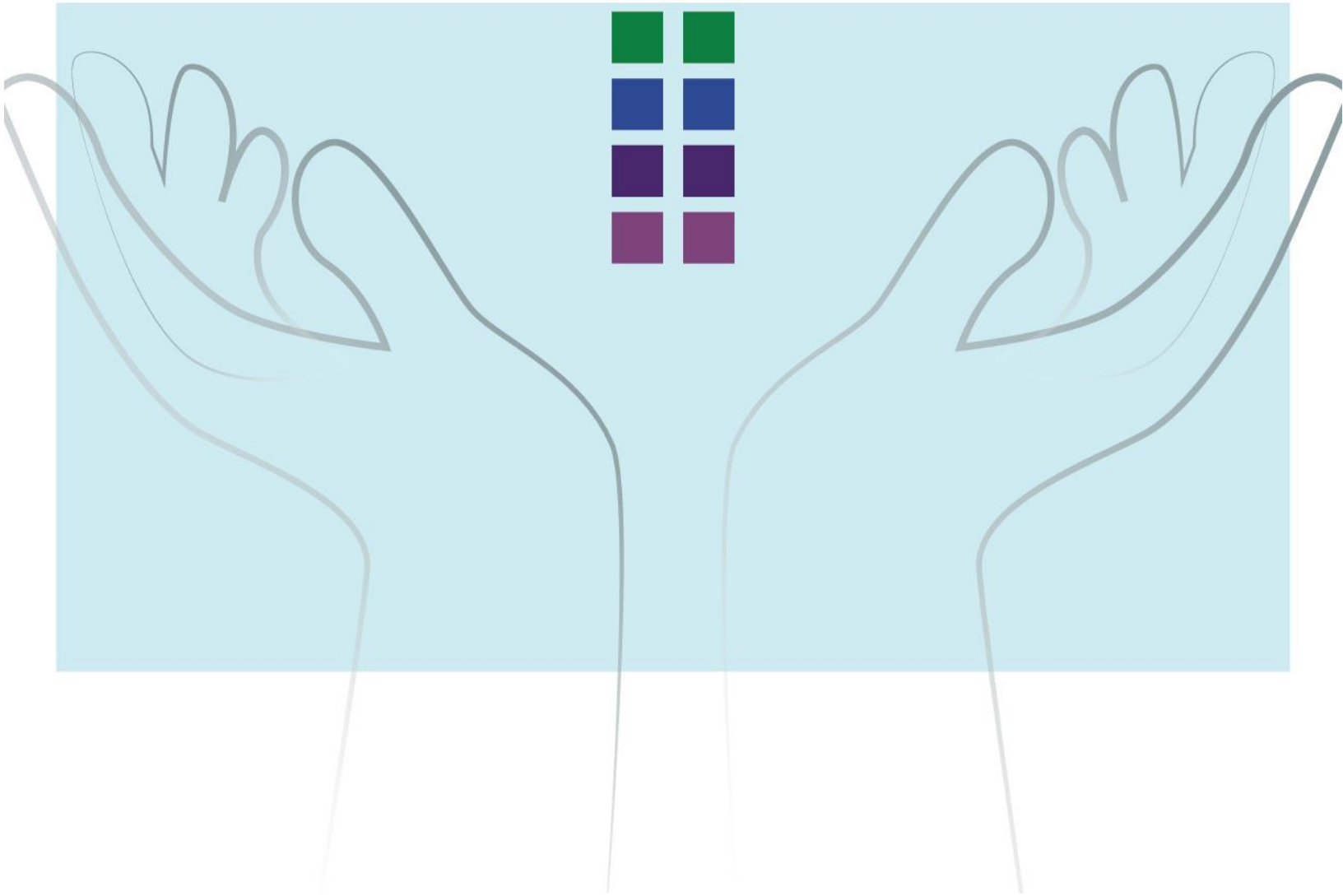


PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling
LGBTQ Poverty





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Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



Abstract

LGBTQ¹ poverty has proven to be a complex phenomenon and pressing issue around the world. Moreover, in regions like Latin America, a severe lack of information and demographic data have hindered efforts for a comprehensive public policy design — a design that would take all the dimensions of LGBTQ poverty and the needs of this population into account. Through an in-depth documentary analysis and a thorough statistical analysis, we begin this proposal by presenting a comprehensive literature review on LGBTQ poverty. Then we introduce a case study of Colectiva Lleca, a small organisation in Mexico City that provides shelter, food, and support to members of the LGBTQ community in vulnerable conditions (especially those struggling with homelessness). Fieldwork and interviews were conducted to delve deeper into the actual conditions and challenges that this population faces; the collected data proved vital in designing our project: The Elizabeth Montañó Initiative (EMI).

Based on a capacity-building approach, EMI aims to establish a solid network between LGBTQ organisations, universities, and governmental agencies to facilitate and advocate for solutions that address poverty conditions among the LGBTQ population. One of the most innovative contributions of this project is the involvement of LGBTQ university students who, through social service,² internships, or volunteer work, will provide attention and services in different areas —like medical and psychosocial support, education, and employability orientations. With such a holistic approach, this project will serve as a platform for the LGBTQ youth who are willing to put their talent and knowledge to the service of less privileged members of their own community. The proposal includes the organisational structure of EMI as well as its four dimensions of impact: Psychological and Healthcare Support, Educational Orientation, Labour Market Engagement and Employability and Research.

For a successful implementation of EMI, a Monitoring and Evaluation Section, Expected Outcomes and a Risk Assessment are also presented. By recognising the structural causes behind LGBTQ poverty, EMI will focus on the promotion of freedom and human development among the regrettably significant portion of these communities currently at risk to fall into or already far deep inside the poverty cycle.

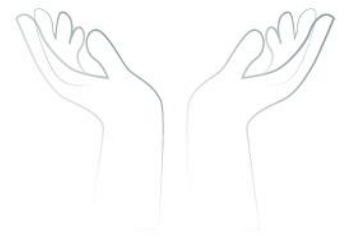
¹ In this project, we will use “LGBTQ” as an umbrella concept for the LGBTQ population as a whole, including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer and/or Questioning, and Asexual.

² “Social service” is a requirement for every undergraduate student in Mexico. This service is generally volunteer work in some governmental or non-governmental organisation and lasts 480 hours in total.



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative
Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



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Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty

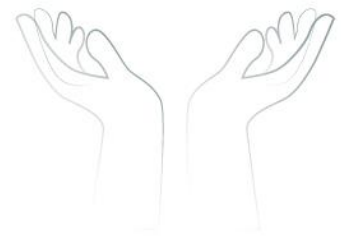
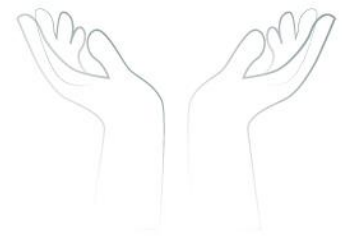


Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction**
 - 2. The LGBTQ Poverty Problem**
 - 2.1 The Dimensions of LGBTQ Poverty
 - 2.2 Theoretical Framework
 - 2.3 Global Trends
 - 2.4 The Latin American Region
 - 2.5 The Case of Mexico
 - 2.6 A Case Study of an LGBTQ Colectiva: Lleca.
 - 3. Solution: The Elizabeth Montañó Initiative (EMI)**
 - 3.1 EMI's Mission
 - 3.2 Main functions of EMI
 - 3.3 Organisational Structure
 - 3.4 EMI's Operational Areas
 - 3.4.1 Liaison
 - 3.4.2 University Associations and Recruitment
 - 3.4.3 Programs and Services
 - 3.4.4 Research
 - 3.4.5 Project Development
 - 3.5 Dimensions of Impact
 - 3.5.1 Medical and Psychological Support
 - 3.5.2 Educational Orientation
 - 3.5.3 Job Connections and Employability
 - 3.5.4 Legal Services
 - 3.6 EMI's Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
 - 4. Project Monitoring and Evaluation**
 - 5. Expected Outcomes**
 - 5.1 Calendar of Initial Implementation Stage
 - 6. Risk Assessment**
 - 7. Limitations**
 - 8. Conclusion**
- References
- Appendices
- Appendix 1.A Interview Findings
 - Appendix 1.B: Questionnaires Formats Applied During Assessment
 - Appendix 2. Estimated Budget and Financial Breakdown
 - Appendix 3. Potential Allies to EMI



1. Introduction

After several days of being reported as a missing person, the body of Dr. Elizabeth Montañó, a transgender physician who worked at the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS) in Mexico City, was found alongside a road between Mexico's capital and the city of Cuernavaca. It was June 2020, Pride Month in a particularly hostile country against members of the LGBTQ community (Barragán, 2020).³ Apart from being a researcher, Montañó was an advocate for the rights of homosexual, transgender and queer people in Mexico, especially regarding the community's access to public health services, and the fight against violence. Her death ignited extensive protests, in which demonstrators demanded justice for the heinous crime, as well as visibility for the community's grievances: discrimination, violence, lack of adequate services, and rejection of their identity. It also prompted the mobilisation of activists to search compensation for the State's negligence, particularly toward some of the most vulnerable members of the community: the homeless population, trans people and people with HIV/AIDS. It is in memory of Dr. Elizabeth Montañó and in honour to these dedicated activists that we present the following proposal.

Homeless populations represent some of the most notorious and profound cases of social vulnerability in urban environments. Yet they are mostly invisible to public institutions, lacking coherent policies to tackle their necessities entirely. In addition to stigma surrounding conditions of poverty, mental health, and other medical issues, homeless people who are also members of the LGBTQ community face additional risks, such as discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI). To close these institutional gaps, increase the capacities of civil society's organisations, and benefit from their accumulated knowledge, this project seeks to coordinate and turn the involvement of higher education students from the LGBTQ community into the binding agent between the efforts of grassroots initiatives – which work directly with the affected communities – and the dispersed governmental policies and resources.

The proposed structure is the “Elizabeth Montañó Initiative” (EMI), a “network of networks” in which civil society, the local government and academia join and take advantage of existing resources which up to date stand disaggregated. In the following pages, we present a broad review of the problems regarding the homeless LGBTQ population. The existing literature reveals multiple dimensions of vulnerability: poverty, social exclusion, unemployment or underemployment, educational poverty, gender inequalities and urban poverty. In order to take a closer look at this issue, we provide a case study from one of the organisations which will coordinate the network in EMI, Colectiva Lleca. This organisation – which will be described further in section 2.5 – works directly with LGBTQ homeless people, particularly with trans women who engage in sex work. As a partner to this initiative, Colectiva Lleca provided us with invaluable insights regarding the

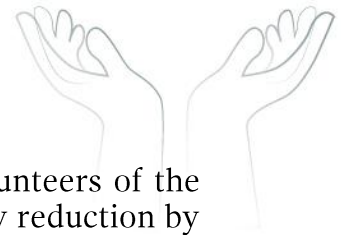
³ Almudena Barragán.2020. “Hallada muerta una doctora y activista por los derechos de las personas trans en México.” *El País*, June 15, 2020. <https://elpais.com/sociedad/2020-06-19/hallada-muerta-una-doctora-y-activista-por-los-derechos-de-las-personas-trans-en-mexico.html>.



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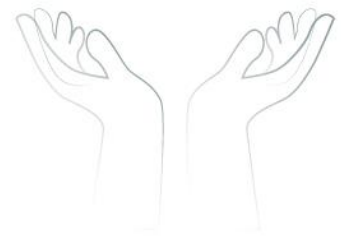
Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



necessities of the homeless population and of the activists and volunteers of the organisation. Accordingly, we believe EMI will contribute to poverty reduction by avoiding the institutional negligence that has historically targeted the LGBTQ homeless population, and to the creation of adequate conditions so that members of this community may, eventually, thrive in congruence with their personal life plans.

In the following section (Section 2), we review the existing literature about the homeless LGBTQ population at a global scale, as well as in the context of Latin America and Mexico. Here we provide the theoretical framework of our proposal and present the results of our meetings and continuous dialogue with Colectiva Lleca, which allowed us to carry out interviews and fieldwork. Next, in Section 3, we present the Elizabeth Montañó Initiative (EMI), its mission, operability and dimensions of impact. Sections 4-7 present the project's monitoring dimension, its expected outcomes, risk assessment and limitations. Finally, Section 8 provides a conclusion. As previously stated, this project is the result of many efforts and techniques: document analysis and statistical analysis improved our understanding on the condition of the LGBTQ homeless population and served to justify this proposal; interviews and fieldwork with homeless LGBTQ people and activists helped shape the Elizabeth Montañó Initiative, which we expect to be a feasible and successful endeavour.



2. The LGBTQ Poverty Problem

2.1 The Dimensions of LGBTQ Poverty

The LGBTQ community faces disproportionate levels of poverty. Academic and policy evidence point toward this fact by revealing that individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or with queer characteristics are especially susceptible to socioeconomic disadvantages. For instance, the World Bank maintains that the LGBTQ population is more likely to be overrepresented within the 40% target population in which it seeks to promote shared prosperity and to eradicate poverty by the year 2030.⁴ Put simply: when people are “left behind” – due to internal or external circumstances like SOGI – everyone ends up missing out on a capability-building process which, in turn, translates into lower educational opportunities, barriers to employment, negative health outcomes, as well as unequal access to dignified housing and social services.⁵ Thus, inquiring about the origin and pathways to LGBTQ poverty – mainly in the form of social exclusion, youth unemployment and the wider gender inequalities – is a fundamental piece in the poverty reduction puzzle.

Herein, we focus on the case of LGBTQ poverty in Mexico City, which couples with social exclusion. Accordingly, in countries like this – where non-normative SOGIs face social stigma, moral judgement, and legal discrimination –, LGBTQ people have fewer economic opportunities and, thus, are more likely to be poor. This is exacerbated by the fact that this population is usually excluded from most public policies and government programs (Badgett 2014, 9). Cortez (2020) points out that experiences of inequality and discrimination intersect with factors such as gender, indigenous or minority status, socioeconomic status, migration status, urban/rural location, health status and wealth (Graeme 2017).

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Historically, literature on poverty was established in the field of development economics tying the concept to the group of people who face income shortages.⁶ Nevertheless, this notion has been questioned due to the broad economic, health, and socio-cultural effects observed in poor populations (Ramos et al. 2020, 2). Among the pioneer contributions in this respect is Amartya Sen's interpretation of poverty: the development capabilities approach. According to Sen, “quality of life” (being poor or not) depends on the access one has to a range of goods, services and

⁴ The World Bank Organization, *LGBTI people are (likely) over represented in the bottom 40%*, August 03, 2015, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/governance/lgbti-people-are-likely-over-represented-bottom-40>.

⁵ The World Bank Organization, *To Fight Poverty, We Need to Fight Homophobia and Transphobia*, May 17, 2017, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/05/17/to-fight-poverty-we-need-to-fight-homophobia-and-transphobia>.

⁶ By measuring poverty, the World Bank has set the International Poverty Line of \$1.90 a day—a threshold based on the average of the national poverty lines of 15 of the poorest countries. World Bank, “Measuring Poverty,” last modified April 16, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/measuringpoverty#1>.



social-cultural benefits and recognition, such as education, access to land, health and longevity aid, justice, family and community support, participation in political decisions, financial or credit inclusion, and other productive resources that broaden one’s scope of opportunities (Sen 2001, 41).

Through this lens, poverty is not only seen as deprivation of goods or economic resources, but also seems to have a political and social nature: the availability of opportunities to further human development is essential to reach an adequate quality of life. In a few words, this approach on poverty incorporates aspects of social exclusion and enablers of social mobility and integration. On this basis, we have identified the following dimensions in which LGBTQ poverty is most likely to present itself:

Poverty dimension	Situation	Core pathways
Homelessness	Different forms of homelessness, which include access to emergency shelters, refugee immigrants, staying temporarily with friends and/or family, and sleeping on the streets (Ecker et al 2020).	Structural inequalities: homophobia, transphobia, discrimination (Gaetz et al. 2013). Systemic inequalities: a lack of legal protections, income inequalities (Ecker et al. 2020).
Social & health insecurity	LGBTQ individuals achieve lower academic results due to discrimination, bullying and violence, a lack of access to adequate housing, health, and financial services. (Meagan Cusack 2022) Higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS (Herbst et al. 2008), mental disorders and psychological distress – conditions that are not monitored properly.	Interpersonal challenges: familial conflict or rejection, sexual abuse, relationship break-downs. Intrapersonal challenges: mental health challenges, substance use challenges (Caton 2005). ⁷ Homeland challenges: evictions, landlord

⁷ For John Ecker as well as the most of literature reviewed for this project, familial rejection of a young person’s gender identity and/or sexual orientation is the primary cause of LGBTQ youth homelessness. Other identified causes include verbal abuse from family members, parental substance use, and personal substance use/parental disapproval of personal substance use. See John Ecker et al., “Pathways into Homelessness Among LGBTQ2S Adults”, *Journal of Homosexuality*, (2020): 74.



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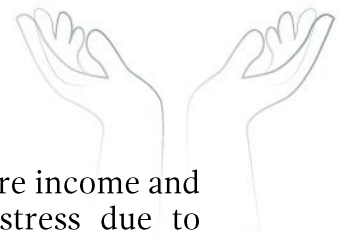
Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



<p>Food shortage and barriers to adequate services</p>	<p>Food insufficiency is most common among transgender adults and cisgender bisexual men and women.</p> <p>Global surveys on LGBTQ homeless populations show multiple living stressors to meet basic needs: finding a place to sleep (48%), food to eat (45%), a place to wash their clothes (44%), and a place to shower or wash themselves (42%) (Williams Institute 2022).</p>	<p>discrimination, violence, religious extremism (Ecker et al. 2020).</p> <p>Drop out from health insurance coverage: heteronormative norms in public and private health providers (Fraser et al. 2019).</p> <p>Foster Care: is a driver to becoming homeless. Disproportionately high levels of young homeless people have been in foster care experiencing unique risks to achieving permanency and wellbeing such as rejection by foster families and lack of competency by caregivers and social workers (Fraser et al. 2019).</p>
<p>Low income & under/unemployment</p>	<p>Poverty and homelessness create a lack of options that may lead to survival sex and sex work. (Lankenau et al. 2018)</p> <p>Sexual and gender minority youth experience systemically adverse social conditions in education systems, including discrimination and harassment, lowering the likelihood for these groups to benefit equitably from education as a mechanism of social mobility or are employed in low wage sector/ informality (Abichahine 2016).</p>	<p>Family origins: more vulnerable LGBTQ individuals come from lower income backgrounds, grew up encountered with parental abuse, strained relationships, and relatives with substance addiction problems (Tierney 2017).</p>
<p>Social exclusion</p>	<p>Indigenous, people of colour and immigrant LGBTQ persons experience profound material disparities relative to other LGBTQ groups in domains such as housing and employment. (Kia et al. 2021).</p>	

In sum, the table shows how poverty in LGBTQ populations has specific structural triggers. Members of this community are more likely to experience scarcity and a lack of capabilities from an early age, or to have their basic human rights and needs conditioned by their sexual identity and/or gender identity. Social exclusion, stigma, and a lack of targeted policy intervention are at the root of every

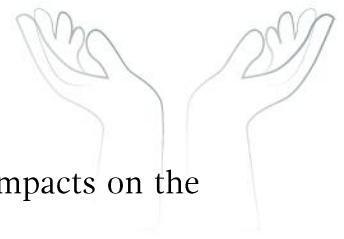


poverty dimension, bringing these diverse communities not only more income and economic restrictions, but also higher levels of psychosocial distress due to educational, physical and even mental disadvantages, urban poverty, and social inequality. Therefore, our project aims to provide a holistic and community-based solution to diminish the multifactorial inequality triggers and guarantee not only access to basic goods and services but also being a facilitator of social mobility and inclusion for all LGBTQ individuals suffering from homelessness and extreme poverty.

2.3 Global Trends

Data collection of LGBTQ homelessness does not come without its challenges. First, studies refer to this social group differently – thus identifying and signifying them differently. For example, Badgett et al. (2021) conduct an economic study on the “LGBT” community, whereas the World Bank (2018) proposes indicators for the “LGBTI” community and United Nations (2019) issues reports about the “LGBTIQ+” community. Despite the subtlety of these differences, the variety of terms and labels highlights potential inconsistencies and renders standardisation unlikely. Therefore, compatibility among much of the existing literature is lacking. Second, some of the interviewed/pollled individuals simply do not feel comfortable disclosing personal information like sexual orientation and gender identity. Lastly, the concept of homelessness is not as straightforward as one may assume. There are, for instance, many “hidden homeless” populations – like people who stay with friends and family on a regular basis – that are not (and most of the time cannot) be accounted for (Ecker et al. 2019, 303). All these difficulties are exacerbated by the fact that data collection proves to be a considerably strenuous task in “underdeveloped” and “developing” countries (as is the case of Mexico). In this sense, and as many authors and organisations currently acknowledge, a more robust and rigorous data collection process is needed, especially in the Global South. With these obstacles in mind, our project aims to adopt a systemic approach to measure poverty within the LGBTQ community in Mexico, to implement an interdisciplinary initiative that enables LGBTQ youth to aid members of their community in vulnerable situations to expand their capabilities and, ultimately, through research, to create indicators that can account for the phenomenon more generally.

Despite the lack of information, some studies have partially captured the LGBTQ homelessness phenomenon. International organisations like the United Nations and the World Bank have reported some general trends. The UN discloses that, next to the United States and Canada, different countries, and regions – from Australia and Nepal to West Africa and the European Union –, “homelessness disproportionately impacts LGBTIQ+ youth” (UNFE 2019, 1). Furthermore, drawing from its research in places like Thailand and Eastern Europe, the World Bank insists on the positive impact that social inclusion of the LGBTQ community has on the economy at large and, thus, on their twin goals of reducing poverty and expand “shared prosperity” (World Bank 2018). In their words, “[t]here is increasing evidence that links exclusion with detrimental health, education and



employment outcomes for LGBTQ people, aggregating to broader impacts on the overall economy” (World Bank 2018, 4).

The existing literature, however, mostly comes from and focuses on the United States. Wilson et al. (2020) conducted a study in two Californian counties (Kern and Los Angeles), in which they not only confirmed the fact that “LGBT people in the United States experience poverty at higher rates compared to cisgender heterosexual people” (Wilson et al. 2020, 1), but they also found that “[c]hildhood poverty is a key pathway into adult poverty among LGBTQ people” (Wilson et al. 2020, 2). This effort to uncover the causal mechanisms that end up producing LGBTQ poverty is noteworthy since, as Ecker et al. (2019, 314) observe, the “potential pathways into homelessness” are generally not explored in depth.

In this sense, the available resources on LGBTQ poverty at a global scale attest to a general lack of information about pathways to poverty, types of vulnerability, and sociodemographic data altogether. The existing literature about this issue is, for the most part, based on the experience of countries in the Global North, such as the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Therefore, as this Initiative intends to do, the gap in the literature must be addressed. In other words, we need to start studying (and understanding) the experiences of the LGBTQ populations under poverty conditions living in the Global South.

2.4 The Latin American Region

As previously mentioned, finding official information on poverty within the LGBTQ population in Latin America is quite challenging. Most of the data available focuses on decriminalisation of same-sex marriage and progress in the LGBTQ rights agenda (ILGA 2020). Nonetheless, there have been significant efforts to measure various dimensions related to LGBTQ inclusion in their respective societies. One of the most important is Badgett and Sell (2018, 2) proposal of an LGBTQ Inclusion Index composed of five indicators: economic wellbeing, education, personal security and violence, health, and political/civic participation.

Therefore, it is important to acknowledge the intersectionality of LGBTQ inclusion in order to explain the complexity of poverty throughout these groups. Additionally, even though many Latin American countries legally recognise LGBTQ rights, the community still suffers from social stigmatisation, thus preventing a better understanding of their living conditions (Badgett and Sell 2018, 1). However, there are significant efforts to close this gap in the literature. Ilana Mountain (2014) explores Brazilian public policy regarding poverty and education of trans-youth. Through several interviews with transexual youngsters, the author inquires whether sex-affective discrimination is a key factor in dropping out of school and, consequently, in the economic marginalisation of the Brazilian trans-population. She finds that homophobic violence is directly related with the impossibility of accessing public services. A second gap is institutional, since sexuality “is not recognised as a key dimension of social wellbeing” (Mountain 2014, 2). This institutional neglect further prevents policy makers from implementing adequate measures toward LGBTQ groups.



Other data draws poverty indicators within LGBTQ population back to discrimination and marginalisation in family environments. The Argentinian survey, *La Revolución de las Mariposas* (2017),⁸ overhauls the standard of living within the trans-population. According to the latter, 48.7% of the interviewees claimed to have left their homes before they turned 19 years old, whereas 34.2% claimed to have left in the midst of their 15 and 18 years old; the data, then, correlates family abandonment with the moment of transition of the interviewees (45). Furthermore, the results show that this sector struggles to find formal employment, thus drawing upon sexual work: only 9% of the interviewees claimed to have a formal job, whereas 70% claimed that sexual work was their main source of income (Public Ministry of Defense 2017, 45).

2.5 The Case of Mexico

Recently, the LGBTQ agenda has moved forward in Mexico. Given the federal organisation of the country, LGBTQ legal rights fall upon local authorities, which ensues legal disparities throughout the 32 federal states. Nevertheless, today same sex-marriage is recognised by 27 states, same-sex adoption rights are recognised by 16 states, and gender reassignment without judicial permit is recognised by 19 federal entities.

Despite the progress, two key factors remain unaccounted for. Firstly, there is a lack of public policy formulation and implementation that address this social group. Secondly, there are high levels of discrimination toward LGBTQ populations in Mexican society. The National Discrimination Survey for LGBTQ Population (ENDOSIG 2018)⁹ and the recent National Survey about Gender and Sexual Diversity (ENDISEG 2021)¹⁰ draw upon the latter. Regarding the first survey, 6 out of 10 people claimed to be discriminated due to their sexual orientation or gender identity (Conapred 2018, 9). Particularly, non-normative and trans interviewees felt more discriminated (80 and 74%).

Similarly, social hostility is a particular problem that affects non-normative and trans people. According to the data, the LGBTQ community suffers discrimination and violence in school, their neighbourhood, and even among their own families. Specifically, in these environments, most of the surveyed LGBTQ individuals were subject to mockery, offensive comments, and had to hide their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

⁸ The survey interviewed 202 people: 169 *travestis*, 33 trans women and 33 trans men who resided in Buenos Aires. The report was published by the government of Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2017.

⁹ The National Council to Prevent Discrimination (Conapred) conducted the survey and interviewed 12,331 members of LGBTQ community in Mexico. 45% of interviewees identified themselves as gay, 16% as lesbians, 15% as bisexuals and 13% claimed to have a non-normative gender identity.

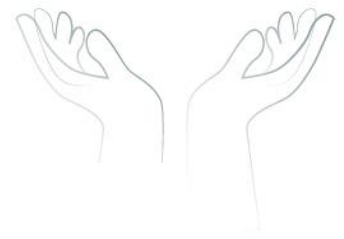
¹⁰ The Geography and Statistics National Institute (Inegi) conducted the survey and interviewed 44,000 thousand people throughout the country, in order to estimate the percentage of LGBTQ population in México.



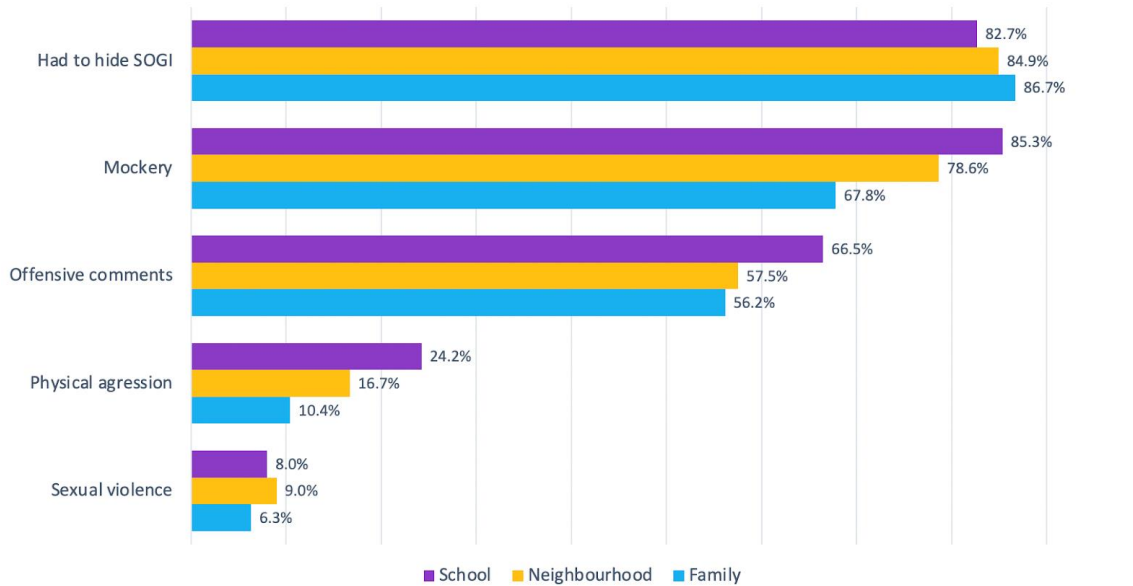
PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty

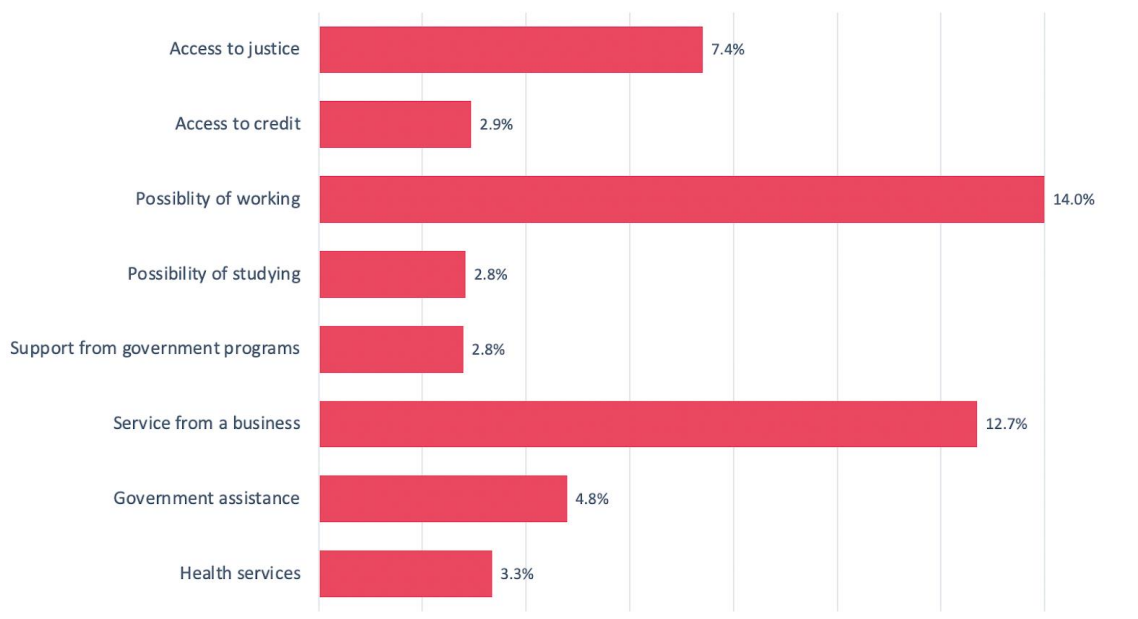


Discrimination and Violence During Teenage Years by Environment, ENDOSIG



Unfortunately, discrimination and social hostility affects various dimensions of life within LGBTQ population. Even though their rights are legally recognised, these are socially denied in certain areas such as: finding employment or being promoted in their current job; entering restaurants, banks, or similar establishments; accessing public services; receiving medical attention and treatment; being beneficiaries of social programs, among others. The following graph draws upon the percentage of interviewees who claimed to have been denied their rights in several areas of their daily life.

Services Denied to LGBT Population (2017-2018), ENDOSIG

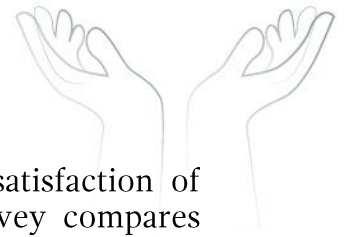




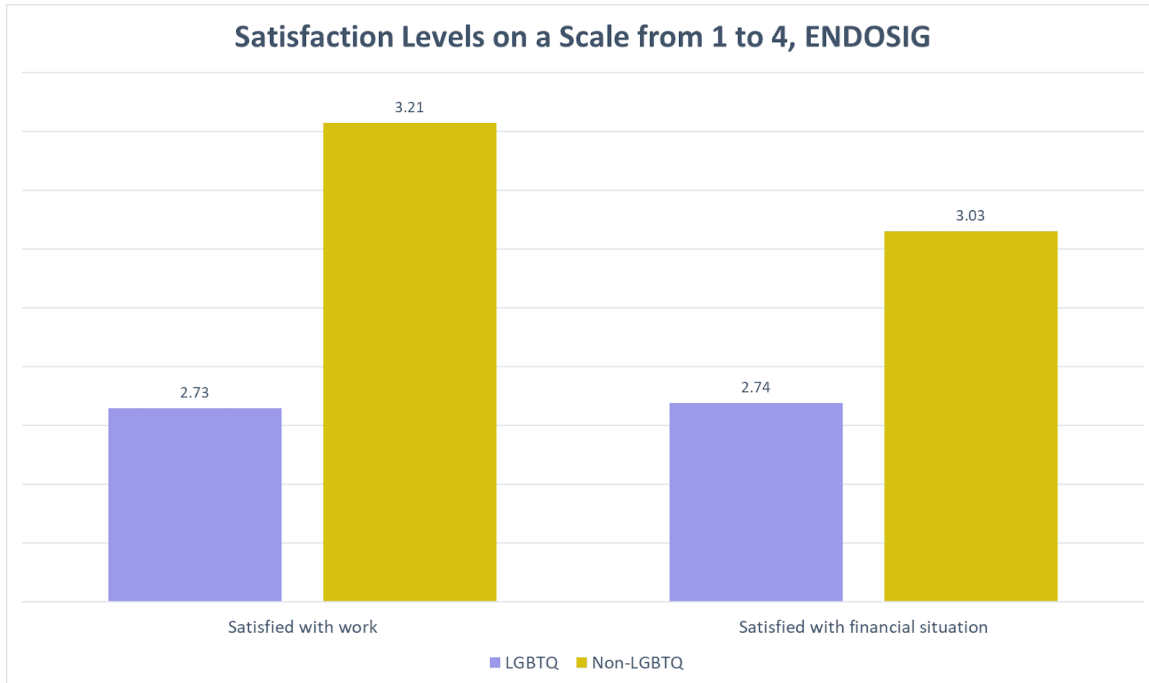
PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



Data from the ENDISEG 2021 points toward a major dissatisfaction of economic status among LGBTQ population. In this case, the survey compares LGBTQ groups and cis-heterosexual people. The following graph shows that LGBTQ population is less satisfied with their economic status and their job situation than cis-heterosexual people.



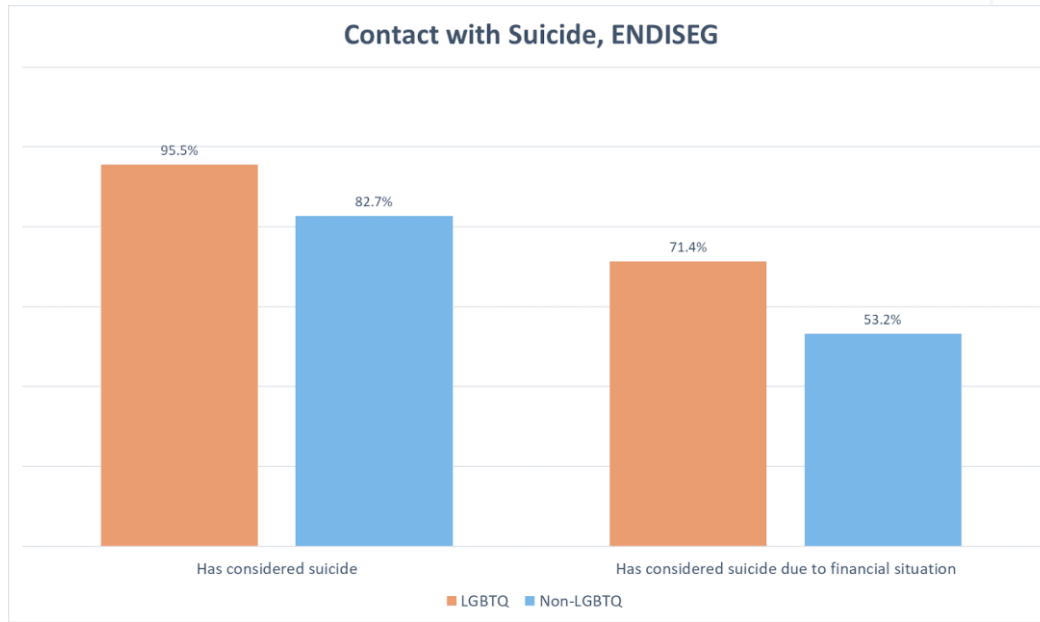
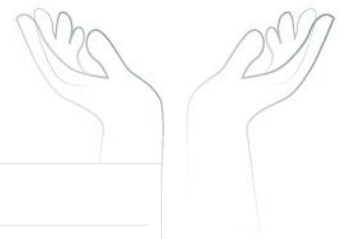
In this respect, it is a matter of concern that dissatisfaction with economic status and job situation can be conducive to suicidal thoughts. The following graph compares suicidal thoughts within LGBTQ population and cis-heterosexual people, as well as suicidal thoughts due to their economic situation.



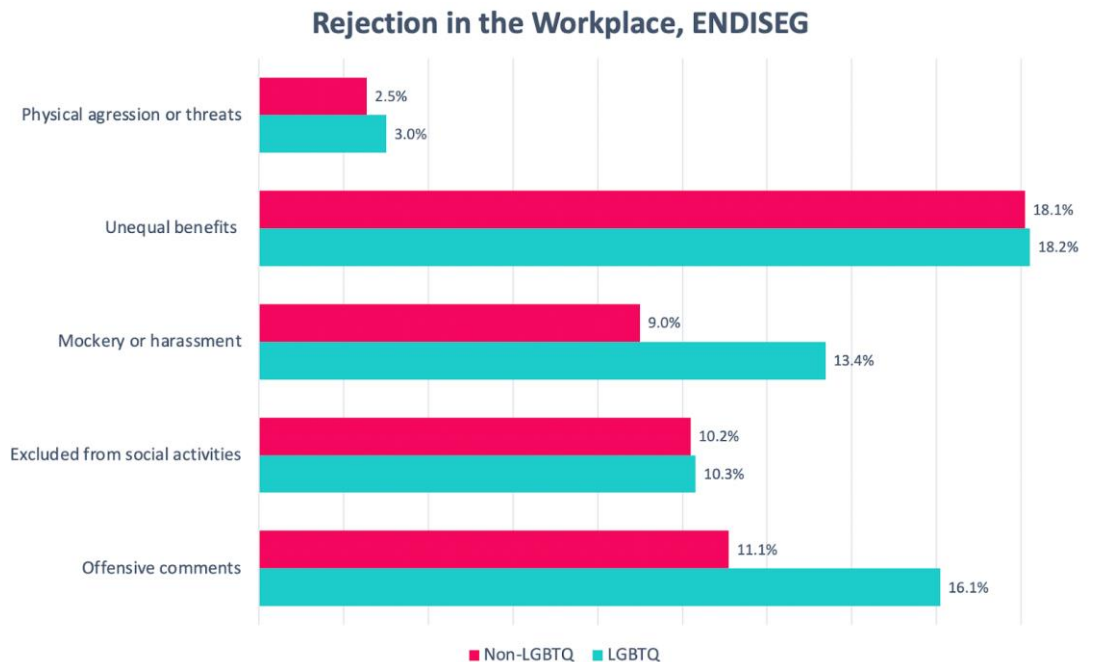
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Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



It is worth noting, as the following graph presents, that cis-heterosexual people have received more economic support from the government and have, on average, worked more. In other words, even though non-LGBTQ individuals are, on average, more satisfied with their work and have, on average, worked more than LGBTQ individuals, the government still benefits the former more financially. One possible explanation behind the lower levels of work among the LGBTQ community – even though the difference is not very significant – is the social rejection these individuals face in the workplace. As the following graph shows, the LGBTQ community disproportionately experiences mockery, exclusion, and aggression in their everyday jobs.

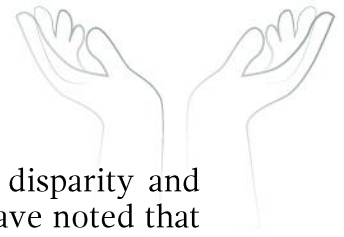




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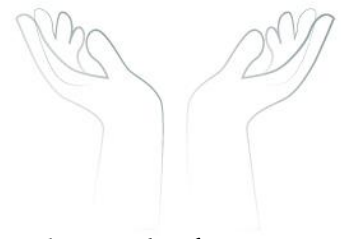
Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



As we have reported, official data points toward economic disparity and several dimensions of poverty among the LGBTQ population. We have noted that important groups among this population struggle with discrimination and tend to be marginalised from their social environment. A substantial proportion of the LGBTQ population struggles to find jobs and many of their rights are denied on a daily basis. This data shows that although LGBTQ rights and the LGBTQ agenda in general has had some breakthroughs in recent years, there are still key economic and social barriers that hinder prosperity for the LGBTQ population in Mexican society.

At the outset, our project will focus on Mexico City. Since the Mexican capital has been at the forefront of LGBTQ rights throughout the country, the LGBTQ movement has grown stronger and its organisations tend to be quite active. However, the city experiences many of the problems previously mentioned and, as should be anticipated, there is still a considerable lack of official data concerning LGBTQ population in the city. In order to fill this gap, we carried out a series of interviews in the field with the organisation “Colectiva Lleca”. The following section will present the results.



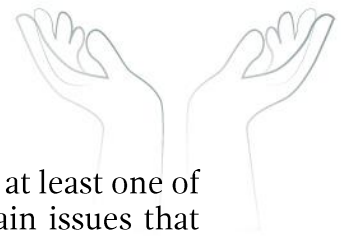
2.6 A Case Study of an LGBTQ Colectiva: Lleca

As mentioned in the introduction, this policy proposal was inspired by the work of engaged activists, some of whom were mobilised by the murder of Dr. Elizabeth Montañó back in 2020. This is the case with Colectiva Lleca, a small organisation which dedicates itself to helping homeless people from the LGBTQ community, particularly trans women who engage in sex work. Colectiva Lleca works mainly in the outskirts of downtown Mexico City, in the neighbourhoods of Buenavista and Guerrero, which are part of the larger Cuauhtémoc District where sex work is prevalent. The organisation characterises itself for working directly with its beneficiaries: be it by making periodical visits to gathering points, where they donate clothes, condoms or food; by giving orientation on legal matters regarding identity documents and accompanying women to specialised clinics where they receive treatment for STDs and STIs (sexually transmitted diseases and sexually transmitted infections, respectively); and more recently by giving shelter in the apartment of its founder, Victoria Sámano. Working closely with this population is imperative for its reduced four people team (in fact, “lleca” stands for an inverted version of the Spanish word for “street”, “calle”, and it is common jargon among the homeless population in Mexico City): in present times, apart from its founder, the team is comprised of two psychologists and one biologist.

Sámano, herself a 28-year-old trans woman who engages in sex work, opened her apartment in the Buenavista Neighbourhood as an occasional shelter for homeless LGBTQ people. She began working by herself in the last quarter of 2020, meeting homeless people in gathering points and asking them what their needs were. Soon, she began advocating for the women, men, and non-binary people living under these conditions by engaging directly with local politicians and other organisations with similar objectives. Nowadays, Colectiva Lleca regularly houses around 8-15 people, most of whom stay for an indefinite amount of time, although in the case of migrants (mainly from Central America), they have stayed for a maximum of 5 months. It claims to have helped to reduce drug abuse, identify STDs and STIs, and find treatment for those in need, although its scope is further limited by a) lack of official register as an association and b) lack of funding, relying on donations and occasional grants. In its short life, Colectiva Lleca’s work has been widely covered by local and international media.¹¹

Thanks to this organisation we were able to conduct fieldwork and interview some of the residents in the shelter. The results of these interviews are available at the end of this document, including the questionnaire (see Appendix 1). The purpose of these interviews was to identify and broadly capture the needs and life experiences of the homeless. All the 9 interviewees were trans women, Mexican and currently sex workers, and most of them struggled with substance abuse, particularly crack cocaine (or “piedra”). Nonetheless, their life stories varied deeply, as most of them came from outside Mexico City, many had previous

¹¹ Gladys Serrano. 2022. “Un hogar para las mujeres trans en Ciudad de México.” *El País*, March 8, 2022. <https://elpais.com/mexico/2022-03-08/video-un-hogar-para-las-mujeres-trans-en-ciudad-de-mexico.html>



experience working as store clerks, hairdressers or seamstresses, and at least one of them was a dropout from college. For the most part, one of the main issues that arose during the conversations was the lack of personal documentation in accordance with their gender identity. This administrative hurdle was, according to the interviewees, the main cause of their lack of formal employment, housing, education, and healthcare. What follows is a summary of our findings:¹²

- In almost all our cases, there was a clear intention of pursuing personal projects, regarding education, housing, employment, mental and physical health, and finding legal recognition of one's own identity; “to thrive”, as one of the interviewees explained.
- Most of the interviewees intended to pursue further education or conclude suspended studies in higher, medium, or elementary education.
- Most of the interviewees are not Mexico City natives, mostly coming from other states of the Mexican Republic, and many claimed to have fully embraced their gender identity at their arrival.
- All of them found in sex work the most available means for obtaining a livelihood in Mexico City. Administrative hurdles prevented them from pursuing other types of careers, regardless of previous experience.
- It was through sex work that many became engaged with substance abuse, particularly crack cocaine (“piedra”), whose consumption is frequently demanded by clients. All of them regarded substance abuse as a major impediment to achieving other goals.
- Discrimination on the grounds of gender identity was prevalent in daily interactions with citizens, authorities, and bureaucrats. Medical staff in specialised clinics seem better prepared to address this population’s necessities.
- Lack of documentation and understanding of bureaucratic processes is a main source of frustration and disruption of their relationships with authorities and with their process of obtaining IDs and documents in accordance with their gender.
- As beneficiaries of Colectiva Lleca, they manifest reduced substance consumption, better nourishment, and a general feeling of wellbeing, due in part to the weaving of support networks and establishing contact with other people under the same conditions.

In addition to interviewing Colectiva Lleca’s beneficiaries, the organisation’s founder, Victoria Sámano, addressed some of the issues that she, as an activist, faces in the pursuit of Lleca’s objectives: mainly, that existing institutions lack sensibility and knowledge to engage with homeless LGBTQ population, for example, by continuously failing to address trans-people in accordance with their gender identity. “The government should be a bit more sensible, less rigid, and step out of the institutional forms to understand other people”, she pointed out. The lack of

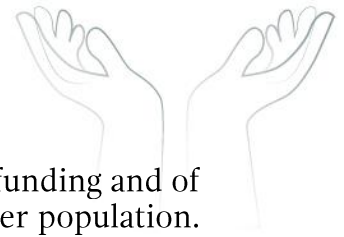
¹² All the interviews were conducted between July 1st and July 4th 2022 in Colectiva Lleca’s location, i.e., in Victoria Sámano’s apartment.



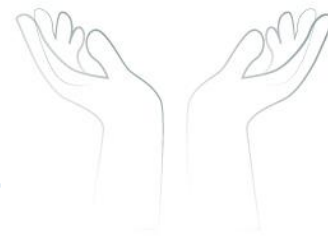
PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



official recognition as an association (due in part to the problems of funding and of identity documents) have hindered Lleca's chances to reach a broader population. One of these hindrances is the lack of a proper location for the organisation's shelter, which currently consists of a 55 square-metre apartment in downtown Mexico City, operating informally and against local zoning rules. Lastly, she considered ignorance and indifference from the general population to be a significant impediment in achieving its intended objectives.



3. Solution: The Elizabeth Montañó Initiative (EMI)

3.1 EMI's Mission

Homelessness is one of the most pervasive and visible instances of social vulnerability in urban areas. Notwithstanding, due to the lack of coordinated efforts and comprehensive public policies, the homeless still face institutional neglect. Moreover, apart from culturally established stigmas – related to poverty, mental health, and other medical conditions –, LGBTQ communities in this condition encounter risks seldomly brought to light such as discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Hence, to close these institutional gaps, increase the capacities of civil society and the general accumulated knowledge about these populations, this project intends to create a channel between university students who are also members of the LGBTQ community and existing efforts at the service of the LGBTQ homeless population. In other words, the Elizabeth Montañó Initiative will coordinate the involvement of undergraduate and graduate students with organisations that already seek to reduce homelessness among the LGBTQ community in Mexico City, and also with the existing – however dispersed and wanting – public policies and available resources.

Given the structural and systemic inequalities faced by the LGBTQ homeless population, the Elizabeth Montañó Initiative embraces an interdisciplinary outlook. With an intersectional and transversal gender perspective, it will promote capacity development within the LGBTQ youth in vulnerable contexts and in homelessness.

Through a series of alliances between civil society organisations, state agencies and university student associations, we have designed a comprehensive program to accompany and support the LGBTQ homeless community in Mexico City. In other words, through EMI, LGBTQ homelessness will become easier to tackle, and effective tools will become available so that members of this community can, in due time, achieve their personal life goals.

3.2 Main Functions of EMI

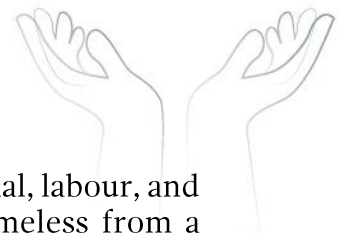
- Link non-governmental organisations dedicated to sexual diversity, governmental agencies, international organisations and LGBTQ youth for the coordination and implementation of programs that promote capacity development of the members of the LGBTQ homeless population.
- Consolidate collaboration agreements with university associations in Mexico City to recruit university students who are also members of the LGBTQ community; provide workshops and talent development activities for students who join EMI; through volunteering, professional practices, or social service, students will implement comprehensive projects to accompany and support the LGBTQ homeless population.



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



- Design and implement medical, psychosocial, educational, labour, and legal programs to aid and accompany the LGBTQ homeless from a capacity building and human rights perspective, and an intersectional approach.
- Develop research projects based on 5 guidelines: (1) to obtain demographic characteristics of the homeless LGBTQ community in Mexico City; (2) to identify their central needs; (3) to understand the structural causes that produce LGBTQ homelessness; (4) to establish best practices in the design of social programs that serve this population; (5) to design strategies so that members of the LGBTQ community can break out of homelessness.
- To carry out strategic planning activities and national and international fundraisers to guarantee the medium- and long-term economic sustainability of EMI; to establish strategies and alliances with other organisations so this model of supporting networks can be replicated in other Mexican states and other countries of the Global South.

3.3 Organisational Structure

The Initiative will be directed by Mexico's leading non-governmental organisations that advocate for LGBTQ rights. Through their respective approaches — and based on the different experiences working with these vulnerable communities —, each NGO will contribute to the design and planification of EMI's activities. Given the lack of interaction between these organisations (mentioned at the beginning of this proposal), EMI will serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas and suggestions to improve the conditions of the LGBTQ homeless community.

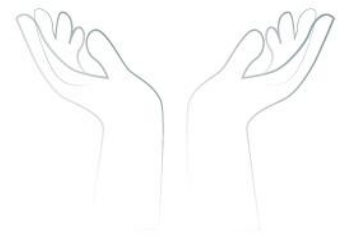
To coordinate the leadership of EMI, we propose Lleca as president of the Initiative because of its experience in the area. Additionally, three other organisations will integrate the Executive Secretariat of EMI, while the rest of the allied organisations will maintain a figure of associates. The purpose of this organisational arrangement is to provide EMI with a solid structure to coordinate and direct its efforts. In order to maintain active participation and constant dynamism among the members of the initiative, we propose that the aforementioned figures be replaced each year through democratic elections among all the partner organisations.



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



Presidency
Lleca

- Proposes and approves EMI's projects
- Maintains contact with the beneficiaries
- Supervises and participates in the project's implementation
- Represents EMI to potential donors



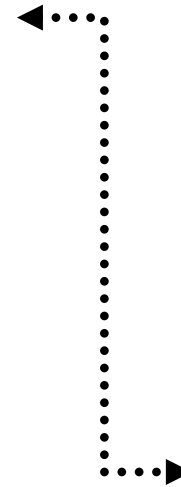
Executive
Secretary

- Introduces proposals to the President, which are designed by the partners.
- Leads the recruitment activities, as well as the trainings for students and EMI's interns and volunteers
- Makes linkages efforts with university communities and signs collaborations agreements.
- Organizes forums and EMI's in person meetings
- Manages annual democratic processes for the renovation of the organizational structure



Partner
organizations

- Designs and suggests projects to the Executive Secretary
- Maps out potential donors
- Leads EMI's awareness rising events
- Coordinates research projects



The organizational structure is renewed every year

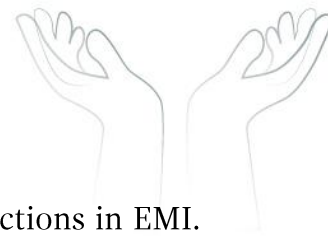
3.4 EMI's Operational Areas

3.4.1. Liaison

This area will be responsible for identifying possible collaboration agreements with Mexican universities that will allow students from the LGBTQ community to become part of EMI through social service and/or professional internships. In addition, it will promote the project in different fields so that professional members of the LGBTQ community get involved in the activities of EMI through volunteer programs or internships. The students and professionals who join the Initiative will become essential human capital for the implementation of EMI's activities, which, in turn, will allow young members of the LGBTQ community to carry out high-impact solutions for the benefit of the homeless population. These activities will be embedded in a framework of social service agreements, professional practices, internships, and volunteering. This means that the Initiative will recruit talented and capable young people, who will offer their skills for the benefit of the community they belong to without at no monetary cost.

3.4.2. University Associations and Recruitment

Once alliances with universities are consolidated, recruitment activities will be carried out so that interested students and professionals join the Initiative's efforts. After the recruiting process, workshops and training activities will be implemented to cultivate a comprehensive and intersectional perspective and develop the general required skills to provide the best care and support for the beneficiaries of EMI.



3.4.3. Programs and Services

This area will design and supervise the implementation of specific actions in EMI. From the recruitment process to the structuring of individualised support such as legal aid, these actions will address four substantial needs of the LGBTQ homeless population: (1) Medical and Psychosocial Support; (2) Educational Guidance; (3) Outreach and Employability; and (4) Legal Services. These services are described in depth in the next section of this proposal.

3.4.4. Research

Given the lack of sociodemographic data on and basic information of the LGBTQ homeless population, the aim of this area will be to create innovative research projects based on previously established guidelines that will generate crucial knowledge for the design of efficient programs and public policies to address not only the structural causes of the problem but also the daily challenges the community faces. This area will also benefit from the integration of young students and professional members of the community with research training who will offer their skills for the benefit of the development of these initiatives.

3.4.5. Project Development

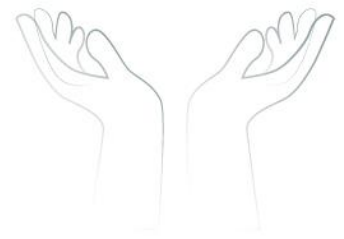
To guarantee continuity of the Initiative over time, this area will oversee the design of funding proposals to obtain national and international financial resources. Only by securing a steady flow of funds, will EMI be able to cover the material costs of the programs and services it seeks to offer.

3.5 Dimensions of Programs and Services

3.5.1. Medical and Psychosocial Support

Regarding physical health, the available public services offered by different government agencies will be identified. Personalised support will then be carried out so that each beneficiary can access these services efficiently and as quickly as possible. For beneficiaries who frequently consume addictive substances, care programs will be designed to promote responsible consumption and risk reduction. For those who are willing to stop consumption altogether, medical, and psychological support will be provided during the detoxification process. For those beneficiaries with chronic conditions, EMI will make sure that they receive adequate treatment and urge them to attend regular medical check-ups.

In terms of mental health, those who require it will be channelled to the existing psychosocial care agencies so that they can have access to free psychological therapy. Additionally, workshops on self-care, human development, nutrition, violence, and suicide prevention will be designed and taught. For the implementation of the activities of this dimension, members of the LGBTQ community who are also students or professionals in the fields of Medicine, Nutrition and Psychology will be identified and recruited. In this respect, their participation through social service, professional practices, internships, or volunteering will be a fundamental part of the design and implementation of these support programs.



3.5.2. Educational Orientation

Given the educational needs of the LGBTQ homeless population, personalised educational support will be provided so that each beneficiary can obtain adequate information and documentation to access basic, high school, technical or higher education opportunities that meet their time availability and life projects. For this reason, we will seek to insert beneficiaries in remote learning, online education, or part-time schooling opportunities. Moreover, information and educational counselling will be provided so that beneficiaries can complete their basic or high school education through a single accreditation exam. EMI will also strive to offer diverse courses including computer regularisation classes to reduce the digital gap.

For those beneficiaries who wish to continue with technical or higher education studies, workshops will be designed for educational orientation, life project development and university linkage to guarantee their academic insertion free of charge. These activities will be developed by LGBTQ community members who are also students and professionals in Pedagogy, Human Resources, and Information Technology.

3.5.3. Job Connections and Employability

Since access to employment is one of the essential courses of action to strengthen the agency of LGBTQ homeless individuals, this dimension will design and implement comprehensive strategies of personalised support so that the beneficiaries can be linked to job opportunities. With these strategies, the beneficiaries will be better equipped to develop their full potential and consolidate their personal life projects. Simultaneously, workshops will be offered to help beneficiaries identify job opportunities according to their profiles and skills, to prepare their curriculum and to train them for successful job interviews. Students of Human Resources, Psycho-pedagogy and Administration will take part in the design and implementation of these services.

3.5.4. Legal Services

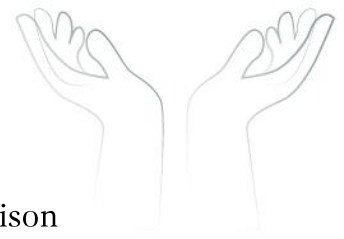
To improve access to justice and the right to SOGI, this dimension will provide legal assistance to transgender people who wish to harmonise legal documentation with their gender identity. Similarly, beneficiaries who wish to report crimes of sexual harassment, violence, or discrimination committed against them will be guided and supported. For migrant members of the LGBTQ homeless population, support will be provided for refugee applications and regularisation of their migratory status. Additionally, workshops will be offered for beneficiaries to learn about their rights in Mexico. To develop the aforementioned activities, members of the LGBTQ community who are also students or professionals with legal and human rights backgrounds will be recruited.



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



5

Operational Areas

That enables the fulfillment of its objectives

- Liaison
- Universities Associations and Recruitment
- Programs and Services
- Research
- Project Development

4

Programs and Services

For the freedom and full development of the LGBTQ community in vulnerable situations



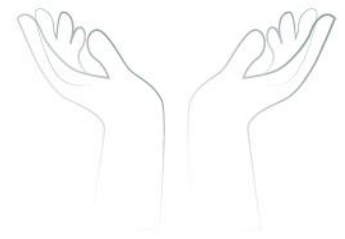
3.6 EMI's Contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Our shared claim is that extreme poverty around the world cannot be ended while excluding minorities such as LGBTQ people. Thus, our project contributes to one of the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: leaving no one behind. SDG 1 “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” aims to make sure that all dimensions of development reach the most marginalised people, and that includes LGBTQ individuals. For this reason, we have included the seven associated actions of SDG 1 in all the services and aid that EMI offers to LGBTQ people. For instance, our highest-priority areas for LGBTQ people in Mexico City are economic wellbeing and income security, personal security and violence, education, health, and political and civic participation to push for pro-LGBTQ legislation.



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative
Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



4. Project Monitoring and Evaluation

The success of this initiative depends on strengthening the capabilities of organisations already involved in aiding the homeless population, i.e. allowing them to reach a larger number of beneficiaries. Furthermore, given the strong reliance on participation of LGBTQ youth from universities in Mexico City, it is also important to measure these young professionals' engagement in activities by these organisations. This serves not only as a measure of success regarding the provision of services and orientation for the homeless population, but also as a mechanism to display the concerns of these communities to a broader LGBTQ audience. Thus, we propose the following indexes, which ought to be part of the regular administration of the network, and one of the main products that each presidency of the Initiative presents to stakeholders and the public:

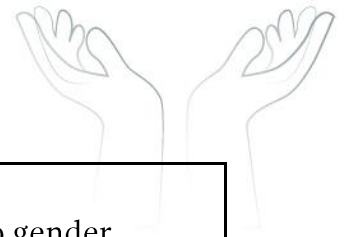
Area	Index
Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of universities linked to the network. # of linked NGOs # of linked government agencies # of linked private organisations # of meetings with decision makers for advocacy purposes # of joint actions with stakeholders and decision makers
Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of university students participating in internships with any of the organisations # of hours of training for students or professionals # of training certificates provided by the organisations
Programs & Services	<p>For medical and psychosocial aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of medical consultations # of STD and STI tests # of provided treatments in specialised clinics # of self-care workshops <p>For educational orientation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of education certificates obtained # of exam preparation workshops # of exams taken <p>For employability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of cases brought to a job bank # of attendees to training workshops # of attendees to résumé preparation workshops # of formal employment positions obtained



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



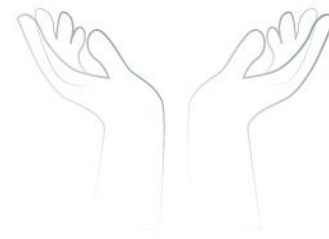
	For legal services: # of updated birth certificates, in accordance to gender identity (where applicable) # of updated IDs (INE, CURP), in accordance to gender identity (where applicable) # of legal counselling sessions # of immigration documents regularised (where applicable)
Research	# of policy papers and proposals # of press releases and amount of news coverage
Project Development	# of fundraisers # of fund applications Mapping of possible funding sources and organisations



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



5. Expected Outcomes

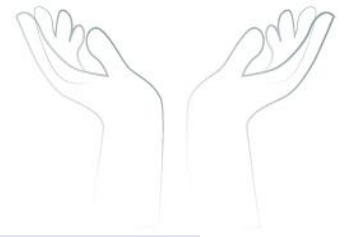
Due to the ambitions of the project, we have defined a series of short-term outcomes that we expect to accomplish over the course of the first six months of development. Each outcome is based on the five dimensions of our project: Liaison, Recruitment, Programs & Services, Research, and Project Development. We plan to launch the first stage of the project during early January 2023, with the following expected short-term outcomes:

Area	Outcomes
Liaison	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contacting existing LGBTQ organisations in Mexico City and creating a database of these organisations.2. Formulating a formal mechanism to link these organisations with local authorities and other civil society initiatives.
Recruitment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Communicating with student societies and LGBTQ associations from every university in Mexico City and inviting them to join EMI.2. Establishing a formal mechanism within each student association to enable the recruitment of young university-student volunteers.
Programs & Services	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Designing a general plan of implementation for every provided service and program.2. Formulating operating manuals for every program and service provided by the initiative.
Research	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Draw upon previous interviews with members of the LGBTQ community in Mexico City.2. Conducting research and fieldwork in order to gather data of living standards within the LGBTQ population in Mexico City.3. Planning a general route to turn this research into a public policy project.
Project Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1.- Establishing formal agreements with several funding institutions both in Mexico or abroad.2.- Planning on a general route of funding for the first years of development.



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative
Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



5.1 Calendar of Initial Implementation Stage

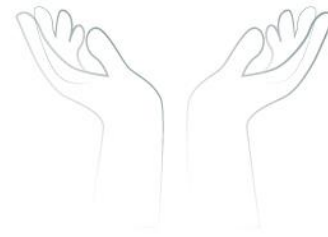
EMI' s Initial Implementation Stage Timeline

STAGE	TERM	JANUARY 2023	FEBRUARY 2023	MARCH 2023	APRIL 2023	JUNE 2023	JULY 2023
Liaison	January 5th - March 31st	[Orange]		[Yellow]			
University Association and Recruitment	February 1st - April 15th	[Yellow]	[Orange]		[Yellow]		
Programs and Services	April 15th - July 31st				[Orange]		
Research	February 15th - July 31st	[Yellow]	[Orange]				
Project Development	March 1st - July 31st		[Yellow]	[Orange]			



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative
Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty

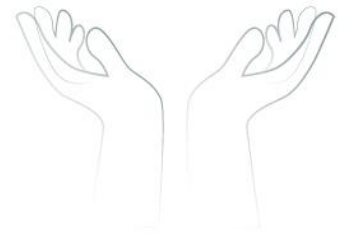


6. Risk Assessment

In this section we show the array of risks and mitigation actions that establishing our initiative may involve. As a framework, we adopted a methodology of NGO risk management and principles proposed by Humanitarian Outcomes, which is the leading independent organisation providing policy advice to guide humanitarian action.¹³ Following such standards, we have grouped the categories below with the highest potential risks during the implementation of EMI:

Risk assessment for The Elizabeth Montañó Initiative (EMI) Empowering youth and tackling LGBTQ Poverty			The Geneva Challenge 2022			Period of January 2023 to July 2023		
External engagement: Build a trust network society, partnership with government and academia to reduce poverty within LGBTQI+ people								
Number	Condition (Risk Description)	Consequence (Risk Effect)	Likelihood	Impact	Priority Level	Response Strategy (RS)	RS Owner	Actions to implement
1	Operational	Inability to sustain continuity of services due to Facilities capacity deficits Financial resources deficits Lack of legally binding relations with donors and associates	High	High		avoid	EMI Board	Funds can be disbursed in smaller amounts or more frequently and additional funds can be obtained from capacity building of beneficiaries. Implement alternative triggers to engage donors continue supporting (i.e. providing public acknowledge, partnering with schools to release social service, support improve public image of main partners)
2	Security and Human Integrity	Risk exposure of staff from homophobic sectors Prosecution and discrimination of LGBTQI+ beneficiaries. Some of our beneficiaries come from violent & drug abuse backgrounds so there is a risk of they to hostiles within the group and towards staff.	Med	High		mitigate (plan B)	EMI Staff	Provide preventive training to staff in case of crisis. Set a formal communication protocol with local authorities in case of a violence attack.
3	Changes in government parties, leaders and in public legislation	As we will potentially receive LGBTQI+ foreign and immigrant people there is an exposure with migration authorities and legal implications.	High	High		escalate	EMI Board	Prepare for upcoming legal and administration challenges Obtain assessment from voluntary immigration lawyers
4	Fiduciary	Diversion of aid and donors materials Bribery and extortion from local officials. Misallocation of earmarked donations by staff	Med	Med		mitigate (plan B)	EMI Board	Provide training to staff in terms of ethics and code of conducts.
5	New ways of engagement after COVID-19	Safer interactions to integrate beneficiaries Need of developing digital skills/capabilities	Med	Med		mitigate (plan B)	EMI Staff	Invest in medical equipment to avoid infections and keep safe facilities. Invest in digital tools to accelerate donors prospects and communicate initiative social purpose broadly.
5	External relations and communications	Risk of confidentiality, data privacy & personal integrity. Inappropriate or discriminatory communications by staff on social media	Med	Med		mitigate (plan B)	EMI Staff	Partnership with experts on inclusive communication best practices. Train staff on how to promote LGBTQI+ safe spaces
6	External funding	Inappropriate activities in interactions with external organizations/advocates. In case of donors who support with monetary resources there is a risk of paying unofficial taxes to local authorities.	High	High		avoid	EMI Board	Assess donors' and partners' motivations for partnering to increase their capacity to partner before initiating the partnership (reputational exposure, real motives, no backgrounds or links with crime-organizations)
7	Instable environment	The high uncertainty and unexpected changes to the external environment (inflation, food short-age of raw materials influence in our donors willingness to support us. It demands of strategy to guarantee they continue to participate in the long term.	High	Med		accept	EMI Board	Adapt to work with high-risk partner asking about their capacities to continue in order to anticipate terminations.
8	Organizational culture & education	Insufficient awareness & knowledge of administrative and prospecting donors	Low	Med		transfer	EMI Staff	Foster education to EMI associates on LGBTQI+ specific needs. Train staff on organizational on basic values to have a safe and health environment for the beneficiaries.

¹³ The full methodology handbook report can be found here: <https://www.humanitarianoutcomes.org/ngos-and-risk>.

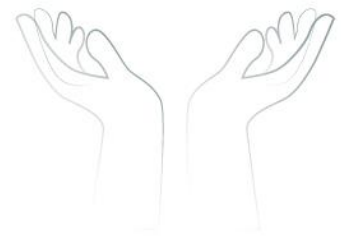


7. Limitations

So far, we have outlined our proposal to address the homeless LGBTQ population in Mexico City, the Elizabeth Montañó Initiative. There are, however, limitations to the present proposal. For one, the lack of official information regarding the homeless population, and particularly the LGBTQ homeless, is a significant impediment to any formulation of public policy or proposal which intends to cater for these communities. This is a far-reaching issue which reflects the level of institutional neglect that homeless populations endure worldwide. We expect the EMI to be an effective solution for many of the ills that currently affect homosexual, bisexual, queer and transgender people under these conditions; yet we are aware that many of the problems these communities face are systemic and deeply entwined with other social issues. We do not presume to have found the answer to the profound cleavages that affect our societies. Issues as complex as violence, discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, housing, educational and medical deprivation, and urban poverty itself require intricate and multifaceted solutions. Nonetheless, having worked with communities and listened to activists' concerns, we believe there is a great opportunity to protect and improve the homeless LGBTQ individual's lives and prospects within the same structural conditions that currently constrain them.

8. Conclusion

Following Elizabeth Montañó's example, our project seeks to contribute to the reduction of poverty among the LGBTQ population by empowering LGBTQ youth. Recognising the multidimensional nature of the issue, we have proposed an interdisciplinary and capacity-building approach for the design of our initiative. Through its operational structure, dimensions of impact, and monitoring indexes, not only could EMI be an opportunity for university students to learn and develop professionally in different forms of social work, but the LGBTQ community at large could find — and ultimately rely on — a consolidated network of sensitive, skilled, and trained community members who are willing and able to support them in different areas — from daily harassment and abuse to educational orientation and legal aid. Therefore, despite institutional negligence, despite pervasive discrimination, and despite the lack of data, the Elizabeth Montañó Initiative could take our society one step closer toward a somewhat more equal and just world.



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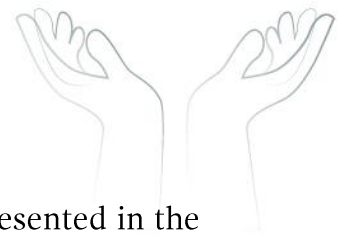
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PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



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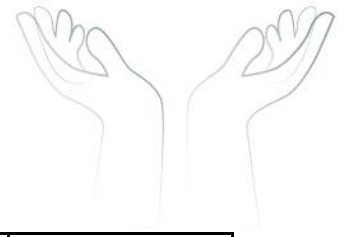
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Appendix 1.A Interview Findings

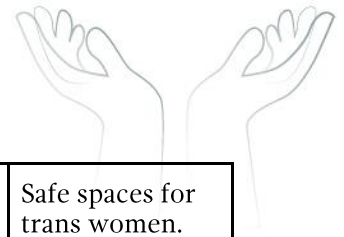
Participants	Age	Gender Identity	Region of Origin*	Housing Situation	Time living in Mexico City	Main Needs Identified
Interviewee #1	50 years old	Transgender woman	Mexico City	Homeless due to eviction of household and currently unemployed. Has been living in Lleca Shelter for 4 months.	Since childhood	A place to work and Housing. Legal support.
Interviewee #2	31 years old	Trangender woman	Mexico, East Region	Homeless	10 years	Medical and mental support to overcome substance/drug abuse. Economic stability and proper medical services.
Interviewee #3	46 years old	Transgender woman	Mexico, South Central Region	Homeless and currently unemployed	20 years	Medical and mental support to overcome substance/drug abuse.
Interviewee #4	34 years old	Transgender woman	North-Central Mexico	Homeless (in Lleca)	6 months	Employment awareness for public authorities regarding gender identity.



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



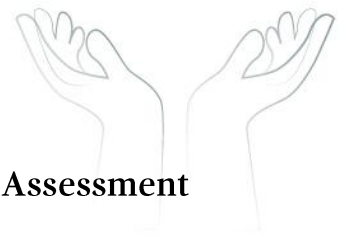
Interviewee #5	26	Transgender woman	North-Central Mexico	Homeless (has been in shelters and currently living in Lleca)	9 years	Safe spaces for trans women. Food support. Receive support regardless of her age and health condition.
Interviewee #6	26	Transgender woman	East Region	Homeless (currently living in Lleca)	9 years	Finish her studies. Employment. Assistance to change her identity in official documents.
Interviewee #7	27	Transgender woman	Southeastern Region	Homeless (living in Lleca shelter)	6 years	Medical and mental support to overcome substance abuse.
Interviewee #8	27	Non-binary	South-Central Region	Homeless (in Lleca)	Born in Mexico City	Mental health support to overcome substance abuse.
Interviewee #9	28	Transgender woman	East Region	Homeless (occasionally stays in shelter)	15 years	Employment support to overcome substance abuse.



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



Appendix 1.B: Questionnaires Formats Applied During Assessment

Questionnaire I

Population target: LGBTQ homeless people lodged at Lleca shelter.

a. Personal data and background:

What is your full name?

What is your gender identity?

What is your age?

What is your country of origin?

What is the name of the city where you were born and/or live?

If applicable:

What is your immigration status?

When did you arrive in Mexico City?

What was your point of entry?

Have you lived in other cities in Mexico?

b. Socioeconomic, health, and living conditions data:

Do you identify yourself as part of an indigenous community of origin?

Before joining Lleca, where and with whom did you live?

How many people lived at your previous address?

Do you have any health or medical condition/illness?

How many meals do you eat per day?

Do you regularly use any substances or drugs? If yes, how often do you use them?

How do you currently support yourself financially?

Have you ever worked before? If yes, where and in which activities?

Do you receive any financial support/grants?

What level of education do you have?

How long ago did you stop studying? For what reason?

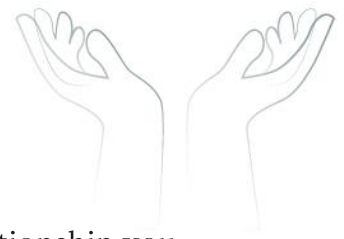
Do you speak another language or dialect?



PROJECT:

Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



c. Social integration and Indicators of Social Deprivation:

Would you feel comfortable talking about your family or the relationship you have with your family?

Do you have close friends in Mexico?

How can you describe your experience as an LGBTQ person in Mexico City?

Are you a member of a religious or social support group?

Are you a member of a health institution or care provider?

What government agencies/associations have you had contact with? If previous contact, what has been your experience with the following institutions or groups:

Health:

Migration:

Social development:

Civil society:

Police:

Local authorities:

Local people/neighbourhood:

At this moment, which do you consider are your primary necessities?

d. Issue awareness and insights:

In your opinion or experience, what are the main challenges or obstacles that the LGBTQ community faces in Mexico?

Have you ever perceived a different treatment because of your gender or sexual orientation?

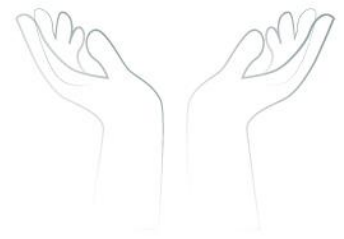
Would you like to further comment on something or share any questions or concerns?



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Elizabeth Montañó Initiative

Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



Questionnaire II

Population target: Staff volunteers supporting Lleca's activities

a. Personal data and background:

What is your full name?

Gender identity:

What is your age?

b. Socioeconomic data:

How do you currently support yourself financially?

Have you ever worked before? If yes, where and in what activities?

Do you receive any financial support/grants?

What level of education do you have?

c. Volunteering and engagement:

How did you find out about Lleca?

How did you become involved in this type of activity?

Has your work involved links with government/other associations/religious organisations? If yes, what has been your experience with the following institutions or groups:

Health:

Migration:

Social development:

Civil society:

Issue awareness and insights:

From what you have experienced, what are the main challenges or obstacles faced by the LGBTQ community in Mexico?

What are the main challenges or obstacles you have faced as part of an organisation?

Which do you identify as the organisation's most urgent needs?

Have you ever been treated differently because of your gender or sexual orientation?

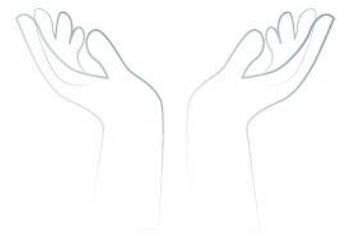
Is there anything I did not mention that you would like to comment on?

Do you have any questions?

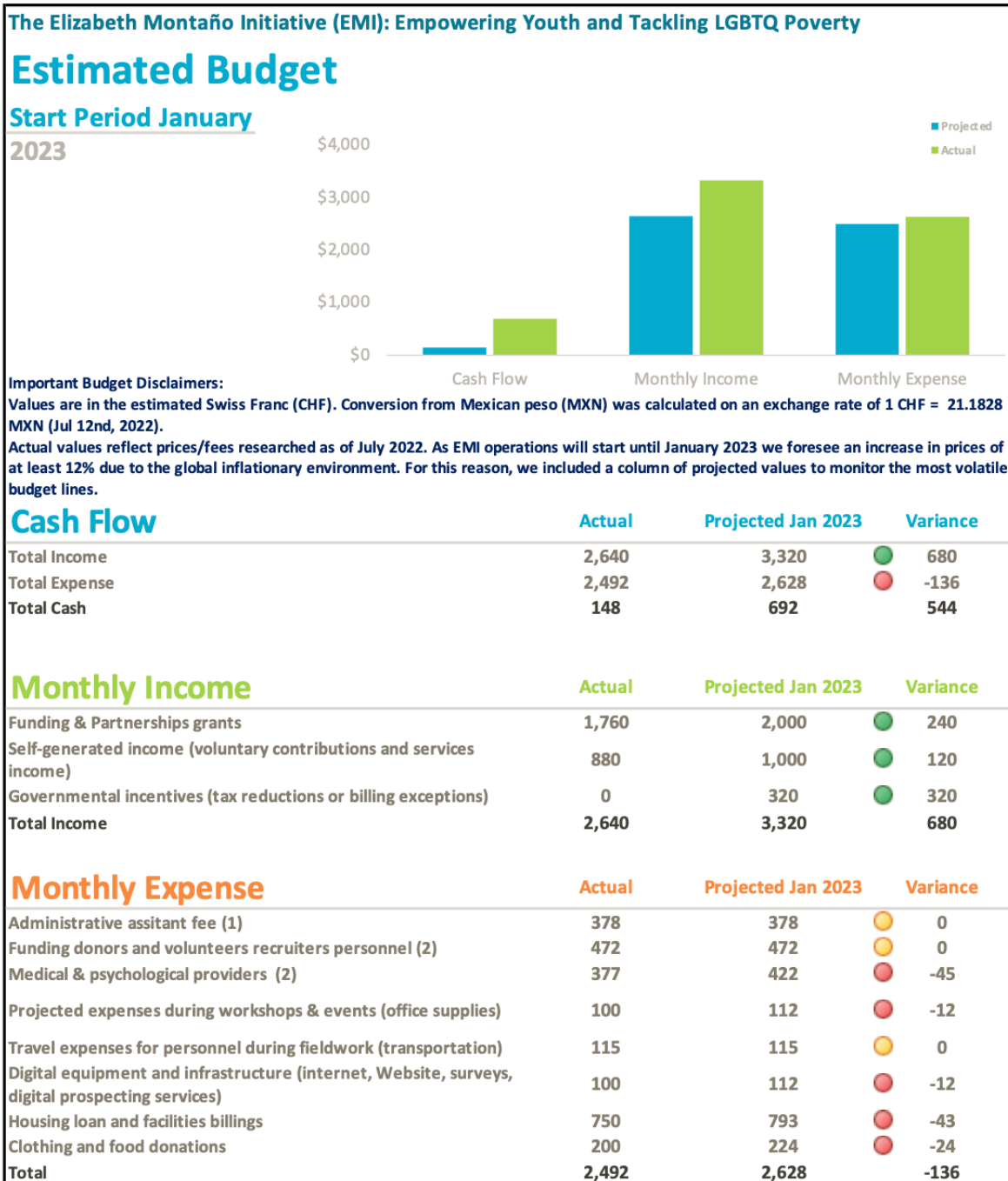


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Elizabeth Montañó Initiative
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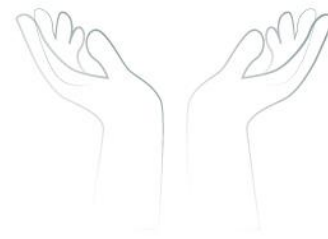
Appendix 2. Estimated Budget and Financial Breakdown





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Empowering Youth and Tackling LGBTQ Poverty



Appendix 3. Potential Allies to EMI

Sector	Office/Organisation/University
Public Sector	<p>Mexico City Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat of Inclusion and Social Welfare • Cuauhtémoc District • Registry Office • Secretariat of Health • Secretariat of Education • Secretariat of Labour and Employment Support <p>Federal Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat of the Interior • National Electoral Institute • Secretariat of Public Education
NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colectiva Lleca • Casa de las Muñecas Tiresias • Casa Frida • Casa Xochiquetzal • Centro de Apoyo a las Identidades Trans (CAIT) • Yaaj México • Fuera del Clóset • El Caracol • Adeco México • Fundación Mexicana para la Lucha contra el Sida • Brigada Callejera de Apoyo a la Mujer “Elisa Martínez”
Academia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instituto Rosario Castellanos • Universidad Iberoamericana • Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana • Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México • El Colegio de México • Universidad La Salle • Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas