

THE LGBTI GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

Promoting Global LGBTI Human Rights, Equality, and Economic Empowerment

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) share a vision for a world in which the basic and universal human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI)¹ persons are respected and they are able to live with dignity, free from discrimination, persecution, and violence.

LIVED REALITIES FOR LGBTI PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

Discrimination, stigmatization, violence, and exclusionary laws negatively impact the lives of millions of LGBTI people around the world and contribute to poverty. Approximately 80 countries and territories currently criminalize same-gender relations – eight of which may legally impose the death penalty – and anti-LGBTI violence can be life-threatening. Access to essential services such as basic education, health, housing, and economic opportunities is often denied to LGBTI people. All too often this systemic discrimination locks LGBTI people into a devastating cycle of extreme poverty.



RFSL RAINBOW LEADERS PARTICIPANTS FROM CYCLE 4 IN TANTOLUNDEN, STOCKHOLM. PHOTO CREDIT: EVELINE JOHNSON

PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

The LGBTI Global Development Partnership (LGBTI-GDP) is a first-of-its-kind public-private partnership. It leverages the financial and technical contributions of corporations, bilateral donors, foundations, NGOs, and universities to support LGBTI human rights and development in 14 countries across all regions. Funding and implementing partners include USAID; Sida; Arcus Foundation; Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice; Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute; Williams Institute; Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Rights (RFSL); and the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.



TWO PROJECTS, ONE GOAL

The LGBTI-GDP consists of two distinct but complementary Global Development Alliances. Together, they empower LGBTI communities by:

- Strengthening the capacity of LGBTI leaders and civil society organizations;
- Training LGBTI leaders to effectively participate in democratic processes and run organizations;
- Conducting research to inform national, regional, and global policy and programs; and
- Promoting economic empowerment through enhanced LGBTI entrepreneurship and business development.

PROJECT 1: THE GLOBAL LGBTI HUMAN RIGHTS PARTNERSHIP, 2012-2018

Key activities to date include:

- Awarding 102 grants worth \$1,956,100 to 58 LGBTI CSOs in 12 countries;
- Holding two Media, Communications, and Technology Labs that bring together LGBTI activists and technologists to identify tools that can support/protect LGBTI advocates;
- Publishing [eight landscape analyses](#) which provide detailed overviews of the social, political, and economic conditions for LGBTI people in each country and offer recommendations for allies, advocates, and funders;
- Launching a groundbreaking global research [report](#): *The Relationship between LGBT Inclusion and Economic Development: An Analysis of Emerging Economies*;
- Training 146 LGBTI leaders in Europe/Eurasia and Latin America/Caribbean in democratic participation; and
- Training 120 global LGBTI advocates in organizational leadership, management, and fundraising.

PROJECT 2: PROMOTING LGBT EQUALITY THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SME GROWTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND REGIONS, 2013-2020

Key activities to date include:

- Establishing four LGBT Chambers of Commerce / Business Organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- Training and providing networking opportunities for over 1,700 LGBT entrepreneurs and businesses; and
- Registering over 50 LGBT businesses in an international supplier registry.

For more information about the LGBTI-GDP, contact Anthony Cotton, Senior Advisor, LGBTI office, at acotton@usaid.gov.

¹ Note on terms: "LGBTI" (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex) is the current preferred acronym. "LGBT" was used previously; it remains in use when referring to some projects and documents that were developed prior to the updating of the acronym. Regardless of the acronym used, the intention is to refer to the community in a way that is broadly inclusive of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and bodily diversity.