

# 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) 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. Over 70 countries and territories currently criminalize same-sex relations – several 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 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 around the world. 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; 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 139 grants worth \$2,758,150 to 58 LGBTI CSOs in 12 countries;
- Holding three 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 182 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 LGBTI EQUALITY THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SME GROWTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND REGIONS, 2013-2020

Key activities to date include:

- Establishing LGBTI Chambers of Commerce / Business Organizations in five developing countries;
- Training and providing networking opportunities for over 2,175 LGBTI entrepreneurs and businesses; and
- Registering over 50 LGBTI businesses in an international supplier registry.

<sup>1</sup> 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.