



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT: ADVANCING LGBTI HUMAN RIGHTS

Equal access to foreign aid is not only a matter of human rights, but also critical to holistic, comprehensive, and inclusive development. USAID is committed to the principles of inclusive development for all.

HARSH REALITIES FOR LGBTI¹ 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, healthcare, and housing is often denied to LGBTI people. All too often this systemic discrimination locks LGBTI people into a cycle of extreme poverty.

¹ Note on terms: USAID currently uses the acronym “LGBTI” (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex). “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.

LGBTI HUMAN RIGHTS AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

USAID has a long history of advancing human rights through support and assistance to marginalized and vulnerable populations. We support the human rights of LGBTI people through the integration of human rights and empowerment into our policies and programming. Through our inclusive development efforts, we work to ensure *all* individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, or bodily diversity, are empowered to secure better lives for themselves, their families, and their communities.

LGBT VISION FOR ACTION

In June 2014, USAID launched the *LGBT Vision for Action*, a document that underscores USAID's commitment the health, safety, and human rights of LGBTI people around the world. The *LGBT Vision for Action* reflects USAID's commitment to 1) account for country and cultural context, 2) ensure openness and safety for dialogue, 3) integrate LGBTI issues into USAID's work, 4) support and mobilize LGBTI communities, and 5) build partnerships and create allies and champions.

LGBTI-INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

In partnership with local and global actors, including the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, USAID helps advance LGBTI human rights through innovative programs led by local and international civil society organizations. Examples of these programs include the “*Being LGBTI*” regional initiatives, which support critical research and policy work, and the *LGBTI Global Development Partnership*, which leverages the financial and technical contributions of corporations, bilateral donors, foundations, non-governmental organizations, and universities to provide research, small grants, training, and economic empowerment activities. Additionally, USAID missions around the world integrate LGBTI considerations into health, human rights, and broad development programming to advance nondiscrimination and protections for LGBTI people.