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## FACT SHEET

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# Inclusive Development: Advancing LGBTI Human Rights



“Agencies involved with foreign aid, assistance, and development shall enhance their ongoing efforts to ensure regular Federal Government engagement with governments, citizens, civil society, and the private sector in order to build respect for the human rights of LGBT persons.”

– President Barack Obama, Presidential Memorandum issued Dec. 6, 2011

Seventy seven countries and territories criminalize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) behavior, seven of which may impose the death penalty for same-sex relations. Yet, it is estimated that LGBTI people receive less than one-one hundredth of 1 percent of all development funding.\*

Violence, economic hardship, stigma and political marginalization negatively impact the lives of millions of LGBTI individuals around the world, especially in conflict situations, natural disasters and among refugees and internally displaced persons. Lack of employment opportunities, discrimination in access to health care, housing and education, and infringement on the right to assemble are part of day-to-day realities of many LGBTI individuals.

## LGBTI HUMAN RIGHTS & INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

At USAID, equal access to foreign aid is not only a matter of human rights, but also critical to holistic, comprehensive and inclusive development. USAID proudly champions LGBTI interests in our policies, practices and initiatives.

The Agency has a long history of advancing human rights by supporting and assisting marginalized and vulnerable populations. We continue to make progress, taking a lead role in promoting LGBTI-equality efforts through the integration of rights and empowerment in policies and programming.

Through our inclusive development efforts, we work so that all citizens regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity are equally empowered to secure better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. We ensure support for the dignity and human rights of LGBTI individuals as we build partnerships within the U.S. Government, local organizations, the private sector, donors and institutions to protect, secure, and have access to resources and humanitarian assistance for LGBTI individuals and advance development goals.

## LGBT VISION FOR ACTION

*The USAID Vision for Action demonstrates both internally and externally the Agency's commitment to LGBT inclusion. It provides a set of overarching core principles for engagement on LGBT inclusion and further socializes LGBT inclusion throughout the Agency. USAID's vision is a world in which the human rights of LGBT persons are:*

- Respected and able to live with dignity, free from discrimination, persecution, and violence.
- Able to participate fully in democratic decision-making in their households, communities and countries.
- Have equal access to sustainable livelihoods, economic assets and resources.
- Not barred from accessing the basic education, health and other services that are enjoyed by their fellow citizens and that are essential for personal well-being and growth.

\*According to the Arcus Foundation

## PROGRESS: A SNAPSHOT OF LGBTI POLICIES & PROGRAMS

### LGBTI-inclusive policies

As part of mainstreaming LGBTI issues in foreign assistance, USAID has integrated these into the Agency's policies, practices and programming. LGBTI-inclusive policies include:

- LGBT Vision for Action
- Gender-Based Violence Strategy
- Women, Peace & Security National Action Plan
- Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy
- Global Health Strategy
- Youth Policy
- Climate Change Policy
- USAID Policy Framework
- Project Design Guidance
- Country Development Cooperation Strategy Guidance
- Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Strategy

**Mission orders.** USAID/Nicaragua issued a mission order promoting LGBTI inclusion that elevates awareness, provides training and outreach to LGBTI program beneficiaries, and promotes non-discrimination at missions.

**USAID/Malawi outreach to LGBTI partners.** USAID/Malawi's prudent, integrated approach to inclusive development programming broadens the stakeholder base to include LGBTI partner organizations. The mission is incorporating LGBTI priorities and capacity development needs into existing human rights and health care platforms, which focused on disability, gender, youth, and HIV/AIDS concerns.

### LGBTI programs

**LGBT Global Development Partnership.** The LGBT Global Development Partnership brings together USAID, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute, Williams Institute, National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and Olivia Companies. The Partnership strengthens LGBT civil society organizations, enhances LGBT participation in democratic processes, undertakes research to inform national and global policy and programs, and supports LGBT entrepreneurship and LGBT-owned small and medium sized enterprises.

**South Africa Human Rights Fund.** USAID supports the Government of South Africa in combating gender-based violence. The fund will strengthen prosecution and adjudication of sexual offenses, improve court and case management of sexual offenses cases, and promote awareness of the Office of the Chief Justice and the public on sexual offenses and gender-based violence against LGBT persons.

**HIV/AIDS & PEPFAR.** For over 20 years, USAID has supported HIV/AIDS programming, currently focused on research of the disease, effective program models for targeted prevention, and care and treatment services for high-risk populations. Programming also supports the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and other donors.

**Being LGBT in Asia.** USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia supports the *Being LGBT in Asia*, which is providing much needed research on the socio-economic reality of LGBT communities in six priority countries: China, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The study is jointly supported by USAID and the United Nations Development Program. It was inspired by USAID Forward's principles and includes elements for rebuilding policy capacity, strengthening monitoring and evaluation, leading on innovation, supporting science and technology, building local capacity, and attracting and retaining talent.

**LGBTI protection and empowerment in Colombia.** With USAID's support, LGBTI NGOs in Colombia advocated for the development and passing of the 2011 National Anti-Discrimination Law. USAID continues to empower local LGBTI groups to monitor the law's implementation, educate government officials and police about legal obligations under the law, and advocate for the rights of the LGBTI community.

For more information on the Agency's LGBTI Inclusive Development work, contact Todd Larson, Senior LGBT Coordinator at [tlarson@usaid.gov](mailto:tlarson@usaid.gov) or visit <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/democracy-human-rights-and-governance/protecting-human-rights/advancing-lgbti-human-rights>.