

# STEP

## Strengthening Transformative and Equitable Partnerships

### PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The Strengthening Transformative and Equitable Partnerships (STEP) activity will enhance the capacity of new, local, diverse, and nontraditional actors, diversify and expand USAID's partnerships, and ensure equitable and inclusive collaboration across all partner relationships. The centrally managed mechanism is designed to augment USAID's Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships (LFT) Hub efforts in supporting Missions and Operating Units to build on the existing strengths of local actors and systems, respond to dynamic country and regional contexts, and align with USAID strategic priorities.

### SCOPE AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

STEP is integral to USAID's localization agenda and supports the agency's goal of advancing long-term sustainable development through inclusive methodologies, grants under contract, and equitable partnerships. The activity is expected to work with many partners, including diaspora groups, the private sector, religious communities and faith-based organizations, youth-led organizations, Indigenous persons and organizations, and women-led organizations.

### Key Tasks

- 1. Support for Mission Staff to Improve Local Partnerships:** Strengthen local partnerships and systems through various services, including systems mapping, landscape analyses, plain language products, convenings, and mentoring.
- 2. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL):** Advance participatory MEL approaches and design accountability frameworks to reflect local priorities and incorporate stakeholder feedback.
- 3. Risk Mitigation:** Perform risk assessments and guide missions and local partners in adopting effective cost-recovery methods and addressing compliance challenges experienced in post-award administration.
- 4. Capacity Strengthening for Local Actors:** Two distinct support categories include demand-driven support to local and regional actors (individuals, organizations, and networks) and compliance-focused support to help local and regional partners access, manage, and implement USAID and other donors' awards or contracts.

### Global Buy-In Mechanism:

Accepts Program and Operational Expense Funding

**Ceiling:** \$22.08 million

### Duration:

4 years | October 1, 2024 – December 13, 2028

**Prime Contractor:** Panagora Group, Inc.

### Subcontractors:

- TM Design, Inc.
- Big Blue Communications
- Miew Technologies
- Humentum
- Collaborate Up
- DevWorks International, Inc.
- Grant Thornton International
- All in For Development, LLC

### For more information, contact:

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