



## Communities in Transition (CIT)

Creative's CIT division supports communities transitioning from conflict through participatory programs that help instill democratic values and processes. CIT serves the needs of political transitions, governance, elections, and capacity building for NGOs while engaging the media to improve awareness of social issues and participation in the solutions to the challenges of the day with a focus on long-term sustainability. Since its inception in 1989, CIT has facilitated peace initiatives and interaction among citizens and their local governments by using participatory methodologies that help communities address needs by directing their own development.

### Programs and Successes

Central to CIT's success in advancing peaceful transitions is a focus on collaborative efforts in democratic institution building, starting at the grassroots level and up to government agencies. CIT also strives to ensure that civil society actors—NGO's, labor organizations, business associations, media and government stakeholders—have the means to fully participate in democratic processes.

- In Central America, Creative implements the Regional Youth Alliance USAID-SICA project, in recognition of the firm's successful innovative and participatory programs to rehabilitate and reintegrate ex-gang members into society and prevent the participation of youth in gangs. This timely project is a direct response to the public security, investment and development challenges caused by youth gangs throughout Central America, which have contributed to driving crime rates in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador to among the highest in the region. Known in Spanish as Alianza Joven Regional USAID-SICA, the project also assess regional legal frameworks and practices to promote multi-country policy and reform to improve the treatment and rehabilitation of youth in order to develop a cohesive regional response to the gang problem.
- In Guatemala, under the USAID Youth Challenge Alliance Program, Creative builds on its pioneering success under a longtime predecessor project, known as the Youth Alliance Program, to help former gang members turn their lives around through unique mentoring and job opportunities. In 2006, Creative launched Challenge 10—Peace for the EX™, a reality TV show that involved two groups of five former gang members who competed in creating legitimate businesses with the guidance of private-sector mentors. View the reality series here, [www.Challenge10.com](http://www.Challenge10.com). The success of Challenge 10 led to Challenge 100—Peace for Guatemala in 2007. Through public-private partnerships, nearly 100 former gang members, young men and women alike, received job skills training.
- Under The Liberia Transition Initiative, known as LTI, launched just months after the peace accord ended a devastating 14-year civil war, Creative supported government agencies' capacities so that they could resume services, begin to revitalize communities, and raise public awareness of issues tied to Liberia's transition. Among these critical needs, CIT placed a strong emphasis on working to better the lives of marginalized youths to help secure their passage into productive and engaged citizenship. LTI also promoted war-affected youths' awareness of their civic duties by involving them in community projects.
- Creative holds the Elections and Political Processes IQC, designed to support citizen participation in public policy decisions and leadership selection through free and fair elections. This IQC provides USAID with technical and intellectual leadership and tools that support elections including assistance and support to elections commissions, political parties and electoral processes worldwide. The firm has implemented election support programs in El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Liberia, Nicaragua and Serbia. It has also provided direct technical assistance to election commissions in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.
- In Afghanistan, the Capacity Development Program assisted the country's NGOs in the delivery of vital services in order to complete government services as well as advocate on behalf of Afghans. CDP was implemented by Creative in partnership with BearingPoint. In this project, Creative provided in-depth training to enable NGOs to build organizational capacities to better serve civil society over the long term.
- Creative holds the Support Which Implements a Fast Transition (SWIFT III) IQC designed to support USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) efforts to provide countries in political transition with rapid and effective technical assistance for positive political change. SWIFT III underscores Creative's record for quick project startup (within 72-hours of award announcement) and to meet a country's specific needs during the critical stages of transition from conflict to peace and democracy. Creative also implemented the SWIFT I and II IQCs, predecessors to the current SWIFT III.

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