

USAID Awards Creative Associates the Jordan Education Reform Support Program



WASHINGTON, D.C. – May 20, 2009 – The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded Creative Associates International, Inc. the Jordan Education Reform Support Program (ERSP).

Creative is a recognized leader in education programming with more than 32 years of experience working worldwide, including the Arab world. Under the \$42 million ERSP, Creative will help develop and sustain components for the second phase of the Jordanian Ministry of Education's Reform for the Knowledge Economy project (ERfKE), launched more than five years ago. The second phase of ERfKE will begin July 1.

The ERSP program's overarching goal is to support the Ministry of Education's reform efforts to produce graduates whose skills are competitive and sought after in a knowledge economy. It will support ERfKE by building a system for the professional development of teachers and principals, provide high-quality early childhood education, give high school students the skills they need to participate productively in the workforce, and help schools and directorates make decisions based on broad participation and sound data.

Creative will implement ERSP with its partners, Save the Children Federation, Inc. (SC), ChangeAgent for Arab Development and Education Reform (CADER), Seward, Inc. and EMI Systems, Inc. Creative will also work closely with the Jordan Education Initiative (JEI).

"Creative Associates is honored to have the opportunity to work with our counterparts in the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan through the Education Reform Support Program," said Creative's President and CEO, M. Charito Kravant, in announcing the award. "Together with USAID support, we will strive to build on advances made and deliver the highest quality of services for the benefit of the Ministry of Education, its teachers' and students' continued progress and future success."

Working with the Ministry of Education, Creative will introduce models and processes that foster public and private partnerships and institutional change. It will develop and implement effective school-level training and support programs. These interventions are designed to develop a critical mass of schools in which models and processes have been implemented with the full participation of Ministry of Education staff and teachers.

ERSP will provide comprehensive professional development through pre-service and in-service teacher training and support in primary schools. The project will also provide training and support for Ministry officials, teachers and supervisors in kindergartens. It will also refurbish kindergarten classrooms, renovate and equip school playgrounds and help teachers and students make the best use of these facilities.

The Creative team will also help institutionalize the School-to-Career program and an on-line management-information curriculum to help high school students explore career pathways and develop workforce skills. The Creative team will support the MOE in developing partnerships with the private sector and introduce approaches to engage parents in their children's education.

Creative has 20 offices worldwide and currently implements education projects in Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Nigeria, Oman, Southern Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uganda.

Creative has also worked with the Ministry of Education in Iraq from 2003-2006 in two major USAID initiatives to help restore Iraq's basic education capacities, including the training of teachers and refurbishment and rebuilding of schools. In addition to USAID, Creative's clients include the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Defense, and other international donors. A privately-owned non-governmental organization based in Washington, D.C., Creative addresses urgent challenges facing societies today. Whether they are shifts in demographics, the workplace, the classroom, technology, the political arena or the needs of stabilization in post-conflict environments, Creative views change as an opportunity to improve, transform and renew. The firm helps clients turn transitional environments into a positive force toward creating more empowered and effective communities, systems and institutions.

For more information about Creative Associates, contact Caleb McCarry, Director of Communications at CalebM@cai.com or visit www.caii.com.