



Building Resilient Communities

Working with government, communities and individuals to tackle the global challenge of violent extremism

Creative Associates International | 2017

Countering Violent Extremism

Effectively responding to the scourge of violent extremism requires localized approaches and the engagement of a diverse set of actors. A comprehensive approach must empower communities through evidence-based solutions to address root causes, promote credible counter-narratives, bridge divided societies, and counsel youth at risk of becoming radicalized.

Creative Associates International takes a comprehensive, nuanced approach to both preventing and countering violent extremism that has been honed by four decades of leading impactful programs in over 85 countries.

Creative's experts blend global lessons learned with extensive knowledge of local contexts to understand resiliencies, salient grievances, perceptions, and aspirations of diverse socioeconomic and cultural identity groups. These experts have developed a wide range of field-tested methodologies and tools that identify drivers of conflict and Violent Extremism (VE) as well as resiliencies, and pinpoint interventions to strengthen inclusive governance, civic engagement, economic empowerment, and gender equality. Our programming builds local stakeholders' capacity to develop and implement solutions, including



identifying and counseling youth at risk of radicalizing and joining violent extremist organizations (VEOs). Creative's work distinguishes between interventions aimed at proximate causes and solutions and those aimed at longer-term structural causes.

Creative employs a whole-of-society approach and engages international, regional, national, and local entities, including U.S. government and multilateral projects, governments, local partners and organizations, community and religious leaders, women, youth, and other marginalized populations. Together, they design and implement countering violent extremism (CVE) activities that span the spectrum from prevention to reintegration.

In several countries, Creative is actively involved in preventing violent extremism. We have designed a multi-phased assessment tool to pinpoint potential entry points to build resilience at the community level and broader. We then recognize the value in participatory planning processes and work with communities to establish partnerships in building resilience against radicalization. In addition, Creative has created a training curriculum for leaders from religious institutions and civil society that empowers them to build resilience and address the risks of violent extremism in their communities.

Where Creative Works

CVE-relevant programming

- Afghanistan
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Egypt
- Ghana
- Liberia
- Libya
- Morocco
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Somalia
- Syria
- Yemen

CVE-specific programming

- Afghanistan
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cameroon
- Chad
- Kenya
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Pakistan
- Senegal
- Syria
- Tanzania
- Tunisia

Creative's Capabilities Across the CVE Spectrum

Prevention	Intervention	Interdiction	Rehabilitation	Reintegration
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments that measure perceptions of violence and security • Mapping crime and violence • Early warning and response mechanisms • Inter-faith dialogue • Workforce development • Local governance • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family-based interventions for at-risk youth • Counter-messaging campaigns in radicalized neighborhoods • Community-security working groups in high-risk areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community policing training • Conflict resolution and mediation training for police 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical and psychosocial support and referral services for returning fighters • Trauma counseling for victims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and economic reintegration of ex-combatants and displaced populations • Development of public-private partnerships to reintegrate former gang members

CVE-relevant and CVE-specific programs

Creative's CVE-relevant programs work to mitigate the "push" factors of VE—the structural conditions of a society that fuel radicalization and recruitment, including grievances and marginalization caused by corrupt or incapable governance systems, poor education, and a lack of economic opportunity.

Grounded in local contexts, Creative's interventions help to build stable and resilient communities, where citizens benefit from good governance and responsive and inclusive services, participate equally, choose their leaders, feel protected and informed, and access quality education and livelihood opportunities.

Creative's CVE-specific activities counter "pull" factors—the supposed incentives of joining a VE group. This is done through a number of means, including family counseling, alternative or counter-messaging campaigns, and capacity building of police. For example, Creative has designed and implemented projects that build the community capacity to identify and provide counseling to youth who are most vulnerable to VEO recruitment and messaging.

Creative understands that the factors that lead to VE are often interlinked and mutually reinforcing. As such, Creative takes a

multi-sectoral approach to the challenge of P/CVE and when possible involves governance at all levels.

CVE Clearinghouse

Creative provides technical assistance to the International Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism Capacity-Building Clearinghouse Mechanism (ICCM), which uses data analysis and visualization to identify and close gaps in civilian-focused counterterrorism and activities that build capacity in CVE. In addition to the Clearinghouse Mechanism, we are providing recommendations to international donors to increase the effectiveness of CVE programming.

Governance and Community Resilience

Creative believes that sustainable change is locally driven. Creative's CVE-relevant programs mitigate structural drivers of VE by building trust within communities and forging positive linkages with government entities, including the police. Creative works to strengthen the ability of civil society organizations and other community actors to advocate for and sustain good governance and become equal, active participants in civic life. These activities diminish the enabling environment of VE groups.

To achieve these objectives, we build and strengthen the capacity of municipal, state, and national governments to deliver responsive, transparent, and equitable services and strengthen demand for these services. This is done through partnering with and building the capacity of local organizations, community and religious leaders, and groups representing youth, women, and other marginalized populations. We have a wide range of training curricula and tools that facilitate these outcomes, informed by Creative's participatory assessments and nuanced understanding of the local culture, challenges and grievances that are rooted in poor, inequitable, or absent governance.

Creative recognizes the value of rapid, agile programming and funding mechanisms to respond to governance and security challenges. This approach fosters innovation by catalyzing local initiatives. Through this mechanism, Creative has supported civil society in developing anti-hate campaigns in Nigeria, TV programs in Afghanistan, and bridging identities in Pakistan that counter extremist narratives.

Defection, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration

Creative has supported traditional Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration programs for decades. However, with radicalized extremists, we recognize a need



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to tailor that approach into each manifestation of violence. We work with individuals and communities impacted by violence and have led efforts ranging from policy support and contextualizing best practices to threat analysis, trauma healing, and community engagement to facilitate reintegration.

Crime and Violence Prevention

Creative's extensive experience in dissuading youth from joining gangs in some of the most dangerous locations in Guatemala, Panama, El Salvador, and Honduras is providing a framework and empirically driven model that is being applied to CVE programming, including successful approaches to community policing, identification of at-risk youth, and disengagement and rehabilitation of at-risk youth. Creative has also implemented programs in Guatemala and El Salvador to reintegrate former gang members back into society.

Economic Growth

Economic exclusion can create a sense of injustice. VE groups capitalize on this sense of marginalization and offer financial incentives or even just basic necessities in some regions in order to attract recruits. Creative has been undermining this recruitment pathway by creating inclusive economic opportunities and systems in some of the world's most volatile regions. In Afghanistan, Creative implemented an accelerated learning program for 170,000 over-age students, which incorporates modules of critical thinking, peace, social responsibility, and the country's diverse heritage.

Creative addressed high unemployment and the Taliban's enabling environment by designing and delivering market-driven trainings that increased job placements, salaries, wages, and self-employment opportunities for more than 25,000 Afghans. The program exceeded the 25 percent target for women by collaborating closely with

private-sector employers and building the capacity of the Ministry of Education and vocational training institutions.

Education

By better preparing students to pursue higher education, join the world of work, and become responsible citizens, Creative's programs reduce alienation, promote inclusion, raise awareness, and build resilience. We incorporate life skills trainings, psychosocial support, and modules on critical thinking, peacebuilding, social responsibility, human rights, and the need to respect people of all faiths and cultures. We work to obtain the same impact in communities, including by facilitating open dialogues, mobilizing parents and citizens to participate in school management, facilitating communication and collaboration with government entities, and building social capital.

In Nigeria, the U.S. Agency for International Development-supported Northern Education Initiative Plus and Education Crisis Response programs have been working to expand access to education in regions affected by Boko Haram's destruction. Many activities center on the most vulnerable groups and the states most affected by the conflict.

In Bauchi, Gombe, and Adamawa, Creative provides hope and purpose to displaced and out-of-school children and youth through non-formal education, alternative programs, and social services. In Sokoto and Bauchi, Creative and its implementing partners have focused on increasing access to schooling for adolescent girls and orphaned and displaced children, and have set up informal education centers. Across all these states, we are mobilizing parents and community members across sectarian other divides to take leading roles in managing schools, engage with the government at all levels, and demand improved education and wraparound services as a right.



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Creative Associates International provides outstanding, on-the-ground development services and forges partnerships to deliver sustainable solutions to global challenges.

Founded in 1977 by four enterprising women, Creative's experts focus on education, economic growth, youth, workforce development, governance and elections, among other key areas. Creative is recognized for its ability to quickly adapt and excel in conflict and post-conflict environments.

Thanks to the support of international clients,

multilateral donors and the private sector, Creative has active programs in more than 25 countries—including Honduras, Tanzania, Morocco and Nigeria. Since its founding, Creative has undertaken projects in nearly 90 countries.

Today, the company counts on a professional staff of nearly 1,000 people around the world who are committed to working with officials, non-governmental organizations and community members to realize the positive change they seek.

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