



CREATIVE

Expertise



Rule of Law

Strengthening the rule of law to restore justice and promote peace

Quick Facts

1

The Rule of Law specialty reaches across the entire organization, including in governance, political stabilization and elections work.

2

In Latin America, Creative has advocated for juvenile justice reform and supports rehabilitation through counseling and other services.

3

The UN estimates 4 billion people worldwide live without basic access to justice services.

When conflict, crisis or corruption disrupt the delivery of justice services, deterioration of the rule of law can contribute to violence and feed extremism.

Recognizing that a transparent, independent, equitable and effective justice sector is key to democracy and development, Creative Associates International is committed to developing country-specific, sustainable solutions to promote good governance and the rule of law.

Creative's rule of law expertise is embedded in projects from Central America to North Africa to empower citizens and institutions to increase security, protect human rights and safeguard justice. Working with

law enforcement, governments, communities and families, Creative seeks to build sustainable systems and solutions to address rule of law and civil society dynamics that contribute to violence.

When governments have the political will, knowledge and tools to implement changes that support the rule of law in challenging environments, the justice sector can do its part in fostering overall development.

Strengthening judicial systems to support citizen security

Community prosperity depends on citizens feeling secure and respecting the rule of law. To allow communities to thrive, local and national governments must take ownership of efforts to prevent and address crime and violence.

In Central America's Northern Triangle, Creative's violence prevention work in schools, homes, Outreach Centers and public spaces goes hand-in-hand with efforts to build up the institutional capacity of governments and independent judiciaries.

In more than 40 key municipalities in El Salvador, Creative has supported local governments in their design and implementation of prevention plans – while also collaborating with the federal government on a national violence prevention strategy – through the USAID-funded El Salvador Crime and Violence Prevention Project. Local observatories have allowed municipalities to collect accurate data on crime and inform law enforcement, justice sector operators and community programming.

Working in coordination with governments from the community to the national level through the planning and implementation of prevention strategies, Creative's programs empower local actors to make

organic and sustainable reforms to their institutions, including the justice sector.

These efforts to strengthen the rule of law simultaneously call for a concentrated effort to combat widespread corruption, from municipal clerks to high court judges. Addressing corruption and campaigning for anti-impunity measures requires strong justice sector institutions and actors, such as police, prosecutors, public defenders and the judiciary, who can independently investigate, prosecute and adjudicate corruption cases without undue influence.

Since the early 2000s, Creative has worked in several countries to combat corruption through partnerships with local organizations and public information campaigns, holding officials accountable and engaging citizens in creating a more just society.

When Creative's projects conclude, local and national governments have the tools, knowledge and experience to sustain these changes as part of broader country-led rule of law reform efforts.

A focus on juvenile justice

Creative's work not only supports governments and judicial systems, but seeks to strengthen juvenile justice and reduce recidivism. Holistic violence prevention programs have been proven to lower risk factors for engaging with crime and violence for youth across the risk spectrum, including those in the juvenile justice system. The USAID-fund-

ed Proponete Más program is helping give youth a second chance in Honduras by providing targeted support to young first-time offenders, while also working to strengthen family systems and promote resilience through family counseling.

At a national level, Creative has played an important role in making policy recommendations for juvenile justice reform in Central America. In partnership with UNICEF, Creative's USAID-funded Alianza Joven Honduras project advocated for changes in Honduran juvenile justice law, which became part of the overarching Childhood and Adolescence Code reform legislation that went into effect in 2014.

The project orchestrated dialogue, training and outreach campaigns on juvenile and restorative justice, reaching stakeholders from public defenders to high-level government officials.

Filling a vacuum to prevent violent extremism

An absence or breakdown of the rule of law, such as inequitable or nontransparent judicial procedures, has been identified as a key driver of conditions conducive to radicalization and violent extremism. Research suggests that individuals who witness wrongdoing perpetuated by state actors are more likely to respond with violence.

Creative's expertise in rule of law, governance, and citizen security complement



The World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index has found that Venezuela, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Egypt and Cameroon rank among the lowest for rule of law.

one another to address environmental conditions, or push factors, that exacerbate grievances and make individuals or communities more vulnerable to violent extremism.

To gain insight into these systems and structures that support or hinder violent extremism, Creative has developed diagnostic assessments to identify gaps in community resilience and the dynamics of violent extremism at the local level.

Creative's Fragility and Resilience Assessment Method (FRAME) tool provides insight into a country's governance systems, including rule of law deficits, which in turn inform the development of tailored approaches to enhance community resilience and improve justice sector delivery. The tool is currently used in areas of Syria controlled by the moderate opposition to assist local councils as they rebuild devastated communities.

In addition, by establishing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and bolstering community-led security systems and initiatives in fragile areas, Creative's programs help to fill a vacuum in the rule of law as part of a whole-of-society approach to reducing the drivers of extremism and providing alternatives for justice sector delivery.

In its 40-year history, Creative has proven its ability to adapt to quickly shifting landscapes. The next major challenges in global development and rule of law will be met with Creative's expert insight and innovation.



5301 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20015
+ 202.966.5804



Communications@CreativeDC.com
CreativeAssociatesInternational.com