



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

INSTABILITY, CRISIS AND RECOVERY PROGRAM (ICRP) IQC



Courtesy of USAID



The ICRP IQC is the vehicle for USAID Missions to receive specialized assistance in all aspects of conflict management, conflict mitigation, and the integration of conflict-sensitive approaches into development, humanitarian assistance, transition assistance, and peacebuilding interventions.

USAID Contracting Officers may sole-source task orders directly to AMEX, the small business ICRP IQC holder.

Contract NO. DFD-1-00-05-00245-00

Small Business Sole-Sourcing

- According to the ICRP RFP (M-OAA-DCHA-DOFDA-05-084), Section F.5, subsection 1.2 (e), USAID may directly place task orders with any category of small or small disadvantaged business that received a prime contract award. This provision allows CO and USAID missions to considerably shorten project contracting cycles by eliminating the lengthy competitive procedures.
- P.L. 107-115, Section 534(f) provides USAID with an additional exception to the fair opportunity process outlined in FAR 16.505. Under this exception, USAID may directly place task orders with any category of small business awarded an IQC prime contract. USAID “strongly encourages contracting officers, in consultation with technical officers, to take advantage of this authority whenever practicable.” (from AAPD 02-05)
- Contracting Officers (COs) have the power to make a small-business set-aside award unilaterally.
- COs are expected to review acquisitions to determine if they can be set aside for small business and must document in writing any Small Business Administration recommendations they reject.
- Total small business set asides may be conducted by using simplified acquisition procedures, sealed bids or competitive proposals.

The AMEX Consortium will support USAID’s Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM), regional offices, and field missions through task orders in the following areas:

- Early Warning
- Capacity-Building
- Security Sector Reform
- Conflict Prevention
- Peace Processes
- Good Governance
- Conflict Sensitive-Economic Development
- Technical and Logistical Support

The AMEX Consortium

The AMEX Consortium is led by a small business with extensive experience promoting economic growth, democracy, and good governance in developing countries.

Our Consortium is strategically assembled to provide cost-effective, innovative, and multi-sectoral approaches that are grounded in local realities.



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www.aapeaceworks.org



Creative Associates International
www.caii.com



www.aurorainternational.com



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www.sipa.columbia.edu/cicr



www.onlineDTS.com



Academy for Educational Development
www.aed-ccsg.org



www.gt.com



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www.nonviolenceinternational.net



www.padco.aecom.com



For Democratic Change
www.patnersglobal.org

Program on Intrastate Conflict
Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University
www.bcsiaksg.harvard.edu



www.sfcg.org



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CONFLICT MANAGEMENT & MITIGATION

The AMEX Consortium advocates a community-based and holistic approach to conflict management and mitigation, working with multiple stakeholders and engaging in multi-sectoral and multi-leveled processes. This approach includes emphasizing the participants' own rights and responsibilities for their outcomes. It also contributes to: strengthening democratic practices, enhancing the capacities of citizens, communities, civil society and other stakeholders and achieving sustainable peace, transformational development and post-conflict reconstruction.

Islam and Peacebuilding: The AMEX Consortium includes partners with particular talents and sensitivity in the field of reconciliation among Muslim communities and between Muslims and other communities. Our team has expertise in working with madrassahs and imams to implement culturally appropriate programs.

Engendered approaches: Taking “engendered” approaches to peace and conflict are critical to ensure participation and representation of all segments of the population. The roles women are forced or choose to play in conflict are of vital importance, since many women and children are the primary victims of conflict and under-development. At the same time, women are playing ever greater roles in peace processes and peacebuilding. The AMEX Consortium has experience in strengthening and supporting women in these roles.

Appreciative Inquiry: A narrative, strength-based approach to peacebuilding and development in which members of a community or an organization engage in structured dialogues around their vision for the future and generate concrete plans and activities to realize those visions. The AMEX Consortium has experience employing AI in ways that are both empowering and effective.

Results Orientation: Measuring the outcomes and impacts of interventions in conflict contexts is a recognized challenge. The AMEX Consortium is engaged in developing rigorous and cutting edge tools and methodologies for monitoring and evaluation of conflict management and mitigation activities.

Collaborative Consortium: The AMEX Consortium is unique in its commitment to employing collaborative processes for responding to task orders. It places a priority on transparency, accountability and genuine collaboration. This means that the client receives the full benefit of the technical resources of all members of the AMEX Consortium.

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is a confidential process in which a third-party works with parties to reach a resolution that is agreeable to all parties. It provides citizens with a cost-effective and efficient alternative to litigation, and simultaneously supports legal decentralization and unburdens court systems' heavy case loads.

Reframing, or creating a new “conflict lens”, is a technique for shifting the perception of a situation or problem to give it a different and/or more balanced interpretation. In mediation and negotiation, this method is used to end deadlocks and stalemates by assisting parties to change the way that they interpret the conflict.

Inter-Group Conciliation is a process that fosters dialogue among diverse and often competing groups, and works to preserve and strengthen relationships for the future. As part of the process, conciliation initiatives often include activities to empower marginalized groups so that they may effectively advocate for their rights on an equal level with powerful groups.

Nonviolence Training empowers communities in a variety of strategies and tactics for effecting social change without resorting to violence. It strengthens self-confidence, encourages community collaboration and can lead to lasting empowerment.

Process Coaching encourages and inspires one to do something which they either do not want to do or lack the confidence to do-but should or must do. The goal of process coaching is to enable the party to function independently but to call on the coach when new variables or roadblocks appear in order to unravel the challenges and discuss viable options for confronting them.

TOOLS, STRATEGIES AND FRAMEWORKS FOR CONFLICT MANAGEMENT

ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION
Partners Collaboration Model (PCM)	PCM is a facilitated process that gathers diverse stakeholders to build consensus around concrete issues of concern to a community. Consortium members' trained facilitators have extensive experience in identifying key stakeholders, analyzing various situations, designing a responsive process, and ensuring that all participants have the skills to participate in constructive dialogue. Throughout this process, our facilitators integrate multi-cultural awareness tools and techniques to facilitate meaningful, in-depth social change.
Building Post-Conflict Networks and Knowledge	Consortium member CSIS is providing the intellectual framework for a global, web-based system to connect practitioners, academics and policy-makers in the field of post-conflict reconstruction. The project aims to develop closer linkages between the defense, diplomatic, and aid communities-all of which are critical to success in post-conflict settings.
Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP)	HIPPP is an experiential training program designed to encourage young people to explore their world and how violence plays a part in it. Through activities which build community, break down stereotypes, and teach communication skills, Consortium members use HIPP to teach children habits of nonviolence they can bring to an increasingly violent world.
Civil Society Participation in Peacebuilding and Transitional Justice	Consortium member Creative has more than two decades of experience helping to rebuild societies torn apart by civil strife. One model that has emerged through this experience is bringing together conflicted communities through planning and implementing community improvement projects.
Community Reconciliation and Reconstruction	Creative has also developed and implemented the BRIDGES approach in conflict-prone areas such as Lebanon and Jordan, bringing together disparate, often adversarial groups, by finding common ground for projects such as water sanitation, micro-enterprises and education. In Sudan, Creative is using town-planning activities to lay the foundation of local governance at the municipal level.
Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration (DDR)	Consortium experience with DDR dates back to the early nineties with its ground-breaking programs in Central America that pioneered demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants from the civil wars that had plagued the region for decades. Our approach incorporates a gendered process and one that accounts for IDPs, gangs and youth at risk.
Peace Process Support	Consortium member CRI is acknowledged as a "reality tester" of proposals to help parties determine achievability and of settlement language to ensure detailed clarity; CRI is a specialist in assisting parties to identify, avoid and address possible causes and incidents of "conflict aftermath" which if not efficiently, equitably and effectively could give cause to the resumption of hostilities.

PARTNERS' RELEVANT CAPABILITIES

AMEX International, Inc. has a strong record of USAID project leadership. The firm has a proven in-house expertise in the management of task orders and the coordination of activities between the field and Washington offices. AMEX has more than 20 years of proven experience in the management of large-scale and complex projects involving the coordination of diverse resources and technical skills. AMEX's experience managing USAID-funded projects includes: the design of judicial reform activities in Africa, Eastern Europe and Eurasia; providing assistance in drafting and revising laws, civil and criminal codes and administrative procedures; conducting assessments of the rule of law in various regional contexts; providing training to civil society organizations and NGOs; strengthening the capacity of economic institutions and agents; supporting electoral processes; and conducting numerous training seminars in democracy and governance.

Academic Associates Peaceworks works in Nigeria and West Africa in the areas of conflict management, peace education, and development. Its mission is to build capacities for managing conflict through studies, intervention, and peace awareness in society.

Academy for Educational Development (AED) is committed to solving critical social problems throughout the world through education, research, training, social marketing, policy analysis, and innovative program design and management. AED has worked in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Central America, and the Balkans during periods of civil war, ethnic conflict, and tribal warfare, and achieved a proven track record in peacebuilding. Our philosophy rests on supporting the transition to peace by empowering communities to develop the means to solve their own problems and create their own opportunities.

Aurora Associates capabilities include: youth development – including violence/delinquency prevention/mitigation; substance abuse education, treatment; living with HIV/AIDS programs; programs for ex-combatants/gang members; policy development; military reintegration – psycho-social, educational and employment interventions for military veterans and other ex-combatants; vocational training; community support; trauma counseling, education and support; reconciliation, violence prevention and conflict mitigation – including reconciliation work with leadership of former opposing military formations; host government/donor conflict resolution; inter-ethnic peace-building and violence prevention; and evaluation of CR and related D&G activities - including rapid appraisal, ethnographic approaches, narrative/dialogical methods and participatory methodologies.

CAMRIS International develops innovative tools, multifactorial models and techniques for early detection and forecasting of risks and outcomes. We work with partners to identify priorities, select best-approach interventions, and help build capacity in local institutions to manage and sustain interventions.

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) The Post-Conflict Reconstruction (PCR) Project provides intellectual underpinnings and timely, insightful analysis for conflict mitigation and management with collective experience in over 30 conflict-prone areas. The PCR Project produces action strategies to ensure security and fair governance in postwar periods; comprehensive reports measuring progress in reconstruction efforts; and papers on current and future hot issues.

Coalition for Peace in Africa (COPA) is a membership organization that strives to build the capacity of its members and provides support to existing service providers in Africa. COPA is an Africa regional partner of ACTION for Conflict Transformation, an international network of organizations committed to action for conflict transformation challenges.

Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR), Columbia University is a preeminent research center in the area of conflict prevention, assessment and resolution. A laboratory of innovation, CICR is a vibrant partner in many experimental ventures.

Conflict Resolution, Research and Resource Institute (CRI) assist nations in transforming potential or actual conflict arenas into challenges by conducting comprehensive diagnostic assessments; developing practical, culturally pertinent curricula for capacity building in conflict prevention, management, mitigation and resolution; preparing parties for resolution processes, peace talks, and transitional government projects; conducting and training for human rights documentation; by adapting techniques for professionals in a wide variety of sectors, such as health care providers; and by performing direct intervention via impartial mediation and process coaching in all arenas of conflict.

PARTNERS' RELEVANT CAPABILITIES CONTINUED

Creative Associates specializes in strengthening communities' capacities to direct their own development in complex, conflict-affected environments and play a role in peace building processes. Creative – capitalizing on its expertise in community-focused conflict prevention, mitigation and management – will support projects in areas undergoing significant political turmoil by using multi-sectoral approaches to mitigating conflict and increasing government and civil society efficiency. Creative has demonstrated ability to rapidly field staff and manage start-up logistics and to implement projects effectively and efficiently. Creative has field presence in 14 countries and has successfully completed numerous projects in over 68 countries worldwide.

Development & Training Services, Inc. (dTS), a woman owned small business, will develop approaches and provide services to facilitate inclusive programming that reaches and serves all segments of a population including women, youth, IDPs, refugees to mitigate and resolve conflicts.

Global Business Solutions a minority, woman-owned management consulting firm that creates and executes business-oriented solutions in the following areas: financial; information technology/telecommunications; engineering and technical services; as well as infrastructural and organizational development.

Grant Thornton is one of the world's leading organizations providing accounting and business advisory services. It has 585 offices and nearly 22,000 staff in more than 110 countries. Its capabilities most useful to ICRP are institutional strengthening, local management, and public-private partnership building.

Nonviolence International (NI) provides a range of services related to promoting nonviolence and mobilizing communities for peace in violent regions and fragile states. Over the past sixteen years, NI has grown to become a network of resource centers in several regions around the world.

PADCO is a private, international program management and technical service provider headquartered in Washington, DC that provides development services to donor agencies, national and local governments, and private sector clients. Established in 1965, PADCO works around the world to empower public and private decision makers to respond to the challenges of environmentally sound economic and social transition, progressive democracy and governance, conflict, disaster preparedness, and post-disaster response and stabilization.

Partners for Democratic Change builds the platforms for communities, civil society organizations, government and business to resolve conflict and advance constructive change. Partners' 14 local Centers combine global experience and local knowledge with innovative tools and techniques to build sustainable solutions and effective leadership. Partners' world class experts provide training and services such as mediation and multi-party consensus building and manage programs that bridge divides between sectors and citizens.

Program on Intrastate Conflict, Harvard University provides leadership in advancing policy-relevant knowledge about the most important challenges of international security and other critical issues where science, technology, environmental policy and international affairs intersect. The Center draws on 150 resident scholars including Harvard faculty, analysts, practitioners and each year a new, international, interdisciplinary group of research fellows.

Search for Common Ground has programs in sixteen countries, each of which works with local partners to find culturally appropriate ways to strengthen indigenous capacity to deal with conflicts constructively. SFCG seeks to engage multiple sectors of society, including governments, armed groups, demobilized combatants, rural populations and urbanites, artists, youth and children, women, and community organizations. SFCG's "toolbox" contains a wide variety of techniques, ranging from traditional means of conflict transformation to more innovative means, such as media, athletic exchanges, music, and community organizing.

World Learning has decades of experience designing training programs that enhance local capacity to reduce poverty, increase children's well-being, promote gender equity, mitigate conflict and eliminate exploitation, trafficking and abuse in dozens of countries around the world. Each World Learning training program is tailored to the needs of our local partners.