

Central America Regional Support Services Capabilities

Addressing the complex drivers of irregular migration from Central America to the U.S. requires a holistic understanding of their interconnectedness and tailored action to strengthen local leadership to define and implement solutions. With a grounded understanding of local systems, Environmental Incentives (EI) strengthens individual and system capacity to deliver impactful and sustainable development outcomes.



A purpose-driven small business, EI collaborates with partners to co-create locally led solutions that meet community-identified priorities. For over 15 years, we have honed our expertise in adaptive management, stakeholder engagement, systems change, communications and knowledge management, and the use of evidence. Today, we deliver technical assistance and capacity development services to USAID and local partners in more than 50 countries and are recognized for our strong partnerships, best-in-class services, and capacity to respond quickly to evolving needs and priorities. Our CARSS Consortium will serve as a reliable partner to USAID and will apply a systems-based approach to elevate local responses to irregular migration.

Our Solutions



Finding clarity in complex systems



Making controversial decisions collaborative



Building adaptable approaches

Areas of Expertise



Local Capacity Strengthening

Through on-the-job training and organizational learning, we provide customized capacity strengthening.

To advance locally led development with public, private, and civil society partners, we design tailored, collaborative processes that build trust and center the expertise of local actors. We use systems-strengthening, evidence-based approaches to help our clients and partners more effectively, respectfully, and sustainably engage local actors to co-create lasting solutions. Our demand driven capacity strengthening services support local organizations to achieve their own development objectives and increase access to finance.

Participatory Priority-Setting and Design

We facilitate collaborative dialogues, enabling partners to define their priorities and design solutions.

We work with partners to get to the root of an issue by identifying and prioritizing goals, objectives, and methods for tracking progress. Through systems-based processes that strengthen engagement among diverse actors and ensure local partners and communities are in the driver's seat throughout the Program Cycle, we help partners overcome communication barriers, build relationships and social cohesion, and encourage consensus-based decision making, from priority setting to design and implementation.

Locally Led Adaptive Management

We equip partners to manage uncertainty, surmount barriers, and foster continuous improvement so that local voices drive decision making throughout implementation.

Effective adaptive management enables individuals and organizations to meet their goals within complex and unpredictable systems. We foster a culture of evidence use and design strategies that incentivize evidence-based decision making, allowing for real-time adjustments and continuous learning. We emphasize the development of adaptive management skills, the design of robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems, and the importance of regular reflection, which equip organizations to make informed decisions and achieve their goals.

Strategic Management Support

We meet Missions' specific needs across sectors by leveraging evidence-based tools and processes.

To meet the diverse needs of USAID Missions, we provide technical and management expertise by facilitating processes, fostering champions, and building the evidence-base for impactful programming. Our deep knowledge of the USAID Program Cycle and policies essential to the region enable us to quickly mobilize demand-driven support to USAID and implementing partners in ways that maximize the use of local talent.

Project Summaries and Regional Expertise



Under the **Latin America and Caribbean Environment Support Services Contract (LAC ESSC)**, EI provides a range of services to support USAID’s LAC Bureau and Missions to address regional concerns in energy and the environment. We employ adaptive management, evidence generation, assessment design, and organizational capacity building to tackle cross-sectoral challenges that drive migration including biodiversity conservation, water and natural resource management, combating conservation crime, compliance, and climate integration.

Measuring Impact 2 (MI2) advanced implementation of USAID’s Biodiversity Policy by strengthening program design, use of evidence-based approaches and learning to improve program effectiveness. EI provided technical assistance to help USAID staff and local partners address deforestation; unsustainable land use; wildlife trafficking; and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. MI2 strategically promoted Mission-led program integration efforts and collaborated with stakeholders to encourage evidence use across the Program Cycle.

Program Cycle Mechanism (PCM) is an institutional support contract with the USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management (PLR). PCM provides technical assistance and advisory services to increase Agency capacity to implement the Program Cycle effectively and cohesively. Through hands-on technical assistance, change management, training, knowledge management, and facilitation of learning networks PCM strengthens USAID Mission and Bureau capacity to apply evidence in program planning, design, and implementation. Mission-embedded PCM specialists support emerging priorities by leveraging their relationships and deep contextual understanding to integrate Program Cycle principles and practices into processes.

Program Impacts

- LAC ESSC built capacity of the **USAID/Colombia Juntanza Étnica** implementing partner to apply Conservation Standards and developed a context-specific toolkit to meet community needs.
- MI2 guided stakeholders through a collaborative effort to design the **Guatemala Biodiversity Project** and built local partners’ capacity to analyze progress for learning and adaptive management.
- MI2 facilitated a strategic planning process for **USAID/Mexico’s** sustainable landscapes portfolio and LAC ESSC analyzed barriers and opportunities on Financing Sustainable Landscapes through Small Producers in Mexico and developed a virtual BAA co-creation workshop and processes for a sustainable landscape activity.
- MI2 and LAC ESSC supported the establishment and management of the **LAC Environment Cross-Mission Learning Program**, building community and advancing learning by convening diverse stakeholders supporting private sector engagement and combating conservation crime, among others.
- PCM specialists, embedded in the El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua Missions, facilitated connections across offices to support evidence-driven mid-course stocktaking, drafted a Localization Framework integrating institutional learning, planned engagement with Guatemala’s “La Ruta” Initiative to strengthen support for Indigenous communities, and supported continuous learning to adapt to changing electoral contexts.

Our Consortium



We have convened a consortium of organizations with regional experience and expertise across sectors—economic security; democracy, governance, and human rights; resilience; and local capacity strengthening.

Concertación Regional para la Gestión de Riesgos (CRGR) consists of five National Risk Management Boards in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, each of which works with hundreds of community-based organizations to build resilience and mitigate the impact of natural or civic disasters. CRGR coordinates member learning exchanges to strengthen risk management capacity and promote sustainable development.

Dalberg leverages research and analysis to advise public and private sector strategies to address development challenges by incorporating deep sectoral knowledge with expertise in finance and investment, strategy development, monitoring, and learning. Under USAID **INVEST** Dalberg collaborated with Pomona Impact, an impact investing fund in Central America, to refine its impact due diligence process, incorporating priority areas common to USAID objectives and the organizations in its portfolio to maximize and measure community impact.

Glasswing International addresses the root causes and consequences of violence and poverty through grassroots, evidence-based health and education programming and cross-sector alliances, empowering youth and communities and strengthening public systems. Under USAID's NIDO: **Building Safe Communities in El Salvador** project, Glasswing improves citizen security in communities affected by high crime and violence rates through positive youth development, psychosocial services and private sector engagement.

Global Communities works at the nexus of humanitarian assistance, sustainable development, and financial inclusion across sectors in Central America. Global Communities implemented the **Watershed Management and Conservation (WMC)** component of the USAID Honduras Dry Corridor Alliance Program to reduce extreme poverty and malnutrition in rural areas. Using a systems approach and participatory methods, WMC worked with government agencies, communities, and water organizations to restore and create a locally managed network of micro-watersheds by addressing root causes of land degradation and water scarcity.

Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) partners with civil society, governments, and the private sector across Mexico and Central America on governance, human rights, and emerging issues related to migration. Under the **Regional Human Rights and Democracy Activity (RHDA)**, an integrated program strengthening human rights standards and protection mechanisms across sectors in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, PADF works with local networks of staff, civil society groups, and technical experts to build stakeholder capacity.

Plan International, a development and humanitarian organization, partners with communities to strategically address systemic issues related to children and young girls. Under USAID's **Bridges for Employment Project**, Plan reduced violence in El Salvador by increasing youth access to economic opportunities. Plan coordinated with employment and entrepreneurship ecosystems to strengthen gender and social inclusion and improve services.