ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE FACESHEET

Title of Activity/SO Number: Preventing Trafficking in Women /SO 2.1

Country/Region: Belarus

Funding Period: 02/14/2005 - 02/13/2007 Resource Levels/Amount(s): $1,000,000

Date: 10/27/2004

IEE Amendment (Y/N)? N Date of Original IEE:

Environmental Media and/or Human Health Potentially Impacted (check all that apply):

☐ air ☐ water ☐ land ☐ biodiversity ☐ human health ☐ other ☒ none

Environmental Action Recommended (check all that apply):

☒ 1. Categorical Exclusion(s)

☒ 2. Initial Environmental Examination:

☒ Negative Determination: no significant adverse effects expected regarding the proposed activities, which are well defined over life of activity. IEE prepared:

☐ without conditions (no special mitigation measures needed; normal good practices and engineering will be used)

☒ with conditions (special mitigation measures specified to prevent unintended impact)

1. Summary of Findings:

This IEE is for the new program of Prevention Trafficking in Women in Belarus, the purpose of which is to support victims and to prevent trafficking among the vulnerable groups of women of trafficking in Belarus by teaching them basic job skills and providing with an internship.

In particular, the USAID funds in the amount of $1,000,000 will be allocated for:

a) technical assistance in the form of training seminars, study tours, on-site consultations;

b) technical assistance provided by expert consultants;

c) travel expenses, salaries of project management staff, and office equipment;

d) publishing and disseminating training materials and other documents;

e) sub-grants will be provided to NGOs for conducting training and providing internship stipends to trainees.

We do not envisage that any funds will be used for construction or renovation of premises.

Subsequently, there will be no significant adverse effects on the environment as a result of this activity.

2. Justification for Categorical Exclusion and Negative Determination with Conditions Request:
The proposed action is entirely within one of the classes of actions listed in paragraph (c)(2), “Categorical Exclusions,” of Section 216.2, “Applicability of Procedures,” of Title 22 CFR Part 216, “AID Environmental Procedures.” Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(3), the Activity Manager and Cognizant Technical Officer have determined that the proposed action is fully within the following classes of actions:

- Education, technical assistance, or training programs. [22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i)];
- Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings. [216.2(c)(2)(iii)];
- Document and information transfers. [216.2(c)(2)(v)];
- Studies, projects or programs intended to develop the capability of recipient countries to engage in development planning. [216.2(c)(2)(xiv)];

Furthermore, the Activity Manager has determined that the proposed activities do not include any activities within this request for Categorical Exclusion that directly affect the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.) The Categorical Exclusion of Technical Assistance is not applicable to assistance for the procurement or use of pesticides [22 CFR 216.2(c)].

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2), the proposed action is recommended to be categorically excluded from further environmental review. As per 22 CFR 216.2(c)(1), neither an initial environmental examination nor an environmental assessment is required for an action which is determined to fall within one or more of the categories listed at to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2).

For the limited procurement of office equipment (computers, printers, etc.), a negative determination with the condition that such equipment will be properly disposed of at the end of its useful life in a manner consistent with best practices is recommended.

3. Revisions:

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available that indicates that activities covered by this Categorical Exclusion and IEE might be considered “major” and their effect “significant,” or if additional activities are proposed that are might be considered “major” and their effect “significant,” this recommendation for Categorical Exclusion and Negative Determination with Conditions will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the Mission Environmental Officer and Bureau Environmental Officer. It is the responsibility of the USAID Activity Manager and CTO to keep the MEO and BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of this Categorical Exclusion and IEE.

4. Background and Additional Information:

Belarus is a country of origin and transit for women trafficked for purposes of commercial and sexual exploitation. Some 10,000 Belarusians become victims of human trafficking annually, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The total number of Belarusian victims may have reached 50,000. Creeping poverty, domestic violence and a dearth of employment and educational opportunities, particularly in small towns and cities, has rendered Belarusian women vulnerable to trafficking.

The project will contribute to advancing USAID/Belarus’ SO 2.1 Increased participation in democratic practices, particularly IR 2.1.1 Increased effectiveness of democratically-oriented NGOs, by engaging local NGOs in training vulnerable women and involving local business communities in providing internships and, where possible, permanent employment opportunities for high risk women. By strengthening the capacity of local NGOs to plan and implement programs independently, some of them may be eligible to receive international funds directly by the end of the project. This activity will also contribute directly to IR 2.1.3 Enhanced public access to objective and substantive information by involving NGOs, stakeholders and opinion leaders in Preventing Trafficking in Women in Belarus.
conducting outreach to vulnerable women, thereby enabling potential trafficking victims to make more informed choices about emigration opportunities.

The activities will focus on the following areas:

- **Counseling and job skills training for vulnerable groups**
  Counseling to raise trafficking awareness and job skills training shall be provided to at least 1,000 women under age 25. The course will be delivered by local institutions, mostly NGOs, in close collaboration, where possible, with State Employment Centers. The training will be followed by an internship program that will provide graduates an opportunity to practice acquired skills with a private or a state company.

- **Entrepreneurship training**
  This training shall be provided to a selected number of women in their early to mid-twenties, who have successfully “graduated” from the job skills training pilot program. It will include the basics of business operations, finance and accounting, marketing, logistics, human resource management, legal literacy, leadership skills and awareness of constraints that women face while doing business in Belarus.

- **Victims of Trafficking**
  The activity will focus on increasing the reach of skills training and counseling for victims of trafficking to reduce the likelihood of re-trafficking.

- **Outreach**
  The outreach activities could focus on three main areas: outreach projects conducted by trainees, cross-border cooperation for trainees and trainers, and alumni network.

As a result of the project, trainees are expected to:
- acquire basic job-seeking skills (i.e. are able to identify job opportunities, complete a job application form, write a resume, participate in a job interview, have basic PC user’s and secretarial skills).
- demonstrate behavioral change (i.e. increased awareness of the trafficking issue and ways of self-protection, increased confidence, etc.).
- upon successful graduation of the module, some trainees will secure a job.