DCHA/DRG INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION
AND REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

PROJECT/ACTIVITY DATA:

Title of Program: Global Support for Elections and Political Transitions

Country/Region: Global

Implementing Partner (if designated): full and open competition

Funding Begin: FY 2014 Q1  Funding End: FY 2019 Q1  LOP Amount:
Up to $20,000,000

Date: 02/01/2014

IEE Prepared by: Jeffrey Noel Vanness

IEE Amendment (Y/N): N  If “Yes,” Date of Original IEE:

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED: (Place X where applicable)

Categorical Exclusion: ☒  Negative Determination: □ with Conditions
Positive Determination: □  Deferral: □

Bureau Environmental
Threshold Decision (ETD): If applicable

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

This IEE provides environmental documentation, pursuant to 22 CFR 216 for the USAID DCHA/DRG project entitled “Global Support for Elections and Political Transitions” for the FY 2014 – FY 2019 period.

Discrete activities will be implemented under the following objectives: 1) promoting meaningful participation of all citizens in their political system with an emphasis on women, youth, minorities, and other traditionally disenfranchised groups; 2) incorporating the comparative advantages of media and technology to achieve citizen understanding and engagement and further transparent political competition; 3) enabling meaningful political transitions and establishing good precedents for effective democratic governance; 4) promoting the integrity of elections as a sustainable vehicle for peacefully and democratically choosing leaders; 5) facilitating the ability of elected political actors to fulfill their responsibilities to citizens through better governance practices; 6) strengthening the representativeness and competitiveness of multi-party political systems; and 7) developing respect for the application of rule of law to the political operating environment. In addition to the seven program objectives, the Global EPT LWA mechanism also includes two cross-cutting objectives for the empowerment of women and traditionally marginalized citizens and for the meaningful involvement of local organizations in development work.
The activities described above justify a **Categorical Exclusion**, pursuant to 22 CFR §216.2(c) (1) and (2).

Discrete activities under the project fall into the following classes of action:

(a) education, technical assistance, and training (216.2(c)(2)(i));
(b) analyses, studies, and workshops (216.2(c)(2)(iii)); and
(c) document and information transfer (216.2(c)(2)(v));

As currently planned, no interventions will directly affect the environment.

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**Revisions**

As required by ADS 204.3.4, the Mission or Bureau-based COR of subsequent task order contracts under this IQC/LWA must actively monitor ongoing activities for compliance with approved Initial Environmental Examination/Request for Categorical Exemption recommendations, and modify or end activities that are not in compliance. Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available which indicates that any of the proposed actions to be funded by this activity may have an effect on the Environment, then the threshold decision for those actions listed above will be reviewed and revised by the Mission Environmental Officer, and an IEE-amendment or Environmental Assessment will be prepared for and cleared by the governing Bureau Environmental Officer.
ATTACHMENT 8 – Global EPT LWA IEE

USAID APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION(S):

Clearance:
DCHA/DRG Director: [Signature] Date: 12/18/14
DCHA/DRG Program Officer: [Signature] Date: 12/18/14

Concurrence:
DCHA Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO): Erika J. Clesceri Date: 12/18/14
Erika J. Clesceri, Ph.D.

Approved: ☑* Disapproved: ☐

Optional Clearances:
Geographic Bureau Environmental Officer: __________________________ Date:

Mission Environmental Officer: __________________________ Date:

* If any infrastructure or vertical build construction rehabilitation is involved (e.g., interior building rehabilitation, then an IEE Amendment is required with a Negative Determination with Condition determination, per 22 CFR 216.)
Request for Categorical Exclusion

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:

Program/Project Title: Global Support for Elections and Political Transitions  
Program/Project Number: TBD  
Project Country(ies): Global  
Funding Period: FY 2014-2019  
Life of Activity Funding: $20,000,000

1. PROJECT GOAL, PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

This award for Global Support for Elections and Political Transitions will provide a wide array of services and support to strengthen democratic electoral and political processes at national, sub-national, and local levels. This Global EPT LWA mechanism also seeks to maximize sharing of best practices and innovations between regions, conduct non-country specific technical leadership activities, and cultivate the next generation of local and regional organizations engaged in political processes strengthening. It is also premised on the hypothesis that the inherent complexity of some political processes and elements of political transitions require not just skills but experience and perspective to develop creative and innovative approaches to achieve desired democratic outcomes.

The purpose of the Global EPT LWA mechanism is to provide Missions and USAID/Washington with a means for obtaining technical assistance and support to elections and political processes in developing countries, often at short notice, through the achievement of seven objectives: 1) promoting meaningful participation of all citizens in their political system with an emphasis on women, youth, minorities and other traditionally disenfranchised groups; 2) incorporating the comparative advantages of media and technology to achieve citizen understanding and engagement and further transparent political competition; 3) enabling meaningful political transitions and establishing good precedents for effective democratic governance; 4) promoting the integrity of elections as a sustainable vehicle for peacefully and democratically choosing leaders; 5) facilitating the ability of elected political actors to fulfill their responsibilities to citizens through better governance practices; 6) strengthening the representativeness and competitiveness of multi-party political systems; and 7) developing respect for the application of rule of law to the political operating environment. In addition to the seven program objectives, the Global EPT LWA mechanism also includes two cross-cutting objectives for the empowerment of women and traditionally marginalized citizens and for the meaningful involvement of local organizations in development work.

2. JUSTIFICATION FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REQUEST

Per USAID Environmental Procedures, certain classes of actions may qualify for a Categorical Exclusion, pursuant to 22 CFR Section 216.2(c)(1) and (2), for which an Initial Environmental Examination, or an Environmental Assessment is not required. The activities described qualify for a categorical exclusion per 22 CFR 216 as follows:

1. Section 216.2(c) (1) (i) The action does not have an effect on the natural or physical environment;
2. Section 216.2(c)(2)(i) Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.);

3. Section 216.2(c)(2)(iii) Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings; and

4. Section 216.2(c)(2)(xiv) Studies, projects, or programs intended to develop the capability of recipient countries to engage in development planning, except to the extent designed to result in activities directly affecting the environment.

If, during implementation, activities are considered other than those described in the subject categorical exclusions, an amended Request for a Categorical Exclusion or IEE shall be submitted, as appropriate.

This LWA does not cover any infrastructure activities that could have a biophysical impact on the environment (i.e., natural resources or human health) including but not limited to building, water or sanitation system, road/sidewalk/pathway construction or rehabilitation. At the Mission level each mission has a Mission Environmental Officer that ensures the ensuing work under the SOW for the task order is also compliant with USAID’s environmental regulation 22 CFR 216.

Oversight and Revisions

Where technical staff serves as AORs, the AOR will work to ensure that all AORs have received training on their obligations under 22 CFR 216, Environmental Compliance Procedures (Regulation 216). As AORs, they are required to ensure that Regulation 216 requirements are met at the inception of a new activity, to ensure that implementing partners and contractors are fully informed of Regulation 216 requirements and that all expenditures of USAID funds proceed in full compliance of Regulation 216 requirements.

All participating agency technical staff are required to incorporate environmental considerations and environmentally sound practices in all of their activities. They are required to prepare, and obtain proper clearances on an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) or a Request for Categorical Exclusion for all projects, programs, and activities which they manage and to monitor the efforts of implementing partners to assure that Agency Regulation 216 requirements are met.

Attachments:

Tab 1 – “Green Meeting” Checklist
ATTACHMENT 1:

Green Meeting Planning Checklist:
Setting Environmental Priorities

In this checklist, environmentally aware meetings and events are those planned in such a way as to eliminate, reduce, or recycle waste. While focusing on municipal solid waste, this checklist also touches on other environmental concerns. It is intended to heighten the environmental consciousness of event planners and demonstrate the advantages of conducting environmentally aware events.

Consider the following as you select your environmental priorities:

Preventing and Reducing Waste

☐ Focus on reducing waste, given limited in-country recycling facilities
☐ Use double-sided printing, recycled content -where available- for promotional materials and handouts.
☐ Avoid mass distribution of handouts. Allow attendees to request copies or provide digital copies via CD, thumb drive, or website.
☐ Provide reusable name badges.
☐ Purchase large volume plastic bottles of water to dispense into glasses at each table, instead of individual sized plastic bottles
☐ Other actions: 

Recycling and Managing Waste

☐ Where facilities exist, collect paper and recyclable beverage containers in meeting areas.
☐ Collect cardboard and paper in exhibit areas.
☐ Collect cardboard, beverage containers, steel cans, and plastics in food vending areas.
☐ Separate out organic waste for composting, Provide composting guidelines for conference venues
☐ If reusables are not used, encourage use of recyclable beverage containers.
☐ Other actions: 

Conserving Energy and Reducing Traffic

☐ Seek naturally lighted meeting and exhibit spaces.
☐ Provide shuttle service from hotels to the event site.
☐ Choose meeting sites that have on-site housing
☐ Other actions: 

Contracting Food Service and Lodging

☐ Plan food service needs carefully to avoid unnecessary waste.
☐ Consider use of durable food service items instead of disposables.
☐ Donate excess food to charitable organizations, including planning ahead via SOW/contract with the conference venue to ensure this happens.
ATTACHMENT 8 – Global EPT LWA IEE

☐ Work with hotel on non-replacement of linens, soaps, etc.
☐ Other actions: ________________________________

Buying Environmentally Aware Products
☐ Use recycled paper for promotional materials and handouts, where available.
☐ Consider selling or providing refillable containers for beverages.
☐ Provide reusable containers for handouts or samples (pocket or file folders, cloth bags).
☐ Where reusable items are not feasible, select products that are made from recovered materials and that also can be recycled.
☐ Other actions: ________________________________

Educating Participants and Exhibitors
☐ Request the use of recycled and recyclable handouts or giveaways.
☐ Request that unused items be collected for use at another event.
☐ Encourage participants to recycle materials at the event.
☐ Reward participation by communicating environmental savings achieved.
☐ Other actions: ________________________________