INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION

Amendment II

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:

Country/Region: West Bank and Gaza
Project/Activity Title: School Support Program
Funding Begin: October 2012
Funding End: August 2018
LOP Amount: $ 20.0 Million
Prepared By: Nadia Basel, OHCSI
Date: January 9, 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:

Categorical Exclusion: ______ X ______ Negative Determination: ______ X ______
(With Conditions)

Positive Determination ____________ Deferral: ____________

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:

The original Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) was approved by the Bureau Environmental Officer on May 24, 2012 (ME 12-103 West Bank and Gaza) as a Categorical Exclusion for components 2 and 3 (see attached) and Negative Determination with conditions; and Amendment I was approved on August 14, 2014 (ME 14-130).

The purpose of this IEE amendment is to modify the end date of the cooperative agreement. The proposed new end date is August 3, 2018 in lieu of March 3, 2017. This will be a no-cost extension and will allow for all programmatic activities to be completed in a timely manner and for the implementation of results based benchmarking.

Background

The School Support Program takes a holistic approach to education development in 50 Palestinian public schools. The primary goal of the program is to improve the quality of education in marginalized schools of the West Bank. The activities and interventions are designed to strengthen schools and school leaders and build bridges that connect the larger
community of stakeholders including families, local authorities, education leaders, NGOs and donor agencies. These interventions start with leadership development of principals; engage the local community in decision making; improve the knowledge and skills of teachers through in-service professional development; inspire students through career guidance, life skills, and experiential learning; and professional networking among educators. The interventions are designed to be mutually reinforcing and address the needs of each stakeholder while building upon the assets and strengths of the community.

Results-Based Benchmarking (RBB) builds on gains realized in the Palestinian educational system over the past decade toward the development of a truly student-centered environment for all Palestinian youth. RBB will add to the strong edifice built in recent years and set the stage for Palestinian educators to engage fully at a later stage in more current education reform initiatives under what is known as “visible learning.” All activities anticipated under this initiative are technical assistance in nature. And as such fall under the categorical exclusion determination.

1. Recommended Determinations And Mitigation Actions

Categorical Exclusion

All program activities (except renovation activities) qualify for Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i), “education, technical assistances or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities affecting the environment”, as approved in the original IEE.

Negative Determination with conditions

As already approved in the Original and Amendment I any anticipated renovation will be small in scale, and will not cause significant negative impacts on the environment if the proper mitigation and control measures are developed and followed. All conditions under the Negative Determination in the original IEE remain valid.

Compliance

To ensure compliance with USAID environmental procedures, the Agreement Officer’s Representative (AOR) responsible for managing this program will be responsible for periodic monitoring of the environmental aspects and compliance of this program. Site visits by the AOR will be conducted to monitor and record compliance.

Revisions

As with all USAID-funded programs, and 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 might be “major” and their results “significant”, the threshold decision for those actions listed above will be reviewed and revised by the Mission Environmental Officer, and an environmental assessment prepared as appropriate.
APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:

ME Bureau Environmental Officer Approval: 
John O. Wilson 
Date 1/11/17

Acting Mission Director Approval: 
Cleared by email (see attached) 1/19/2016
Jonathan T. Kamin 
Date

Mission Environmental Officer: 
Cleared by email (see attached) 1/19/2016
Anan Masri 
Date

Clearances

Acting Deputy Mission Director:
Cleared by email (see attached) 1/19/2016
Alex Kastis 
Date

Program/Project Development: 
Cleared by email (see attached) 1/19/2016
Randolph Flay 
Date

SO Team Leader: 
e-cleared KIF 
January 11, 2017
Karla Fossand 
Date

Regional Environmental Advisor: 
1/11/2017
Alexandra Hadzi-Vidanovic 
Date

Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)-Amendment II
Program: School Support Program
West Bank and Gaza Mission
Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)-Amendment II
Program: School Support Program
West Bank and Gaza Mission
Re: IEE for SSP

1 message

Anan Masri <amasri@usaid.gov>  Thu, Jan 19, 2017 at 10:12 AM
To: Genny Amireh <gamireh@usaid.gov>
Cc: Najah Rafidi <nrafidi@usaid.gov>, Nadia Basel <NBasel@usaid.gov>

Thanks Genny.

I clear by email.

Sent from my iPhone

> On 19 Jan 2017, at 10:01, Genny Amireh <gamireh@usaid.gov> wrote:
> 
> > Hi Najah,
> > 
> > Kindly see attachment for Anan's Clearance. much appreciated.
> > 
> > BR, Genny
> > ------ Forwarded message ------
> > > From: Genny Amireh <gamireh@usaid.gov>
> > > Date: Wed, Jan 18, 2017 at 11:08 AM
> > > Subject: IEE for SSP
> > > To: Anan Masri <amasri@usaid.gov>, Nadia Basel <NBasel@usaid.gov>, Rula
> > > Hadid <rhadid@usaid.gov>
> > >
> > > Goodmorning Anan,
> > 
> > > Kindly find attached the IEE Amendment II for SSP. Your approval is
> > > highly appreciated.
> > 
> > 
> > "Best Regards,*
> > 
> > "Genny Amireh*
> > "*Economic Growth and Infrastructure*
> > 
> > "*U.S. Embassy / USAID WBG Mission*
> > 
> > "*Office: +972-3-519-8654*"
> > 
> > "*Mobile: + 972 -50-561-2128*"
> > 
> > "*Fax: +972 - 3-5114-898*"
> > 
> > "*Email: gamireh@usaid.gov <gamireh@usaid.gov>*"
> > 
> > 
> > "--"
> > 
> > "*Best Regards,*
> > 
> > "*Genny Amireh*
> > "*Economic Growth and Infrastructure*
> *U.S. Embassy / USAID WBG Mission*
> *Office: +972-3-519-8654*
> *Mobile: + 972 -561-2128*
> *Fax: + 972 - 3-5114-888*
> *Email: gamireh@usaid.gov <gamireh@usaid.gov>*
> <20170118110137962.pdf>
Forwarded message

From: Alexander Klalts <aklaits@usaid.gov>
Date: Thu, Jan 19, 2017 at 12:03 PM
Subject: Re: OCM SCANNER
To: Tirana Merhav <tmerhav@usaid.gov>
Cc: Jonathan Kamin <jkamin@usaid.gov>

I clear too

Sent from my iPhone

On 19 Jan 2017, at 11:55, Tirana Merhav <tmerhav@usaid.gov> wrote:

Alex?

On Thu, Jan 19, 2017 at 11:53 AM, Jonathan Kamin <jkamin@usaid.gov> wrote:

I Clear

Jonathan Kamin
Acting Mission Director
USAID West Bank/Gaza Mission
+972 50 561 2118

Sent from my iPhone

> On 19 Jan 2017, at 10:43, Tirana Merhav <tmerhav@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > Alex and Jonathan,
> > > Do you think you can clear by email?
> > > Thanks,
> > > Tirana
> > > > === Forwarded message ===
> > > From: Nadia Basel <nbasel@usaid.gov>
> > > Date: Thu, Jan 19, 2017 at 10:19 AM
> > > Subject: Fwd: OCM SCANNER
> > > To: Tirana Merhav <tmerhav@usaid.gov>
> > > > Hi Tirana,
> > > > > Please find attached IEE for SSP no cost extension.
> > > > > The following have signed the IEE:
> > > > > Karla
> > > > > Randy
> > > > > Anan
> > > > > Needed signatures: