1. Project and Activity Description

1.1 Purpose and Scope of RCE:

The purpose of this PAD level IEE Amendment (RCE) is to provide an environmental determination for a new activity to strengthen the ability of community social workers to prevent and respond to abuse, exploitation, neglect, and family separation and support child well-being, by ensuring the early identification of vulnerable children and by providing the community social work support, service provision, follow up and reporting.
The new activity will entail technical assistance and training sessions. This work will not include any design or physical construction/renovation activities or recommendations to consider climate and other environmental factors that should have positive impacts.

The current amendment increases the total budget of the subject PAD by $1,346,030, thus amounting to $50,179,348.

1.2 Project Overview:

The Community Level Access to Social Services (CLASS) in Armenia activity (hereafter activity) aims to strengthen the ability of community social workers (CSW). The activity will specifically focus on strengthening the community level social services goal by fostering policy reform, which is essential to creating conducive conditions for deinstitutionalizing orphans and vulnerable children.

The activity will build on the accomplishments of USAID’s projects supporting GOAM’s reforms of the child protection sector and integrated social services system. One of the current gaps in the country’s child protection system is the lack of the community based prevention and service provision mechanisms. This activity will promote establishment of community-based social services in Armenia. It will introduce the community social worker’s position within local government and enable communities to identify, prevent and address their social issues. The activity will particularly build on the existing policy priorities and initiatives of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

The goal of the activity is to promote the CSW’s role and strengthen the capacity and cooperation of key social protection actors at local and regional levels in Armenia. To do this, the activity will support the GOAM and the National Assembly in the adoption and enforcement of legislation regulating the community based social worker's position, and the promotion of establishment of sustainable mechanisms for the capacity building of CSWs and their integration into the local self-government structure. The introduction of the CSW’s position will close important gap in the social protection system, related to prevention, and to community based response mechanisms. The activity has two objectives that support its overarching goal, each detailed below:

2. Project Description and Climate Risk Screening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Community-based social worker positions within local governments are established</th>
<th>Potential Climate Risk</th>
<th>Climate Risk Rating*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Technical assistance to support adoption and enforcement of legislation regulating CSW’s position</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low climate risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Technical assistance and trainings to promote establishment of sustainable mechanisms for CSWs' capacity building and integration into the local self-government structure</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low climate risk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Communities are able to identify, prevent and address their social issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Climate Risk</th>
<th>Climate Risk Rating*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Technical assistance, trainings, and awareness raising campaigns to facilitate the establishment of best practices of coordination and cooperation of child protection actors at community and regional levels</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Technical assistance to increase the resilience of most socially vulnerable families</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Justification for Categorical Exclusion Determination
The activities under the “Stronger Institutional Guarantees for Human Rights Protection in Armenia” will not have an effect on the natural or physical environment and are among the classes of activities listed in 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2). Therefore, under §216.2(c)(1), neither an IEE nor an EA will be required for these activities. Instead, a categorical exclusion threshold determination is recommended for the following identified activities under 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2):

Activities 1.1; 1.2; 2.1; and 2.2 under §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.);

4. Limitations of the Categorical Exclusion Determination:
This categorical exclusion does not cover classes of actions normally having a significant effect on the environment under §216.2(d):

i. Programs of river basin development;
ii. Irrigation and water management;
iii. Agricultural land leveling;
iv. Drainage projects;
v. Large scale agricultural mechanization;
vi. Resettlement projects;
vii. New land development;
viii. Penetration road building and road improvement;
ix. Powerplants;
x. Industrial plants; and
xi. Potable water and sewerage projects

In addition, this categorical exclusion does not cover activities that:
- Support project preparation, project feasibility studies, engineering design for activities listed in §216.2(d)(1);
- Affect endangered species;
- Provide support to extractive industries (e.g. mining and quarrying);
- Promote timber harvesting;
- Lead to construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or renovation work;
- Support agro-processing or industrial enterprises;
- Provide support for regulatory permitting;
• Lead to privatization of industrial facilities or infrastructure with heavily polluted property;
• Assist the procurement (including payment in kind, donations, guarantees of credit) or use (including handling, transport, fuel for transport, storage, mixing, loading, application, clean-up of spray equipment, and disposal) of pesticides or activities involving procurement, transport, use, storage, or disposal of toxic materials—pesticides cover all insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, etc. covered under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; and/or
• Procure or use genetically modified organisms.

Any of these actions would require a Europe and Eurasia Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) approved amendment to the categorical exclusion.

5. Mandatory Inclusion of Environmental Compliance Requirements in Solicitations, Awards, Budgets, and Work Plans

• Appropriate environmental compliance language, including limitations defined in Section 4, shall be incorporated into solicitations and awards for categorical exclusions.
• The implementing partner shall ensure annual work plans do not prescribe activities that are defined as limitations in Section 4.

6. Revisions

Under §216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available that indicates that activities covered by the categorical exclusion might be considered major and their effect significant, or if additional activities are proposed that might be considered major and their effect significant, this categorical exclusion determination will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) with concurrence by the BEO. It is the responsibility of the USAID Contract Officer’s Representative (COR)/Agreement Officer’s Representative (AOR) to keep the MEO and BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of this determination.

7. Recommended Determination for Categorical Exclusion:

Approval:

[Signature]
Deborah Grieser, Mission Director
Date: 7/20/2017

Clearance:

[Signature]
Marina Vadanyan, Mission Environmental Officer
Date: 2/19/2017

Clearance:

[Signature]
Ani Manukyan, AOR/COR
Date: 07/19/2017

Concurrence:

Mark Kamiya
E&E Bureau Environmental Officer
Date: 8/3/2017
**Distribution:**
IEE File
MEO (to also provide a copy to AOR/COR)

Attachment: Annex A Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool for Activity/Project/Strategy Design
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1: Defined or Anticipated DOs, IRs, or sectors*</th>
<th>1.2: Timeframe*</th>
<th>1.3: Geography</th>
<th>2: Climate Risks*</th>
<th>3: Adaptive Capacity*</th>
<th>4: Climate Risk Rating of DO or IR* [Enter rating for each DO or IR* High, Moderate, or Low]</th>
<th>5: Opportunities</th>
<th>6.1: Climate Risk Management Options</th>
<th>6.2: How Climate Risks Are Addressed in the Strategy*</th>
<th>7: Next Steps for Project and/or Activity Design*</th>
<th>8: Accepted Climate Risks*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activity 1.1 Technical assistance to support adoption and enforcement of legislation regulating community based social worker's (CSW) position</td>
<td>Within the first two years of the project.</td>
<td>Country wide</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Activity 1.2
**Technical assistance and trainings to promote establishment of sustainable mechanisms for CSWs' capacity building and integration into the local self-government structure**

| Schedule trainings and any field activity in a way to avoid severe weather events |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 years (project lifespan) | 264 communities in 10 marzes and Yerevan | N/A | N/A | Low |

### Activity 2.1
**Technical assistance, trainings, and awareness raising campaigns to facilitate the establishment of best practices of coordination and cooperation of child protection actors at community and regional levels**

| Schedule trainings and any field activity in a way to avoid severe weather events |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 years (project lifespan) | 264 communities in 10 marzes and Yerevan | N/A | N/A | Low |

### Activity 2.2
**Technical assistance to increase the resilience of most socially vulnerable families**

| Schedule trainings and any field activity in a way to avoid severe weather events |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 years (project lifespan) | 264 communities in 10 marzes and Yerevan | N/A | N/A | Low |

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Armenia /CLASS