Objective: SDO: Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Enhanced

Country/Region: Jordan

Funding Period: September 2012 – December 2026

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to amend the IEE for the Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Activity. This amendment extends the life of the IEE and adds new activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Begin:</th>
<th>Funding End:</th>
<th>Life of Project (LOP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2012</td>
<td>December 2026</td>
<td>Amount: $75.5 Million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IEE Amendment Prepared by: Kenana Amin Date: March 24, 2019

IEE Amendment (Y/N): Y If “Yes,” Number & Date of Original IEE:
ME 13-90 dated July 11, 2013
ME 19-02 dated October 6, 2018

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED: (Place X where applicable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categorical Exclusion: X</th>
<th>Deferral:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive Determination:</td>
<td>Negative Determination: X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Conditions: X</td>
<td>Exemption:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. AMENDMENTS
This IEE amendment is to extend the life of the IEE ME 19-02 from September 2018 to December 2026, to extend one existing activity, and add two new activities under the Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Enhanced (GEFE) Project; namely: Women Economic Empowerment and Leadership, and Advancing Gender Equality.
2. **THRESHOLD DETERMINATION AND SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

The Gender Equality and Female Empowerment (GEFE) Project is a cross-cutting project that seeks to promote gender equality and female empowerment in the face of challenges restricting the advancement of women and girls in Jordan. The following table provides a summary of ongoing and planned activities and the recommended environmental determinations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities and Interventions</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Determination</th>
<th>Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>USAID Takamol</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Takamol</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>LOP: May 2014 – April 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Takamol works to promote gender equality in the face of challenges restricting the advancement of women and girls in Jordan. Interventions focus on raising awareness on gender issues to challenge negative traditional stereotypes, and removing policy and institutional barriers to women’s empowerment. The activity is being extended to capitalize on current favorable environment; it will focus on strengthening policy advocacy and mainstreaming gender in the public sector in key sectors.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>CE</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interventions:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building and technical assistance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Women Economic Empowerment and Leadership</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>LOP: 5 years (2020-2024)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>This activity will seek to increase waged employment opportunities for women as a means to increase their participation in the workforce and the formal economy. It will help improve women’s access to the job market, enhance the enabling environment, and address inequalities and prohibitive social norms and traditions.</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>CE</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interventions:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity building and technical assistance</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Interventions:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation of small scale renovations including civil, mechanical, electrical work, and supply and installation of related equipment.</td>
<td>New</td>
<td>NDC</td>
<td>See conditions under Section 2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advancing Gender Equality</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>This activity will build on the gains achieved under the Takamol activity to promote the advancement of women to decision-making positions and the enhancement of gender equality in Jordan. This will include continued awareness raising of gender equality issues, addressing</td>
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</table>
THRESHOLD DETERMINATION

2.1 Categorical Exclusion (CE) determination is recommended per 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(1)(ii) as USAID "does not have knowledge of or control over, and the objective of AID in furnishing assistance does not require, either prior to approval of financing or prior to implementation of specific activities, knowledge of or control over, the details of the specific activities that have an effect on the physical and natural environment for which financing is provided by AID," and per 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i) where "education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.)" are not subject to the procedures set forth in §216.3.

2.2 Negative Determination with Conditions (NDC)
It is anticipated that interventions under the Women Economic Empowerment and Leadership Activity may include the procurement of equipment and/or commodities, small scale construction or building refurbishment and as such may have environmental impacts. Therefore, such interventions are recommended for Negative Determination with Conditions (NDC) where the implementer is required to address the following conditions:

2.2.1 Ensure that equipment, commodities (see also ADS 312) and materials are procured from certified retailers; environmental safety and quality certificates conforming with national and/or international standards are available; equipment and materials are used in an environmentally sound and safe manner, properly disposed of when applicable at the end of their useful life in a manner consistent with best management practices according to USG, European Union or equivalent standards acceptable to USAID.

2.2.2 Provide Environmental Due Diligence (EDD) in the form of Environmental Review and Assessment Checklist (Annex 1) which is required to identify environmental effects, develop Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plans when applicable, and confirm/neglect and mitigate a potentially significant adverse effect. If significant adverse effects are expected, a Scoping Statement and Environmental Assessment (EA) will be conducted by the implementer prior to the start of activities. Terms of Reference for Scoping Statements and EA Reports must be reviewed by Mission Environmental Officer (MEO).
Amendment 2 for the Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Activity

2.2.3 If a provision for sub-grants is included under the award, an Environmental Review and Assessment checklist using impact assessment tools will be used to screen grant proposals and sub-contracts to ensure the funded proposals will result in no adverse environmental impact, develop mitigation measures, as necessary, and specify monitoring and reporting. Use of the checklist is called for when the nature of the grant proposals or sub-contracts to be funded is not known sufficiently to make an informed decision about their potential environmental impacts, yet due to the type and extent of activities to be funded, any adverse impacts are expected to be easily mitigated. Implementation of sub-grant and sub-contract activities cannot go forward until the checklist is approved by USAID.

3. CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT

Climate variability and change is a crosscutting issue that can undermine development progress and increase risk and insecurity throughout developing countries. Per USAID ADS 201 Mandatory Reference (201mal), USAID has been applying climate risk management (CRM) practices to all new projects and activities starting October 1, 2016. With limited exceptions, USAID project and activity design teams are required to identify relevant climate risks, qualitatively assess them as low, moderate, or high, and then develop and implement measures to address moderate and high-rated climate risks.

The GEFE design team conducted CRM screening and included a summary of screening results in Annex 4 of Amendment 2 of the GEFE PAD. Since the focus of the GEFE project is capacity development, technical assistance, and training, initial assessment indicates a LOW climate risk on proposed interventions. However, the implementing partner(s) is advised to consider the impact of increasing temperatures as well as the higher frequency and/or intensity of extreme weather events in Jordan such as heat waves, storms, landslides, and floods. These climate stressors can affect the building locations of capacity building and training activities as well as the ability of trainers and participants to access the locations.

It is anticipated that some small scale construction/refurbishment and procurement of equipment, like establishing day care centers or transportation services, might be supported under the Women Economic Empowerment and Leadership activity. Such interventions may be subject to MODERATE climate risk. In this case, the Gender Team will review these interventions in coordination with the Mission Climate Integration Lead to determine the extent of potential climate risk impacts, and, if required, adopt the appropriate mitigation measures. Relevant language will be added to solicitations so that implementing partner(s) can take this into consideration and seek to mitigate these climate risks during activity design and implementation.

4. LIMITATION:

The determinations recommended in this document apply only to projects/activities and sub-activities described herein. Other projects/activities that may arise must be
documented in either a separate IEE, an IEE amendment if the activities are within the same project/activity, or other type of environmental compliance document and shall be subject to an environmental analysis within the appropriate documents listed above.

In addition, other than projects/activities determined to have a Positive Threshold Determination and/or a pesticide management plan (PERSUAP), it is confirmed that the projects/activities described herein do not involve any actions listed below. Any of the following actions would require additional environmental analyses and environmental determinations:

- Affect endangered and threatened species or their critical habitats per §216.5, FAA 118, FAA 119;
- Promote timber harvesting per Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) 117 and 118;
- Provide support for regulatory permitting per §216.1(b)(2);
- Lead to privatization of industrial facilities or infrastructure with heavily polluted property per §216.1(b)(4);
- Procure or use genetically engineered organisms per §216.1(b)(1); and/or
- 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 per §216.2(e) and §216.3(b).

5. REVISIONS

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available which indicates any of the proposed actions to be funded by a project/activity might be “major” and the project’s effect “significant,” the threshold decision for the actions listed will be reviewed and revised by the originator of the project/activity and submitted to the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO/Middle East) for approval and, if appropriate or warranted, an environmental assessment will be prepared. It is the responsibility of AOR/COR to timely inform the MEO and BEO of any changes in the scope and nature of the approved activities, which may require revision of the IEE.
Amendment 2 for the Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Activity

USAID APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION(S) RECOMMENDED – Amendment 2 of IEE for Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Enhanced:

CLEARANCE:

Mission Environmental Officer:

Haithem Ali

Date 3/28/19

Program Officer:

Matthew Sumpter

Date 3/27/19

Resident Legal Officer:

Ian Robertson

Date 3/27/19

Deputy Mission Director:

Nancy Eslick

Date 3/24/19

Regional Environmental Advisor:

Suzanne Ebert

Date 3/28/2019

APPROVAL:

Mission Director:

Jim Barnhart

Date 3/31/2019

CONCURRENCE:

Bureau Environmental Officer, Middle East:

John Wilson

Date 4/1/19

Approved: _______ Disapproved: _______ 

DISTRIBUTION:

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