INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION
Building Alliances for Local Advancement, Development, and Investment – Capacity Building (BALADI CAP) Amendment # 3

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:

Country Code - DO: 298-001
Foreign Assistance Objective: Investing in People
Civil Society
Country/Region: Lebanon
Activity Name: Building Alliances for Local Advancement, Development, and Investment – Capacity Building (BALADI CAP)
Funding Begin: 2012
Funding End: December 31, 2020
LOP Amount: $19.7 million
Prepared By: Elias Al Haddad, Project Management Specialist/Local Development Office
IEE/CE Amendment (Y/N): Yes, original RCE [ME 12-184, Amendment # 1
[ME 13-63], Amendment # 2 [ME 15-07]
Date: June 17, 2019

Environmental Media and/or Human Health Potentially Impacted (Check all that apply): 
Air _ Water _ Land Biodiversity _ Human Health _ Other _ None _ x 

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION(s) RECOMMENDED (Check all that apply):
Categorical Exclusion: ______ X _________ Negative Determination: ______
(With Conditions)
Positive Determination _________ Deferral: ________

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this amendment is to extend the life time of this activity to December 31, 2020, to increase the LOP amount to $19.7 million, and modify the scope to include support to faith-based, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in providing basic services to communities, and expand civil society’s collaboration with parliament on timely public policy issues. All conditions and threshold determinations remain the same as in the original RCE and its amendments.
BALADI CAP through its Capacity Building Component (CBC) for civil society has strengthened the administrative processes, monitoring and evaluation, organizational governance, and financial management capabilities of 51 local civil society organizations to enable them to apply for and manage USAID funding as direct grantees. Through the Civic Engagement for Democratic Governance (CEDG) component, BALADI CAP has improved service delivery and inclusive decision-making of 38 municipalities and municipal unions by enhancing their administrative processes, public financial management, information technology, citizen engagement, and disaster management processes. Finally, BALADI CAP’s Civic Engagement Initiative (CEI) has created three issue-oriented advocacy networks on environmental, human rights, and accountability and good governance issues and provided more than 20 advocacy grants to individual, consortiums, and networks of CSOs under identified priority advocacy areas.

USAID/Lebanon is planning to extend the BALADI CAP civil society-related interventions until December 2020 through the Civic Engagement Initiative (CEI). BALADI CAP will continue its support to build Lebanon’s civil society organizations’ capacities. And in response to the US government’s priority to assist religious and ethnic minorities, BALADI CAP will support faith-based, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in providing basic services to communities. Concurrently, BALADI CAP will expand civil society’s collaboration with parliament on timely public policy issues.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS:
- The purpose of this IEE is to extend the lifetime of the Cooperative Agreement with Counterpart International (CPI)/MSI to December 31, 2020. The LOP will increase by an additional amount of $4.8 million.
- The original RCE and its amendments were approved by the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) as a categorical exclusion with no specific conditions.
- This activity is expected to build local civil society organizations' financial and managerial capability through a tailored capacity building program. No construction work or training on the usage of chemicals or fertilizers is anticipated under this program.
- The originally approved Environmental Determinations remain unchanged.

Based on the above summary of findings, USAID’s assistance under the BALADI CAP program does not have any effect on the natural or physical environment.

Table One (1) lists activities covered in this IEE as well as the recommended threshold decisions.

Table 1: Proposed program activities and recommended threshold decisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Effect on Natural or Physical Environment</th>
<th>Determination and Reg. 216 actions required</th>
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<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th><strong>Pre-Award Survey (PAS):</strong></th>
<th>No effect</th>
<th>Categorical Exclusion, no actions required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BALADI CAP will conduct a survey that assesses potential sub-awardees to determine whether they have sufficient financial and managerial capacity to manage USAID funds in accordance with U.S. regulations. PAS will be conducted through field visits and interviews.</td>
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<td>II</td>
<td><strong>Capacity Building:</strong></td>
<td>No effect</td>
<td>Categorical Exclusion, no actions required</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The activity will build the financial and managerial capacity of a range of 10-15 local organizations. Capacity building for each organization will be conducted based on the findings and recommendations of the pre-award surveys. Capacity building will be conducted through in-house trainings, field visits and workshops as well.</td>
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<td>III</td>
<td><strong>Issue Advocacy:</strong></td>
<td>No effect</td>
<td>Categorical Exclusion, no actions required</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The activity will continue its support for BALADI CAP’s three advocacy networks under the Civic Engagement Initiative (CEI) program component. It will also expand civil society’s collaboration with parliament on timely public policy issues.</td>
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**a) Recommended Action: Categorical Exclusion (100% of funding).**

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(3), the originator of the activities has determined that program activities focusing on technical assistance and training, and other similar types of environmentally neutral actions, consist of types of interventions entirely within the categories listed in paragraph (c) (2), "Categorical Exclusions," of Section 216.2, "Applicability of Procedures," of Title 22 CFR Part 216, "AID Environmental Procedures," and therefore are categorically excluded from any further environmental review requirements. The originator of the proposed action has further determined that the proposed activities are fully within the following classes of actions:

- Technical assistance or training programs except to the extent such program includes activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.). [22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i)];
- Document and information transfers. [22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(v)];
- 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 (such as construction of facilities, etc.). [22 CFR
b) Implementer Procedures
None

c) Resource Allocation, Training and Reporting requirements:

The award with the implementing partner will include a requirement that the AOR and if needed the Mission Environmental Officer, review the annual work plan to ensure that planned activities are in line with this request for categorical execution (RCE) and with the initially designed activities.

Limitations of the RCE:
This assistance does not cover activities involving:

1. Assistance, procurement or use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The use of GMOs will require preparation of a biosafety assessment (review) in accordance with ADS 201.3.12.2(b) in an amendment to the RCE approved by the Asia Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO).
2. DCA or ODA programs.
3. Procurement or use of Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) (i.e., piping, roofing, etc.), Polychlorinated Biphenyl’s (PCB) or other toxic/hazardous materials prohibited by the US EPA as provided at: http://www.epa.gov/asbestos and/or under international environmental agreements and conventions, e.g., Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants as provided at: http://chm.pops.int

Revisions
Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(a)(9), if new information becomes available which indicates that activities to be funded by the Program might be “major” and the Program’s effect “significant”, the threshold decisions for those activities listed above with a Negative Determination will be reviewed and revised by the originator of the project and submitted to the BEO for approval and, if appropriate, an environmental assessment will be prepared.

Climate Change Management

As per ADS 201 mal, since this activity was approved before October 1, 2016, its exempt from CRM requirements.
APPROVAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED:

CLEARANCE

Local Development Office Director

By email

06/18/2019

Claude Zullo

Date

Mission Environmental Officer

By email

06/20/2019

Sana Saliba

Date

Regional Environmental Advisor/ME (Acting)

By email

06/21/2019

Anan Masri

Date

Resident Legal Officer

By email

06/24/2019

Marcelo Arellano

Date

Program Officer

By email

06/25/2019

Walter Doetsch

Date

APPROVAL

Mission Director

Anne Patterson

6/26/2019

Date

CONCURRENCE

Bureau Environmental Officer

John Wilson

7/15/19

Date

Attachment: BALADI CAP original IEE

Distribution:
Mission Environmental Officer
IEE File
OAA – USAID/Lebanon

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