PROJECT/ACTIVITY DATA:

Activity Name: Accountability and Resilient Communities (ARC) in Tunisia PAD - Amendment 2
Country/region: Tunisia
Start Date: 10/12/2016
End Date: 9/30/2024
Life of Project Amount ($): $316,708,982
IEE Prepared by: Rachel Goldberg
Date: 5/22/2019
Amendment: Yes, amends IEE ME 17-09

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED: (Place X where applicable)

Categorical Exclusion: [X] Negative Determination with Conditions: [X]
Positive Determination: [ ] Deferral: [ ]

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this document is to amend IEE ME 17-09, in accordance with Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 216 (22 CFR 216). This amendment:

1. Increases the Life of Project amount from $90 million to approximately $197.9 million to account for planned budget increases. The overall Life of Project increase has correspondingly expanded activity-level increases for TADAEEEM activity, which previously received categorical exclusions or negative determination with conditions at lower funding levels, and additional program components and support costs planned.

2. Extends the expiration date from 12/31/2022 to 09/30/2024 in line with the draft pending Tunisia DO2 Project Appraisal Document (PAD) amendment #2.

All other activities, threshold decisions, and conditions/requirements in the original IEE remain unchanged and valid.

Description of Activities

The new and expanded activities described below are described in the pending draft DO2 PAD Amendment.

This amendment will cover the following future illustrative activities:

Expansion of TADAEEEM activities.

Activities under expanded and extended TADAEEEM include:

- Increase the number of citizens and civil society organizations involved in public sector planning and decision-making processes related to service delivery. This includes
engaging more citizens and CSOs in the legally mandated “Plan Investment Annual” (PAI) municipal budgeting process, as well as promoting citizen participation and oversight of service delivery (such as: garbage sorting, recycling, waste reduction).

- Increase the number of partner municipalities to 40, and improve their capacity in core public administration areas such as strategic planning, capital investment planning, procurement, project management, financial management, and others.
- Improve municipal service delivery performance in areas such as paving, solid waste collection, municipal public lighting, roads upkeep and maintenance, and maintaining green spaces in 40 municipalities.
- Provision of limited municipal service equipment and commodities to support solid waste collection, roads upkeep, public lighting, parks and green spaces, and municipal markets. Commodities and equipment illustratively includes items such as dumpsters, recycling bins, street sweeping equipment, asphalt maintenance tools, LED solar street lights, and park benches and outdoor gym equipment.
- Strengthen linkages between local, regional and national level government entities to better coordinate service delivery issues. Examples include: construction e-permits, severe weather mitigation, construction waste recycling and disposal, and national park regulations.
- Enable Tunisia’s long-term decentralization process overall.

International Observation of Tunisian Elections.

Activities under International Observation of Tunisian Elections include:

- Comprehensive observation mission conducted with long term and short term international observers deployed nationwide to assess electoral processes for presidential and parliamentary elections;
- Conducting meetings with electoral stakeholders including political parties, candidates, voters, CSOs, the media, and the ISIE by mission experts & long-term observers;
- Credible and impartial information provided to the electorate and key decision makers in the form of public statements; and a final mission report including policy and electoral administration recommendations;
- Final mission report including policy and electoral administration recommendations.

Election and Political Processes (EPP).

Activities under Elections and Political Processes (EPP) Program Area include:

- Comprehensive observation mission conducted, including a minimum of 70 accredited observers per round, deployed nationwide to assess electoral processes for the 2019 parliamentary and presidential elections;
- Provide high-level mediation between key political actors before or following the elections, if such mediation is invited and appropriate;
- Engage in more than 800 meetings conducted with electoral stakeholders including political parties, candidates, voters, CSOs, the media, and the ISIE by mission experts &
long-term observers;
- Provide credible and impartial information to the electorate and key decision makers in the form of public statements; and a final mission report including policy and electoral administration recommendations.

**Accountable Governance.**

Activities under Accountable Governance Program Area include:

- Increase the number of citizens and civil society organizations involved in public sector planning and decision-making processes related to service delivery;
- Improve municipal service delivery performance in areas such as paving, solid waste collection, municipal public lighting, roads upkeep and maintenance, and maintaining green spaces in select municipalities;
- Strengthen linkages between local, regional, and national level government entities to better coordinate service delivery issues. Examples include: construction e-permits, severe weather mitigation, construction waste recycling and disposal, and national park regulations;
- Enable Tunisia’s long-term decentralization process overall.

**Legislative Strengthening.**

Activities under legislative Strengthening Program Area include:

Recruit and train new technical and managerial staff.
- Executive mentoring or coaching amongst parliamentarians.
- Build internal and external analytical capacity.
- Establish a documentation center.
- Establish management systems.
- Provide and maintain office equipment and build office space.
- Issue-based technical assistance to prioritize, analyze, and advance legislation.
- Regional outreach and strategic communications support for parliamentarians to effectively engage constituents in home districts

**Good Governance, Rule of Law, and Anti-Corruption**

Activities under Good Governance, Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Program Area include:

- Provide technical support for advocates and legislators to build requisite momentum for the realization of the Constitutional Court.
- Provide technical assistance to implement the asset declaration-illicit enrichment law.
- Provide technical assistance for whistleblowers law.
- Support the Open Government Partnership and access to information processes: These processes demonstrate government efforts to address corruption and promote transparency.
- Use ongoing USAID projects to expand the reach of INLUCC or the new independent good governance and anticorruption authority’s awareness campaigns.
- Support the court of accounts in reviewing municipal finances.
- Strengthen the independence of private media and support online investigative journalism.
- Support multi-donor governance initiatives.

**Recommended Threshold Decisions**

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**Justification for Categorical Exclusion Request**

All of the new activities described above justify Categorical Exclusions, pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(1) and (2), for which an Initial Environmental Examination, or an Environmental Assessment are not required because the actions do not have an effect on the natural or physical environment.

Specifically, as currently planned, these activities fall into the following classes of action:

- Education, technical assistance, or training programs except to the extent such programs include activities directly affecting the environment (such as construction of facilities, etc.)
- Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings
- Document and information transfers

Activities listed in the original IEE ME 17-09 remain unchanged; please refer to the conditions and requirements for activities that received a negative determination with conditions (e.g. small scale construction and renovations), as well as USAID and implementing partner requirements.

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<th>Name of Mechanisms</th>
<th>Activities and Interventions</th>
<th>Recommended Threshold Determination</th>
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<tr>
<td>A. Tunisia Accountable Governance Activity (TADAEM)</td>
<td>-technical assistance to Tunisian govt institutions on municipal services -training and skills development -small scale construction</td>
<td>Categorical Exclusion for training, assessment, workshops, consultations and meetings. 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i), (iii) Negative Determination with Conditions for construction/rehabilitation and potable water/sanitation.</td>
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<td><strong>D.) Election and Political Processes (EPP)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>E.) International Observation of Tunisian Elections.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>F. (New) Legislative Strengthening</strong></td>
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Climate Risk Management

As per the ADS 201mal, USAID shall factor climate resilience into international development programs and investments. Therefore, the design team and/or implementing partner will identify expected climate change impacts over the life of the activity’s expected benefits and (if appropriate) demonstrate how those risks will be reduced in order to ensure sustainability of the activity’s objectives.

A climate risk screening was completed for Tunisia DO 2 in October 2016, and was modified to include the additional activities in this IEE amendment in January 2018. The screening determined that activities planned under this (original and amended) IEE are considered Low risk, with the exception of small scale construction, renovation and any water/WASH/solid waste related activities, which received a Moderate risk. The screening identified next steps in design and implementation for Moderate risk activities only; the A/COR and implementing partner shall ensure these recommendations are incorporated into project implementation.

The climate risk screening for DO 2 is on file with the USAID/Tunisia Program Office, the Mission Environment Officer, and should be kept in the A/COR files for each award under this IEE.

Revisions and Limitations

If during implementation, project activities are considered outside of those described in this document, an amendment shall be submitted. Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new activities are added and/or information becomes available which indicates that activities to be funded by the project might be “major” and the project’s effect “significant,” this determination will be reviewed and revised by the C/AOR of the project, and submitted to the Mission Environmental Officer (MEO) and Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) for approval and, if appropriate, an environmental assessment will be prepared. It is the responsibility of the C/AOR to keep the MEO and the BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of the IEE.

Assistance under this IEE does not cover activities involving:

- Asbestos and lead-based paint: The implementing partner (IP) shall not use materials containing asbestos or lead-based paint. When conducting any cosmetic or non-structural work on existing buildings, the IP will investigate for the presence of asbestos or lead paint prior to initiating work and will provide appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and a disposal process for handling the hazardous waste, if identified.
- Promotion (i.e. training), purchase, storage, or use of pesticides: The IP must prepare, submit for approval and follow the applicable Pesticide Evaluation Report and Safer Use and Action Plan (PERS UAP). Promotion, purchase, storage, or use of pesticides is not authorized without an approved PERSUAP. Pesticides cover all insecticides, fungicides,
rodenticides, etc. under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act per §216.2(e) and §216.3(b).
- DCA or GDA programs.
- Procurement or use of genetically engineered organisms per §216.1(b)(1).

APPROVAL OF INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION:
Accountability and Resilient Communities (ARC) in Tunisia IEE - Amendment 1

Acting Technical Office Director

CLEARANCE PAGE FOR INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION (IEE) REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (RCE)-Amendment #2

Drafted: Rachel Goldberg

Clearance

Clear

5/29/2019

Hind Houas

Date

Program Office

Clearance

Clear

6/7/2019

Cristine Fentross

Date

Mission Environment Officer

Clearance

Clear

6/18/2019

Anan Masri

Date

Regional Environmental Officer

Clearance

Clear

6/18/2019

Anan Masri

Date

APPROVAL:

Senior Development Advisor

Peter Riley

Date

CONCURRENCE:

MB Bureau Environmental Officer

John Wilson

Date