SUPPLEMENTAL INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION (IEE) REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (RCE) AMENDMENT #01

PROJECT/ACTIVITY DATA:

Activity Name: Technical Assistance to Strengthen Malaria Surveillance and the Use of Strategic Information for Malaria Programming
Country/region: Thailand and Lao PDR
Start Date: 9/24/2015 End Date: 12/31/2023
Life of Project Amount ($) : 6,269,332
IEE Prepared by: Jittinee Khienvichit Date: 8/29/2019

Is this the original IEE/RCE? This is an Amendment to the Supplemental IEE (Asia 17-085).
Below is the link to relevant IEEs:

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED: (Place X where applicable)

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

Climate Risk Rating(s):
Low _____ Moderate _____ High ______

Purpose and Scope of this IEE amendment

The purpose of this amendment is to update activity data to reflect the current information for this IEE - including:
• Update the LOP amount for Associate Award #2 covered under this IEE from $3,364,742 to $6,269,332, reflecting an increase of $2,904,590
• Extend the end date of Associate Award #2 covered in this IEE from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2023
• Update nature and scope of current activities performed and covered in this IEE

The activities under this review are for the ‘Technical Assistance to Strengthen Malaria Surveillance and the Use of Strategic Information for Malaria Programming’ referred to as Associate Award #2 (hereafter referred to as the “Activity”) which is one of the Associate Awards under the Leader Award Inform Asia (AID-486-L-14-00001: USAID’s Health Research Program).

The purpose of this Activity is to contribute to malaria control and elimination in Thailand and Lao People’s Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The objective of the program is to strengthen malaria surveillance systems and operational research in order to enhance the utilization of data.
for improved malaria programming in Thailand and Lao PDR. The Activity supports the
generation and use of strategic information through relevant malaria-related studies and
operational research, ensuring surveillance and malaria information systems are appropriate and
meet programmatic needs, and identifying and assessing malaria elimination best practices. To
this end, the Activity supports analyses, presentation, and dissemination of strategic information
which will address knowledge and information gaps critical for National Malaria Control
Programs (NMCPs).

The nature and scope of activities of this Activity as approved in the Supplemental IEE (Asia
17-085) do not have an effect on the natural or physical environment and remain similar with
minor additions to the illustrative activities under three main objectives of this Activity, including:

Objective 1: Strengthening malaria surveillance systems in Thailand and Lao PDR
- Expand capacity of the Malaria Information System for pharmacovigilance, supply chain
  management and forecasting
- Expand mHealth applications to facilitate data entry from peripheral levels
- Provide technical assistance to support training for Health Promotion Hospitals
- Provide technical support for transition and hosting of the Malaria Information System at
  the Ministry of Health Data Center and integration with hospitals
- Support national malaria control program’s capacity for data management and use at
  national and peripheral levels, improve the quality of surveillance information, and
  support roll-out of District Health Information System 2

Objective 2: Supporting national programs to evaluate elimination models and strategies
of implementation and scale-up
- Develop and implement sub-national malaria elimination certification guidelines
- Develop roadmap for transition and sustainability planning away from Global Fund and
  other donors
- Support for operational research in the context of malaria elimination
- Conduct an assessment of the 1-3-7 approach costs and effectiveness
- Conduct a cost benefit analysis of malaria elimination strategy

1 Implementing partner is recommended to compile to the latest guidance acceptable to USAID related to
environmental and malaria program as follows.
1. USAID Global Health Environmental Portal at: https://sites.google.com/a/usaid.gov/ghguidance/
2. USAID Environmental Guidelines for Small-Scale Activities at:
   https://usaidgems.org/sectorGuidelines.htm
3. Agency-wide approved Pesticides Evaluation Reports and Safer Use Action Plans, which should
   be used by IPs when working to achieve objectives below, e.g.
   https://www.pmi.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/tools-curricula/integrated-vector-
4. World Health Organization: Guideline for the Treatment of Malaria at:
   https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/162441/9789241549127_eng.pdf?sequence=1&
   isAllowed=y

2
Objective 3: Supporting national malaria programs to generate, analyze, use, and document strategic information

- Institutionalize a strategic information team at the Ministry of Public Health to utilize epidemiological, entomological, financial, supply chain, etc.
- Develop communication strategy for malaria elimination at national, sub-national, and community levels
- Disseminate lessons learned and success stories
- Share results of the national malaria programs' generation and use of strategic information with international scientific community

Recommended Threshold Decisions

- Justification for Categorical Exclusion Request

The activities described for the Technical Assistance to Strengthen Malaria Surveillance and the Use of Strategic Information for Malaria Programming Associate Award #2 justify Categorical Exclusions, pursuant to 22CFR216.2(c)(1) and (2). Specifically, as currently planned, these activities fall into the following classes of action:
  - 22 CFR 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.)
  - 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(iii): Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings
  - 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(v): Document and information transfers

Climate Risk Management

As per the ADS 201 (Climate Risk Management) and the executive order on “Climate-Resilient International Development,” USAID should 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. As part of climate risk management, climate vulnerabilities for RDMA and Lao PDR were reviewed. In assessing the activities under the review, a low risk climate risk is recommended; indicating climate change is unlikely to materially impact achievement or sustainability of activity outcomes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tasks/Defined or Illustrative Interventions</th>
<th>Climate Risks</th>
<th>Risk Rating</th>
<th>How Risks are Addressed</th>
<th>Opportunities to Strengthen Climate Resilience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Expand capacity of the Malaria Information System and mHealth applications to facilitate data entry</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>The intervention will focus on strengthening the information system which has low potential climate risk.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide technical assistance to support national malaria control program’s capacity for data management and use</td>
<td>Intense rainfall/flood</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>More intense rainfall and flood could impact the schedule of these events or the visit to selected provinces. The implementing partner will plan accordingly to avoid any disruption.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide technical support for transition and hosting of the Malaria Information System at the Ministry of Health Data Center and integration with hospitals</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>The intervention will focus on providing technical assistance for transitioning the information system from Global Fund-supported to host government which has low potential climate risk.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and implement sub-national malaria elimination certification guidelines and roadmap for transition and sustainability planning away from Global Fund and other donors</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>The intervention will focus on development of the guidelines and sustainability plan which has low potential climate risk.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for operational research, for example an assessment of the 1-3-7 approach costs and effectiveness, and a cost benefit analysis of malaria elimination strategy</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>The implementing partner will conduct operational research in collaboration with the host government in Thailand and Lao PDR. Data will be extracted from the malaria information system and existing malaria literatures which has low potential climate risk.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop communication strategy for malaria elimination, and disseminate lessons learned, success stories, and program results with wider malaria community</td>
<td>Intense rainfall/flood</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>More intense rainfall and flood could impact the schedule of these events. The implementing partner will plan accordingly to avoid any disruption. Program results will also be disseminated through social media which has low potential climate risk.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Revisions and Limitations**

If during implementation, project activities are considered outside of those described in this document, an amendment shall be submitted. Pursuant to 22CFR216.3(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 Contract/Agreement Officer’s Representative of the project, and submitted to the Mission Environmental Officer and Bureau Environmental Officer for approval and, if appropriate, an environmental assessment will be prepared.
APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Office Director OPH E-Clearance
Marie Ahmed Date: September 3, 2019

Mission Environmental Officer E-Clearance
Laurie Frydman Date: September 3, 2019

Climate Integration Lead E-Clearance
Pompun Pinweha Date: September 5, 2019

Program Development Officer E-Clearance
Ashley Marchus Date: September 4, 2019

Resident Legal Officer E-Clearance
John Niemeyer Date: September 13, 2019

Regional Environmental Advisor E-Clearance
Andrei Barannik Date: September 3, 2019

Deputy Mission Director E-Clearance
Juniper Neill Date: September 19, 2019

APPROVAL:

RDMA Acting Mission Director

Jeffrey Speace Date

CONCURRENCE:

Asia Bureau Environmental Officer

William Gibson Date

RRE RDMA: Enhanced Capabilities to Mitigate Public Health Threats (IR 2.1)

DISTRIBUTION:
Mission Environmental Officer
CORS/AORs/Project files
Contract/Agreement Officers