1. **Project and Activity Description**

1.1 **Purpose and Scope of RCE** - The purpose of this document, in accordance with Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 216 (22CFR216), is to provide a preliminary review of the reasonably foreseeable effects on the environment of the USAID Citizen Engagement Activity described herein and recommend determinations and, as appropriate, conditions, for these activities. The Citizen Engagement activity is a 60-month, $5 million endeavor aiming to strengthen the accountability between Government, civil society organizations, and citizens by increasing citizens' participation and decreasing donor dependency.

1.2 **Project Overview**

The overarching goal of USAID Citizen Engagement Activity is to build constituencies and to diversify the civil society sector’s resource base in order to strengthen civil society’s role for local development solutions. This activity will be co-designed with local organizations.

The USAID Citizen Engagement Activity will not dictate the agenda. It will allow CSOs (at different levels) to collaborate on issues most important to citizens and work together to foster and implement solutions.
This activity will situate local actor engagement at the core of its conceptualization, design, and implementation efforts through direct work with CSOs and other local relevant actors to enhance local ownership. This is also essential for a focus on J2SR, financial sustainability, and CSO resilience.

2. Project Description and Climate Risk Screening

In order to increase its contribution to Kosovo’s development and to provide greater opportunities for citizen engagement, Kosovo’s civil society needs to embrace new approaches to working with their constituencies, to adopt a more strategic perspective on both intra and inter-sectoral partnerships, and to diversify its resource and partner base.

The following are of anticipating characteristics of the activity interventions:
1. Constituency building by directly engaging citizens in setting priorities and implementing initiatives to ensure that their voices are heard.
2. Social trust by strengthening partnerships between civil society, including community based organizations, private sector actors, and government on issues related to advancing the people-centered solutions; and,
3. Diversification of resources by supporting CSOs connect with others and engage government, citizens, the private sector, and diaspora to support citizen causes and address economic and social challenges.

The approaches proposed by the bidders should lead to the following outcomes:

- Solutions proposed by the CSOs to democratic, social and economic issues at local and national levels are better aligned with the needs and priorities of the citizens;
- CSOs demonstrate increased ability and willingness to directly engage citizens and communities in setting priorities, raising resources, implementing and monitoring local development initiatives;
- CSOs are better able to establish strategic multi-sectoral partnerships involving the private sector, government, Kosovo diaspora and media aimed at overcoming Kosovo’s development challenges;
- Well-established CSOs increasingly invest in building capacity of regional/smaller/newer civic initiatives, including formal and informal community-based and issue-based groups, and leverage the latter’s knowledge of and connection to local communities;
- Domestic resources are mobilized to address community needs and citizen-driven priorities, including through corporate and individual giving (including diaspora), GOK public funds, crowdfunding, and volunteering.

The Kosovo Mission Climate Risk screening at the Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) level has been done on November 2016. This RCE also documents the Climate Risk screening for this activity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Defined or illustrative activities</th>
<th>Potential Climate Risk</th>
<th>Climate Risk Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Component 1: Constituency building by directly engaging citizens in setting priorities and implementing initiatives to ensure that their voices are heard.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Component 2: Social trust by strengthening partnerships between civil society, including community based organizations, private sector actors, and government on issues related to advancing the people-centered solutions

Component 3: Diversification of resources by supporting CSOs connect with others and engage government, citizens, the private sector, and diaspora to support citizen causes and address economic and social challenges through meaningful partnerships around the ideas and utilization of different development approaches.

3. Justification for Categorical Exclusion Determination

The activities under the USAID Citizen Engagement Activity 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 Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) nor an Environmental Assessment (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 of Component 1, 2 and 3.—§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.); and, and
- Activities of Component 1, 2 and 3, §216.2(c)(2) (iii) Analyses, studies, academic or research workshops and meetings;

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):

- Programs of river basin development;
- Irrigation and water management;
- Agricultural land leveling;
- Drainage projects;
- Large scale agricultural mechanization;
- Resettlement projects;
- New land development;
- Penetration road building and road improvement;
- Powerplants;
- Industrial plants; and
- 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 3, 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 3.

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:
DCN: 2020-KOS-027

Approval:
Lisa Magno, Mission Director

Date 4/1/2020

Clearance:
Zeinah Salahi, Deputy Mission Director

Date 3/9/2020

Clearance:
Perihan Ymeri-Ustaibo, Mission Environmental Officer

Date 03/06/2020

Clearance:
Christina T. Davis, DGO Director

Date 03/06/2020

Clearance:
Luljeta Gjonbalaj, DGO/Project Management Specialist

Date 02/11/2020

Clearance:
Robert Camilleri, Director, Technical Support Office Europe and Eurasia Bureau

Date 6/9/2020

Distribution:

IEE file MEO (to also provide a copy to AOR/COR)

Annex A: Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool
### Annex A: Climate Risk Screening and Management Tool for Citizen Engagement Activity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.1: Defined or Anticipated Tasks or Interventions</th>
<th>1.2: Time-frame</th>
<th>1.3: Geography</th>
<th>2: Climate Risks</th>
<th>3: Adaptive Capacity</th>
<th>4: Climate Risk Rating [High, Moderate, or Low]</th>
<th>5: Opportunities</th>
<th>6: Climate Risk Management Options</th>
<th>6.2: How Climate Risks Are Addressed in the Activity</th>
<th>7: Next Steps for Activity Implementation</th>
<th>8: Accepted Climate Risks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>OBJECTIVE 1:</strong> Constituency engagement:</td>
<td>FY20 – FY25</td>
<td>Kosovo wide</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>None that are relevant to this activity</td>
<td>Collect data on environment-climate risk related drivers during engagement of different stakeholders if present</td>
<td>Project will work with the different groups of interest in Kosovo to engage citizens</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directly engage citizens in setting priorities and implementing initiatives to ensure that their voices are heard.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OBJECTIVE 2:</strong> Social trust:</td>
<td>FY20 – FY25</td>
<td>Kosovo wide</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>None that are relevant to this activity</td>
<td>Collect data on environment-climate risk related drivers during engagement of different stakeholders if present</td>
<td>Project will work with the different groups of interest in Kosovo to engage citizens</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen partnerships between civil society, private sector actors, and government on issues related to advancing the people-centered solutions and engages in strategic ways citizens and community-based organization.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBJECTIVE 3: Diversification of Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSOs connect with others and engage government, citizens, the private sector, and diaspora to support citizen causes and address economic and social challenges.</td>
<td>FY20 – FY25</td>
<td>Kosovo wide</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Collect data on environment-climate risk related drivers during engagement of different stakeholders if present</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The activity may look for opportunities for resources mobilization to address community needs and citizen-driven priorities.</td>
<td>None that are relevant to this activity</td>
<td>Project will work with the different groups of interest in Kosovo to engage citizens</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>