



**United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Sri Lanka & Maldives
Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE)**

Program/Project/Activity Data:

Activity/Project Name:	Evaluations and Program Design and Learning (PD&L)	
Assistance Objective:	All Development Objectives managed by USAID Sri Lanka and Maldives with respect to Foreign Assistance Objective Program Design and Oversight	
Program Area:	PO.1.Program Design and Learning PO.3.Evaluation	
Country:	Sri Lanka	
Originating Office:	Program Office drafted by Sonali Thahir	Date: November 8, 2016
PAD Level RCE: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	DCN of Original RCE/IEE:	
RCE/IEE Amendment: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	DCN of Amendment(s):	
Supplemental RCE: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
If Yes, Purpose of Amendment:		
DCN(s) of Related EA/IEE/RCE/ER(s):		
Implementation Start/End:	FY 2017	FY 2020
Funding Amount:	\$ 4,200,000	LOP Amount: \$ 4,500,000
Contract/Award Number (if known):		
IEE Expiration Date (if any):	End FY 2020	
Recommended Determination: Categorical Exclusion		
Additional Elements:		
Government to Government: <input type="checkbox"/> Local Procurement: <input type="checkbox"/> Donor Co-Funded: <input type="checkbox"/>		
Climate Change:		
<input type="checkbox"/> GCC/Adaption <input type="checkbox"/> GCC/Mitigation <input type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis (included)		
Adaptation/Mitigation Measures: Not applicable, based on climate resilience analysis at CDCS level activities will not have climate impacts/GHG emission and will not be affected by GCC.		

1. Project and Activity Description

The goal of PD&L is to support USAID/Sri Lanka in the areas of evaluations and program design and learning. PD&L activities include development and conduct of needs assessments, including environmental and social impact assessments and climate risk analysis, baseline studies, targeted evaluations, special studies, or other information- gathering efforts specifically for the design, monitoring, and evaluation of USG-funded programs. PD&L activities may also include developing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned, testing demonstrations and/or pilot models, or the preparation of strategic plans and other short-term programming tasks. USAID/Sri Lanka principally uses PD&L for assessments, studies, program design, and preparation of strategic plans.

It is anticipated that USAID/Sri Lanka's new Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) (2017 – 2020) will be approved late 2016. The Mission has planned several evaluation and other PD&L activities during the new CDCS period. To avoid delays and the preparation of duplicate paperwork that would occur if individual (Initial Environmental Examination (IEEs) were to be drafted and approved in Washington for each individual Evaluation and PD&L activity, it is appropriate to put into place an IEE for multiple years that will cover Evaluation and PD&L activities that would be eligible for categorical exclusion.

The Mission's plans to conduct at least one evaluation per large activity through the systematic collection and analysis of information about the characteristics and outcomes of programs and projects as a basis for judgments, to improve effectiveness and inform decisions about current and future programming. In FY 2017, the mission has planned for three evaluations. The knowledge gained from evidence and analysis will be used to improve development outcomes and ensure accountability for the resources used to achieve them.

2. Justification for Categorical Exclusion Determination

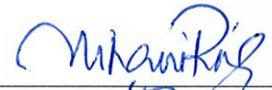
The activities under the Evaluation and PD & L will not have an effect on the natural or physical environment and are among the classes of activities listed in 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2). Therefore, under §216.2(c)(1), neither an IEE nor an (Environmental Assessments (EA) will be required for these activities. Instead, a categorical exclusion threshold determination is recommended.

3. Revisions

Pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(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," or if additional activities are proposed that might be considered "major" and their effects significant, this IEE will be reviewed and revised by the originator of the project and submitted to the Asia Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO/Asia) for approval and, if appropriate, an environmental assessment will be prepared. It is the responsibility of the USAID/Sri Lanka and Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) to keep the Mission Environmental Officer and the BEO/Asia informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of this RCE.

Approval : w/edits  11/08/2016
Thomas Bayer , (A) Mission Director Date

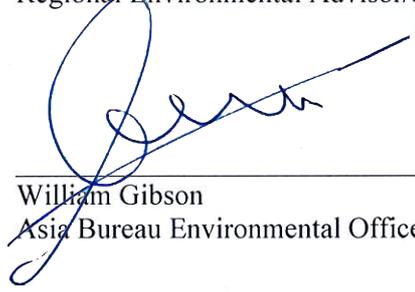
Clearance:  11/8/2016
Elizabeth Davnie-Easton Program Officer Date

Clearance: 
Nihani Riza Mission Environmental Officer/ Susan Gonzalez Deputy Mission Environmental Officer Date

Clearance:  11/7/16
Sonali Thahir, AOR/COR Program Office Date

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Concurrence: By email Nov 7, 2016
Andrei Barannik Date
Regional Environmental Advisor/SCA & OAPA

Concurrence:  11/10/16
William Gibson Date
Asia Bureau Environmental Officer

Distribution:
Project File
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