

**INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION
AMENDMENT 1**

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY DATA:

Acquisition: Task Order

Countries: Middle East Regional

Program: Local Solutions to Address Transition and Security Challenges in the Middle East

Time Period: August 2013- August 2019

Funding begins: FY2013

Funding Ends: FY2017

LOP Amounts: \$8,493,576

IEE prepared by: Alexandra Hadzi-Vidanovic

Date: October 14, 2016

IEE Amendment (Y/N): Y

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION RECOMMENDED: (Place X where applicable)

Categorical Exclusion: X Negative Determination: X
Positive Determination: Deferral:

ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS: (Place X where applicable)

CONDITIONS X PVO/NGO:

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS & RECOMMENDED THRESHOLD DECISION

This amendment reflects a cost and time extension for the task order, extending it until August 2019 and increasing the ceiling by approximately \$1.6 million. The scope has also changed, as a small-scale renovation component has been added. Activities under the small-scale renovation component may include basic rehabilitation of schools, playgrounds, youth centers, or community centers as requested by the community or may support civic groups to develop safe public spaces and improve basic infrastructure.

A **Negative Determination with Conditions**, pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(3) is recommended for construction and/or rehabilitation of small-scale infrastructure. Conditions include the use of

best engineering practices as set forth in *Africa Bureau's environmental guidelines for small-scale activities in Africa*. See Section 4.1 for additional conditions.

- o Mitigation measures include: an EMMP will be reviewed and approved by the AOR and MEO for any repair and/or rehabilitation activities prior to commencing works. If confirmed, a scoping statement and environmental assessment will be done the implementer prior to the start of activities. Terms of Reference for the scoping statement must be reviewed by the MEO and approved by the BEO. The implementer(s) will ensure that equipment is used in an environmentally sound and safe manner and properly disposed of at the end of its useful life. A clause requiring an EMMP will be included in the task order.

A **Categorical Exclusion** pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c) (2), is recommended per:

- a) 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(i) for activities involving training and technical assistance;
- b) 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(iii) for activities involving analyses, studies, assessments, workshops, consultations and meetings;
- c) 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(v) for activities involving document and information transfers; and
- d) 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(xiv) for activities that include studies, projects or programs intended to develop the capacity of recipient country and organizations to engage in development planning.

BACKGROUND

1. Introduction

USAID Middle East (ME) Bureau is building capacity in countering conflict and violent extremism in response to the dynamic security landscape in the Middle East. To address this regional landscape and heightened U.S. engagement – particularly with the new Interagency Sahel-Maghreb Strategy – the ME Office of Technical Support (ME/TS) / Democracy, Governance, Peace, and Security Team (DGPS) is establishing a mechanism to enhance our tools in this area.

USAID re-oriented its programming to support political reform efforts and mitigate conflicts emerging in the region following the Arab Awakening and consistent with the Middle East North Africa Presidential Policy guidance in 2011. This shift was not directly targeted at countering conflict and violent extremism, as that threat was not then considered severe enough to warrant specific programming in MENA. However, USAID's reform and transition-related work does address some of the structural conditions that create an enabling environment for violent extremism and insurgency to grow. These investments indirectly address some of the root causes of extremism by improving livelihoods, providing constructive opportunities for youth, and fostering transparent and inclusive governance.

USAID in MENA has a limited number of programs that specifically target countering violent extremism (CVE), funded largely through the Trans-Sahara Counter Terrorism Partnership (TSCTP). USAID is seeking to advance our capabilities in this area and, in particular the

Maghreb-Sahel Strategy, by building upon the significant experience USAID has in addressing extremism in the Sahel.

Best practices in CVE programming highlight the need to invest early in analysis that identifies with more precision the essence of the perceived problem(s) and appropriate responses to address them. Guiding this process is USAID's *Development Response to Violent Extremism and Insurgency* (VE/I) policy of September 2011. It is an integral component of the interagency response to complex national security and development challenges. This policy not only focuses on prevention, but also directs USAID to identify whether an appropriate development response exists to the VE threat or risk and, if so, to design programming to address the drivers of VE uncovered.

2. Objective and Activities

The goal of this activity is to gain a better understanding of the dynamic nature of conflict and violent extremism in the Middle East and how development can play a role in preventing or mitigating conflict and violent extremism. This task order will enhance the ability of ME/TS to better assess and respond to these highly salient Democracy and Governance (DG) and Peace and Security (PS) issues. The activity will contribute to USAID and broader U.S. government (USG) strategic thinking, planning and programming.

Activities include the following:

- Undertake analytic work. Conduct assessments, strategies, studies, mapping and analysis of the drivers of conflict and violent extremism (VE) in various countries in the Middle East and North Africa, with a focus on those countries in which we have programs.
- Undertake pilot programs. Work on a bilateral and multicounty basis to engage civil society, communities, and formal and informal governing actors to better address conflict and VE issues in their communities. Activities may include cross border exchanges, networking, and capacity building among key local stakeholders. Illustrative examples include strengthening the capacity of local governments to identify and address causes of conflict and extremism; strengthening the capacity of civil society to contribute to peace-building and the reduction of extremism, and enhancing traditional mechanisms of community participation

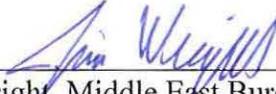
3. Revisions

As with all USAID-funded projects, and pursuant to 22 CFR 216.3(a)(9), if new information becomes available which indicates that any of the proposed actions to be funded by this activity might be "major" and their effects "significant," the threshold decision for the actions listed above will be reviewed and revised by the originator(s) of the program and projects and submitted through the Regional Environmental Officer (REO) to the Bureau Environmental Officers (BEO) for the Middle East for approval and, if warranted, an environmental assessment will be prepared, as appropriate. It is the responsibility of the A/COR to keep the REO and the BEO informed of any new information or changes in the activity that might require revision of the IEE. The total amount for construction will be approximately \$500,000 or less.

DRAFTED BY: Alexandra Hadzi-Vidanovic, MEO, MERP

CLEARANCE:

ME/TS Director: _____

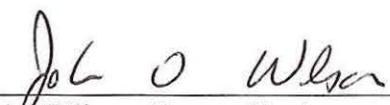

Jim Wright, Middle East Bureau,
Director, Office of Technical Support

Date: _____

11/14/16

CONCURRENCE:

ME: _____


John Wilson, Bureau Environmental Officer, Middle East

Date: _____

11/14/16

ADDITIONAL CLEARANCES:

April Hahn, MER

OK

Date: 10/21/16

Chris Saenger, MERP

OK

Date: 10/20/16

Joseph Scheibel, USAID/TUNIS

OK

Date: 10/20/16

Christine Katin

OK

Date: 11/4/16



Rachel Goldberg <rgoldberg@usaid.gov>

Request for Clearance: Tunisia & Regional IEE

Joseph Scheibel <jscheibel@usaid.gov>

Thu, Oct 20, 2016 at 7:42 AM

To: Alexandra Hadzi-Vidanovic <ahadzi-vidanovic@usaid.gov>

Cc: John Wilson <jwilson@usaid.gov>, Rachel Goldberg <rgoldberg@usaid.gov>, April Hahn <ahahn@usaid.gov>

Hi Alex,

MEGA thanks from Tunis for putting these together. I clear on both, though two small typo catches in the Accountable Governance IEE - highlighted in attached doc.

Very best,

-Joe

[Quoted text hidden]

Joseph A. Scheibel

Democracy and Governance Officer

USAID-Tunisia

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JScheibel@usaid.gov

 **IEETunisiaDO2 js.docx**
22K



Rachel Goldberg <rgoldberg@usaid.gov>

Request for Clearance

Christine Katin <ckatin@usaid.gov>
To: Rachel Goldberg <rgoldberg@usaid.gov>
Cc: April Hahn <ahahn@usaid.gov>

Fri, Nov 4, 2016 at 5:47 PM

Hi Rachel,

Thanks for the information and clarification. I clear.

I still recommend that you add language in the background section under "objective and activities," on the small-scale infra to provide a little more context. Let me know if you have any questions.

Have a nice weekend,
Christine
[Quoted text hidden]



Rachel Goldberg <rgoldberg@usaid.gov>

Request for Clearance: Tunisia & Regional IEE

Christopher Saenger <csaenger@usaid.gov>

Thu, Oct 20, 2016 at 11:46 AM

To: Rachel Goldberg <rgoldberg@usaid.gov>

Cc: Cristina Drost <cdrost@usaid.gov>, Jacqueline Greene <jagreene@usaid.gov>

Thanks Rachel,

Here are some edits from me on the IEEs. Nothing major. I clear both.

Also attaching a couple memo formats to use for the approval. One is the recent UNIDO II. You can ignore the ADS 308 stuff since this isn't a PIO. The ADS 201 template is also attached and represents the minimum requirements, which is always helpful to see when very busy!

I'll make a few edits to the pre-ob checklist Google Doc too. Some of the responses are aimed at the overall COVE mechanism, not this Tunisia activity within it.

Let me know if you have any questions. And thanks for carrying so much of the load on all of the DO documentation!

—

Chris Saenger
 USAID Middle East Regional Platform
 csaenger@usaid.gov
 SaengerCD@state.sgov.gov
 +49 69 7535-2596

On Wed, Oct 19, 2016 at 11:55 PM, Rachel Goldberg <rgoldberg@usaid.gov> wrote:

Hi Chris,

Here are the attachments!

Best,
 Rachel

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rachel Goldberg** <rgoldberg@usaid.gov>

Date: Wed, Oct 19, 2016 at 4:54 PM

Subject: Re: Request for Clearance: Tunisia & Regional IEE

To: Joseph Scheibel <jscheibel@usaid.gov>, Alexandra Hadzi-Vidanovic <ahadzi-vidanovic@usaid.gov>

Cc: April Hahn <ahahn@usaid.gov>

Hi Joe, Alex and Chris,

Would you be able to review and provide clearance on the attached IEEs?

Best,
 Rachel

On Wed, Oct 19, 2016 at 4:53 PM, Rachel Goldberg <rgoldberg@usaid.gov> wrote:

Thanks John! Will do.

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

4 attachments

UNIDOIIActionMemo - [adadpted for TYCRA].docx
 54K