



LAC-IEE-17-10

**ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION
Request for Categorical Exclusion**

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| Activity Location: | Haiti |
| Activity Title: | Post-Return Humanitarian Assistance to Deportees Program |
| Activity Number: | Unspecified |
| Life-of-Activity Funding: | \$1 Million |
| Life-of-Activity: | December 1, 2016 – May 31, 2017 |
| IEE Prepared by: | Gerard Fontain, Senior Rule of Law Advisor, USAID/Haiti |
| Reference Env. Threshold Decisions: | None |
| Recommended Threshold Decision: | Categorical Exclusion |
| Bureau Threshold Decision: | Concur |

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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, as well as recommended Threshold Decisions, for the activities detailed below. The Threshold Decisions based on this document, are formal Agency decisions on whether the proposed actions are major actions significantly affecting the environment, and therefore, provides a brief statement of the factual basis as to whether an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement is required for the activities managed under the scope of this document.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The Government of Haiti (GoH)'s National Office for Migration (ONM) is the primary agency responsible for providing reception and reintegration assistance to Haitian migrants. However given ONM's limited financial and operational capacities to handle migrant repatriation without assistance, and the particular vulnerabilities of the repatriated migrants, the International Office of Migration (IOM) has started to assist ONM in welcoming the migrants repatriated from the US in November 2016. USAID intends to fund IOM to provide the following services:

- a) Transportation assistance from the point of entry to ONM's Reception Center;
- b) Food, water and basic over the counter medicine to beneficiaries upon arrival and during their stay at ONM's Reception Center;
- c) Temporary accommodation in ONM's Reception Center;
- d) Arrival kits for beneficiaries (including hygienic kits);
- e) Onward transportation assistance (\$100) to each returnee who wish to relocate to their communities or other regions in Haiti.

Should this grant be approved, IOM will be able to continue to provide that humanitarian assistance to Haitian deportees while building the technical capacities of ONM throughout the upcoming six months.

ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

A **Categorical Exclusion** is issued to USAID/Haiti's Post-Return Humanitarian Assistance to Deportees Program pursuant to CFR 216.2(c)(2): Support the Reception and Reintegration of Returnees from the US.

JUSTIFICATION FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REQUEST

IOM will be providing basic over-the-counter medicine, and welcome hygienic kits containing personal care products to the returnees upon their arrival, and during their very short stay at ONM's Reception Center. These services are considered nutrition and health care-related services as such the IO activities met the categorical exclusion of 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(viii). Such personal care items and over-the-counter medicines will not have an effect on the natural or physical environment. Moreover, USAID does not have control over the personal care items to be provided to the returnees and how they will be used once the returnees will be relocated into their community of origin.

CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

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, Regional Environmental Advisor, and Bureau Environmental Officer for approval and, if appropriate, an environmental assessment will be prepared.

Signed



Date Nov. 30, 2016

Diana Shannon
Bureau Environmental Officer
Bureau for Latin America & the Caribbean

Copy to:

Jene Thomas Mission Director
Veena Reddy, DMD
Jennifer Graetz, PCPS
Gerard Fontain, Democracy and Governance
Abdel Abellard, Dep MEO

Copy to:

Robert Clausen, Regional Environmental
Advisor, USAID/DR

Copy to:

Belinda Bernard, Gene George, LAC/CAR
Todd Anderson, LAC/SPO

Copy to:

IEE File



Request for Categorical Exclusion

Activity Location: Haiti

Activity Title: Post-Return Humanitarian Assistance to Deportees Program.

Activity Number: Unspecified

Life-of-Activity Funding: \$1 Million

Life-of-Activity: December 1, 2016– May 31, 2017

Reference Threshold Decision: Not applicable

IEE Prepared by: Gerard Fontain, Senior Rule of Law Advisor, USAID/Haiti

Date Prepared: November 23, 2016

Recommended Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion

1. BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

All USAID activities and activity extensions or amendments must have an environmental review prior to the irreversible obligation of funds per USAID’s Environmental Procedures as codified in 22 CFR 216.

Following the recent raise of illegal Haitian migrants to several Latin American countries, and to the United States, the US, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced in September 2016, the reinstatement of Haitian deportations which were temporarily suspended after the 2010 earthquake. Subsequent to this announcement, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) initiated the first series of deportations of Haitians migrants to Haiti in November 2016. As of November 23, 2016 three returnees’ flights from the US to Haiti were completed. Each of these flights had approximately 22 to 30 repatriated migrants mostly coming from Alexandria, Louisiana. According to ICE, this repatriation process will continue throughout a six month period. Representatives from the agency also estimate that that over 3,240 deportees (135 per week) will be repatriated to Haiti during that period.

The Government of Haiti (GoH)'s National Office for Migration (ONM) is the primary agency responsible for providing reception and reintegration assistance to Haitian migrants. However given ONM's limited financial and operational capacities to handle migrant repatriation without assistance, and the particular vulnerabilities of the repatriated migrants, International Office of Migration (IOM) has started to assist ONM in welcoming the migrants repatriated from the US in November 2016 by providing a): Transportation assistance from the point of entry to ONM's Reception Center; b) Food, water and basic over the counter medicine to beneficiaries upon arrival and during their stay at ONM's Reception Center; c) Temporary accommodation in ONM's Reception Center; d) Arrival kits for beneficiaries (including NFI and hygiene kits); e) Onward transportation assistance (\$100) to each returnees who wish to relocate to their communities or other regions in Haiti. Should this grant be approved, IOM will be able to continue to provide that humanitarian assistance to Haitian deportees while building the technical capacities of ONM throughout the upcoming six months.

2. JUSTIFICATION FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REQUEST

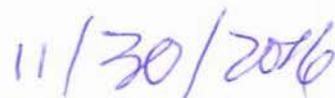
IOM will be providing basic over-the-counter medicine, and welcome hygienic kits containing personal care products to the returnees upon their arrival, and during their very short stay at ONM's Reception Center. These services are considered nutrition and health care-related services as such the IO activities met the categorical exclusion of 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2)(viii). Such personal care items and over-the-counter medicines will not have an effect on the natural or physical environment. Moreover, USAID does not have control over the personal care items to be provided to the returnees and how they will be used once the returnees will be relocated into their community of origin.

Approved:



Jene Thomas, Mission Director
USAID/Haiti

Date



11/30/2016

Clearance Page: Categorical Exclusion Request for
Post-Return Humanitarian Assistance to Deportees Program.

DG/GFontain: 

Date: 11/29/2016

PCPS/JGraetz: 

Date: 11/29/16

MEO/AAbellard: 

Date: 11/30/2016

REA/RClausen: 

Date: 11/30/2016

DMD/VReddy: 

Date: 11/30/16