



LAC-IEE-04-14

## ENVIRONMENTAL THRESHOLD DECISION

<b>Project Location:</b>	Guyana
<b>Project Title:</b>	HIV Transmission Reduced and Impact of AIDS Mitigated
<b>Project Number:</b>	504-005
<b>Funding:</b>	US\$ 21,000,000
<b>Life of Project:</b>	2004- 2008
<b>IEE Prepared by:</b>	Jeffrey Miller, REA (Caribbean) Chloe Noble, USAID/Guyana
<b>Recommended Threshold Decision:</b>	Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination with conditions
<b>Bureau Threshold Decision:</b>	Concur with Recommendation

### Comments:

Most components of this program are essentially training, counseling and technical assistance, having no negative impact on the physical environment or posing any significant risk on the welfare of the surrounding community as well as non-target organisms. But since the project will deal with medical wastes, all mitigative measures, guidelines, and best management practices (BMPs) for medical waste handling and disposal as outlined in the "2002 Environmental Guidelines for Development Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean (Task order no. 1627)" must be strictly implemented. Note, this document was prepared for USAID/LAC Bureau under the Environmental Policy and Institutional Strengthening Indefinite Quantity Contract (EPIQ).

USAID recognizes the capacity of Family Health International, John Snow Inc., the Guyana Ministry of Health, and Population Services International to implement BMPs and to mitigate potential environmental consequences resulting from activities that

produce medical waste and its subsequent disposal. The applicability of the Environmental Guidelines to such activities will be evaluated prior to initiating activities by the USAID/Guyana HIV/AIDS technical advisor and the REA. The evaluation shall (1) include an assessment of the implementing partner's capacity to adhere to the guidelines, and (2) establish a monitoring protocol for tracking the effectiveness of the guidelines. All partners will adopt a proactive approach to responsible environmental management.

### **Threshold Decision**

A **Categorical Exclusion** is issued for those proposed activities involving education, technical assistance, training and others identified in Addendum #1 to Project Number 504-005 since they will not have an impact on the environment. This recommendation is pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i), (iii), (v), and (xiv).

A **Negative Determination, with conditions** is issued for on-the-ground activities involving the handling and disposal of medical and sanitary waste within project areas. The condition is that all best management practices (BMPs), mitigative measures, and guidelines recommended by the "2002 Environmental Guidelines" will be implemented. The objective of the environmental guidelines is to provide a framework for identification and mitigation of the environmental impacts that could be associated with sub-agreement activities.

Date March 23, 2004

George R. Thompson, P.E.  
Acting Bureau Environmental Officer  
Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

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Copy to : IEE File

Attachment: IEE

**INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXAMINATION**  
Project Number 504-005

Project Location: Guyana

Project Title: HIV Transmission Reduced and Impact of AIDS Mitigated

Project Number: 504-005

Funding: US\$ 21,000,000

Life of Project: 2004- 2008

IEE Prepared by: Jeffrey Miller, REA (Caribbean)  
Chloe Noble, USAID/Guyana

Clearance: Jeffrey Miller, REA (Caribbean)

Recommended Threshold Decision: Categorical Exclusion/Negative Determination with conditions

CONCURRENCE

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Slater  
HIV/AIDS Technical Advisor  
USAID/Guyana

MISSION DIRECTOR'S  
DECISION

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Sarhan

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

LAC BUREAU  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
OFFICER'S DECISION

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
George Thompson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Background**

On January 28, 2003 President Bush announced an Emergency Plan to turn the tide of HIV/AIDS through an initiative called: President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). PEPFAR is a five year, \$15 billion program, from which \$9 billion in new money and up to \$1 billion will be granted to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM). PEPFAR encompasses HIV/AIDS activities in more than seventy-five countries worldwide, and seeks to develop comprehensive and integrated prevention, care, and in an historic way, treatment programs in fourteen focus countries in Africa and the Caribbean, including Guyana.

PEPFAR builds on existing national, USG and international programs. It sets aggressive goals for these fourteen focus countries that speak clearly to the HIV/AIDS emergency by preventing 7 million new infections, treating 2 million HIV infected people with anti-retroviral therapy, caring for 10 million HIV infected individuals and AIDS orphans. These fourteen countries have among the highest prevalence of HIV infection and account for nearly 20 million HIV infected men, women, and children – almost seventy percent of the total in all of Africa and the Caribbean.

## **Program Description**

The goal of the Mission's HIV/AIDS Objective (SO #504-005) is "HIV Transmission Reduced and Impact of AIDS Mitigated".

Epidemiological conditions in Guyana suggest that the country may be poised for rapid spread of HIV through the population, however with seroprevalence still believed to be below 5 percent, Guyana has a unique opportunity to prevent the emergence of a full-scale epidemic, such as that in sub-Saharan Africa. Accumulated evidence and experience suggest that a strategy which focuses on *reducing risky behaviors among sero-positive persons and highly vulnerable populations* is likely to be most effective in limiting the overall extent and consequences of the epidemic. Implementation of such a strategy requires addressing the variety of individual, social, and environmental factors which affect opportunity, readiness, or willingness of vulnerable populations to change their high-risk behavior. The planned HIV/AIDS strategy addresses these issues in a comprehensive and synergistic fashion.

SO #504-005 has four intermediate results: 1) Improved Policy Coordination and Management, 2) Increased Use of Risk Reduction Practices by Most Vulnerable Populations, 3) Increased Use of Prevention and Treatment Services, and 4) Increased Use of Community-Based Care and Support Services.

Drawing on experience in Guyana and elsewhere, USAID/Guyana will undertake a targeted approach designed to reach population groups whose high-risk behaviors and/or special vulnerabilities make them more likely to contract and transmit HIV.

## **Program Implementation**

SO #504-005 will be managed by one USPSC, assisted by one FSNPSC in the position of Program Assistant, in coordinating and supervising the work of implementing partners.

Family Health International provides technical assistance in the area of communications and John Snow Inc. provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Health's (MOH) Materials Management Unit, by strengthening the central warehouse and improving commodity logistics, which includes condoms. Population Services International (PSI) implements a condom social marketing project. In addition, in 2002 a local CPA firm was contracted to manage NGO grants, thus increasing financial transfers and cutting overhead costs. USAID has also provided a University of Michigan Fellow to the Ministry of Health to work with the new inter-ministerial healthy youth initiative. These relationships will continue into December 2004. Under the new program, implementation will be decided after a competitive bidding process has been completed and partners are identified.

## **Description of Environmental Impact**

Most components of this program are essentially training, counseling and technical assistance, having no negative impact on the physical environment or posing any significant risk on the welfare of the surrounding community as well as non-target organisms. Nevertheless, the REA recommends that all mitigative measures, guidelines, and best management practices (BMPs) for medical waste handling and disposal as outlined in the "2002 Environmental Guidelines for Development Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean (Task order no. 1627)" be strictly implemented. Note, this document was prepared for USAID/LAC Bureau under the Environmental Policy and Institutional Strengthening Indefinite Quantity Contract (EPIQ).

USAID recognizes the capacity of Family Health International, John Snow Inc., the Guyana Ministry of Health, and Population Services International to implement BMPs and to mitigate potential environmental consequences resulting from activities that produce medical waste and its subsequent disposal. The applicability of the Environmental Guidelines to such activities will be evaluated prior to initiating activities by the USAID/Guyana HIV/AIDS technical advisor and the REA. The evaluation shall (1) include an assessment of the implementing partner's capacity to adhere to the guidelines, and (2) establish a monitoring protocol for tracking the effectiveness of the guidelines. All partners will adopt a proactive approach to responsible environmental management.

## **Recommendations for Threshold Decision**

A **Categorical Exclusion** is recommended to those proposed activities involving education, technical assistance, training and others identified in Addendum #1 to Project

Number 504-005 since they will not have an impact on the environment. This recommendation is pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2 (c)(2)(i), (iii), (v), and (xiv).

A **Negative Determination, with conditions** is recommended to on-the-ground activities involving the handling and disposal of medical and sanitary waste within project areas. All best management practices (BMPs), mitigative measures, and guidelines recommended by the “2002 Environmental Guidelines” will be implemented. The objective of the environmental guidelines is to provide a framework for identification and mitigation of the environmental impacts that could be associated with Track 1.5 sub-agreement activities.