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Environmental Monitoring in Hard to Access Locations

Sector mini-session

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USAID Guidance on Monitoring in High Threat Environments

- **ADS 202.3.6.4:**
 - *“USAID DO teams managing activities in high threat environments may... utilize one or more of the following methods...”*
 - *Require photographic evidence;*
 - *Utilize local and/or third party monitoring;*
 - *Engage other USG agencies;*
 - *Use other technology for consultation or oversight;*
 - *Establish flexible targets and results*
- **Fact sheet – Iraq:**
http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00j4k8.pdf

Example: Independent Monitoring in High Threat Environments

- Provide immediate feedback either during implementation or following completion of an activity.
- Report observations, with photos -> USAID and project staff can verify and identify other monitoring issues and evaluate.
- Provide impartial assessment of projects, verify outputs, gather data on outcomes (e.g., community sentiment), & deter/identified fraud, waste, abuse.
- Could be used to make adjustments to implementation methods and provide guidance on best practices moving forward.

Environmental Monitoring in Crisis Situations

Example: Independent Monitoring in High Threat Environments

- From an IMU report:
- *“observed that the quality of materials used in the scheme was good, mountain quarry and available rounded stones in the nearby stream were used ...”*
- IMU may not have ideal skill set for complete monitoring, but with instruction, can collect the right kinds of info to be useful.
- For example, detailed explanation and photos allowed project staff to identify issues that the IMU did not realize.
 - Rocks collected for a flood protection wall were extracted from a nearby river. This may have been against local law.
 - Photos showed that the wall had large gaps which may limit its effectiveness.



Wire mesh size is visible in the picture



Example: Afghanistan

- “A project level multi-tiered monitoring overview that tailors the Mission multi-tiered monitoring approach is also required as part of the [PAD-level] M&E Plan. It positions each COR/AOR to gather and analyze monitoring data from various monitoring actors, triangulate data to ensure confidence in the reporting, and use the results to make programmatic decisions.”
- Tiers:
 - Tier 1: USG (USAID and other agencies)
 - Tier 2: Implementing Partners
 - Tier 3: GIRoA (internal M&E systems, observation) and other donors,
 - Tier 4: Civil society, local organizations, and beneficiaries
 - Tier 5: Independent Monitoring Contractors
- Integration of environmental monitoring into tiers



Example: Transition Initiative Somalia (TIS)

- 3rd party M&E contract with a task order for environmental compliance.
- TIS developed an Environmental Compliance Tool for 3rd party monitors to use in verifying environmental compliance of IPs → Compare EMMP and ERF with what is on the ground.
- Partners report on environmental monitoring in quarterly reports using USAID provided template.
- “The tool is flexible and amended based on field needs.”