

Session 6. Effective IEEs.

(:55)

Objective

Initial Environmental Examinations (IEEs) are USAID's version of the preliminary assessment and the most common type of Reg. 216 documentation.

Understand the basic structure of an IEE and the characteristics of well-written, well-considered IEEs by critiquing draft IEEs based on the field visits.

Format

Briefing (:25)

Group Exercise (:30)

Background/Review

A well-considered, well-written IEE is the basis of good mitigation and monitoring and the foundation of the LOP compliance process.

The responsibility for assuring that good-quality environmental documentation is developed lies with team leaders, A/CORs, and activity managers—this is true even when a 3rd-party contractor or the implementing partner develops the IEE.

Again, **Reg. 216 documentation is developed by Mission staff, Partners or contractors**, depending on the situation:

- Most IEEs that cover a Mission's sector portfolio (sector- or DO-level IEEs) are developed by Mission staff or 3rd-party contractors.
- Partners are often asked to develop Reg. 216 documentation for new project components.
- 3rd-party contractors are almost always engaged to undertake EAs.

But when the IEE is approved, USAID takes ownership for the content---no matter who wrote it.

In the Mission, the MEO should serve key roles as (1) a resource for Reg. 216 documentation development; (2) reviewer/gatekeeper for this documentation.

Summary

In this session, we discuss the characteristics of effective IEEs and summarize and consider common shortfalls encountered by REAs and BEOs during the review cycle. Following this discussion, we introduce and review the AFR's draft template for complex IEEs.

Effective IEEs are well-considered and well-written. Such IEEs:

1. Address the full scope of proposed activities
2. Characterize the aspects of the baseline situation critical to evaluating the significance of impacts
3. Identify and adequately evaluate key potential impacts.

4. Set out mitigation measures that are (1) adequate and (2) *within the scope of USAID's reasonable authority*. (For example, we cannot impose conditions on actors over whom USAID has no control.)
5. Make recommended determinations that are reasonable, defensible and in accordance with Reg. 216.
6. Use clear, uncluttered language and parallel organization in the presentation of activities, analysis of impacts, and recommended determinations.