

Session 7. Effective IEEs

Objective

Understand the basic structure of an IEE and the characteristics of well-written, well-considered IEEs by critiquing draft IEEs based observations from the virtual field visit.

Background/Review

A well-considered, well-written IEE is the basis of good mitigation and monitoring and the foundation of the Life of Project (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.

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 build and practice skills to evaluate IEE quality, including whether recommended determinations and conditions are appropriate.

To do this, we continue the exercise we began in Sessions 4 and 5. A consultant has now delivered a draft IEE amendment covering a new project component. (The original IEE covering the project did not include this component.) Informed by your virtual field visit, you must evaluate the draft IEE.

Effective IEEs must:

1. Address the full scope of proposed activities described in the activity briefing;
2. Characterize the aspects of the baseline conditions 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*;
5. Make recommended determinations that are reasonable, defensible and in accordance with Reg. 216;
6. Use clear, uncluttered language and organization in the presentation of activities, analysis of impacts, and recommended determinations.

Instructions.

Individually, read the draft IEE (in simplified bullet-point form) on the following pages. As a group, and based on your knowledge of the activities from our virtual field visit, critique the IEE against the criteria for effective IEEs set out above. We will briefly report-out on these critiques in plenary.