Session 2.
Environmental Compliance for Environmentally Sound Design and Management (ESDM).

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Objectives

▪ Achieve a common understanding of "environment."

▪ Understand the basic compliance requirements established by USAID's environmental procedures over life of project, and the legal origin of these procedures.

▪ Understand by example the need for a formal, systematic pre-implementation environmental review process to prevent "environmental failures" in development activities.

▪ Understand Environmentally Sound Design & Management as a necessary and explicit objective for effective development.

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Format

Presentation, solicitation of participant experiences, and short video.

Important note

Note that in this workshop, the term "USAID Environmental Procedures" does not refer only to 22 CFR 216 (Reg. 216), but collectively to Reg. 216, relevant Foreign Assistance Act requirements, and to the mandatory procedures and directives contained in the USAID's Automated Directive System (ADS), which establishes mandatory USAID operating procedures..

Summary

This session will:

▪ Develop a common understanding of the term "environment."

▪ Highlight some of the "big picture" environmental trends affecting human health and livelihoods in the Middle East, including Global Climate Change; and show that much of USAID's portfolio in the region is a direct response to—or directly affected by—these trends. In this sense, we all work in the "environment and development" area.

▪ Note that there is another dimension to the "environment and development" issue that is the primary concern of this workshop: the potential adverse effects of development activities *on the* environment.

• Establish that USAID has a formal, mandatory set of environmental procedures whose purpose is to identify potential adverse effects in advance of implementation, and mitigate them during design and implementation.

• Summarize these procedures, noting:

  o They are *required by both court settlement and US law* to utilize an EIA-based process to "fully take into account" environmental sustainability in designing and carrying out its development programs:

o   They specify an Environmental Impact Assessment process that must be applied to all activities **before** implementation.

o   The output of this process, defined by 22 CFR 216 (Reg. 216), is approved Reg. 216 documentation (Requests for Categorical Exclusion, Initial Environmental Examinations (IEEs), and Environmental Assessments (EAs)).

o   Most IEEs and all EAs specify environmental management conditions (mitigative measures).

o   These measures ("IEE/EA conditions") must be implemented and monitored over the life of the activity (or life of project, LOP). Such implementation is the responsibility of the IP.

o   C/AORs have are required to actively manage and monitor compliance with IEE/EA conditions. This requires that IPs *report* on their implementation of these conditions.

▪ By example, demonstrate that these formal, systematic procedures are needed because otherwise "environmental failures" in development activities are easy and too common.

▪ Establish that as development professional we must be AWARE of the potential adverse impacts of development activities on ecosystems, environmental resources and environmental quality; and the need to PROACTIVELY seek to limit these adverse impacts, particularly where they affect health and livelihoods—in short that environmentally sound design and management (ESDM) is a necessary and explicit objective for effective development, and that ESDM requires systematic and explicit attention over life-of-project.