Session 21. (0:30)
"Way Forward" Plenary Discussion

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Objectives
Take stock of gaps between LOP environmental compliance requirements and operational reality.
Identify key messages to and actions for mission and IP management to help address these gaps.

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Format

0:10   Stage-setting and quick straw-poll

0:20   Plenary discussion: Key actions and messages to address compliance and capacity gaps

Summary/Instructions

Stage-setting. This workshop has addressed LOP environmental compliance requirements, and how the responsibilities for fulfilling these requirements are allocated among IPs, C/AORs and MEOs (among others).

As we've learned, in summary, USAID's environmental procedures require that:

1. Environmental considerations are taken into account in activity planning/early design.
2. Prior to implementation, all activities undergo a formal EIA process defined by 22 CFR 216. This process is documented in 22 CFR 216 documentation and must be duly approved by the Mission Director (or equivalent) and the Bureau Environmental Officer.
3. Environmental mitigation and monitoring conditions resulting from this EIA process are written into procurement instruments (contracts, awards, cooperative agreements, etc.), implemented and monitored. (Effectively requires EMMPs.)
4. Operating units must report annually on the environmental compliance status of each project in their portfolio.
5. Environmental compliance documentation is maintained and used to actively manage implementation.

Experience shows that for compliance to be achieved in practice, it is not enough that individual USAID and IP staff understand their roles and responsibilities and master key skills; internal mission/team and project processes must be in place that support (and require) the exercise of these responsibilities.

Stocktaking: The facilitators will take a quick straw poll: "on a scale of 1-5, how well does your team or project fulfill requirements 1-5, above?" In other workshops and assessment, the following key gaps are often identified:

- IEEs that do not give COR/AORs and IPs clear, implementable guidance as to environmental management requirements (conditions) for specific activities
- IEE conditions/compliance requirements not reliably included in solicitations and awards
- EMMPs not reliably developed—or if developed, not reliably implemented, monitored, and reported on.

Discussion. In a short facilitated discussion, and on a not-for-attribution basis, we will address the following questions:

- **USAID staff:** To address the gaps identified:
  - What key messages would you like your team leader/mission management to receive? And/or:
  - What key changes would you like your team/mission to implement?
- **IPs:** To address the gaps identified, what messages would you like to go to your COP/front office? Your AOR/COR? What key changes would you like to see implemented by your management or your AOR/COR?

These discussions will directly inform the environmental officer's retreat that follows this workshop, including likely follow-up communication to mission management.