

Session 7. Effective IEEs.

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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 virtual field visits.

Format

Group Exercise

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.

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 Session 7. We again play the role of mission sector teams or IPs in the process of adding a new program component not covered by an existing IEE. A consultant has now now delivered a draft IEE covering the new project component. (The original IEE covering the project did not include this component.) . Informed by your field visit, you must evaluate the draft IEE.

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

1. Address the full scope of proposed activities described in the activity briefing (see previous section)
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.

Instructions.

Individually, read the relevant 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 visits, critique the IEE against the six criteria for effective IEEs set out above. Refer to the project briefing in session 5.

Unfortunately, your hard-working consultant did not present a quality product. The draft IEE has some clear deficiencies and some deficiencies that are more subtle or debatable.

We will briefly report-out on these critiques in plenary. Final (revised) IEE considerations will be presented for discussion.