



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# **Special Topics: USAID Programmatic Environmental Assessment**

**Case Study:  
Rural Road Rehabilitation in Liberia**

GEMS Environmental Compliance-ESDM Training Series  
Uganda, September, 2014



# Session Objectives:

- ✓ Understand how Reg. 216 procedures are applied to more complex development projects (i.e. those that receive a Positive Determination on the IEE)
- ✓ Define “Scoping”, “Environmental Assessment,” and “Programmatic Environmental Assessment”
- ✓ Understand the Liberia Rural Infrastructure Supporting Enterprise (RISE) Activity and the application of USAID’s Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) process.

# Refresh: Full EIA Study

The full EIA study has very similar objectives and structure to a preliminary assessment.

**However, the full EIA study differs in important ways:**



*\*includes the project as proposed, the no-action alternative, and at least one other real alternative*



A formal **scoping process** precedes the study to **identify issues to be addressed**

**Analysis** of environmental impacts is much **more detailed**

**Alternatives\*** must be formally defined. The **impacts of each alternative must be identified & evaluated, and the results compared**

**Public participation** is required

A **professional EIA team** is usually required

# Liberia's RISE Activity + The IEE

## Liberia's Rural Infrastructure Supporting Enterprise (RISE) Activity

### 3 Primary Objectives

**Objective 1:** Oversee design and construction of at least 500 km of farm-to-market roads

**Objective 2:** Strengthen capacity of Liberian private sector construction contractors in farm to market road and small bridge construction, rehabilitation/renovation, and maintenance.

**Objective 3:** Support Ministry of Public Works and private sector Architecture & Engineering firms' capacity for planning, design, and supervision of construction services of rural roads, bridges, and buildings.

### Findings from the IEE

#### Positive Determination,

Need to develop a **Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA)** for:

- *design and construction of farm-to-market roads*
- *staging of construction activities to train Liberian private sector construction contractors*



# Environmental Assessments – Scoping

When an IEE includes a **Positive Threshold Decision**, the need to prepare a **Scoping Statement** is triggered.

## **A Scoping Statement:**

*Identifies the significant issues related to a proposed activity, and establishes the scope of the issues to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) or PEA*

## **The Scoping process involves:**

- *Determining the scope and significance of issues*
- *Eliminating issues that do not require further consideration*
- *Establishing the timing of, format variations to, and schedule for the EA*
- *Describing the analytical approach to be taken and the disciplines to be utilized*

**The Scoping Statement ultimately determines whether an EA will be necessary both to ensure environmentally sound design and management and properly fulfill the 22 CFR 216 requirements for the given activity.**

# Environmental Assessments – Scoping (Cont.)

## The Scoping Process Liberia's RISE Project



Eroded soil and deep gullies following seasonal rains

A felled tree sits roadside one of the candidate roads for rehabilitation



# Environmental Assessments – Requirements

## The Environmental Assessment

### 22 CFR 216 defines an EA as:

*A detailed study of the reasonably foreseeable significant effects, both beneficial and adverse, of a proposed action on the environment of a foreign country or countries*

### 22 CFR 216 characterizes a PEA as:

*An EA meant “to assess... the environmental impacts that are generic or common to a class of agency actions.”*

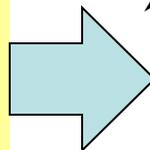
# Environmental Assessments – Requirements

22 CFR 216.6 establishes the requirements of the EA for both  
**CONTENT** and **PROCESS**

## Process Requirements

### 1. *Multi-Disciplinary Team*

*allows for expert analysis tailored to the nature of the proposed activity (see examples at right)*



### 2. *Collaboration with Affected Nation(s)*

*ensure compliance and alignment with host-country environmental regulations and EIA protocol.*

### 3. *Public/Stakeholder Consultation*

*engagement with relevant national, regional, and local government officials, ministries, and/or agencies, intended recipients/beneficiaries, and relevant associated institutions (e.g. farm service centers for agricultural support activities)*

## Liberia RISE PEA Team:

- Team Leader/Environmental Specialist, Forester, Road/Civil Engineer, EIA Specialist, Social Specialist, Local Environmental Expert

## Georgia Restoring Efficiency to Agricultural Production (REAP) PEA Team

- Team Leader, Agricultural Specialist, Social Specialist, EIA Specialist, Local Environmental Expert

## aflasafe PEA Team

- Team Leader, Agronomist, Plant Geneticist, Risk Assessor, Food Safety Specialist, EIA Specialist, Local Environmental Expert

# Environmental Assessments – Requirements

22 CFR 216.6 establishes the requirements of the EA for both **CONTENT** and **PROCESS**

## Content Requirements

1. *Summary*
2. *Purpose*
3. *Alternatives*
4. *Affected Environment*
5. *Environmental Consequences*
6. *Preparers*

*The core content requirements must be met, though different projects lend themselves to different approaches, and include a wide range of tools or resources for project implementers.*

# Liberia RISE PEA

River passing near Tolomanai, Bong County, impassible to small cars. A bridge was built in 2005 but was destroyed soon after by an oversized lorry trying to pass



- ❖ Fieldwork to four counties (Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Nimba)
- ❖ Piloted a suite of environmental and social checklists for project implementers



PEA Vehicle makes its way through the water to speak to communities along the road in Bong County

- ❖ Coordination with Ministry of Internal Affairs, Liberia EPA, Ministry of Public Works, Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Environment
- ❖ Local community consultations key in assessing potential impacts/risks faced by intended recipients

# Liberia RISE PEA (Continued)



Women giving their 'blind votes' during a focus group discussion in Senesu, Lofa County

## Successes

- ❖ Social and environmental toolkit that aligned with environmental mitigation and monitoring requirements
- ❖ Document that satisfied both USAID and LEPA's environmental impact assessment requirements

## Challenges

- ❖ The review and approval process was protracted, with administrative challenges presented by LEPA delaying approval by the Liberian agency.

# Concluding Remarks

## Takeaways

- ❖ **Positive Determinations → Scoping → EA/PEA**
  - **TAKEAWAY:** *Each step takes time. Adherence to Reg. 216 procedures allows for earliest possible identification of the need for an EA or PEA, and in turn help begin preparations for the scoping process.*
  
- ❖ **EA/PEA requires stakeholder consultation, field work, and multi-disciplinary field team**
  - **TAKEAWAY:** *Cost is significant – Scoping + EA/PEAs can easily cost \$150K-\$250K*
  
- ❖ **EA/PEA may require approval by both from USAID the environmental protection agency of the affected country;**
  - **TAKEAWAY:** *Relevant host-country agencies must be engaged early. Even so, projects could face implementation challenges or delays.*
  - **TAKEAWAY:** PLAN, PLAN, PLAN! *Understand the budgetary and timeline implications; it can take 1-2 years from start of scoping to final BEO approval of the EA.*

