Session 14.
Special Topic: ESDM for Construction Activities
Technical presentation and dialogue

Summary

Many types of development projects — housing, sanitation, water supply, roads, schools, community centers, storage silos healthcare, energy — involve some form of small-scale construction. This session will address these types of activities and any similar small-scale construction particularly relevant to the implementation of USAID programs in Tanzania.

Construction encompasses one or more of a set of diverse activities: demolition; site-clearing; grading, leveling, and compacting soil; excavating; laying pipe; installing equipment; or erecting structures. The development benefits of construction come not from the construction itself, but from the buildings and infrastructure that are its result. The details of the construction carried out in support of any particular development activity or site will have a number of specific characteristics. Construction activities in general, however, share a set of common features and potential adverse environmental impacts. This session addresses a number of these common elements.

Construction activities may cause both direct and indirect adverse environmental impacts. An example of a direct impact is the filling of a wetland to use as a project site. Indirect impacts are induced changes in the environment, population, and use of land and environmental resources. Examples of indirect impacts include:

- In-migration of population to take advantage of new infrastructure such as schools or health posts;
- Effects on fish spawning associated with siltation of streams from soil erosion at a construction site;
- The spread of disease from insect vectors breeding in flooded and abandoned quarries and borrow pits (areas from which construction materials were excavated, or “borrowed”).

USAID funded facilities, buildings, and infrastructure must be designed and constructed to appropriate engineering standards to minimize risk to humans and the natural environment. This briefing is intended to identify key issues and illustrate potential mitigation measures associated with the construction activities.

Objectives

Brief the environmental, economic, and human health concerns attendant to construction activities, and review requirements and procedures for USAID-supported construction activities.

Reference Documents

- USAID Small-Scale Construction Sector Environmental Guidelines (http://usaidgems.org/Documents/SectorGuidelines/SectorEnvironmentalGuidelines_Construction_2014.pdf)
- USAID Construction Visual Field Guide (http://usaidgems.org/Documents/VisualFieldGuides/ENCAP_VslFldGuide--Construction_22Dec2011.pdf)