

SESSION 10

SPECIAL TOPIC: ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

SESSION SUMMARY.

This Special Topic session will introduce the importance of infrastructure activities in USAID programming. Participants will understand the different types of infrastructure activities in USAID projects, including development of water supply, roads, schools, healthcare, and energy.

Infrastructure work often encompasses one or more of a set of diverse construction 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.

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 infrastructure activities, and review requirements and procedures for USAID-supported 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_VsIFldGuide--Construction_22Dec2011.pdf)