

Session 15.

Field-based EMMP exercise Part II – Environmental Monitoring and Reporting

Field exercise, facilitated discussion and presentation

Summary

The second phase of the field-based exercise will deepen participants' understanding of the EMMP by familiarizing them with a second field site, project and EMMP. The principal purpose of this second field visit is for participants to identify additional potential impacts of the proposed activity that the first group may have omitted from the draft EMMP.

Upon returning to the classroom, each group will revise and edit the EMMP and will also develop indicators to include in the environmental monitoring and reporting table of the EMMP. Each group will present its EMMP in plenary and conclusions will be shared.

The session will consist of 4 phases:

Session 15a: EMMP Skill-Building Exercise II — Field visit

Session 15b: Preparation of the EMMP group presentations

Session 15c: EMMP group presentations

Session 15d: Discussion around the EMMP presentations

Objective

- Review the EMMP completed by the previous group on the same site to determine if any impact/mitigation measures that were not considered in the first draft and complete the information.
- Deepen the understanding of the EMMP tool, in particular the monitoring, evaluation and reporting sections of Table 2.

Session 15a: Field Visit II: Monitoring and Reporting

During Session 14b, each group exchanged their EMMPs with another group, and provided a briefing about the activity, site and corresponding EMMP developed for that site. Participants will now bring this EMMP to the field site to “double-check” the EMMP that they received from the previous group in order to include critical revisions in the final draft.

Each group will screen the activity for impacts to determine whether the first draft EMMP omitted any potential environmental impacts that should be mitigated and monitored. If the group should identify any additional potential environmental impacts, or mitigation measures associated with an already listed impact, these should be noted in the field and the group should add this information to the EMMP when they return to the classroom.

Session 15b: Preparation of the EMMP group presentations

Once back from the field, each group will collaborate to finalize the EMMP based on the preceding field visit. During this time, participants will synthesize field observations and develop any additional language on impacts and mitigation measures.

In addition, participants will be guided on the development of EMMP monitoring indicators, and will be asked to develop indicators for **three (3)** mitigation measures.

Session 15c: Environmental Compliance Reporting - Technical Presentation and Dialogue

USAID CORs and AORs are required by ADS 204 to monitor and evaluate on an ongoing basis whether the environmental mitigation required by the governing IEE/EA is being implemented and is effective.

In other words, COR and AOR oversight responsibilities extend to environmental compliance, just as they do to other elements of project implementation. Practically, this requires that IPs not only systematically comply with IEE/EA conditions by developing and implementing EMMPs, but that they report to USAID on this implementation.¹

Best practice for IP environmental compliance reporting consists of two elements:

1. Project reporting should provide an auditable record of environmental compliance. Generally, IPs' quarterly or semi-annual reports should contain a separate environmental compliance section. The section must provide sufficient information on the status of EMMP implementation for USAID to effectively fulfill its oversight and performance monitoring role.

If the EMMP contains a "monitoring log" section, then the EMMP itself—updated with current monitoring results—can simply be appended to the report.

Missions should not rely on IP progress reports alone to track environmental compliance. Field visits at minimum should include a quick check for significant environmental design/management problems (for certain activities, the **Visual Field Guides** [VFGs] may be used).

2. One or more key project performance indicator(s)—"project results framework"—should reflect overall environmental soundness/environmental compliance.

In other words, the most critical elements of environmental soundness/compliance should be integrated, or "mainstreamed" into the project results framework. For example:

- In a water point provision project, the IP might use the indicator "number of protected water points established with zero fecal coliform after six (6) months" rather than simply "number of water points established."

¹ Title II DFAPs must submit annual Environmental Status Reports (ESRs) as part of their PREP submission. The project's first ESR would likely discuss environmental staffing, budgeting, and inclusion of environmental considerations in the various assessments and surveys that take place during Year 1 of the DFAP. The following ESRs would then have shorter updates on those same topics, but focus more specifically on reporting on EMMP implementation and monitoring. DFAP implementing partners should follow the ESR guidance provided as an annex to the most recent Fiscal Year RFA-IEE.

- In a road rehabilitation project, the IP might use the indicator “km of road rehabilitated under environmentally sound practices” rather than simply “km of road rehabilitated.”

In both cases, the “environmentalized indicator” demonstrates that core project activities are being executed with attention to environmental soundness/compliance. However, it is NOT expected or appropriate to “environmentalize” every key indicator, or to capture every mitigation measure.

(This best practice applies to new awards; where EMMPs are developed after the PMP is established, it may not be possible to change key performance indicators.)

In summary, IP and USAID environmental compliance roles and responsibilities are as follows:

Project stage	Implementing Partner	USAID
Workplan & PMP Development	Develops EMMP Integrates EMMP into budget and workplan Determines environmental compliance reporting	Review and approval of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The EMMP (for responsiveness to IEE/EA conditions and sufficiency of monitoring); 2. The budget/workplan (to verify that EMMP implementation is planned and funded); and 3. The reporting framework to assure that environmental reporting requirements are met.
Implementation	Implementation of EMMP Reporting on EMMP implementation	Ongoing review of partner progress reports to monitor EMMP implementation Field visits—at a minimum, all visits should integrate a quick check for significant environmental design/management problems. For environmentally sensitive activities, specific visits should be made to verify EMMP implementation.

Session 15d: EMMP group presentations and discussion

Each working group will present the EMMP that it worked on during the second field visit. They will present the updated and completed EMMP (Final Draft) based on the field visit and subsequent small-group synthesis and collaboration. It is preferable, but not required, that each group prepare a short Powerpoint Presentation in order to share pictures from their visits and principal findings.

The floor will be opened for comments from the participants. After each presentation, GEMS facilitators will ask participants to summarize the main points of the presentations and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each EMMP.

Key Resources

- USAID Sector Environmental Guidelines
- EMMP Template
- Field Guides
- Group Powerpoint Presentations