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Special EIA and Compliance Considerations in the MENA Region

GEMS Environmental Compliance-ESDM Training Series
Jordan ▪ April 2016



Session Objectives:

- Integrate key themes from preceding scoping- and EA-related sessions and exercises
- Review in the context of “typical” programming in the MENA Region
- Highlight key issues identified by Regional and Washington, D.C.-level environment officers
- Clarify expectations for preparation of Reg. 216-compliant env. documentation:
 - *Scoping Statements*
 - *Environmental Assessments (EAs)/Programmatic EAs (PEAs)*



The Scoping Process:

- Scoping is completed for activities that ...
 - *are by definition “high risk” (according to Reg. 216)*
 - *present the likelihood of significant adverse impacts (e.g., they receive a Positive Determination in the IEE)*
- Precedes preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA), output of Phase II of the EIA process
- Defines scope of issues for fuller assessment in the EA
- Sometimes satisfies the need for further assessment of potential impacts or issues identified in IEE (Phase I)



Environmental Assessments:

- The most in-depth and thorough consideration of environmental issues related to a proposed activity
 - *Physical environment (air, land, water, flora, fauna)*
 - *Socio-economic dimensions*
 - *Cultural considerations*
 - *Others?*
- Must present alternatives to the proposed action, including the no-action alternative
- Informs decision making;
not a decisional document itself



Common MENA Programming:

- **Water-Sanitation Provision (WASH)**
 - *Small or medium-scale: household or village level*
 - *Municipal*
- **Education**
 - *School construction*
- **Health**
 - *Hospital/clinic construction or rehabilitation*
- **Economic Growth**
 - *Tourism, antiquities, job training*
- **Democracy & Governance**
 - *Community-based initiatives; construction*



Water-Sanitation Provision:





Water-Sanitation Provision:





Education:





Health:



Health:

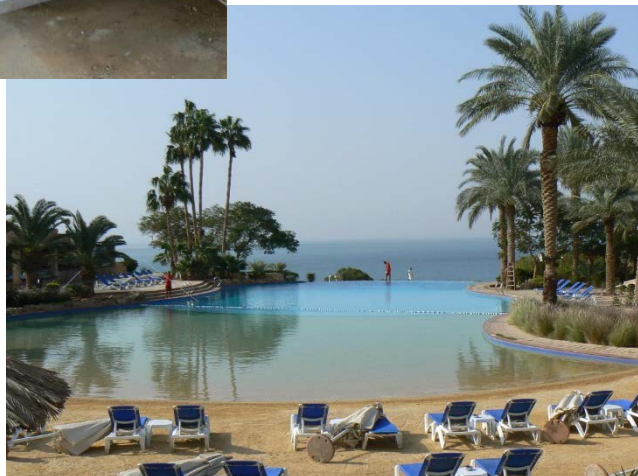


Economic Growth:





Economic Growth:





Advantages in MENA Region:

- **High levels of training and technical capacity**
 - *USAID project managers (A/CORs) and technical staff*
 - *Implementing Partners*
- **Well formed national standards and criteria**
- **Long tenure and strong institutional knowledge among MEOs**
- **High-profile projects and initiatives**



Challenges in MENA Region:

- **Larger, complex projects in a resource-constrained environment**
 - *Water*
 - *Land*
- **Political and security context**
 - *Effective environmental monitoring and reporting*
 - *Compliance and project performance*
- **Balancing expediency and due diligence**



Final Considerations:

- MEO (Amer)
- BEO (Erika)
- You!