PROGRESS SO FAR

DOS Environment Strategy for Field Missions

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Significant progress has been made with the promulgation of the standardized Mission-wide Environmental Action Plan (MEAP) template, which improves data collection and analysis that in turn feeds into the planning and budgeting processes. All missions have an action plan in place for the current period, which will be revised annually to reflect evolving priorities and address identified risks.

Missions will this year report their overall score on the DOS Environmental Management Scorecard to Member States for the first time. This score, which will provide a starting point in the evaluation of mission environmental performance, is derived from the data collected by each mission in their MEAP. Ongoing efforts to strengthen direct measurement and improve processes for data quality and verification will lead to the achievement of a robust baseline in 2020.

While the majority of missions have inspected above 90% of sites over the past year, inaccessibility of sites and security challenges in the larger, more challenging missions have resulted in an overall inspection rate of around 50%.

WATER AND WASTEWATER

A site-level risk assessment methodology has been developed and applied, identifying risk levels as either minimum, moderate or significant. Significant risk has been identified for wastewater management in sites in three missions (UNMISS, UNISFA and MONUSCO; 5% of overall sites) due to system capacity issues or inability to assess risk at all sites, combined with the potential for hydrological connection. Risk mitigation plans have been initiated with immediate action underway to address the situation in identified sites.

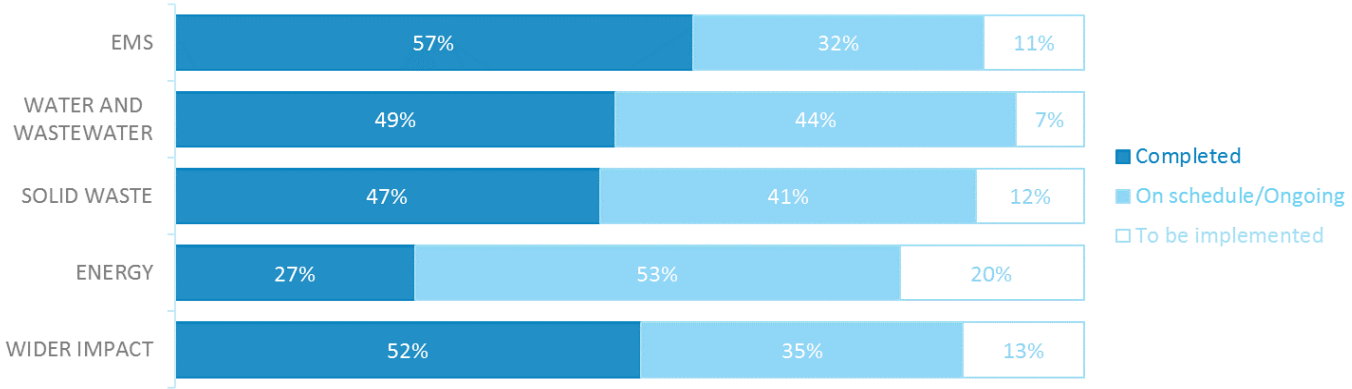
Water conservation plans and SOPs for water and sanitation are in place in almost all missions. With measurement of water use now covering 75% of volume, data is provided at site-level for the first time, which will facilitate efforts to reduce demand. With wastewater treatment plants installed in most missions, MINUSMA leads the way with 17% of water demand met through recycled wastewater across one quarter of its sites.

Water demand is managed through equipment such as dual-flush, low flow and dry toilets; push taps; aerated showers; and rainwater harvesting is implemented in 12 missions. Such initiatives are particularly important where wastewater treatment systems are at capacity. Notwithstanding the above, work to better manage wastewater treatment risks remains the key priority.

SOLID WASTE

Overall, one third of waste is disposed of through preferred methods: composting, recycling, or best practice landfill/incineration. There is an opportunity to substantially increase composting rates to reduce landfill volumes, and associated scavenging. MONUSCO has significantly reduced waste to landfill through composting, recycling and incineration of the remainder. With a lack of effective municipal options, and limited access to local landfills across missions generally, MINUSMA achieves waste disposal through incineration, an example now being followed by other missions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS ACROSS PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS



A site-level risk assessment methodology has also been developed and applied for waste; most sites are at the moderate risk level. It is important to note that despite effective storage of hazardous materials in many cases, such materials are usually stockpiled in the absence of local treatment options.

Waste management plans have been developed for three missions, with the remainder expected to be completed over the coming year.

Actions to improve solid waste measurement (e.g. use of weigh scales, contractor logs) have been completed in half of the missions and are in progress in the remainder.

ENERGY

Site-level data on power demand and generation efficiency was collected for the first time this year. Improvements in power generation efficiency from synchronisation of generators has been demonstrated, with energy conservation programs implemented in 50% of missions, and specific energy assessments at site level done at one third of sites. In the past year, energy management plans have been developed for three missions, with the remainder expected to be completed over the coming year.

The average proportion of energy produced through renewable sources on site across missions remains very low (less than 1%) with only UNMIK and GSC demonstrating material levels of production. Other missions (MONUSCO, RSCE) have access to renewable grids (hydro-power).

60% of missions are conducting a detailed energy consumption and production analysis, with energy meter installation complete in five missions to date. Transportation energy efficiency measures include maximizing aircraft passenger and cargo loads, and a vehicle-idling prevention policy implemented in seven missions. Fuel-containment platforms have been constructed to avoid soil contamination in sites housing generators, fuel tanks and vehicle maintenance bays.

WIDER IMPACT

Close to half of wider impact initiatives have been implemented. While an Environmental Impact Assessment is not yet compulsory for new projects (unless requested by the local legislation), missions reported that all major infrastructure-related projects were subject to an environmental impact assessment. 75% of recommendations from the impact assessments (or environmental screening for smaller projects) were implemented, up from only 55% one year ago. Most missions have established a process for potential handover of assets with a positive environment impact upon closure. Impact assessments, cultural and historical training, and local fauna/flora protection measures, are in place across missions, or planned for the coming year.

Socioeconomic activities, including community outreach and mechanisms to air grievances and environmental concerns, are implemented through Quick-Impact Projects in most missions. With the introduction of a new indicator, missions are required to report on the incorporation of environmental considerations into their conflict analysis and/or their Mission Opinion Survey.

ON-GROUND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE