**WHAT IS IT?**

Health impact assessment (HIA) is a structured process that combines scientific evidence and community engagement to inform decision-makers about how they can **increase the positive health benefits** and **reduce the negative health impacts** of infrastructure development. It also looks at how the benefits of development can be shared equitably and fairly across all affected communities.

**WHY AT ADB?**

ADB’s use and advocacy of HIA in its work, at the policy and institutional levels, can support regional institutions and national governments and institutions to deliver long-term sustained economic development and health security more quickly by making it more likely that infrastructure projects are community-supported, sustainable, healthy, and resilient.
Health: more than medical services

Health is affected by a whole range of environmental and social factors.

Water and Sanitation
- Diseases due to lack of and poor quality water
- Mental health impacts associated with the lack of water and sanitation.
- Water pollution by industrial and agricultural chemicals

Urban
- Housing is a key determinant of mental health, acute and chronic disease, communicable disease, and children’s growth

Energy
- Air, water, and soil pollution generated during the extraction, refining, and burning of fossil fuels

Transport
- Accidents
- Pollution: noise, air, water, and soil
- Severance

HIA supports the sustainable development goals
- HIA is an effective approach to ensure community health and well-being.
- HIA provides a holistic framework to consider the positive and negative, intended and unintended community health effects of infrastructure developments and policies.
- HIA promotes regional health security by reducing the risk of communicable disease threats arising from infrastructure projects.
- HIA promotes equitable economic development by ensuring that the voices of communities are taken into account.

Greater Mekong Subregion Health Impact Assessment project

GOAL: To support the elimination of malaria and reduce the risk of communicable disease threats through health impact assessment of large infrastructure projects, with special reference to the malaria endemic areas of the Greater Mekong Subregion.

In November 2014, ADB approved the Results for Malaria Elimination and Communicable Diseases Control in Asia and Pacific (regional Technical Assistance project - TA 8763), with the intention of supporting countries in the Asia Pacific region to eliminate malaria and tackle other communicable disease threats.

ADB’s Greater Mekong Subregion Health Impact Assessment Project has four components: it will provide tools and guidance; build capacity, support new and existing partnerships and networks; and undertake demonstration and learning projects.

The project also aims to expand leadership beyond the health sector through the use of HIA to enhance the health benefits of infrastructure projects through avoiding or reducing any adverse health impacts. It will promote this expanded leadership through providing expert advice for the development of regional and national policy frameworks.

The technical assistance provided by the ADB HIA Advisory Group is responsive to both country and regional needs. It promotes regional HIA harmonization, which is crucial given the increasing number of transboundary projects with common community health impacts. The team promotes coordination of national efforts on HIA and opportunities for cooperation and peer-to-peer learning. Results will be practical and will be aligned with global good practice through collaboration with international partners.

ADB Commissioning Team

Susann Roth MD PhD
Susann is senior social development specialist in ADB’s Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department. sroth@adb.org

Adb Hia Advisory Group

Salim Vohra MBChB MSc PhD (technical lead)
A public health expert, Salim has focused for the last 15 years on HIA consultancy, research and teaching, stakeholder engagement, and understanding environmental and health risks. sal@publichealthbydesign.com

Martin Birley BSc MSc PhD (research and development lead)
With over 30 years’ experience in HIA, Martin’s focus is the development of tools, guidance, case studies, and other material to strengthen the consideration of health in ADB and DMCs. martin.birley2@gmail.com

Robert Bos BSc MSc (capacity building lead)
In his 32-year career in the World Health Organization Robert developed HIA concepts and training materials. He has delivered HIA capacity development in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam. robert.bos53@gmail.com

Yanyong Inmuong BSc MSc PhD (partnership and advocacy lead)
Yanyong is dean of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahasarakham University, an expert, and a resource person for the HIA Technical Working Group of the Ministerial Forum on Environment and Health. yanyong.inmuong@gmail.com

ADB HIA Advisory Group Support Team

Filipe Silva MD MSc
Filipe assists the HIA Advisory Group with research support and project coordination. filipe@publichealthbydesign.com

Astrud Lea Beringer MA
Astrud provides research, administrative, and logistical support. astrud.beringer@gmail.com

Veronica Birley
Veronica provides research and communications support for the HIA Advisory Group. vjbirley@gmail.com

Jane Parry MPH
Jane supports HIA Advisory Group with strategic communications, policy materials, and advocacy. jane@janeparry.net

Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 IGO license (CC BY 3.0 IGO)
© 2016 ADB. The CC license does not apply to non-ADB copyright materials in this publication.
Publication Stock No. ARM168203-2