Principles and Practice of Health Impact Assessment: Appraisal of Project HIA Reports

Section 1 - Basic information

(a) Course title:

Principles and Practice of Health Impact Assessment: Appraisal of Project HIA Reports

In line with the medium-term goal of joint IAIA/WHO training activities (to focus on specific components and critical decision-making moments in the HIA process) this course breaks down the component of appraising the project HIA report into its basic elements. Content and educational approach will be taken from the problem-based learning material WHO, DBL and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine developed and tested in different parts of the world. In its objectives and expected learning outcomes the proposed course is of stand-alone value. The course is proposed in response to demand from the impact assessment community and to the needs of WHO Member States.

(b) Level: *intermediate*

The course programme assumes a basic level of knowledge of and experience with impact assessment tools, methods and procedures. It aims to build on this basic knowledge and experience to strengthen advanced competencies related to the appraisal of reports of project HIAs.

(c) Pre-requisites for participants: *impact assessment regulators or practitioners*

This course caters primarily to those impact assessment regulators and practitioners who have responsibilities for environmental impact assessment and want to extent their capabilities to HIA and to those already working in health impact assessment who want to learn about the state of the art in HIA appraisal. The course will also be of value to those who want to generally broaden the scope of their knowledge on impact assessment issues. Practical experience in impact assessment is an asset.

(d) Language of delivery: *English*

Presentations and materials provided will be in English; the working language for task work in groups will also be English.

(e) Duration: *one day*

The course programme is divided into three parts: a morning session (introduction and technical presentations), followed by a session of task work in groups (interrupted by the lunch break), and a final session to discuss the outcome of the group work and to consolidate issues related to appraisal.

(f) Minimum and maximum number of participants: *10-25*

The task work in groups is the determining factor setting the boundaries for the number of participants. For meaningful group work at least two groups of five participants will be required. With an optimal group size of eight participants, a maximum number of 24 (i.e. three groups of eight participants) can be accommodated ï with more than three groups, the reporting-back part of the course would take a disproportionate amount of time.

(g) Trainers:

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Section 2 - Course description

(a) Summary of the purpose, content and anticipated learning outcome of this course.

***Purpose*:**
This intermediary level course is organized in response to the continued demand for adequate health impact assessment and to the need to develop competencies in this area. It aims to contribute to capacity building that will allow for the adequate performance of HIA. It focuses on the independent quality control component and places it in the broader impact assessment framework. The course programme assumes a basic level of knowledge and experience about impact assessment tools, methods and procedures.

***Content*:**
The course will address, systematically, the key issues of HIA appraisal. Appraisals consist of two parts: (1)appraisal of the comprehensiveness, objectivity, reliability and rigour of the HIA methods and procedure applied ï and, thus, of the credibility and accuracy of the conclusions-, and (2)appraisal of the recommended actions that make up the Public Health Management Plan, for their technical soundness, social acceptability and economic feasibility.
The original Terms of Reference are the starting point for any appraisal, and the first part of the procedure, which considers the methods and procedures used in the HIA, results in an intermediate appraisal report. As part of course group work, findings with respect to the **adequacy of case study HIA method, procedures and conclusions** will be discussed in plenary.

***Anticipated learning outcomes*:**
At the end of the course, participants will have:

- updated their knowledge of the general principles and practices of HIA
- acquired specific knowledge and know-how about the first part of the HIA appraisal phase

- gained a good understanding of the criteria applied in the appraisal of the HIA method and procedure
- gained a good understanding of the information needed to formulate a Public Health Management Plan
- shared experiences from different settings from around the globe
- learned how to perform essential HIA appraisal functions in a realistic context.

(b) Detailed description of the course structure and content:

Course structure:

The course will be structured in three modules: a **first module** of presentations, a **central module** of group work on the appraisal task and a **final module** of reporting back and discussion. A brief introduction will clarify the objectives, procedures and expected outcomes of the course. A half-hour wrap-up and reflection session at the end will offer an opportunity for participants to provide feed-back to the organizers and identify areas of perceived capacity building needs in HIA.

The generic structure of the course is as follows:

08:15	Registration
08:45-09:00	Introduction of the course and its trainers and participants. Objectives, way of working and expected outputs.
09:00-10:30	First module of presentations
10:30-10:45	Break/refreshments
10:45-12:30	Central module of group work on first half of the appraisal task
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Central module of group work - second half of the appraisal task
15:00-15:15	Break/refreshments
15:15-17:00	Final module of groups reporting back followed by in-depth discussion
17:00-17:30	Wrap-up and reflection
17:30	Closure of the course

The structure of the course will require one main lecture room with full facilities (LCD-projector, screen, flip chart/white board). Depending on the number of groups, one or two break-out rooms will be needed for the task work. Alternatively, the main lecture room should be of sufficient dimensions to allow for two or three groups to work independently.

Course content:

1. Module of presentations

1.1 Brief introduction to the principles of HIA
This presentation will provide an overview of the principles and practice of HIA, its place within the broad impact assessment framework, the concept of environmental and social determinants of health, health hazards and risks, health promoters, the concept of public health, health protection and health promotion and the institutional framework for health.

Robert Bos, WHO

15 minutes

1.2 HIA procedures, with a focus on appraisal
This presentation will provide a detailed review of HIA procedures, each with their individual objectives, rationale and outputs, the main actors and the methods that can be applied. It zooms in on the appraisal phase: what criteria are used in the first part of the appraisal? What institutional set-ups are possible to support independent appraisal? What are the pitfalls to look out for? What if the original Terms of Reference were deficient?

Peter Furu, DBL
15 minutes

1.3 Introduction to the course case example (hydropower project)
A hydropower project will serve as the context for the appraisal task to be performed by the groups. The presentation will highlight characteristics, status and documentation related to the project, and provides an overview of basic national health statistics.

Robert Bos, WHO
15 minutes

1.4 Appraisal: macro and micro-issues
Sustainability issues, models for driving forces of health, links between HIA, EIA and SIA, integration in SEA. Exploring the evidence base for HIA, examples of bias, verifying information in the field, a second community opinion, trade-offs and conflict resolution at the appraisal stage.

Robert Bos, WHO and
Peter Furu, DBL
15 minutes

2. Module of Task work in groups

The context for the group work will be an existing hydropower project in a developing country. Based on available case material (Project document, Feasibility study reports, EIA report, etc.) and specifically developed Task Guides the course will use a problem-based-learning approach to develop the participantsô competencies. Participants will explore what information is available within the group and from the resource material, share and qualify this information, and synthesize this into a final brief report to be orally submitted in the third module (see below). An important aspect is the critical appraisal of the quality of the HIA report and its compliance with the set Terms of Reference for the HIA.

3. Module of group presentations and discussions

Each group will make a brief presentation of the general key appraisal issues from the contextual Task work. This will be followed by reflections and discussion of issues covered and significance in respective settings of participants.

(c) Description of materials participants will receive.

Participants will receive the following materials:

Basic course documents
- Introduction and objectives of the course
- Programme of the course
- List of participants
- Print-outs of the PowerPoint presentations
- Project documents on the selected case project
- National health statistics (project country)

- A task guide for the appraisal task to be carried out

Technical documents
- Birley MH. 1995. The Health Impact Assessment of Development Projects, HMSO, London
- Dams and health: WHOøs input into the report of the World Commission on Dams
- The IAIA special publication: HIA principles and practice
- Selected publications on HIA appraisal
- Scientific articles on the attribution of vector-borne disease burdens to dams and irrigation schemes.
- List of key references and web sites
- IFC Performance standards

CD ROMs
- WHO Water, Sanitation and Health library (includes all WHO/WSH documents including those on health impact assessment)
- National workshop HIA in Lao PDR
- Background information on the Nam Theun 2 dam in Lao PDR

(d) Provision of post-conference follow-up.

All participants who have completed the full day course will receive a certificate of attendance. They will also receive a CD ROM which contains all presentations, a list of course participants and their coordinates, an updated list of literature references and electronic versions of some of the technical publications.

The participants who express an interest in organizing national courses on HIA principles and practice will receive a generic course outline, guidance on how to organize such courses, and options for technical backstopping by WHO, DBL and the IAIA Health Section.

Participants will be invited to sign up to the listservers of the WHO Water, Sanitation and Health programme (which includes communications on health impact assessment, and of the health section of IAIA.

Section 3 - Qualification of the trainers

(a) Curriculum Vitae

Peter Furu
Peter Furu is employed at DBL ï Centre for Health Research and Development of the University of Copenhagen as a senior advisor in environmental health and health impact assessment. DBL merged into the University of Copenhagenøs Life Sciences Faculty in 2007. He heads the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health and Environment in Sustainable Development at DBL. He has a university degree in biology (medical parasitology) supplemented by a degree in public health. He has 23 years of experience in research, capacity building and in consultancy functions in the area of environmental health, HIA and disease prevention and control in a development context. He also has comprehensive teaching experience on intersectoral HIA at university level, and for audiences of high-level policy and decision-makers in countries in Africa, Asia, Central America and Europe.

Peter Furu is regularly invited to a number of Danish universities to conduct HIA training. He has taught over 30 HIA courses over the past 15 years. In 2004 he obtained a Diploma in Pedagogy and Didactics from the University of Copenhagen. He is currently supervisor for a Thai PhD student working on participatory HIA in local government administrations.

Overview of main training activities

1996-present	Guest lecturer: HIA sessions at the Masters level courses at the University of Copenhagen, University of Roskilde, University of Aarhus, University of Aalborg and the University of southern Denmark
1992-2002	Guest lecturer at the annual HIA courses as part of the MPH programme in *International Health* and *Health and the Environment* at the Nordic School of Public Health, Gothenburg, Sweden
2002	WHO temporary advisor in Zambia for HIA capacity building in a WHO regional workshop on schistosomiasis control

During the years 1992 to 1997, he was responsible for testing out the 18-day HIA training course *Health Opportunities in Development*, together with the World Health Organization (Robert Bos), the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (Martin Birley) and the University of London (Charles Engel). Course venues and dates: Harare, Zimbabwe (1992), Accra, Ghana (1994), Arusha, Tanzania (1995), Zamorano, Honduras (1996) and Aurangabad, India (1997).

In the Mekong HIA capacity building programme his training activities included participation in:

March 2003	National HIA workshop, Lao PDR
November 2003	Eighteen-day intersectoral HIA course, Lao PDR
December 2004	National HIA policy seminar, Lao PDR
October 2005	National HIA workshop, Cambodia
October 2005	National HIA workshop, Viet Nam
November 2006	Workshop on Training-of-Trainers for HIA, Viet Nam
April 2007	National HIA policy seminar, Cambodia
September 2007	HIA T-o-T Master training, Viet Nam
November 2007	National HIA policy seminar, Viet Nam

A recent training assignment (on behalf of WHO) included teaching at a 4-day HIA course at the Korea Environment Institute, Seoul (June 2007)

Robert Bos
Robert Bos is a public health biologist trained at the University of Amsterdam in Medical Biology and in Basic and Clinical Immunology.

He started work for the World Health Organization in 1981, first on assignment in Costa Rica as associate immunologist, and since 1983 in WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The initial period in Geneva (1983-1990) he worked in the Division of vector Biology and Control as a member of the secretariat of the joint WHO/FAO/UNEP Panel of Experts on Environmental Management for vector Control (PEEM). Early work with Martin Birley, then with the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine dates back to this period, in particular the development of Guidelines for Forecasting the Vector-borne Disease Implications of Water Resources Development Projects. In 1990 he moved to WHOôs Environmental Health Programme, taking the PEEM secretariat with him in his function of PEEM Executive Secretary. With this re-positioning, and particularly following the UNCED in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and WHOôs ensuing strategy for Health and Environment, the profile of HIA in his programme of work was enhanced, mostly so in connection with capacity building activities.

In 1991 WHO/PEEM, DBL and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine embarked on an initiative to develop and test a training course that would address the need for capacity building in intersectoral negotiation and decision-making in support of HIA. They were later joined by the Institute for Higher Learning of the University of London (Professor Charles Engel) which added the didactic and educational know-how. The 18-day modular course was first tested in Harare, Zimbabwe (1992), and evolved through several iterations and trials in Accra, Ghana (1994), Arusha, Tanyania (1995), Zamorano, Honduras (1996) and Aurangabad, India (1997). Robert Bos was the anchor-man in all these courses, facilitating plenary sessions, managing non-expert tutors and local resource persons and monitoring smooth procedures in the group work.

As a next phase, WHO and DBL developed a comprehensive HIA capacity building package for delivery at the national level, which consisted of the aforementioned intersectoral training course with, in addition, a workshop Principles and Practice of HIA, an HIA policy seminar followed by a national policy formulation process, support for the formulation of national HIA guidelines and technical cooperation in the implementation of pilot-HIAs of new development projects.

The implementation of this package, together with the German Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung (InWEnt ï Capacity Building International) started in 2003 in the countries of the Mekong River Basin (Lao PDR, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam). Similar capacity building activities are being planned for the countries belonging to the Gulf Cooperation Council and for countries in East and southern Africa.