Overview of HIA
What is HIA?
HIA IS

“a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, a program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population and the distribution of effects within the population”

(GOTHENBURG CONSENSUS PAPER, 1999)
HIA in a nutshell

• LOOKS AT UNINTENDED HEALTH EFFECTS
• PURPOSE IS TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING
• 5 STEPS
• SYSTEMATIC BUT FLEXIBLE
UNINTENDED HEALTH EFFECTS OF:

- Projects
- Policies
- Programs
- Urban Development

That are NOT intended to impact health!
How is an 
HIA 
done?
THE PROCESS

SCREENING

SCOPING

BASELINE HEALTH PROFILE

ASSESSMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

EVALUATION & MONITORING
How does HIA operationalize health?
HEALTH IS...

“...a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease.”

(World Health Organization)
OPERATIONALIZING HEALTH IN HIA

DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

• Education
• Housing
• Environmental quality
• Income and income equality
• Personal behaviours (smoking, etc.)

HEALTH OUTCOMES / HEALTH STATUS

• Mortality
• Disease rates or numbers
• Injury rates or numbers

CONSEQUENCES OF HEALTH STATES

• Quality of life
• Health service utilization
• Use of medication
health effects

both positive and negative
## Community Health Co-benefits: A Few Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project attribute</th>
<th>Potential positive community health outcomes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jobs &amp; income</td>
<td>Improved health across all or some sectors of the community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building / upgrading roads</td>
<td>Improved access for emergency vehicles (ambulances, fire fighting)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health care infrastructure</td>
<td>Improved infrastructure and/or capacity; better ability to treat / manage disease or injury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupational health strategy</td>
<td>Improved disease management (e.g. malaria)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency response planning</td>
<td>Improved community emergency planning</td>
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## Types / Levels of HIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RAPID</th>
<th>INTERMEDIATE</th>
<th>COMPREHENSIVE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Very quick (2 days to 6 weeks)</td>
<td>• 4 weeks to several months</td>
<td>• Several months to several years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Low resources</td>
<td>• Moderate resources</td>
<td>• High resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• No stakeholder involvement</td>
<td>• Some stakeholder involvement</td>
<td>• Significant stakeholder involvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• No new data gathering</td>
<td>• Some new data collected. Often relies on existing data banks.</td>
<td>• Usually involves collecting primary data</td>
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• STANDALONE HIA

VS.

• IA (INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT) / ESHIA (ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL & HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT)
Current
STATE OF PRACTICE
Where is HIA being done?

STATE OF PRACTICE

• 15+ years internationally

• Standards and best practices

• Several relevant professional associations: SOPHIA, IAIA

• Still working out the bugs and improving methods, evidence
The HIA REVIEW
HIA in a nutshell

• Looks at unintended health effects
• Purpose is to inform decision-making
• 5 steps
• Systematic but flexible