



Birley HIA

Health Impact Associates

Knowledge Level course in Health Impact Assessment

Dates	tba
Venue	tba
Duration	3 - 4 days
Start	0830
Finish	1800

What is health impact assessment?

Health impact assessment (HIA) is an instrument for safeguarding and enhancing human health. It is a process for identifying the future consequences of current or proposed actions. All development policies, programmes, plans, and projects in all sectors of the economy affect human health. The impacts can be positive, negative, or both.

HIA is closely related to environmental impact assessment (EIA) and social impact assessment but considers the health dimension more systematically.

Aim of the course

The aim of this course is to introduce participants to methods and procedures that can be used to assess the health impacts of future projects. It meets the Knowledge

level, or level 2, competency requirements as defined in the oil and gas sector.

This course is for at all those whose current or future work is likely to require an understanding of the theory and practice of health impact assessment. Participants do not need to have previous knowledge of health, HIA or related matters.

Typical industry requirement

“A Health Impact Assessment is to be made in conjunction with any Environmental and Social Impact Assessments that are required for all new projects, major modifications and prior to abandonment of existing projects where there is the potential to impact on the health of the local community, company and contract workers, or their families.”

The lead facilitator

The lead facilitator is Dr Martin Birley (Martin@BirleyHIA.co.uk). He runs training courses and workshops on HIA all over the world. Courses have been tailored for delivery in Africa, S Asia, SE Asia, Far East, Middle East, Europe, and N and S America. He is the author of many books and guidelines on HIA for organisations including Asian Development Bank, World Bank, World Health Organization, and African Development Bank. He was co-founder and co-manager of the health section of the International Association for Impact Assessment (www.iaia.org) and the International Health IMPACT Assessment Consortium (www.ihia.org.uk). He was senior lecturer in the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine from 1979-2002 and senior health adviser on HIA employed by Shell International, Health Services, during 2003-2005. He runs his own London based consultancy company, Birley HIA, est 2002. More information at www.birleyhia.co.uk.

Content

The course will use problem-based, small group learning techniques. . It consists of Modules that are undertaken in groups by thought and discussion, with the assistance of facilitators. It enables participants to explore some of the methodological and procedural issues associated with health impact assessment.

Module 1	The context for HIA
Module 2	A method
Module 3	A procedure
Module 4	Priorities
Module 5	Critical appraisal

HIA, as presented on this course, is based on a socio-environmental model of health, with an emphasis on qualitative evidence. The information is delivered to participants through a highly participative approach. It is important to the successful learning outcomes of the course that all participants are prepared to join in the process.

Timetable

As the course is conducted in small groups, it is important that participants arrive on time and are present during the whole period. There is much material to cover and each session will start on time.

Please do not plan to hold any other meetings or phone calls during the working hours of the course. This would severely disrupt the group process and would be challenged. There will be extensive lunch and coffee breaks when you can make phone calls.

There is no evening work but we may plan to eat together.

Aims and objectives

The aim of the course is to introduce participants to health impact assessment. The aims and objectives of the Modules are as follows.

Module	Aim	Objectives
	The aim of this Module is to:	By the end of this Module you will have had an opportunity to:
1	Put Health Impact Assessment into context in terms of what it is and how it works. To provide you with the background you need to make the most out of the rest of the course.	Develop a working definition of health and health impact assessment. Consider examples of health impacts. Gain a contextual base to the work you will undertake on the course.
2	Explore methodological questions by undertaking a rapid health impact assessment of a development project.	Consider what might be involved in conducting a health impact assessment. Arrange the problem into logical components. Focus on the methodological components.
3	Explore procedural questions associated with health impact assessment.	Decide when an HIA is needed. Examine what should happen before and after the actual assessment. Consider how to assure the quality of a health impact assessment.
4	Explore different approaches to prioritisation taking account of perceptions of risk, resource constraints, and interests of project proponents.	Explore different approaches to setting priorities and their limitations; Consider the perception of the health risks and gains that each stakeholder community has.
5	Consider what constitutes a 'good' Health Impact Assessment study. Learn how to critically appraise aspects of the procedures and methodology of HIA.	Revise what you learned in the earlier Modules. Critically appraise aspects of an HIA; Check elements of an HIA; Consider the issues that contribute to successful HIAs; Appreciate the extent to which the various constraints may influence the outcomes of an HIA.

Audience

Managers, advisers, and consultants in health impact assessment, environmental impact assessment, social impact assessment, social investment, external affairs, HSE, international development, project oversight and review. It is advisable to have attended, or read, the HIA Awareness Level, or Level 1, Module.

Contact

Contact consult@BirleyHIA.co.uk , +44 (0)208 546 0823, www.BirleyHIA.co.uk. Based in London, UK. Course held on demand anywhere in the world.