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<b>Title</b>	<b>Bidding for Health Impact Assessment</b>
<b>Audience</b>	<b>Environmental consulting companies</b>
<b>Aim</b>	<b>To improve the quality of bids for impact assessments that include an explicit health component</b>

## **Introduction**

**An increasing number of multinational corporations and lending institutions are including health impact assessment (HIA) together with environmental and social impact assessment (EIA, SIA). They are issuing requests to tender in which health issues must be addressed.**

In responding to those requests, the bidder must demonstrate that they have understood the requirements, propose an appropriate budget, and list competent specialists. Failure to do so can make their bid less attractive than the bids of their rivals. This briefing paper describes some of the health components of an effective bid.

## **Resources**

The resources required to conduct an HIA to international professional standards are similar in scale to those required for EIA. The exact size and proportion of those resources will, of course, vary with the project. There is strong overlap between environmental, social, and health impact assessment so resources can be shared between them.



**Baseline study for an irrigation project**

Resources can be subdivided between staff time and expenses. These will be required for administration, baseline studies, analysis, report writing and liaison. The baseline studies may include social surveys, key informant interviews, literature searches and field sampling. The field sampling may be both biological and medical.

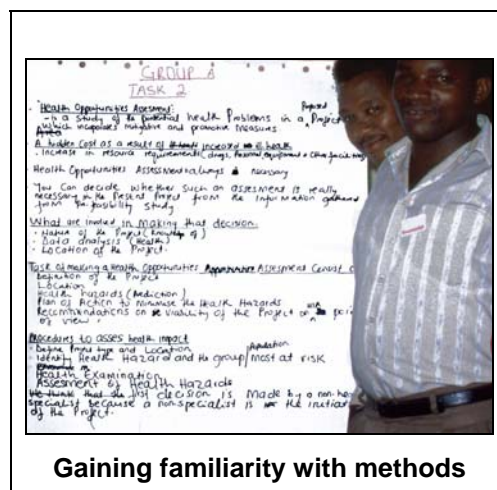
The resources required may not be apparent at the outset. Impact assessment is an iterative process. The time required for analysis should not be underestimated. So baseline studies should not consume more than 50% of the total resources.

**Example of baseline studies for malaria**  
The study may sample the mosquito population and take blood samples from local children. Ethical clearance would be required.

## Competence

The competence required to lead an HIA includes familiarity with the methods and procedures used, experience of participating in previous HIAs, and an education in a health-related discipline. Familiarity with the methods and procedures used can be obtained by attending an appropriate HIA training course. Such courses usually have duration of 3-5 days.

Merely having a medical degree is neither necessary nor sufficient to demonstrate competence in HIA. The training of medical practitioners does not include any skills in HIA. Medical practitioners may obtain postgraduate qualifications in a relevant discipline such as public health or community health. Generally, these disciplines do not yet include any training in HIA. However, they do include training in some of the relevant methodology -- such as epidemiology, community survey, and the determinants of health.



Gaining familiarity with methods

*A medical degree is neither necessary nor sufficient*



Government officials participate in HIA training course

There is still a global shortage of competent HIA practitioners with experience of specific countries, regions, or sectors. Many bids will require a local team to ensure local content and ownership. In some regions, it may be impossible to find a local team with competence in HIA. Under these circumstances, the client may expect the bid to include a suitable process of training.

A competent international expert would be hired to lead the assessment and to provide a local training course during the kick-off phase. The training course would

provide an opportunity to engage other local stakeholders: for example, the local government health and environmental representatives could be invited to participate in the course.

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