

Call for applicants for the 2025 online capacity building course on health impact assessment



Call opening November 27 2024 and closing 5pm February 4 2025
Regional Network for Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (EQUINET)

Background

East and southern African (ESA) countries face many health challenges, including from commercial risks and climate change. In the same way as environmental impact assessment (EIA) was institutionalized in the region to play a role in this on protecting ecosystems, [health impact assessment \(HIA\)](#) similarly needs to be implemented to inform decision-makers about the potential health effects of a project, programme, economic activity, law or policy, and to make recommendations to improve it. HIA can be carried out separately, or alongside EIA. Policy leaders in Africa recognized this in the WHO AFRO Regional Multi-sectoral Strategy to promote health and well-being, 2023–2030 and the 2024 ECSA Regional Health Ministers Resolution to institutionalize and build capacities for HIA.

The course

EQUINET is thus, through TARSC and in association with regional (SATUCC, Talk AB[M]R) and international partners (Nossal Institute of Global Health, C Dora) building on the experience of its [2024 regional course on HIA held in partnership with the ECSA Health Community](#) to convene online training and mentored case work to build HIA capacities in different actors in ESA countries. The course will provide materials and interactive presentations on the policy and legal basis of HIA, the steps, methods, evidence, analysis in and reporting of an HIA, and the monitoring of recommendations. Trainees will plan and implement a mentored case study HIA in teams over the course period. The capacity building will be implemented in ten online (zoom) training sessions in four course blocks, staggered at intervals between April 28 and July 31 2025. After two or three online course sessions of 2 hours each in a block, there will be a month before the next block to give time for 2 online tutorials with mentors to guide teams to work at self-arranged times on the HIA steps covered in the training for their own case studies. There will be four course blocks in the period. The programme timings are available at <http://www.equinet africa.org/content/grants> and in this document. Course materials and reporting templates will be provided. Participants satisfactorily completing the course will receive a certificate of completion. The course has a fee cost of USD1200 for teams (per team covering all team members), with an option for partial fee sponsorship to be considered.

Application for the course

Applicants for the call should preferably be from an ESA country from state, non- state, labour, professional or academic institutions, and have roles in or an intention to implement HIA. We encourage applicants to apply as a team of up to 4 people, desirably in the same geographical location, with a lead/co-ordinator. We will also consider individual applicants, and if selected may include them within the teams for their country/case study issue. We will consider applicants/teams from outside ESA if their work is relevant to the region or as observers should they wish to initiate future courses.

Applicants should have at least undergraduate level education, have access to internet, be familiar with zoom, and be able to commit to participating in the online sessions and to implementing the mentored practical work in their team.

Applicant teams should identify/suggest an economic activity, law, policy innovation within a particular country that they propose as the focus for their team mentored HIA case study in the training, noting that thus will be further focused / reviewed through dialogue with course convenors before the training and in the first training sessions. As guidance for the proposed HIA case study, we ask teams to identify in their application the law, policy, economic activity that they propose to assess, what stage it is at in terms of decision-making on the law/policy/economic activity, and broadly what key health impacts they suggest it may have, and what specific elements of the law/policy/economic activity they can feasibly do in a desk-based assessment during the course. (Examples of HIA case studies in the 2024 course can be found in Section 3 of the [2024 course report](#)).

Further details for application submissions

Applications should be received before 5pm (Southern Africa time) February 4th 2025 providing the information below.

Please send any queries on the call to the EQUINET secretariat at admin@equinetafrica.org with HIA TRAINING in the subject line.

Applicants may not send draft applications for review prior to submission but if they have specific questions in relation to their application, these may be submitted before January 8th 2025 and responses will be provided by January 14th 2025.

Applicants for the call are asked to email to admin@equinetafrica.org before 5pm Southern Africa time February 4th 2025 with HIA TRAINING in the subject line

- A maximum one page outline covering,
 - Information on the policy/law/ economic activity suggested by the team to be their focus for the mentored HIA for the course, including its location, what specific aspects will be assessed, what health impacts it may have and what the status is of decision-making is on it. Where teams are not certain of this specific information note this for dialogue with convenors.
 - If applying as a team provide the team members and lead, their country, institutions, positions, education level and intended or past experience, role in relation to HIA. If applying as an individual provide the applicant country, institution, position, education level and intended or past experience, role in relation to HIA
- A brief letter confirming availability for all named in the application for the full ten sessions and 3 mentored work blocks with 2 tutorials in each as per the timings on the programme outline, noting familiarity with zoom, indicating internet access and any issues faced, contact information for follow up and confirmation on ability to meet the course fee/request for amount of partial sponsorship.
- The CV(s) of the team members / applicant.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application before or by 20 February 2025 and be provided with further course information and materials. Teams will be guided before the course starts to clarify the elements of the law/policy/economic activity that they will focus on and possible sources of evidence that they may use for their mentored HIA.

The course programme structure and timings are shown overleaf.

The course blocks and timings are shown below, given in Southern African time.

Timing of course block	Contents of course block
SESSION BLOCK 1 Session 1: April 28 12-2pm Session 2: April 29 12-2pm Session 3: April 30 12-2pm	Introducing the course, SDH, HIA and its legal basis. Principles, values and equity in HIA Policy and theory of change (ToC) analysis, stakeholder analysis and participation in HIA The screening and scoping steps in HIA, Introducing the mentored HIA work, templates and tutorials
PRACTICAL & TUTORIALS 1 and 2 May 2 –May 23	Mentored HIA work on the screening and scoping steps with two 1-hour tutorials in the period 1. Clarifying the proposal being assessed and the screening and TOC 2. The scoping, policy and stakeholder analysis
SESSION BLOCK 2 Session 4: May 28 12-2pm Session 5: May 29 12-2pm Session 6: May 30 12-2pm	Team presentation of their HIAs, group review comments and mentor comment on issues raised in the tutorials. Interim evaluation. Profiling and assessment in HIA; Analysis and recommendations in HIA Strategic HIA; Linking HIA to EIA, economic impact assessment; Organising the findings and reporting the HIA; Communication / writing skills
PRACTICAL & TUTORIALS 3 and 4 June 2– June 30	Mentored HIA work on (i) the profiling and assessment step and (ii) the recommendations step with two 1-hour tutorials in the period 3. Implementing the profiling and assessment 4. Implementing the analysis and recommendations and feedback on writing/ communication style
SESSION BLOCK 3 Session 7: July 8 12-2pm Session 8: July 9 12-2pm	Team presentation of their HIAs, group review comments and mentor comment on issues raised in the tutorials. Communicating and engaging on the HIA; Monitoring implementation of the recommendations,
PRACTICAL & TUTORIALS 5 and 6 July 10-25	Mentored HIA work on the monitoring and communication plan and full HIA report with two 1-hour tutorials in the period 5. Implementing the monitoring and communication plan and draft report 6. The full final report
SESSION BLOCK 4 Session 9: July 29 12-2pm Session 10: July 30 12-2pm	Team presentation of their HIAs, group review comments. Final evaluation. Follow up – integrating HIA in public health, next steps, certification and closing