

Call for applicants for the 2026 online capacity building course on health impact assessment



Call opens April 20th 2026 and closes 5pm June 3rd 2026

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[MJR]) and international partners (Nossal Institute of Global Health, C Dora) building on the experience of its [2024 and 2025 regional courses 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 to build understanding and practical skills to implement HIA, including strategic HIA, including its purpose, legal basis and principles, the methods, evidence, analysis in, reporting of an HIA and the monitoring and communication of recommended actions. The programme will include a panel session on steps to take HIA forward at national level, and a session for participants to present and get feedback on their HIAs from key stakeholders, and will discuss strategies for scaling up and integrating HIA in law. 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 July 7 and October 22 2026. 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 an online tutorial with mentors to guide teams to work at 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 <https://equinetafrica.org/content/training.html> and in this document. Course materials, readings 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 full or 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, or a law or 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. This may be a large commercial

activity (eg mine, food, tourism, infrastructure, hydropower, dumpsite or agribusiness activity, a public-private-partnership health service). It may be a new policy proposal, such as nutrition labelling, sweetened beverage tax, etc. We invite also case studies that will focus on a cluster of activities in a district that have interacting health impacts. As guidance for the proposed HIA case study, we ask teams to identify in their application the activity (or cluster of activities in a district) or the law/policy that they propose to assess, where it is, what stage it is at in terms of decision-making, and broadly what key health impacts they suggest it may have, what specific elements they can feasibly do in a desk-based assessment with key informant interviews during the course and what institutions they hope to inform with the findings. (Examples of HIA case studies in previous courses can be found in Section 3 of the [2024 course report](#) and of the [2025 course report](#). You can also read briefs from previous HIA reports on the EQUINET website).

Further details for application submissions

Applications should be received before 5pm (Southern Africa time) June 3rd 2026 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 May 20th 2026 and responses will be provided by May 22nd 2026.

Applicants for the course are asked to email to admin@equinetafrica.org before 5pm Southern Africa time June 3rd 2026 with HIA TRAINING in the subject line

- A maximum one page outline covering,
 - Information on the economic activity/ district activities or the law/policy 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, what the status is of decision-making is on it and what stage it is at in terms of decision-making, and what institutions they hope to inform with the findings. Where teams are not certain of aspects 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 tutorials in each as per the timings on the programme outline; noting familiarity with zoom, indicating internet access and any issues faced, with contact information for follow up and confirmation on ability to meet the course fee or request for a specific amount of sponsorship.
- The CV(s) of all team members / of the applicant.

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application before or by 12th June 2026 and will be asked to confirm their participation by June 17th and make payment of the course fee by June 30 2026. Accepted applicants 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
<p>SESSION BLOCK 1 Session 1 July 7 12-2pm</p> <p>Session 2 July 8 12-2pm</p> <p>Session 3 July 9 12-2pm</p>	<p>Introducing the course, SDH, HIA and its legal basis. Principles, values and equity in HIA</p> <p>Introducing Strategic HIA and district level HIA, Stakeholder analysis and participation in HIA</p> <p>The screening and scoping steps in HIA, Introducing the mentored HIA work, templates and tutorials</p>
<p>PRACTICAL & TUTORIAL 1 July 13–31</p>	<p>Mentored HIA work on the screening and scoping steps with teams in groups of 4 teams submitting drafts and having a 1-hour tutorial to clarify the elements being assessed, and review the reports, the causal diagram and stakeholder analysis</p>
<p>SESSION BLOCK 2 Session 4 August 4 12-2pm</p> <p>Session 5 August 5 12-2pm</p> <p>Session 6 August 6 12-2pm</p>	<p>Team presentation of their HIAs, group review and mentor comments. Interim evaluation.</p> <p>Profiling and assessment in HIA; Analysis and recommendations in HIA</p> <p>Connecting HIA to policy processes, to EIA and impact assessment; Organising the findings and reporting the HIA Communication / writing skills</p>
<p>PRACTICAL & TUTORIAL 2 August 10-September 18</p>	<p>Mentored HIA work on the profiling and assessment and recommendations step reports with teams in groups of 4 teams submitting drafts and having a 1-hour tutorial, including feedback on writing/ communication style.</p>
<p>SESSION BLOCK 3 Session 7 September 22 12-2pm</p> <p>Session 8 September 23 12-2pm</p>	<p>Team presentation of their HIAs, group review and mentor comments.</p> <p>Monitoring implementation of recommendations Taking HIA forward at national level</p>
<p>PRACTICAL & TUTORIAL 3 September 25 to October 16</p>	<p>Mentored HIA work on the monitoring and communication plan and full HIA report with teams in groups of 4 teams submitting drafts and having a 1-hour tutorial in the period with mentors</p>
<p>SESSION BLOCK 4 Session 9 October 21 12-2pm</p> <p>Session 10 October 22 12-2pm</p>	<p>Team presentation of their HIAs, group review comments. Final evaluation.</p> <p>Follow up – integrating HIA in public health, next steps, certification and closing</p>