



H I A

GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROJECT

WHAT IS IT?

Health impact assessment (HIA) is a structured process that combines scientific evidence and community engagement to inform decision-makers about how they can **increase the positive health benefits** and **reduce the negative health impacts** of infrastructure development. It also looks at how the benefits of development can be shared equitably and fairly across all affected communities.

WHY AT ADB?

ADB's use and advocacy of HIA in its work, at the policy and institutional levels, can support regional institutions and national governments and institutions to deliver long-term sustained economic development and health security more quickly by making it more likely that infrastructure projects are community-supported, sustainable, healthy, and resilient.

HEALTH: MORE THAN MEDICAL SERVICES

Health is affected by a whole range of environmental and social factors.



WATER AND SANITATION

- Diseases due to lack of and poor quality water
- Mental health impacts associated with the lack of water and sanitation.
- Water pollution by industrial and agricultural chemicals



URBAN

- Housing is a key determinant of mental health, acute and chronic disease, communicable disease, and children's growth



ENERGY

- Air, water, and soil pollution generated during the extraction, refining, and burning of fossil fuels



TRANSPORT

- Accidents
- Pollution: noise, air, water, and soil
- Severance



HIA SUPPORTS THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- HIA is an effective approach to ensure community health and well-being.
- HIA provides a holistic framework to consider the positive and negative, intended and unintended community health effects of infrastructure developments and policies.
- HIA promotes regional health security by reducing the risk of communicable disease threats arising from infrastructure projects.
- HIA promotes equitable economic development by ensuring that the voices of communities are taken into account.

HIA PROJECT BRIEF

GREATER MEKONG SUBREGION HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROJECT

GOAL: To support the elimination of malaria and reduce the risk of communicable disease threats through health impact assessment of large infrastructure projects, with special reference to the malaria endemic areas of the Greater Mekong Subregion.



In November 2014, ADB approved the Results for Malaria Elimination and Communicable Diseases Control in Asia and Pacific (regional Technical Assistance project - TA 8763), with the intention of supporting countries in the Asia Pacific region to eliminate malaria and tackle other communicable disease threats.

ADB's Greater Mekong Subregion Health Impact Assessment Project has four components: it will provide tools and guidance; build capacity, support new and existing partnerships and networks; and undertake demonstration and learning projects.

The project also aims to expand leadership beyond the health sector through the use of HIA to enhance the health benefits of infrastructure projects through avoiding or reducing any adverse health impacts. It will promote this expanded leadership through providing expert advice for the development of regional and national policy frameworks.

The technical assistance provided by the ADB HIA Advisory Group is responsive to both country and regional needs. It promotes regional HIA harmonization, which is crucial given the increasing number of transboundary projects with common community health impacts. The team promotes coordination of national efforts on HIA and opportunities for cooperation and peer-to-peer learning. Results will be practical and will be aligned with global good practice through collaboration with international partners.

ADB COMMISSIONING TEAM

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