

# HEALTH, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT (HSEIA)

## What is Health, Social, and Economic Impact Assessment (HSEIA)

Health, social, and economic impact assessment (HSEIA) is a systematic process that evaluates the potential positive and negative impacts of a proposed project or policy on people's health, social well-being, and economic conditions.

## HSEIA Processes

While the mechanics of completing HSEIA reflect those used for ecological impacts, different tools are needed. For example HSEIA relies more on qualitative methods of data collection, including surveys, workshops, focus groups and interviews. Findings and thresholds may focus on trends, rather than numbers.



## Best Practices for HSEIA

Include **qualitative methods** of data collection (e.g., surveys, interviews, workshops).

Use an **intersectional approach** when examining HSE impacts. For example, instead of just focusing on large-scale economic impacts (e.g. project contribution to the economy at the local, provincial and national scale), look at possible economic impacts through the eyes of different identity-groups, such as women, racialized populations, persons with disabilities, etc.

**Engage with a variety of different groups** who may be potentially impacted by the project.

## Why is including HSE effects in Impact Assessment Processes Important?

Although older impact assessment processes focused primarily on environmental impacts, there is long-standing recognition that **projects also have significant impacts on people and the economy.**

For example, a bunch of new workers moving in small community during the construction phase of a project may impact the availability of housing or access to health services in that area.

HSE effects analysis is important to **ensure that we understand the full range of impacts** that could be caused by a project.



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