

*Overview of*

**HIA**



1

*What is*  
**HIA?**

# HIA IS

**“a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, a program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population and the distribution of effects within the population”**

**(GOTHENBURG CONSENSUS PAPER, 1999)**

# *HIA in a nutshell*

- LOOKS AT UNINTENDED HEALTH EFFECTS
- PURPOSE IS TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING
- 5 STEPS
- SYSTEMATIC BUT FLEXIBLE

# UNINTENDED HEALTH EFFECTS OF:

- Projects
- Policies
- Programs
- Urban  
Development



**That are NOT intended to impact health!**

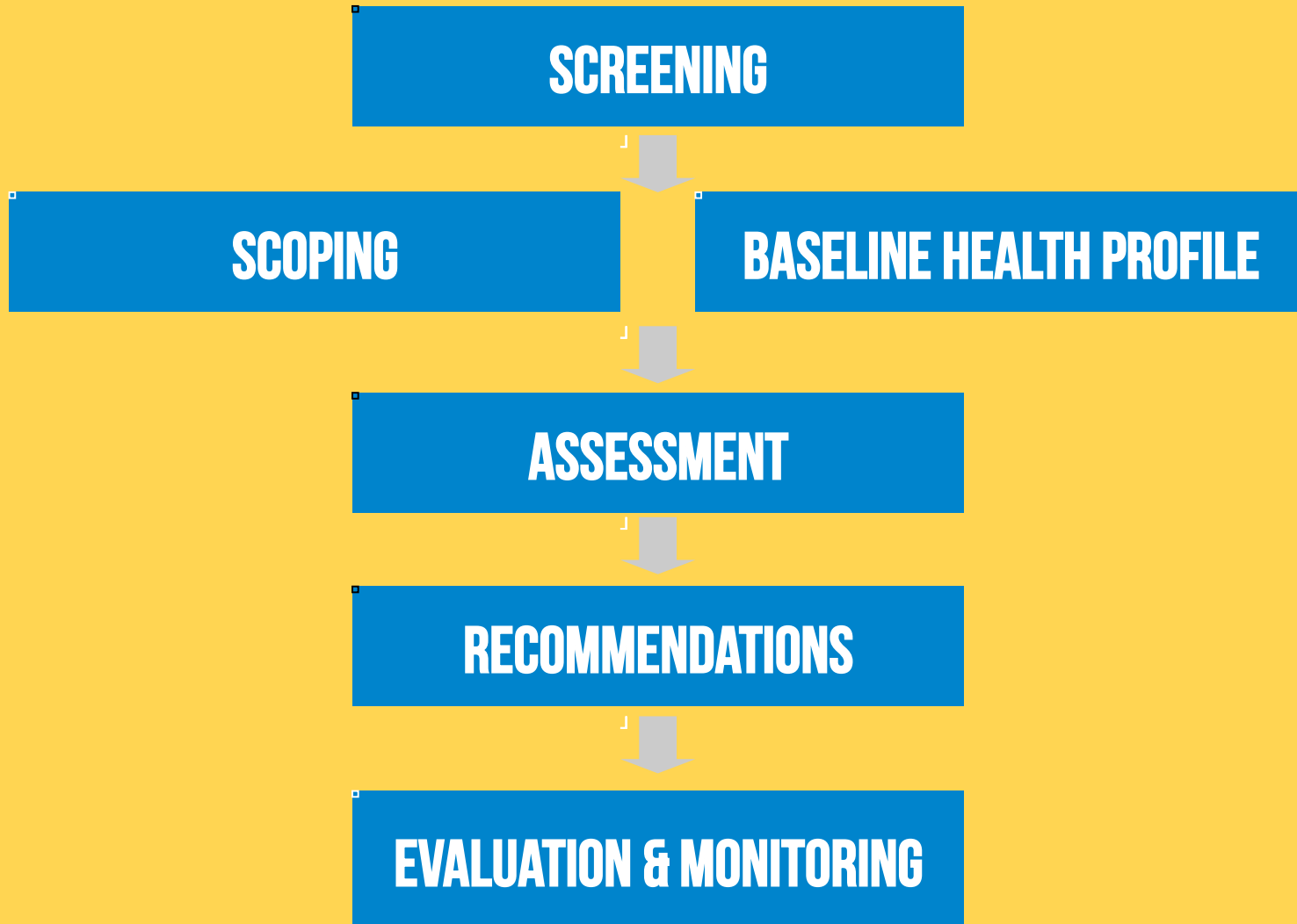
2

*How is an*

**HIA**

*done?*

# THE PROCESS



3

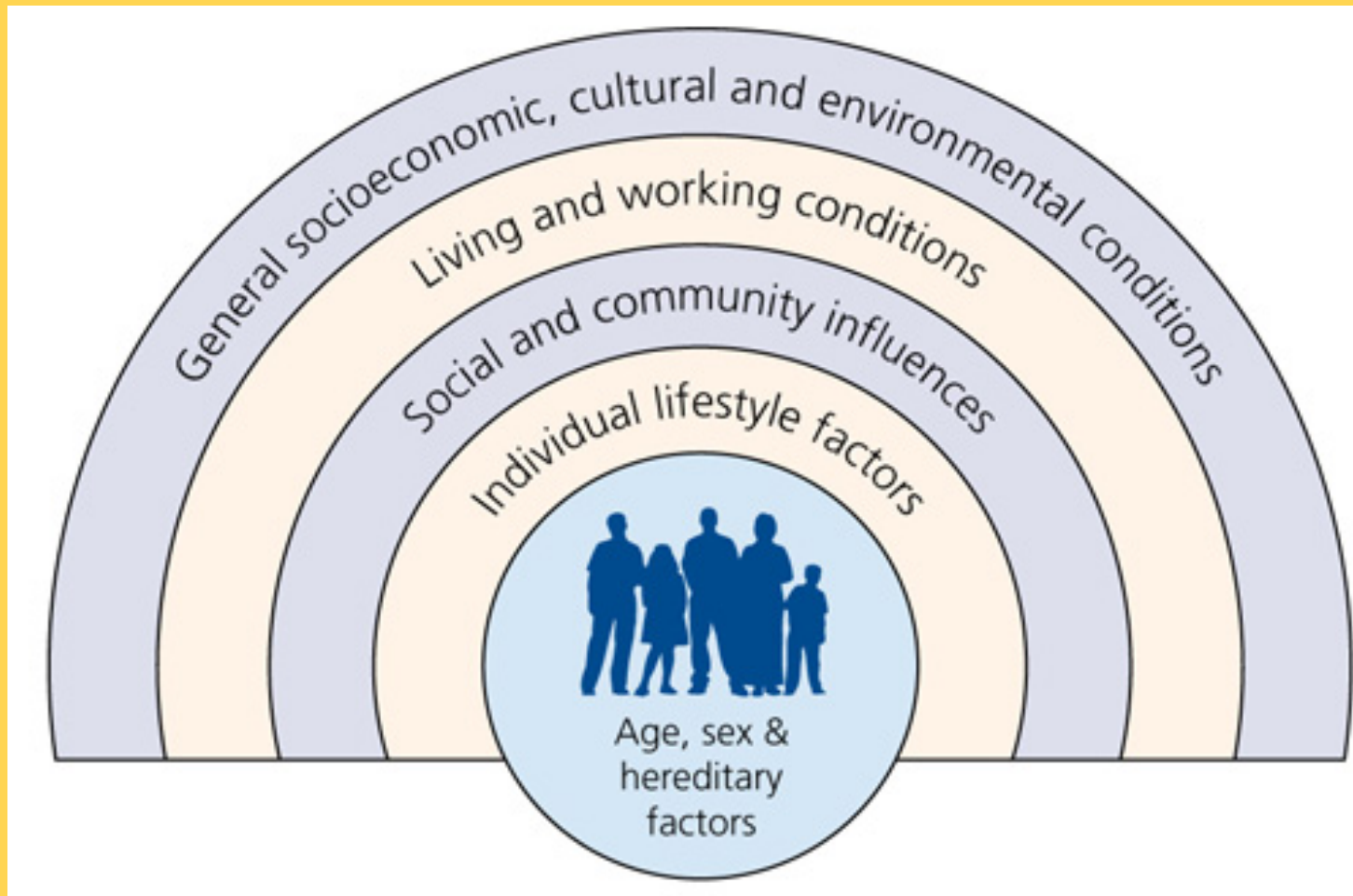
*How does HIA*  
**OPERATIONALIZE**  
*health?*



# HEALTH IS...

“...a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease.”

*(World Health Organization)*



Adapted from Dahlgren & Whitehead, 1991

# OPERATIONALIZING HEALTH IN HIA

## DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- Education
- Housing
- Environmental quality
- Income and income equality
- Personal behaviours (smoking, etc.)

## HEALTH OUTCOMES / HEALTH STATUS

- Mortality
- Disease rates or numbers
- Injury rates or numbers

## CONSEQUENCES OF HEALTH STATES

- Quality of life
- Health service utilization
- Use of medication

*health effects*

**BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE**

# COMMUNITY HEALTH CO-BENEFITS: A FEW EXAMPLES

Project attribute	Potential positive community health outcomes
Jobs & income	Improved health across all or some sectors of the community
Building / upgrading roads	Improved access for emergency vehicles (ambulances, fire fighting)
Health care infrastructure	Improved infrastructure and/or capacity; better ability to treat / manage disease or injury
Occupational health strategy	Improved disease management (e.g. malaria)
Emergency response planning	Improved community emergency planning

# TYPES / LEVELS OF HIA

## RAPID

- Very quick (2 days to 6 weeks)
- Low resources
- No stakeholder involvement
- No new data gathering

## INTERMEDIATE

- 4 weeks to several months
- Moderate resources
- Some stakeholder involvement
- Some new data collected. Often relies on existing data banks.

## COMPREHENSIVE

- Several months to several years
- High resources
- Significant stakeholder involvement
- Usually involves collecting primary data

- **STANDALONE HIA**

*US.*

- **IA (INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT) /  
ESHIA (ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL &  
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT)**

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*Current*

**STATE OF PRACTICE**



# Where is HIA being done?



Erlanger, Krieger, Singer, Utzinger (2008). The 6/94 gap in health impact assessment. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review* 28 (4-5): 349-358.

# STATE OF PRACTICE

- 15+ years internationally
- Standards and best practices
- Several relevant professional associations: SOPHIA, IAIA
- Still working out the bugs and improving methods, evidence

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*The HIA*

**REVIEW**

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