DEFINITIONS
From EURO European Centre for Health Policy, ECHP, Brussels, 1999

Health
“Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (WHO Constitution).

“Health is a resource for everyday life, not the object of living. It is a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources as well as physical capabilities”. (WHO, Health Promotion Glossary)

Health impact(s)
Health impacts are the overall effects, direct or indirect, of a policy, strategy, programme or project on the health of a population.

Health Impact Assessment
HIA is a combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, program or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population.

Equity in health
Equity in health implies that everyone should have a fair opportunity to attain his or her full health opportunity, and that no one should be disadvantaged from achieving this potential.

Health determinants
Health determinants are the personal, social, cultural, economic and environmental factors that influence the health status of individuals or populations.

Health status
The state of health of a person or population assessed with reference to morbidity, impairments, anthropological measurements, mortality, and indicators of functional status and quality of life.

Health outcomes
Changes in current or future health status of individuals or communities that can be attributed to antecedent actions or measures.

Policy
A set of statements or commitments to pursue courses of action aimed at achieving defined goals of public or private institutions

Programmes, projects
In order to implement policies, any number of programmes and projects may be developed.

• A programme is usually a set of actions/projects designed for a specific purpose (for example a child welfare programme, or tobacco control programme).

• A project is usually more narrow/defined, although in terms of resources used it may be larger or smaller than a programme (for example, the building of an oil refinery, or a small training course might both be defined as projects).

Values
Values denote worth or desirability.
**Participation**
*Participation relates to the active involvement of all interested parties in the planning, operation and control, monitoring and evaluation of the use of measures and resources.*

**Monitoring**
The regular observation, surveillance, or checking of changes in a condition or situation, or changes in activities.

**Evaluation**
The systematic assessment of the relevance, adequacy, progress, efficiency or effectiveness of a policy, programme or project, in relation to its intended aims and objectives.

**Impact assessment**
The dictionary definition of an *impact* is an “effect of influence” and of *assessment* is the “estimation of size, quality, value”.
Definitions

From *A Dictionary of Epidemiology*, by J. M Last

Disability-Adjusted Life years (DALY)
A measure of the burden of disease on a defined population and the effectiveness of interventions. DALY's are advocated as an alternative to QALY's and claimed to be a valid indicator of population health(1). They are based on adjustment of Life Expectancy to allow for long-term disability as estimated from official statistics. However, their use as currently expressed and calculated may be limited because the necessary data are not available or do not exist. Moreover, the concept postulates a continuum from disease to disability to death that is not universally accepted, particularly by the community of persons with disabilities. See also Disability-Free Life Expectancy. DALY's are calculated using a “disability weight” (a proportion less than 1) multiplied by chronological age to reflect the burden of the disability. DALY's can thus produce estimates that accord greater value to fit than to disabled persons, and to the middle years of life rather than to youth or old age.


Disability-Free Life Expectancy
(Syn: active Life expectancy) The average number of years an individual is expected to live free of disability if current patterns of mortality and disability continue to apply (1). A statistical abstraction based on existing age-specific death rates and either age-specific disability prevalences or age-specific disability transition rates.

“SILENT EMERGENCY”

A crisis situation that overwhelms the capacity of a society to cope by using its resources alone, where the level of response, including political humanitarian, multilateral and press is insufficient to meet the level of immediate humanitarian need.

(SCF-UK)