



THE PRESIDENCY

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (SEIAS)
INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE (PHASE 1)
REVISED 2020

The Initial Impact Assessment [Insert the Name of the Policy/Bill/Regulations/Other]

The Initial Impact Assessment aims to ensure that the policy is on the right track by requiring evaluation of alternative approaches. It should help drafters avoid finalising an inappropriate solution because they moved too quickly to select a strategy without adequately analysing the roots of the problem and considering alternative measures. It should facilitate a brainstorm about issues involved in the problem and full range of alternatives to deal with them.

1. The problem/ Theory of Change

1.1. What is the **social or economic problem** that you are trying to solve?

1.2. What are the main causes of the problem? That is why the problem arise and why does it persist?

Identified Problem	Main Causes of the Problem	Why does it persist as a problem?

1.3. Whose behaviours give rise to the problem, and why does that behaviour arise?

Remember that several groups including some in government may contribute to the identified problem. Their behaviour may arise amongst others because the current rules are inappropriate; because they gain economically from the behaviour; or because they are convinced that they are doing the right thing. Identifying behaviours that cause the problem should point to the behaviours that must be changed in order to achieve the desired solution.

Identified Problem	Behaviour giving rise to the identified problem	Groups whose behaviour give rise to the identified problem?	Why does the behaviour arise?

1.4. Please explain why implementation of the existing policies/ laws/regulations or any proposals are not effective in addressing identified problems.

1.5. Identify the major social and economic groups affected by the problem, and how are they affected. Who benefits and who loses from the current situation? **Be mindful of the vulnerable groups (Women, Youth, Children, People with Disabilities), Low income groups, Rural Households and Small Enterprises.**

Identified Problem	Groups (Social/ Economic)	How are they affected by the identified problem?	Are they benefitting or losing from the current situation?

1.6. Which of below Seven (7) national priorities are negatively affected by the identified problem?

National Priority	How is the priority negatively affected by the identified problem?
1. Economic Transformation and Job Creation	
2. Education, Skills and Health	
3. Consolidating the Social Wage through reliable and quality Basic Services	
4. Spatial Integration, Human Settlements and Local Government	
5. Social Cohesion and Safe Communities	
6. Building a Capable, Ethical and Developmental State	
7. A better Africa and World	

2. Options

2.1. Describe least three options for addressing the identified problem, including (a) your preferred proposal, and (b) an option that does not involve new or changed regulation (baseline or existing option)

a)

b)

2.2. Are the proposed options linked to other existing government laws or regulations and what are the gaps / limitations of those existing ones to address your identified problem?

Government legislative prescripts	Custodian department / units within your department	Areas of Linkages	What are the limitations of existing prescripts?

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2.3. What social groups would gain and which would lose most from the each of the three or above options? Consider specifically the implications for the households earning less; micro and small business; black people, youth and women; and rural development.

Option	Main Beneficiaries	Main Cost bearers
a)		
b)		
c)		

2.4. For each option, describe the possible implementation costs, compliance costs and the desired outcomes, listing who would bear the costs or, in case of the outcomes, enjoy the benefits.

Option	Implementation costs	Compliance costs	Desired Outcomes (Benefits)
a)			
b)			
c)			

2.5. Based on the above table on costs and benefits, describe how different options would contribute to or detract from the national priorities. Remember this is a think-tool, so explore the issues freely.

Priority	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
1. Economic Transformation and Job Creation			
2. Education, Skills and Health			
3. Consolidating the Social Wage through reliable and quality Basic Services			
4. Spatial Integration, Human Settlements and Local Government			
5. Social Cohesion and Safe Communities			
6. Building a Capable, Ethical and Developmental State			
7. A better Africa and World			

2.6. Describe the potential risks that could threaten implementation of each option and indicate what can be done to mitigate the identified risks.

Option	Potential Risks	Mitigation Measures	Comments
a)			

b)			
c)			

At this point, if you think the analysis points to a more useful or stimulating set of options, revise the SEIAS. You may find that you would like to combine some of the options, or that the process of discussion around the options has generated ideas that are better than your original ideas. Ideally, the three options considered should all be good ideas-that provides the best test for the final strategy adopted.

3. Summary

3.1. Based on your analysis, as reflected in the discussion of the three options above, summarise which option seems more desirable and explain?

3.2. What specific measures can you propose to minimise the implementation and the compliance costs of your preferred option, to maximise the benefits?

3.3. What are the main risks associated with your preferred option, and how can they best be managed?

3.4. What additional research should you do to improve your understanding of the costs and benefits of the option adopted?

For the purpose of building SEIAS body of knowledge please complete the following:

<i>Name of Official/s</i>	
<i>Designation</i>	
<i>Unit</i>	
<i>Contact Details</i>	
<i>Email address</i>	