RESEARCH & INNOVATION FOR HEALTH
SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

action guide

System assessment takes managers through a process of identifying areas where system improvement is needed. Having a clear goal of what the research & innovation system should achieve will help to identify areas for improvement.

It can be put into action incrementally, with a focus on supporting specific decisions.

System assessment provides answers to critical questions

- *Are system foundations in place?*
- *Are there sufficient resources to capacitate the system?*
- *Does the system function optimally?*
- *What areas need priority action?*

SYSTEM MAPPING

DESCRIBES THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE SYSTEM: What is there?

Mapping the foundations of the system is essential for effective development and management of national research for health.

Mapping will provide vital information about core components of the system, including:

- What is the current governance and policy framework?
- Are there research for health priorities?
- Is there a management structure in place?

SYSTEM PROFILING

ASSESSES SYSTEM CAPACITY: What is produced?

- What institutions conduct, use and commission research in the country?
- What capacity (including human resources) do these institutions have in terms of disciplines and research areas?
- What financing is available for research for health?

SYSTEM ANALYSIS

EVALUATES SYSTEM PERFORMANCE & EFFICIENCY: Can it be optimised?

- What is needed to optimise system effectiveness, efficiency and impact?

System optimisers could include:

- Ethics review of research
- Engaging communities and civil society organisations in research for health
- Uptake of research results in interventions & policy
- Strategy for innovation

The COHRED Group

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