

## NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

PROVIDING THE ESSENTIAL EVIDENCE MANAGERS NEED FOR NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

Answering critical questions :

- What are the key institutions?
- Are there gaps in regulatory frameworks?
- What information is needed to build political support for health research?
- What areas need priority action?

NHRS Assessment-  
A process of continuous improvement for countries, not a one-off event:

- ▶ **Step-by-step** –  
It can be put into action incrementally - focused on supporting specific decisions.
- ▶ **Action-oriented** –  
The assessment process is a tool for managers to identify areas where improvement is needed, providing useful information that helps them go forward.
- ▶ **An interactive process** –  
Research systems are complex. So is measuring and improving them. Dialogue is as important as the evidence collected. Dialogue ensures the buy-in of all players. It is the key to successful system improvement.  
Further information:  
[www.cohred.org/NHRSsupport](http://www.cohred.org/NHRSsupport)

Stage of development	Actions needed
<b>Level 1 NHRS Mapping – Describing the system</b>	
Gives a picture of the core components of the system.	<p>A minimum requirement for effective development and management of national health research. It provides vital information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is the governance and policy framework?</li> <li>▪ What institutions finance, conduct and use research?</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2 NHRS Profiling – Measuring research system capacity</b>	
Evidence on a country's ability to commission, produce and use research.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessing research activity, outputs, relevance, and potential impact.</li> <li>▪ Profiling human resources for health research.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 3 NHRS Analysis – Evaluating research system performance</b>	
Information needed to optimise system effectiveness, efficiency and impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Overall evaluation:</b> Do research outputs inform health and health system improvement, reduce health inequity and contribute to socio-economic development?</li> <li>▪ <b>Evaluation of system components</b> for example: Innovation potential; ethics review of research; the use of research in policy formulation; specific health service improvement; impact of donors support to research; role of the private sector; links to science and technology.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 4 Intervention evaluation – Measuring the effectiveness of policy implementation</b>	
Intervention evaluations verify that the planned outcomes result from policy implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Interventions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Priority setting</li> <li>▪ Human resources strategy</li> <li>▪ Financing strategy</li> <li>▪ Institutional capacity strengthening</li> <li>▪ Science communication</li> </ul> </li> </ul>