RESEARCH & INNOVATION FOR HEALTH
SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

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?

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?
- What is produced?
- What coordination mechanisms are in place?
- What capacity (including human resources and research infrastructure) do these institutions have in terms of disciplines and research areas?
- What financing is available for research for health?

System optimisers could include:

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