Context
In order to provide a comprehensive assessment of the functioning of a health system and its impact on health, data from health facilities are needed. A system of external review through facility surveys provides assurances that healthcare facilities have quality systems in place and the data to demonstrate the required level of service provision.

Challenge
Over the years, a number of international health facility assessment tools (e.g. SARA, SPA, SDI) have been designed and used for measuring health system capacity to provide quality services. However, most efforts to date have been piecemeal, focusing on quality of care in a specific service area, such as newborn care or HIV care. This leads to the implementation of multiple, uncoordinated facility surveys, often over the same time period.

Solution
A new harmonized approach to facility surveys offers a system of standardized assessments consisting of modules that cover all key topics.

What topics do the modules cover?

Availability of resources and services such as:
- Staff & Beds
- Medicines
- Diagnostics
- Services offered

Readiness to provide specific services to a defined minimum standard, including:
- Systems to support quality and safety
- Provider knowledge

Quality of care and safety, namely assessed by:
- Adherence to standards in the patient care process
- Patient outcomes
- Patient perspective/satisfaction

Management and finance practices to support continuous service availability and quality:
- Management practices
- Finance
- Utilization & efficiency
- Quality assurance
- Health worker absenteeism

Way forward
- September–November 2018: Pilot-testing in 2–3 countries
- October–December 2018: Generate spotlight analytics and visualizations
- Mid-2019: Launch platform including tools, guidance, analytics compiler and data repository