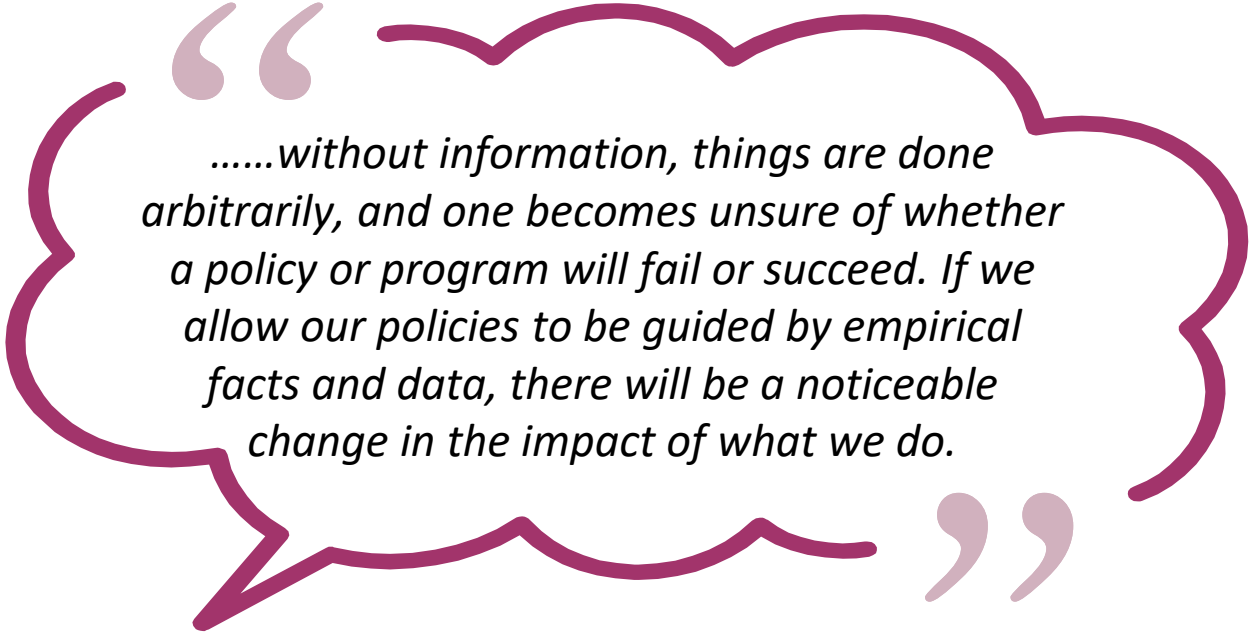


# STRENGTHENING ANALYSIS AND USE OF ROUTINE FACILITY DATA FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT HEALTH



Using MNCAH data  
for decision-making

- Understand the importance of using data to inform decisions
- Review steps in using data for decision-making

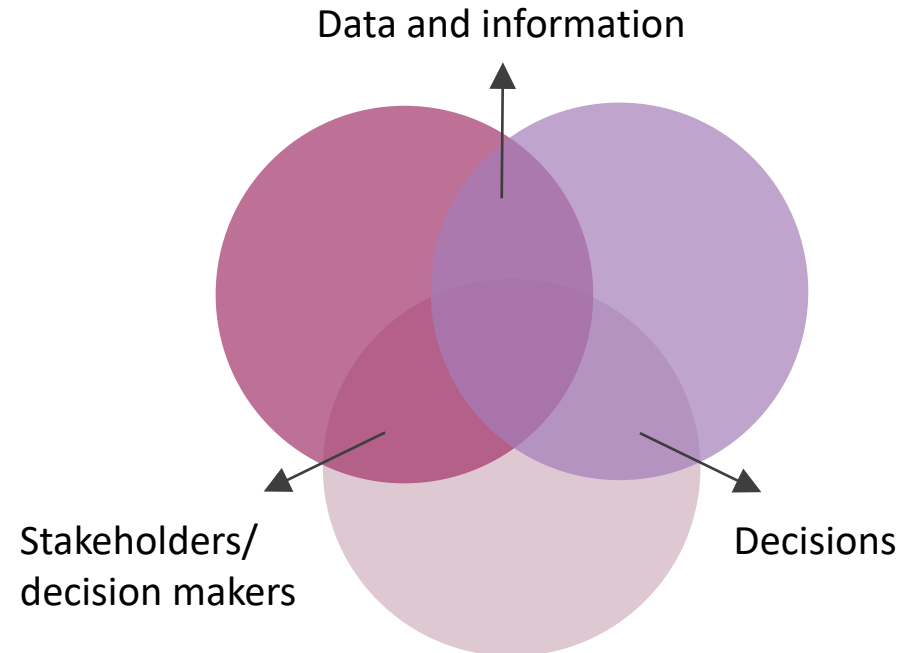


*.....without information, things are done arbitrarily, and one becomes unsure of whether a policy or program will fail or succeed. If we allow our policies to be guided by empirical facts and data, there will be a noticeable change in the impact of what we do.*

**National policymaker, Nigeria**

## 3 elements of decision making:

- 1. Data and information:** There can be many sources of data and information used in decision making, from national to facility level. All relevant sources should be considered
- 2. Stakeholders/decision makers:** Anyone who has interest in the decisions being made
- 3. Decision:** There are four general types of decision in the health sectors
  - Program design and evaluation
  - Program management and improvement
  - Strategic planning
  - Advocacy and policy development



All three elements are important for decision-making

# How are data used by MNCAH managers to for programme planning, management and review?

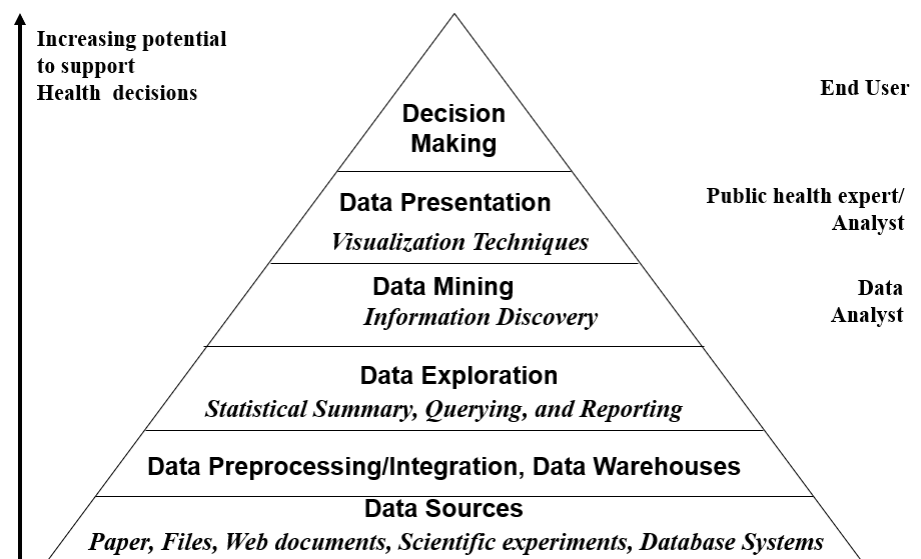
## Inform development of MNCAH strategic plan

- Where should I concentrate my efforts (i.e. Specific intervention/health topic? Specific population or area?)?
- In which health areas of MNCAH promotion should we invest additional resources?

## Assess implementation progress through MNCAH programme review

- Am I on track with implementation of my programme activities?
- Are we meeting the needs of the populations we are serving?
- How can I best demonstrate that I am meeting my targets?
- Have we met the MNCAH programme objectives?

Etc.!

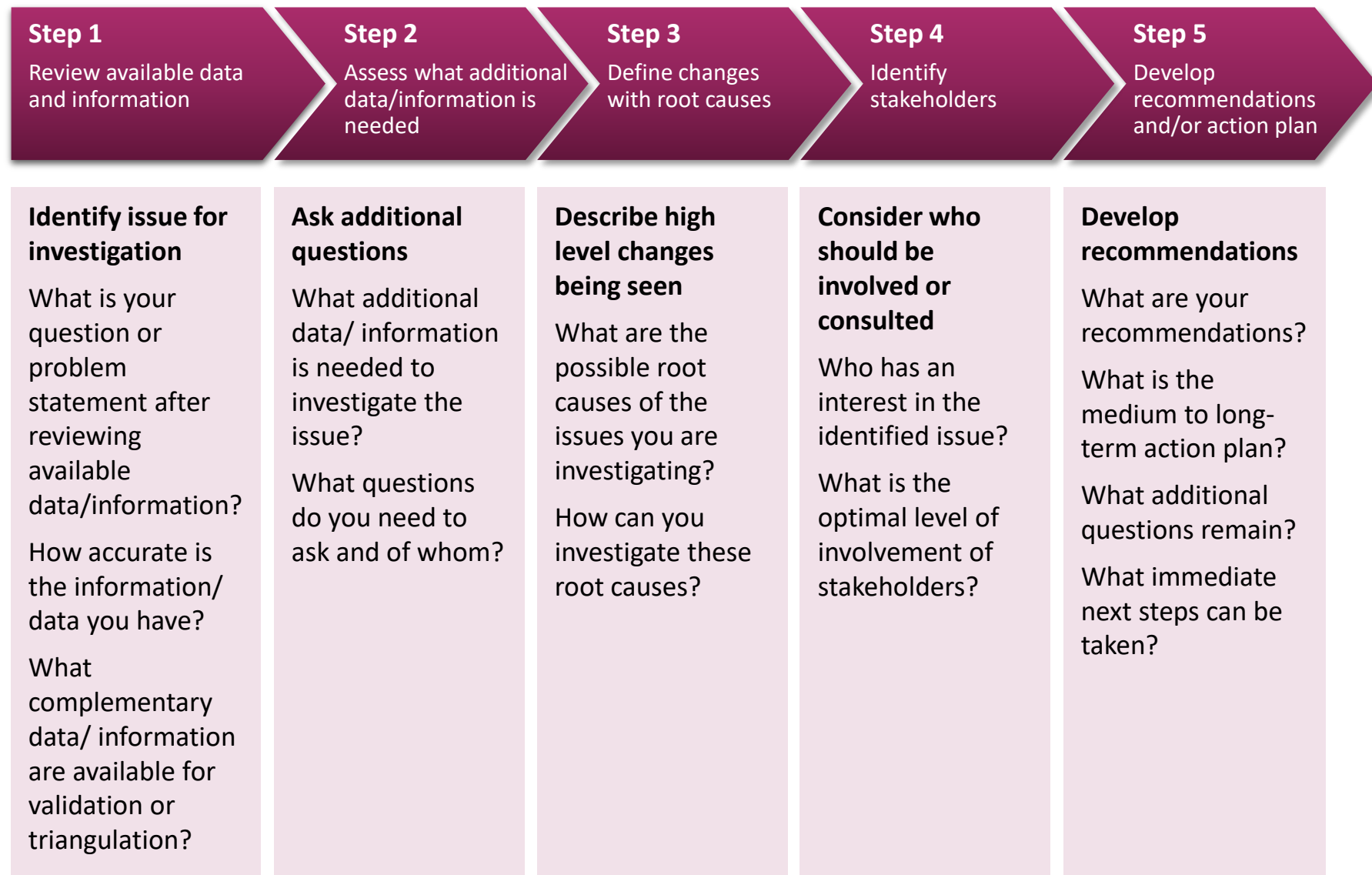


**What is desired of the data we generate?**

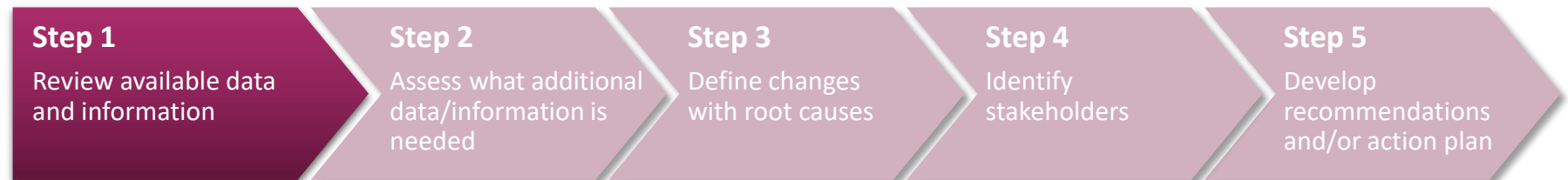
## FOR DISCUSSION

- How is routine health information system (RHIS) data normally used by maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (MNCAH) programmes?
  - Who uses these data and what types of decisions are made using these data by those individuals/programmes/institutes?
  - What may prevent use of RHIS data for decision-making?
- How has RHIS data been used by MNCAH programmes/stakeholders during health emergencies, humanitarian crises, or other unforeseen circumstances?
- In your current role, what type of data on MNCAH services would you need to help you make decisions but is not produced or available?

# Steps in using data for decision-making



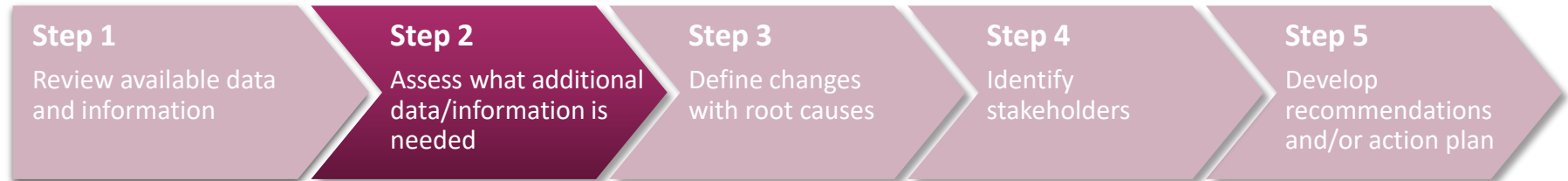
# Step 1: Review available data and information



## Identify issue for investigation

- What is your question or problem statement after reviewing available data/information?
- How accurate is the information/ data you have?
- What complementary data/ information are available for validation or triangulation?

## Step 2: What other data and information are needed?

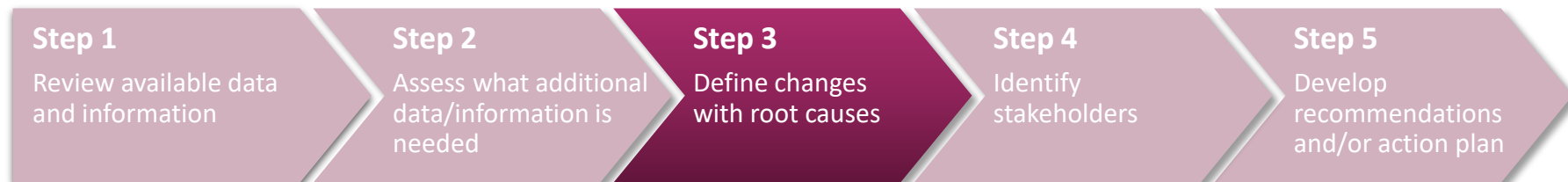


### Ask additional questions

- What additional data/ information is needed to investigate the issue?
- What questions do you need to ask and of whom?



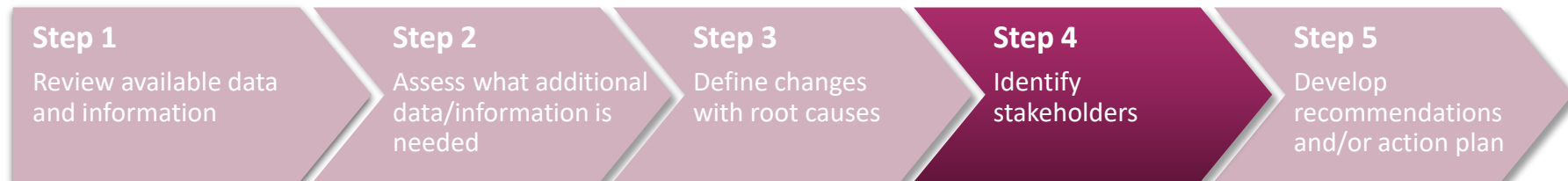
## Step 3: Root cause analysis



### Describe high level changes being seen

- What are the possible root causes of the issues you are investigating?
- How can you investigate these root causes?

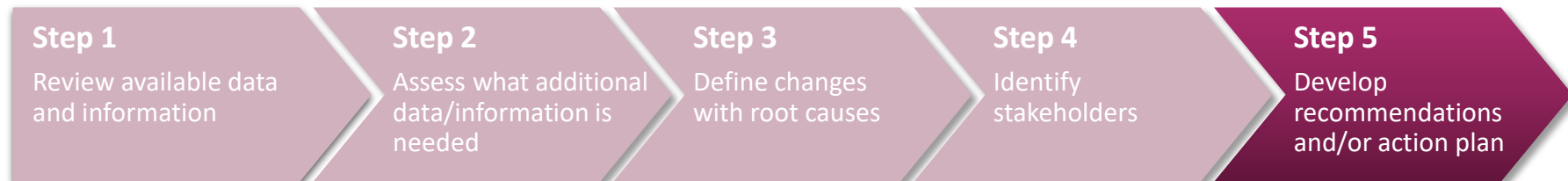
## Step 4: Identify stakeholders



### Consider who should be involved or consulted

- Who has an interest in the identified issue?
- What is the optimal level of involvement of stakeholders?

## Step 5: Develop recommendations and action plan



### Develop recommendations

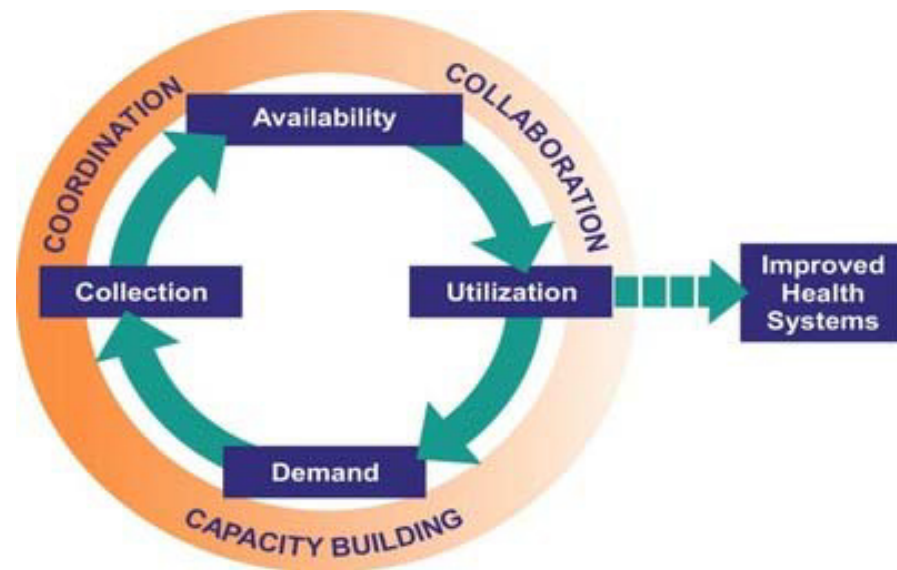
- What are your recommendations?
- What is the medium to long-term action plan?
- What additional questions remain?
- What immediate next steps can be taken?

# Using data for decision-making is not a one-time linear activity, but a continuous, purpose-driven process

Increased demand for data might lead to more data collection, however a review of existing data sources or analysis options should be considered

Asking questions may lead to more questions

Culture of data use can lead to improved data quality which ultimately provides stronger evidence for decision-making



## How are data used by MNCAH programmes?

- Am I on track with implementation of my programme activities?
- Are we meeting the needs of the populations we are serving?
- Where should I concentrate my efforts (e.g., Specific intervention/health topic? Specific population or area?)?
- How best to demonstrate that I am meeting my targets?
- In which health areas of MNCAH promotion should we invest additional resources?
- Have we met the MNCAH programme objectives?

- Complete exercises under **Using MNCAH data for decision-making** in *Companion exercises to strengthen analysis and use of health facility data for MNCAH.*
- Groups should present back in plenary.