

Table 1 Data sources for each category of the WHO tool for benchmarking ethics oversight of health-related research involving human participants

Main category	Category	Data gathering method
Indicators for assessing legal and regulatory context	1: Legal provisions and regulatory framework	Review of national and university-level guidelines by the research team
Indicators for assessment of RECs	2: REC structure and composition	Interviews with ethics committee secretaries, ethics experts and researchers, as well as a review of documentation provided by the committees
	3: REC resources	
	4: REC procedures	
	5: Mechanisms to promote REC transparency and accountability	
Indicators for assessing research institutions	6: Mechanisms for RECs to monitor their performance	Documentation provided by the university's research manager and research system specialist
	7: Responsible research institutions	

REC = Research Ethics Committee