

Framework for Developing Regional Capacity for Health Research

Philippine Council for Health Research and
Development



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FRAMEWORK FOR DEVELOPING REGIONAL CAPACITY FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

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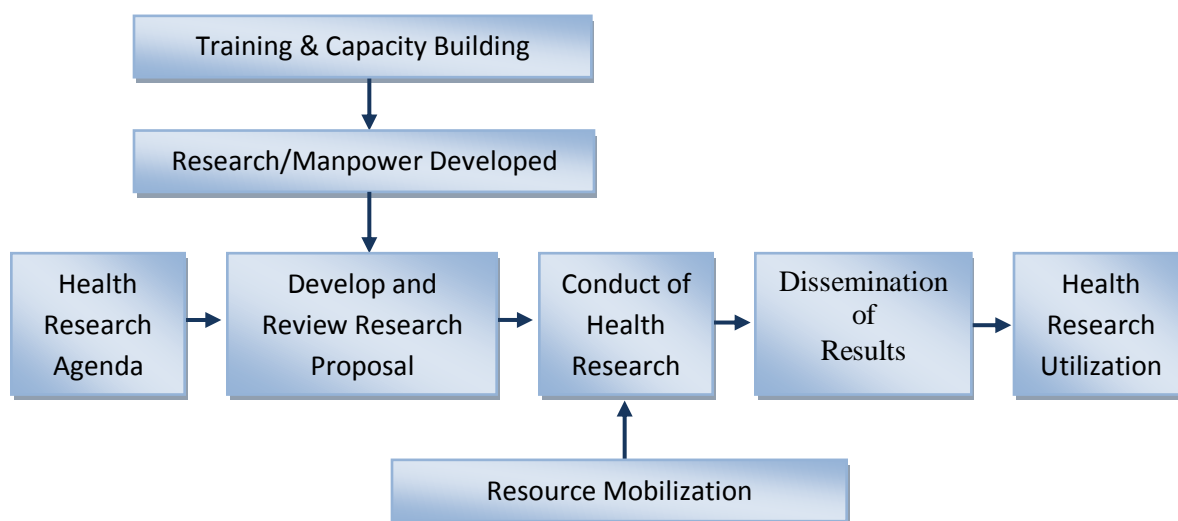
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Framework for Developing Regional Capacity for Health Research

Under the PNHRs, the regions play an important role in undertaking health research activities to respond to the country's health needs and problems. Over the years, regional research activities were undertaken under the management and leadership of the Regional Health Research Development Councils (RHRDC). A recent evaluation of the RHRDC showed a wide variation in the performance of the 16 RHRDCs all over the country. The evaluation also recommended a number of strategies and approaches in order to improve the performance of regional capability to carry out and manage health research activities.

In line with this recommendation and in recognition of the strategic importance of the regions in supporting the PNHRs, the following framework is proposed to guide the PNHRs in strengthening regional capability to perform health research activities.

The framework consists of the different critical components of a research development program and a set of questions that identify key issues and problems as well as opportunities for strengthening the program.



Framework for Building Regional Health Research Capability

I. *Preparation and Utilization Health Research Agenda:*

The health research agenda is a list of priority research areas in the region.

Some suggested principles and standards in the development of the regional research agenda:

- The research agenda should be based on local/national health problems
- There should be local evidence to support the research agenda
- The process of identifying the research priorities should be highly consultative and participative

A. Content

1. In 1998, was there a well-defined health research agenda for the region?
2. If yes, what was the basis for the identified research priorities? Is there evidence to support the priority research areas? Does the agenda respond to the health problems from a local as well as national perspective?
3. If no, what constrained the region from having one? What were the key problems and issues that prevented the region from developing an evidence-based regional agenda for health research?

B. Process

1. How was the research agenda developed? Who were involved in its development?
2. What were the problems and issues encountered in the formulation of the research agenda? What could have been done to make the process more effective?

II. *Development of Research Manpower and Facilities:*

Refers to the availability of skilled manpower to conduct health research in the region.

Some suggested principles/standards:

- Number should be adequate to carry out the planned research activities
- There should be expertise in research methods and in the technical areas based on the priority list

1. Is there adequate research manpower (experts in research design and methodology and experts in specific content areas as defined by the health research agenda) in the region to carry out the region's health research plan?
2. If no, what is being done to address the lack of manpower? Is there a training program in place? Does the region possess the capacity to develop the skills of local researchers? What constraints are being encountered in the area of training and capacity-building?
3. Are there opportunities (institutions or individuals) that can be tapped to strengthen existing health research manpower?
4. What kind of support does the region expect from the national level to help develop the skills of local researchers?

III. *Resource Mobilization:*

Refers to the capacity of the region to mobilize funds and other resources for health research.

1. Are there enough funds to carry out the planned research activities?
2. If no, what are the constraints in mobilizing resources for research?
3. Are there potential funding sources within the region that can be tapped for health research?
4. What kind of support the region will need from the national level to develop regional capability to mobilize resources for health research?

IV. *Development and Review of Research Proposals:*

Refers to the capacity of the region to appraise submitted research proposals for content, design, and methodology

1. In 2008, what is the quality of research proposals submitted in terms of content, design, and methodology?
2. Are the specific content areas as defined by the health research agenda?
3. If no, what were the reasons why?

V. *Conduct of Research Studies:*

Refers to the research output of the region both in terms of quantity and quality.

1. In 2008, were the planned research studies conducted?
2. If no, what were the reasons why?
3. Were the researches that were conducted of good quality?
4. If no, why? What can be done to improve the quality of health research in the region? What kind of support the region will need from national levels to make this happen?

VI. *Research Dissemination*

1. Were the researches that were conducted in 2008 disseminated? How?
2. If no proper dissemination was done, what were the constraints? Were the completed researches published?
3. Are there opportunities that can improve research dissemination in the future?

VII. *Research Utilization*

1. Were the research results utilized? How
2. If no, why? What were the constraints? What can be done to help improve the utilization of the research results?

VIII. *Leadership and Management*

1. Is the current composition of the governing council in the region adequate?
2. If no, what are the reasons why?
3. Is there a strategic plan in place for health research and development in the region? If none, why? What kind of assistance will the region need to make this happen?

Rapid Appraisal Methodology

Guide Questions for Review of Documents

1. Guidelines for Research Agenda

1.1. Is the research agenda evidenced based?

Yes No

Remarks:

1.2. Does the research agenda cover the following?

1.2.1. Epidemiological Yes No

1.2.2. Sociological Yes No

1.2.3. Economic Yes No

1.2.4. Policy Yes No

Remarks:

1.3. Does the agenda contain the recommendations and steps to ensure its utilization?

Yes No

Remarks:

2. Plan

2.1 What kind of plan do they have?

Strategic Plan Operational Plan

Remarks:

2.2 Does plan clearly contains the following?

2.2.1 Objectives and Goals Yes No

2.2.2 Indicators Yes No

2.2.3 Strategies Yes No

2.2.4 Activities Yes No

2.2.5 Budget Yes No

Remarks:

2.3 Are the activities conducted as scheduled? Yes No

Remarks:

2.4 What is the percentage of fund utilization?

Remarks:

3. Organizational Structure

3.1 Does the organizational structure reflect the need for day-to-day management and oversight?

Yes No

Remarks:

Guide Questions for Health Researchers

1. Formulation of Health Research Agenda

1.1. Are you aware of the existence of a regional and national health research agenda?

Yes No

1.2. Have you seen or do you have a copy of these documents?

Yes No

Remarks:

1.3. Were you able to participate in the discussions leading to the formulation of the NUHRA/ RUHRA?

Yes No

1.4. Were you able to participate in a forum where the Regional Health Research Agenda was discussed?

Yes No

1.5. Are you aware whether or not the Regional Health Research Agenda was used in the following?

1.5.1. Capacity building plan Yes No

1.5.2. Resource mobilization plan Yes No

1.5.3. Advocacy tool Yes No

2. Adequacy of Health Researchers, Research Facilities and Existence of Capacity Building Plan

2.1 Are there enough skilled researchers in the region to undertake health research based on the identified health research priorities?

Yes No

2.1.1 If No, why?

2.2 Are there health research facilities in the region where research are conducted based on the identified health research priorities?

Yes No

2.2.1 If No, why?

2.3 What needs to be done to strengthen health research manpower in terms of number and skills?

2.4 Is there a long term capacity building program to continue to train health researchers in the region?

Yes No

3. Adequacy of Funding and Logistical Support for Health Research

3.1 Where do you get funding support for your research activities?

3.2 Are these funds sufficient given what you need? Yes No

Remarks:

3.3 Have you received funding support from the RHRDC through the RRF?

Yes No

3.3.1 If no, why?

3.4 Under PCHRD fund, there is a ceiling of PhP 100,000 per proposal. Do you think this is adequate?

Yes No

3.4.1 If not, do you have any recommendations to make this funding mechanism more effective?

4. Preparation of Research Proposals and Conduct of Health Researches

4.1 How many research proposals have been prepared?

4.2 How many health researches have you completed in the past two years (2007 and 2008)?

Remarks:

5. Health Research Dissemination and Utilization

5.1 Is there an existing system to disseminate the results of the research study?

Yes No

5.1.1 If yes, how do you disseminate the results of the study?

5.2 What are the usual problems in the dissemination of your research findings?

5.3 Did any of your researches contribute to the formulation of policies or helped health managers or health workers make informed decisions?

Yes No Do not know

5.3.1 Please elaborate.

Guide Questions for Council Members

1. Health Research Agenda:

1.1. Is there a well-defined health research agenda for the region? Yes No

1.2. How was the research agenda developed?

1.3. Was the research agenda utilized? Yes No

1.3.1. How was it utilized?

2. Manpower, Facilities and Capacity Building Plan

2.1 Do you have an inventory of health research manpower and research facilities based on your identified research needs?

Yes No Don't Know

2.2 Is there adequate research human resource in the region to carry out the region's health research plan?

Yes No Don't Know

2.2.1 In research design and methodology? Yes No Don't Know

2.2.2 In specific content areas as defined by the health research agenda?

Yes No Don't Know

2.2.3 If no, what was the region's response to the lack of human resource?

2.3 Do you have a plan to develop your health research manpower based on the needs of the region?

Yes No Don't Know

Remarks:

2.4 Based on your requirement, does the region possess the capacity to develop skills of local researchers?

Yes No Don't Know

2.4.1 If yes, please cite the training programs [consider also offerings at member institutions]

Formal:

Informal:

Scholarship Grants:

Study Tour:

2.5 Are there mentors who can be tapped for capacity building in research?

Yes No Don't Know

2.5.1 If YES, please specify in what areas:

2.6 What kind of support does the region expect from national, regional and international levels to help develop the skills of local researchers?

3. Resource Mobilization:

Refers to the capacity of the region to mobilize funds and other resources for health research

3.1 Do you know how much is your funding requirement for your priority research needs?

Yes No

3.2 Are there enough funds to carry out the planned research activities? Yes No

3.3 Has an annual work plan and budget been proposed?

Yes, when was it prepared? _____

No

3.4 What kind of support does the region expect from the national, regional, and international levels to develop regional capability to mobilize resources for health research?

4. Development, Approval and Conduct of Research Studies:

4.1 In 2008, how many proposals were produced by the consortium?

4.2 In 2008, how many proposals were reviewed in terms of ethics, methodology, content and utilization?

4.3 In 2008, how many research studies were funded?

4.4 In 2008, how many research studies were completed?

4.5 Were the proposals parts of the NUHRA/RUHRA?

Yes No Don't Know

4.6 If the researches were not implemented or not part of NUHRA/RUHRA, what were the reasons?

5. Research Dissemination and Utilization

5.1. Does the consortium have an established system for dissemination of research results?

Yes No Don't Know

5.2. Were the researches that were conducted/completed in 2008 disseminated?

Yes No Don't Know Not applicable

5.3. Were the research results disseminated to the relevant stakeholders?

Yes No Don't Know Not applicable

5.4. How were the results disseminated?

Published in peer-reviewed journals:

Policy Briefs:

Public Presentations:

Web-based media:

5.5. Do member institutions integrate in their research forums dissemination of the results of researches in the region?

Yes No Don't Know

5.6. What were the facilitating factors to research dissemination?

5.7. What were the barriers to research dissemination?

5.8. Is there an existing database of research studies conducted in the region?

Yes None Don't Know

Remarks:

6. Leadership and Management

6.1. Describe/draw the organizational structure of the governing council:

6.2. Who is responsible for the daily operations of the consortium?

6.3. Which of the following subcommittees are functional? Check appropriate boxes.

- R&D Functional NOT Functional
- ETHICS Functional NOT Functional
- HRD Functional NOT Functional
- RICUP Functional NOT Functional
- _____ Functional NOT Functional
- _____ Functional NOT Functional
- _____ Functional NOT Functional

6.4. Define the roles and responsibilities of the members of the governing council:

6.5. Is there an existing Manual of Operations? Yes No Don't Know

Remarks:

6.6. Do you have a five-year strategic plan? (Get a copy of the document)

Yes No Don't Know

Remarks:

6.7. Do you have an operational plan for 2009? (Get a copy of the document)

Yes No Don't Know

Remarks:
