

Regional Unified Health Research Agenda

The Philippine National Health Research System, with its goal to enhance health status through research, generates the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA) as one of its core areas, alongside ethics, utilization, resource mobilization, system monitoring and evaluation, and capacity building. While the NUHRA serves as the country's template for health research and development efforts, the Regional Unified Health Research Agenda (RUHRA) is more relevant to regional problems and gives direction at the regional level.

The RUHRA presents the identified health research priorities. It should guide researchers and funders alike in the development of more relevant health research in the region for the next six years.

Recent health research in the region has covered various topics. Projects have looked at mental health, nutrition, and knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) among others. In the current RUHRA, areas of highest priority are service delivery improvement, communicable diseases, and maternal and child health. Others such as environmental health, nutrition, health governance, non-communicable diseases, and disaster risk reduction are also included.



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REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

REGION VIII EASTERN VISAYAS



Regional Consultation

The Regional Health Research and Development Consortium (RHRDC) of each region was included in the identification process of health research priorities through the conduct of a consultation. The regional consultation for Region 8 was held at Hotel Rodolfo, Tacloban City on 4-5 May 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. A total of 27 participants attended the regional consultation. Their input, together with technical papers and situationers defining the national and regional status of health research, was considered in the formulation of the NUHRA and RUHRA.

The research priorities and perceived needs of each representative were raised through small focus group discussions, with participants randomly divided into three groups. Groups suggested research topics and a representative from each presented these to the plenary. Twenty-one general themes were established. While prioritization using a set of criteria was initially intended, participants opted to instead rank research themes from 1-21. Themes were prioritized according to the ranking of the plenary.

Regional Health Research Priorities



Service delivery

Researches that assess the referral system and current programs



Communicable diseases

Researches on baseline data, risk factors associated with, and utilization of research on communicable diseases



Maternal and child health

Researches on effectiveness of interventions for maternal and child health issues



Health technology and development

Researches on development of new devices, drugs, and other health technologies



Health care financing

Researches on policy gaps and impact assessment of health financing programs



Health governance

Researches that assess impact of policies and programs, including the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program (4Ps) and Inter-Local Health Zones



Health knowledge management

Researches that assess and develop the current knowledge management system



Environmental health

Researches on water safety and quality, and waste management, including policy development and impact



Lifestyle diseases

Researches on risk factors leading to lifestyle diseases



Disaster risk reduction and management and climate change adaptation

Researches on the risk of climate change, assessments of current strategies, and capacity for health emergencies



Reproductive health and family planning

Researches on implementation and acceptability of strategies to prevent early pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections



Nutrition

Researches on nutritional issues in children and adults, including obesity and malnutrition



Mental health problems

Researches on epidemiology of and service delivery for mental health



Health infrastructure

Researches on health infrastructure needs and implementation strengthening programs



Traditional and alternative health medicine

Clinical researches on traditional and alternative medicines for diseases



Health promotion

Researches on health promotion, information, education, and communication gaps



Health regulation

Researches that evaluate implementation of and compliance to regulatory policies



Drug and substance abuse

Researches on prevalence, perceptions, and quality of life



Gender and development

Researches on gender issues, health policies, practices, and violence against all genders and sexualities



Geriatrics

Researches on baseline data on health issues of the elderly and corresponding health programs and interventions



Disability

Researches to address knowledge gaps on vulnerable populations