

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.

The previous health research agenda of the region had two major focus areas: 1) health technology development and 2) health related concerns. Some of the health needs and research gaps in the region include a lack of studies on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and a low health worker to population ratio.

REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

REGION X NORTHERN MINDANAO



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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 X was held on 18-19 May 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. The consultation was attended by 26 participants. 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. Each group suggested research topics which were grouped under 19 general themes. These themes were prioritized using criteria with designated scoring weights established by the stakeholders. The themes were ranked using the following criteria:

- public health at 30%,
- magnitude of the problem at 25%,
- relevance at 20%,
- responsiveness to the national health policy at 15%, and
- feasibility at 10%.

Regional Health Research Priorities



Substance abuse

Researches on risk factors of and interventions for substance abuse



Environmental health and sanitation

Researches to address knowledge gap on environmental health



Non-communicable and lifestyle-related diseases

Researches on risk factors associated with NCDs



Health systems research

Researches to evaluate the health service delivery network and human resources for health program



Adolescent sexuality and reproductive health

Researches on reproductive health with particular focus on adolescent practices and behaviors



Disaster risk reduction management and climate adaptation for health

Researches for a resilient health system



HIV/AIDS

Researches on the control and management of human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome



Nutrition

Researches on effective interventions to improve nutrition



Food safety

Researches on food intake behaviors and its effects on health



Occupational health

Researches on occupational hazards and health



Indigenous population health

Researches on the health practices and gaps in health services delivery



Mental health

Researches on the mental health status of the population and review of current interventions and services



Emerging and re-emerging infections

Researches to improve services for infectious diseases



Drug discovery and development

Researches on drug development from locally available plants and other sources



Hospital equipment and biomedical devices

Researches on health technology development for better health services



Information and communications technology for health

Researches on innovative technologies for healthcare services



Diagnostics

Researches on diagnostic kit development to aid health services



Health for social sciences

Researches on behaviors and practices and its effects on health



Functional foods

Researches on food product development from locally-sourced agricultural products