

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 regional health research reflected the emphasis on improving the health situation of its indigenous people. Hence, most of the health research done in the region are studies on medicinal extracts from plants and development of medical technologies and products. There have also been studies focused on food and nutrition, socio-environmental health, health technology, and disaster risk reduction.

REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

Cordillera Administrative Region



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Regional Consultation

The Regional Health Research and Development Consortium of each region was included in the identification process of health research priorities through the conduct of a consultation. The regional consultation for CAR was held on 11-12 May 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. The consultation was attended by 37 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, with participants grouped into four categories: government agencies, academe, NGOs, and service providers. The groups came up with suggested research priorities. These themes were prioritized using criteria with designated scoring weights established by the stakeholders. The themes were ranked using the following criteria:

- relevance at 40%,
- magnitude of the problem at 30%, and
- urgency at 30%.

After prioritization, some related themes were subsumed under a general theme to simplify the list, resulting in 15 general themes.

Regional Health Research Priorities

-  **Health service delivery and information systems**
Researches to improve health service delivery and develop a unified information system that includes isolated areas
-  **Indigenous people's health**
Researches on the health status of IPs in the region
-  **Disaster risk reduction management for health and climate change adaptation**
Researches to create a resilient health system
-  **Health policy, research, and governance**
Researches that assess current health programs and policies
-  **Sexuality and reproductive health**
Researches that address knowledge gap on adolescent sexual behaviors and practices
-  **Maternal, neonatal, and child health**
Researches to assess existing policies and programs on maternal, neonatal, and child health
-  **Human resources for health**
Researches on human resource impact assessment and capacity building
-  **Food and nutrition**
Researches on nutritional status across all ages and emerging issues on food safety
-  **Alternative and traditional medicine**
Researches to strengthen medicinal development from locally available plants and other sources
-  **Non-communicable diseases**
Researches on risk factors associated with non-communicable and lifestyle diseases
-  **Financial risk protection**
Researches to assess current financial protection mechanisms and policies
-  **Health, urbanization, industrialization, and environment**
Researches on the health effects of rapid urbanization
-  **Drug discovery and development**
Researches for the development of affordable and effective health products
-  **Communicable diseases**
Researches on improving service delivery for prevalent communicable diseases
-  **Health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups**
Researches on the health status of vulnerable groups