

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.

Majority of recently published health research projects in the National Capital Region (NCR) mainly focused on infectious diseases, particularly on tuberculosis, dengue, and leptospirosis. Study sites were relatively focused in Metro Manila and authored by research hospitals and academic institutions. NCR is also home to breakthroughs in health technology, such as the "lab in a mug" diagnostic test kit. In the current RUHRA, areas of highest priority are both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Others such as food and nutrition, technology development, medical supplies and facilities and human resources are also included.

REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION



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Regional Consultation

Regional Health Research Priorities

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 NCR was held at Aloha Hotel, Manila City on 25 April and 8 May 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. Thirty-two participants attended the first day while 24 participants attended the second day of 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.

In a plenary session, participants were tasked to raise the possible research priorities and perceived needs of the region. Research topics were validated by the stakeholders of respective institutions and agencies and grouped into 21 general themes. These themes were prioritized using criteria with designated scoring weights established by the stakeholders. The themes were ranked using the following criteria:

- feasibility (40%),
- impact (25%),
- utilization (20%),
- urgency (10%), and
- novelty (5%).



Non-communicable and lifestyle-related diseases

Researches on risk factors and prevention of non-communicable and lifestyle-related diseases



TB, dengue, and other infectious diseases

Researches on infectious diseases in the region, including factors to reduce prevalence



Food and nutrition

Researches on food safety, food security, and nutrition status of women and children



Disasters and risk reduction

Researches on disaster preparedness and resilience of communities and health facilities



Human resources for health

Researches on capacity-building and sustainable human resources for health



HIV, AIDS, and STIs

Researches on factors that affect the spread of human immunodeficiency virus, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, and sexually transmitted infections



Vulnerable populations

Researches that examine the health status of vulnerable populations



Technologies for health

Researches that develop health technologies



Health behaviors/practices

Researches on factors that influence health behaviors and practices



Policy and governance

Researches that review and assess policies and programs on service delivery



Substance abuse/drug abuse

Researches on causes of and interventions for substance or drug abuse



Health economics

Researches on cost-effectiveness and efficiency of current health programs and interventions



Nature-based products

Researches on nature-based product development for health



Environment and climate change

Researches on environmental issues and climate change impacts on health



Reproductive health

Researches on reproductive and maternal health services and minoritized sexualities



Injuries, accidents, and violence

Researches on causes, effects, and prevention of injuries, accidents, and violence



Occupational health

Researches on risk factors in the workplace that may affect the health of an individual



Omics

Researches on omic studies and technologies



Molecular technology/biology

Researches on advanced molecular technology and biology



Mental health

Researches that assess mental health status of the population and current mental health services



Medicines, medical supplies, and facilities

Researches on development of local medicines, medical supplies, and facilities