

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 the researches conducted in the region are aligned to drug discovery and development, such as surveys of herbal plants. This was considered as a research priority in the region due to improper traditional and folkloric use of these plants as medicine, as well as the vast amount of resources that are yet to be explored. Other research conducted in the region include assessment and evaluation of health programs and prevalence studies.

REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

REGION II CAGAYAN VALLEY



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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 Region II was held on 25-26 May 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. The consultation was attended by 21 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 two categories: government agencies and hospitals, and academe. Groups suggested research topics and a representative from each presented these to the plenary. Eleven general themes were established and prioritized using criteria with designated scoring weights established by the stakeholders. The themes were ranked using the following criteria:

- impact at 30%,
- urgency at 30%,
- feasibility at 20%, and
- relevance at 20%.

**Infectious and communicable diseases**
Researches to improve services dedicated to prevalent communicable diseases

**Emergency response, disaster risk reduction management for health, and climate change adaptation**
Researches for a resilient health system

**Maternal and child health**
Researches that evaluate current maternal and child health programs

**Non-communicable diseases**
Researches on risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases

**Drug discovery and development**
Researches to develop medical products from locally sourced plants

**Health governance and management**
Researches to evaluate programs, policies, and their impact on health outcomes

**Health financing**
Researches that will assess the impact of financial risk protection programs

**Sexual and reproductive health**
Researches on adolescent reproductive health, including program evaluation, behaviors, and practices

**Health technology development and innovation**
Researches to develop better technologies for data management and diagnostic kits

**Traditional, alternative, and complementary medicine**
Researches that focus on documenting traditional medicine practices

**Nutraceuticals and functional foods**
Researches that innovate the development of food products from locally available agricultural products