

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 2017-2022.

Beyond research agenda setting, there is a challenge in equipping health professionals and researchers with good opportunities in an academic environment of innovation and research. Each region should also consider strengthening capacity in the implementation of RUHRA, management of research, and ultimately generating research outputs that can compete in local and global markets. Most of the health research studies done in the region are on drug discovery and medical technology development, mostly implemented by higher education institutions and hospitals.

REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

REGION III CENTRAL LUZON



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Regional Consultation

Regional Health Research Priorities

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 III was held on 27-28 April 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. The consultation was attended by 25 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 three categories: higher education institutions, government agencies, and NGOs and hospitals. The groups were given metacards and were asked to suggest research themes. These themes were prioritized using criteria with designated scoring weights established by the stakeholders. The themes were ranked using the following criteria:

- impact on health at 30%,
- magnitude of the problem at 30%,
- feasibility at 20%, and
- relevance and responsiveness to regional health agenda at 20%.

After prioritization, some related themes were subsumed under a more general theme in order to simplify the list, resulting in 12 general themes.



Nutrition and food safety

Researches on nutritional status across all life stages and emerging issues on food safety



Maternal and child health

Researches to evaluate and assess the impact of maternal and child health programs



Technology and innovations for health

Researches to develop new technologies for drug development and rapid diagnosis



Sexuality and reproductive health

Researches on adolescent reproductive health, including service utilization and program evaluation



Health service delivery and health workforce

Researches to evaluate service delivery network and human resource programs



Financial risk protection

Researches to assess the impact of financial risk protection programs



Communicable diseases

Researches to evaluate and improve current programs for prevalent communicable diseases



Disaster risk reduction for health

Researches for a resilient health system, with focus on post-disaster WASH and mental health services



Diseases of urbanization and industrialization

Researches to assess the effects of rapid urbanization



Health of an ageing population

Researches to assess and ensure health of the ageing population



Health research governance

Researches on the role of governance in creating an enabling environment for research



Indigenous people's health

Researches on the health status of indigenous people, including health programs and service delivery