

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.

Recent health research projects in MIMAROPA primarily focused on infectious diseases, particularly diagnostics, drug interventions, and preventive measures for malaria. Majority of recently published researches were authored by individuals from institutions outside the region. In the current RUHRA, research on environmental health and climate change impact is given the highest priority. Other research priorities include health service delivery, health financing and research capacity, food and nutrition, and infectious diseases.



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REGIONAL UNIFIED HEALTH RESEARCH AGENDA 2017-2022

REGION IV-B MIMAROPA



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 MIMAROPA was held at Brentwood Suites, Diliman, Quezon City on 4-5 May 2017 facilitated by the Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes, Inc. Twenty-six participants attended 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.

The research priorities and perceived needs of each representative were raised through small focus group discussions, with participants grouped into three categories: academe, health service providers, and government agencies. Groups suggested research topics and a representative from each presented these to the plenary. Seventeen general themes were established. These themes were prioritized using criteria with designated scoring weights established by the stakeholders. The themes were ranked using the following criteria:

- impact (30%),
- feasibility (20%),
- magnitude (20%),
- applicability (10%),
- acceptability (10%), and
- responsiveness (10%).



Environmental and climate change impact

Researches on water sanitation and hygiene and impact of environmental pollution and climate change



Health service delivery

Researches on availability, accessibility, and affordability of health services, including service for vulnerable populations



Reproductive health

Researches on reducing maternal morbidity and mortality, teenage pregnancy, and unmet need for family planning



Health financing

Researches on sustainable health financing



Tuberculosis, HIV, and AIDS

Researches on factors that contribute to increasing incidence of human immunodeficiency virus and multi- and extremely-drug resistant tuberculosis



Mental health and substance abuse

Researches on prevention and management of mental illness and substance abuse



Traditional, complementary, and alternative medicine

Researches on traditional medicines, including biodiversity protection immunodeficiency syndrome



Emerging and re-emerging diseases

Researches on emerging and re-emerging diseases, particularly malaria, including program evaluation



Drug discovery and development

Researches on development of drugs and vaccines from locally available resources



Food and nutrition

Researches on food development, security, and safety to address malnutrition



Health in emergencies

Researches on disaster risk reduction and management, including post-disaster rehabilitation



Non-communicable diseases

Researches on prevention and management of non-communicable diseases



Human resources for health

Researches on human resource capacity building



Health and culture

Researches on health status and health service utilization of indigenous people



Information and communications technology

Researches on development of information and communications for health, including telehealth and telemedicine



Health research capacity

Researches on research capacity building and ethics



Health economics

Researches on cost-effectiveness and efficiency of interventions